



NATNANDAN is a non-profitable voluntary organization and is working actively in the theatre arena. It has played an active role in spreading social messages through stage shows and creating awareness among the audience and community. It addresses contemporary social issues, such as, violence, rape and child rape, trafficking, prostitution, gender discrimination, drug addiction, environmental issues and extremism/religious fundamentalism. NATNANDAN with its charity wing 'Colour of Paradise' is involved with social activities, such as helping burn/acid victims, abandoned children, deprived and lost people, and Rana Plaza victims, raising awareness about AIDS among the sex workers, and coordinating blood donation program.

Presented by The Garage International

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The Garage International



Adelaide Fringe 2020

Synopsis

NAARI O RAAKKHUSHI (Woman: An Altered Image)

(The play 'Naari O Rakkhoshi' (Woman: An Altered Image) was first premiered in UK at Brady Art's Centre, London in 11th November, 2018. The play was performed in the festival 'A Season of Bangla Drama' organised by Tower Hamlets Council)

NAARI O RAAKKHUSHI (Woman: An Altered Image) reveals the status and reality of women in our society. The drama exposes social, cultural, and psychological conflicts faced by women in everyday life. It looks at the chronic social problems arising out of the marginalization of women and presents portrayals of rape, raped women and rapists in our society. It is ironic to see in one hand the advances in science, technology, art, culture, and education, yet on the other hand we see on a regular basis in our media the rise of domestic violence, child rape, sexual abuse, and miscarriage of justice for such heinous crimes. It seems that growing up in an abusive and torturous environment have become a norm of our society and led us to lose our faith in the system. We have sort of accepted such events occurring in our daily life on a regular basis as a part of normal life and consequently we have even forgot to protest and take some sort of resistive actions against such events. The administrator and law seem to give a blind eye on these atrocious acts which give the freedom to the rapist and persecutors to continue with their criminal activities as if nothing happened. Every year countless number of girls are kidnapped and sold to brothels and many are trafficked to other countries for prostitution. The irony is that should a victim or victim's family speak about such atrocities, it is seen as having lost the family dignity and many such cases go unreported as the victim fears the subsequent reprisals by the local muscle power and the authority.

The drama portrays the contemporary picture of these in the light of current time and situation in the society. One such story surrounds a child, named Pushpo (Flower), in this drama. As sad as it may sound, child like Pushpos are sold to the brothels and move from one people to another people, and eventually ends up in the footpath of big city as their last address where their body is sold for as little as TK100 per customer and one would not be surprised if the number of customers exceeds more than 20 per night. Not so surprisingly, these customers also

include the local police man who are supposed to protect the safety and dignity of the people. Soon or later child like Pushpo becomes pregnant. As time comes nearer, another child girl, Projapoti (Butterfly), comes to see the light of this world in the footpath in the darkest hour of the night. The howling of the dog was the only witness of this birth. But fear strikes Pushpo, thinking that the same fate like her may strike her child, especially when all those people around her will be waiting for her Projapoti like hyenas waiting for their hunt. Pushpo tries to guard her child from all the evils around her and she starts dreaming that her child one day will grow up with all her rights and without going through all that she has gone through. Will the society allow her Projapoti to live with dignity and respect? May be not, but Pushpo sets her long road of struggle to fight back and move along to reach her dream. She wants to find out more about her identity and who is her father. This lack of identity makes her even more brave and gives her the strength to live. She learns to challenge the society and along with her daughter becomes a defender. She looks among the society for that human being who will have a soul which will be above all these atrocities. She sees the ray of hope to change the society and calls for a change.

Some dialogues from the play:

"How much will you cry, how many time will you die?

Will you be raped and will you be burned too?

Will you be tortured and will you commit suicide too?

Will you die again and again and will you die even after death?

Come forward in a group and let keep hands in hands.

Let learn how to live from the heart of death.

Let learn how to hit back from the bed of dying.

Let learn how to live, let learn how to live.

Now, everybody tell - why do you die? Why do you die?

I reply - they don't let me live, that's why I die.

Then, everybody will tell- why do you hit back? Why do you hit back?

I will tell - I want to live, that's why I fight/hit back.

Come, let us learn how to live through struggle.

Come, let us learn how to live through struggle."

Why we want to do this play:

1. Women: An Altered Image is a play about rape, child abuse. These are the burning issue of the contemporary society. This play tries to raise awareness and make confident the victim.
2. This play is a protest of child abuse, rape and torture on women. The play call for justice for all kinds of abuse and torture. Out theater NATNADAN works practically for these type of victims and this play is the real story of many victims.
3. This play calls for all women to turn around because this society does not consider the victim with their dignity. This play is such book that inspires to live a respectful life. That is why this kind of play is necessary in our society.

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Name of Theatre: NATNANDAN

Name of play: NAARI O RAAKKHUSHI (WOMAN: AN ALTERED IMAGE)

Writer and Director: MOSAMMET ASMA AKHTER

Duration of play: 65 MINUTES

Language spoken: Bengali

Subtitle in projector: English

Team Member:

1. Mosammet Asma Akhter
2. Sadiqur Rahman
3. Surovi Roy
4. Faiz Zahir