

“WORLD PEACE FOR CHILDREN”

T H I R D

LALA BALA

KATHMANDU INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN’S THEATRE FESTIVAL



Venue: Swostishree Gurukul IB World School
Date: 8 - 11 November, 2023

ORGANIZED BY

Swostishree Gurukul IB World School

Nagarjun Municipality-2, Sanobharyang
Kathmandu, Nepal

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www.swostishreegurukul.edu.np



3rd LaLaBaLa

Kathmandu International Children's Theatre Festival 2023

Patron: Honorable Mr. Ram Krishna Chitrakar

Minister for Industry, Commerce, Land and Administration

Bagmati Province

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Light Designer: **Suraj Tamu**

Light Operator: **Manang Lawoti**

Dance Choreographer: **Ruby Lama**

Music Composer: **Prabesh Maharjan**

Stage Manager/ School Drama Director: **Manju Giri (Manjushree Gurukulam)**

Art Director: **Chirag Bangdel**

Festival Coordinator: **Aakankshya G.C. Bhujel**

Festival Director: **Tanka Chaulagain**

Organized By: **Swostishree Gurukul IB World School**

Conceptualized by: **Lalabala, School Theatre Nepal**

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL CHAIR

Greetings !

Swostishree Gurukul IB World School is immensely pleased to present to you LALA BALA, the international theater festival. Our school strongly believes in extra-curricular activities and celebrates the joy and the importance of the different forms of arts. ECA and art activities and endeavours form integral parts of our curriculum and we have taken part and have had the delight of organizing different national and international events.

Welcome to LALA BALA, where we have invited children and theater personalities from all over the world where we wish to share the joy of the beautiful art of theater, drama and performance. In the next few days to follow, our children from our country will be entertained, educated and be inspired to be involved in the magical art of theater and performance.

Congratulations to the director of the festival Mr. Tanka Chaulagain, the celebrated theater personality and his entire team for conceptualizing the event. Many thanks to all the international participants for coming all the way to be a part of the festival.

I would like to thank the teachers and the staff of Swostishree of being a part of the festival. My gratitude to you dear parents, children and dear audience for your love and support !

Let the fun and excitement begin!

Mina Maharjan
Festival Chair and Managing Director
Swostishree Gurukul IB World School

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

We welcome all the international delegates and thank you for your participation !

In Nepal, festivals like these are rare and we are proud that LaLaBaLa Theatre Festival has been a success over the years. The positive gestures of private organizations and international teams have been key to this sustained effort year after year. This international event has been successful only because of friendship with international theatre friends and the global community!

Continuing this festival and giving the youth a chance to witness diversity and unbound possibilities in the field of creativity can sustain these efforts and promises! This festival is for the nation, for the promotion of tourism, and for the preservation of theatre, culture, and art through and for children and education.

Many thanks to Ms. Mina Maharjan, Managing Director of Swostishree Gurukul IB World School for your kind support and patronage. My gratitude to all in this beautiful school for your tireless support and hardwork !

Tanka Chaulagain
Festival Director

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

(listed alphabetically)

Bangladesh: Hiron Kiron Theatre, Munshiganj

India: Rabindra Nagar Natyaayudh

Nepal: Darshana School

Nepal: Deerwalk Sifal School

Nepal: Wing's Academy

Nepal: Majhuwa Bagar Janakala Manch

Nepal: Peak Point Education Network - Sadbhawa Theatre Nepal

Pakistan: The City School Central Region

Poland: TEATR KRZYK (THE SCREAM THEATRE)

Slovakia: DDS ZRKADLO (DDS Mirror)

Sri Lanka: Red Apple Theatre Gathering, Colombo

ABOUT THE PLAYS

TALE OF INDRAJATRA - NEPAL, SWOSTISHREE GURUKUL IB WORLD SCHOOL

DAY I | WELCOMING SHOW | 11 a.m

About the Play:

Showcasing the cultural history and practices of Indra Jatra festival, which is a famous festival of Kathmandu valley, the play invites you to partake in a fair encouraging the feeling of mutual cooperation. And what a unique entertainment experience it is going to be!

Dance Choreographer: Ruby Lama

Music Composer: Prabesh Maharjan, Ajay Nepal, Arbic Khadgi

Director: Manju Giri (Manjushree Gurukulum)

Participants:

1. Florence Karki | 2. Vaani Agrawal | 3. Yuvika Sthapit | 4. Yuvaragyri Khatri | 5. Ellie Gurung | 6. Reeyaz Shrestha | 7. Shristi Shrestha | 8. Shreya Shrestha | 9. Ajmi Shrestha | 10. Manyata Bhandari | 11. Suruchee Adhikari | 12. Princiya Kunwar | 13. Yuki Gurung | 14. Pratigya Sharma | 15. Nuga Maharjan | 16. Umanga Sharma | 17. Shirshak Adhikari | 18. Karma Lhendup Lama | 19. Dipol Adhikar | 20. Sujal Manadhar | 21. Arushi Timalisina | 22. Rojleen Shahi Khadgi | 23. Ashreeja Thakali | 24. Arsus Gautam | 25. Ruby Lama | 26. Prabesh Maharjan | 27. Ajay Nepal | 28. Arabic Khadgi | 29. Manju Giri (Manjushree Gurukulum)



THEY CALL US RASCALS - PAKISTAN, The City School Central Region

DAY I | SHOW 1 | 1 p.m.

About the Play:

Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, the play is about a rebellious newsboy's dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city, at a time when child labor laws were non-existent. A theme the play touches upon is that children have power to seize the day. They are a force to reckon with!

Director: Hassan Raza Bukhari

Participants:

1. Hassan Raza Bukhari (Director) | 2. Aamir Nawaz (Set & Light Designer) | 3. Eshah Shakeel (Performer/Choreographer) | 4. Abdul Moiz (Performer) | 5. Muhammad Abdullah Khalid (Performer) | 6. Mashrab Khan (Performer) | 7. Samia Farooq Khan (Production Head) | 8. Haris Ahmed Khan (Photographer) | 9. Namwar Ayaz (Performer)



BISE NAGARCHI - NEPAL, Darshana School

DAY II | Show 2 | 10 a.m.

About the Play:

The play shows the defeat of King Prithvi Narayan Shah when he attacked Nuwakot and revelations to the King's wonder about what he must do next based on what the reason behind his defeat was.

Writer: Bhim Nidhi Tiwari

Director: Surendra Chhetri

Participants:

1. Surendra Chhetri | 2. Biswas Ulak Jwala | 3. Nikesh Poudel | 4. Aavash Dahal | 5. Sagar Poudel | 6. Sampada Singh Rimal | 7. Sudip Majhi | 8. Roshani Khadka | 9. Prakash Karki | 10. Unish Dhami | 11. Ronish Shrestha | 12. Babin Katwal | 13. Nirmal Thapa | 14. Aadarsha Bista | 15. Sikum Lumbu | 16. Barac Buddhathoki | 17. Shyam Karki | 18. Aarav Dahal | 19. Aarushi Shrestha



SKY IN SCHOOL - INDIA, Rabindra Nagar Natyaayudh

DAY II | Show 3 | 11 a.m.

About the Play:

The play presents the dark side of education system which prioritizes unhealthy competition among children for external validation, thereby narrowing the unbound sky to four rooms and a whole lot of learning opportunities to a few activities detached from realities, nature, family and friendships. The sky cannot be seen from that four-walled house. Birds are not seen. No trees can be seen. Only notebooks, pencils, chalk dusters, teachers and groups of children running against each other, as competitors instead of as friends!

Writer/ Director: Dr. Dani Karmakar

Participants:

1. Dr. Dani Karmakar | 2. Barnali Karmakar | 3. Rajdeep Saha | 4. Binayak Karmakar | 5. Ankit Shaw | 6. Gobinda Karmakar



IJJATKO KAMAI - NEPAL, Peak Point Education Network - Sadbhawa Theatre Nepal

DAY II | Show 4 | 1 p.m.

About the Play:

When parents' inability to communicate the nature of job they do juxtaposes with the social classification of individuals based on the jobs, the children live in confusion and function in society with inept tools of socialization. The play explores how a sensitive topic as child psychology is deeply connected with the perspective our homes, communities, Tole, Basti and society sets.

Based on Story by: Neelam Karki 'Niharika'

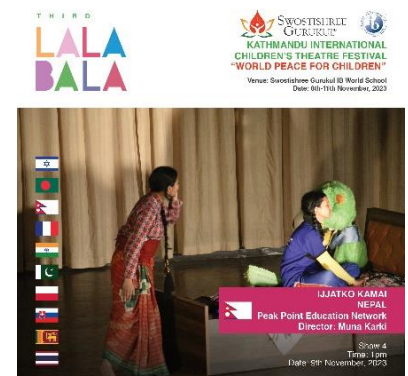
Writer/ Light Designer: Ram KAC

Music/ Stage Designer: Tikabhakta Jirel

Director: Muna Karki

Participants:

1. Mina Karki | 2. Ram KAC | 3. Shiva Adhikari | 4. Maheshwor KC | 5. Ishwor KC | 6. Sankalpa Shrestha | 7. Submir Shrestha | 8. Anisha Bhandari | 9. Lila Sapkota | 10. Sanskriti Ban | 11. Yabesh Rai | 12. Apsara Thapa Magar | 13. Prakriti Rai | 14. Rusha Shrestha | 15. Kejina Gautam | 16. Renuka Timalsina | 17. Karishma Thapa Magar | 18. Dipika Shrestha | 19. Manjari Shrestha



SOPHIA RA KALEY - NEPAL, Wing's Academy

DAY III | Show 5 | 10 a.m.

About the Play:

While exploring an emotional connection between little Sophia and her pet dog, Kale, the play exposes the painful reality of parents putting their personal aspirations before their children's true interests. The story encourages parents to consider if they genuinely support their children's goals or unintentionally worsen their mental wellbeing.

Writer/ Director: Pratik Dulal

Participants:

1. Pratik Dulal | 2. Melosa Mahat (Sophia) | 3. Pranisha K.C. (Kale) | 4. Oriana Silpakar (Mother) | 5. Om Lama (Father) | 6. Aayu Ratna Rajwal (Ghost 1) | 7. Sangdup Dong Tamang (Ghost 2) | 8. Prativa Shrestha (Ghost 3) | 9. Rubi Bhuju (Ghost 4) | 10. Prachi Karki (Singer 1) | 11. Dipsha Munankarmi (Singer 2) | 12. Suyog K.C. (Singer 3) | 13. Aarav Karki (Singer 4) | 14. Nitika Hada (Singer 5) | 15. Anmol Kiran Thapa (Singer 6) | 16. Pari Prajapati (Musician)



A WATCHMAN - BANGLADESH, Hiron Kiron Theatre

DAY III | Show 6 | 11 a.m.

About the Play:

Writer/ Director: Jahangir Alam Dhali

Sensitive humans with a strange world of their mind. With softness on the outside but dangerous hunger for power, position, dominance on the inside manifested as constant conflict with brothers, sisters, neighbors since the time immemorial. Externally covered in the cloak of civilization and touched by modernity, has that guttural instinct to pursue the scent of blood really been pushed out of the nostrils?

Participants:

1. Jahangir Alam Dhali | 2. Mohammad Samim Sheikh (Music Director) | 3. Tushar Cundra Roy (Light Director) | 4. Anik Saha (Actor) | 5. Sraboni Akter (Actor) | 6. Tasfiha Tonni (Actor) | 7. Jiron Dhali (Actor) | 8. Najmul Islam (Actor)



SAILA BARAI - NEPAL, Majhuwa Bagar Janakala Manch

DAY III | Show 7 | 1 p.m.

About the Play:

Written in memory of Kiran Karki Dholi, a 15-year-old dalit boy who died on April 14, 2019 in custody of Biratnagar Area Police Office, the first realistic part of the play is set in a police station and a mortuary. It deals with the power dynamics of Nepali society that include caste and class, nature of violence, and masculinity. The second fantastical part is an ode to the short-lived life and dreams of Kiran. This part acts against the reality of senseless death with a celebration of life. The play uses some elements of Nepali folk theater like the use of Sutradhar/Bidushak and pheri. Sutradahar/Bidushal is a jester-like character who joins the thread of story within the play who can address the audience directly and tell about the play and other real life issues. The play also uses a custom of pheri. It is a ritual done by Yogi/Jogi in the midnights of Kartik and Shrawan where they go around villages chanting mantras and blowing pheri to ward off evil spirits. It is believed to be done for the welfare of the animals reared in the household and overall protection of the household from different types of spirit roaming around the village. As the sound of pheri is connected with dead spirits and is only heard during midnights, when the play is opened with this custom, the audience will be transported to the time and space of dead souls.

Writer: Sahalesh

Director: Suraj Malla

Participants:

1. Suraj | 2. Sahalesh | 3. Vicky | 4. Prem Prakash | 5. Prabin | 5. Chandani | 6. Ajaya | 7. Shakshi | 8. Sushim | 9. Sujan | 10. Kushal | 11. Bideha | 12. Sulaks



FALANO - NEPAL, Deerwalk Sifal School

DAY IV | Show 8 | 10 a.m.

About the Play:

What happens when a family sends their children to the city to escape the wrath of conflict eating up their villages? What is also taken away among many other things? Loving upbringing of grandparents! The play takes you on a granddaughter's journey to find the loving arms of her grandparents. Are family members reunited? Is there a hope for reconciliation?

Writer/ Director: Rajan Bhujel

Participants:

1. Rajan Bhujel | 2. Aayaan Rai | 3. Aarika Jha | 4. Ridika Gurung | 5. Radharani Sen | 6. Avneesha Maharjan | 7. Ishani Chhetri | 8. Ojaswini Lama | 9. Pratyush Lohani | 10. Rujhen Jung Khadka | 11. Aliza Serchan | 12. Ananya Bhurtel | 13. Shreedha Risal | 14. Xenial Giri | 15. Eva Adhikari | 16. Anushree Acharya | 17. Aaniya Paudel | 18. Drishya Pudasaini | 19. Aslesha Baidhya | 20. Subhaya Shrestha



WINGS OF LOVE - SRI LANKA, Red Apple International Theatre Gathering

DAY IV | Shows 9 & 12 | 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

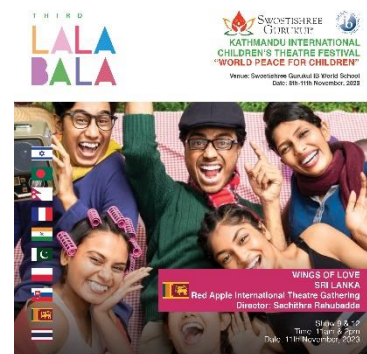
About the Play:

One night, a little girl named Lavandria sees a falling star while staring at the night sky. She is amazed by it. The following day, on her birthday, she asks for a unique birthday gift – the star she wants to set out to find for herself. The family agrees to it. But is she alone in the journey or does she have helps in disguise in her adventurous journey?

Writer/ Director: SACHITHRA RAHUBADDA

Participants:

1. RAHUBADDE VIDDANALAGE SACHITHRA ANUPAMA RAHUBADDA | 2. HASITH ERANDA WETHTHASINGHE | 3. KUMBALATHARA ARACHCHIGE SANDUNI WARANGANA KUMARI | 4. OKANDAPOLA MUHANDIRAMLAGE THUSARI CHAMUDIKA SAMARASEKARA | 5. RAJATHEWA MOHOTTI APPUHAMILAGE JANAVINDI WARUSHANI RAJATHEWA | 6. ATHTHANAYAKA MUDIYANSELAGE SITHARA LAKSHAN JAYASURIYA | 7. JAYASINGHA MUDIYANSELAGE JAYANI MALEESHA SANDEEPANI JAYASINGJA | 8. URALA GAMAGE NIMASHI CHATUNIKA GAMAGE | 9. ALUPOTHA BANDARANAYAKAGE BUWANEKA SAHAN THILINA BANDARANAYAKA



HEY, YOU! - POLAND, TEATR KRZYK (The Scream Theatre)

DAY IV | Show 10 | 1 p.m.

Synopsis of the Play:

Writer/Director: MAREK KOŚCIOŁEK and ANNA GINIEWSKA

"Hey, You!" is a play about relationships, intimacy, and the great need for acceptance in life.

It has elements of physicality and tenderness, volatility and constant self-reflection. As is often the case, we are left with questions. What is left for us when the world whirls and rushes past us, and we enter adulthood? How do we ask ourselves about ourselves in the world? With its baggage of surroundings, family, relationships and dreams, which appear, after all, in the course of our common initiations with the world. And yet sometimes only moments, fractions of events and our shared experiences are remembered and important. And, after all, it is typically the case that we only have each other. Perhaps that is enough?

Participants:

1. Marek Kościółek | 2. Aleksandra Czubińska | 3. Nikola Palej



SADNESS FOR JOHN LENNON - SLOVAKIA, DDS ZRKADLO (DDS Mirror)

DAY IV | Show 11 | 1 p.m.

Synopsis of the Play:

The original story of "Sadness for John Lennon" was written by Slovak poet Daniel Hevier who writes poems for children and youth, as a reaction to his death that influenced the whole world, the story also has a secret meaning, even after his death his and The Beatles band music will live forever. The story talks about a bullet that thinks it's the strongest in the world, but later it meets with music written by John Lennon which happens to be stronger than the bullet. The play is also accompanied by Beatles music in chronological order and ends with a song which was played at their last concert.

Writer: Daniel Hevier

Director: Peter Luptovský

Participants:

1. Peter Luptovský | 2. Martina Pružinská | 3. Šimon Filus | 4. Viktor Kučera | 5. Matej Berčík



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Opening Ceremony, Rally with Musical Bands, Group Performance, Photoshoot in Cultural/ National Dresses, Special Welcome Play 'Tale of Indrajatra' by

Swostishree Gurukul

DAY I | November 8, 2023

For invitees



All team interaction with students

DAY I | November 8, 2023 | 2 p.m.

For Swostishree Gurukul students

Walks and Sightseeing

DAY I | November 8, 2023 | Walk to White Gumba

DAY III | November 10, 2023 | Basantapur Durbar Square

For international teams

Interaction on 'Theatre teaching and education theatre in South Asia' : Directors

DAY II | November 9, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. | Kishunji Parliament Hall

For international artists and theater educators of Nepal

Folk Song and Dance Concert among and by the participants

DAY III | November 10, 2023 | 7 p.m. | School Ground

For festival participants

Closing Ceremony, Closing Remarks

DAY IV | November 11, 2023

For festival participants

