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Sangeet Natak



*The First Drama Seminar (III):
New Delhi, 1956*

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3

Indian Theatre in the Context of World Theatre

MULK RAJ ANAND

26

Traditional and New Drama

BALRAJ SAHNI

40

Amateur Theatre in India

SOMBHU MITRA

45

Problems of Amateur Theatre: I

I.L. DASS

48

Problems of Amateur Theatre: II

PRABHAKAR MACHWE

61

Production Suited to Indian Conditions

H.V. GUPTA

77

The Training of the Actor

E. ALKAZI

88

Theatre Architecture and Stage Setting

ADI MARZBAN

98

Production of Operas

P. SAMBAMOORTHY

104

Nritta and Nritya Varieties in India

SHRIMATI TAGORE

114

Children's Theatre: I

SAMAR CHATTERJEE

122

Children's Theatre: II

ROMESH CHANDER

126

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Drama Seminar

130

CONTRIBUTORS



Front cover: Dina Pathak enacts a role in an impromptu performance before an audience consisting of participants in the 1956 Drama Seminar, as well as other guests invited to a reception held at the residence of Miss Nirmala Joshi, Secretary of Sangeet Natak Akademi. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay is seen in the middle in this photograph (*seated in armchair, hand held against her face*), and, at a distance, Mayadhar Mansinha and M. Bira Singh. Pandit Rajendra Narayan Haksar is seated behind Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (*at extreme left in the row behind her*).



Back cover: Participants in the Drama Seminar

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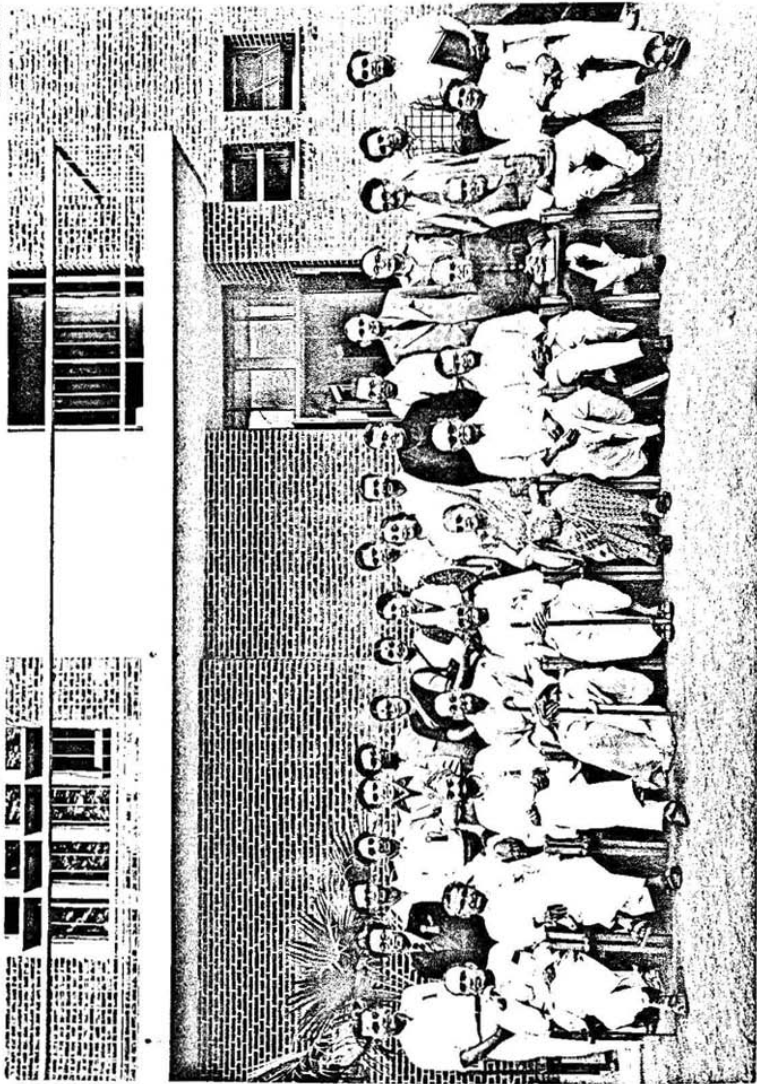
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Note: This issue of *Sangeet Natak* is the last of three special numbers which have brought to readers most of the available textual documentation of the 1956 Drama Seminar. Only a few sources already in print have been excluded (such as a report in *Sangeet Natak Akademi's Bulletin*), and those do not add substantially to our knowledge of the event or help in critical interpretation. Only some of the available photographs, however, have been used in these three issues, but most of those not published pertain to a single social occasion—the reception to participants in the seminar at the residence of the Secretary of the Akademi.

Brief notes on contributors of papers in the seminar have been provided, but not on other participants who register in the discussions. The more prominent voices among the 'non-contributing' participants need no introduction to most readers; and as some of the less prominent cannot be identified at this point in time, notes on non-contributing participants have been omitted altogether. 'A Delegate', 'Delegate 1', 'Delegate 2', etc., in the published transcript may or may not have contributed papers, but we can now at best guess at their identities, and not know who they are. Much of the technology of documentation available to us today was non-existent in the 1950s, so we must thank those whose diligent labours saved for us the substantive part of the discussions, and not fault them for their omissions.

In all the three issues, the names of a few participants, all women, have appeared in their currently known forms—Dina Pathak, Sheila Bhatia, Kapila Vatsyayan. This change from the original documentation (where the same persons appear as Dina Gandhi, Sheila Vats, Kapila Malik) is made only for the sake of direct, unmediated recognition by the majority of present-day readers. The original documentation is available to researchers in the library of Sangeet Natak Akademi.—Editor.



Participants in the Drama Seminar, 1956

Sitting, left to right: Adivya Rangacharya, Chandravadan C. Mehta, Surjit Singh Sethi, Ahindra Chowdhuri, B.V. (Mama) Warekar, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Sachindranath Sengupta, Jagdish Chandra Mahur, Mukl Raj Anand, Keshav Narayan Kale, Mayadhar Mansinha. *Standing, left to right:* Chandra Kant Phookan, H. Romoni Singh, Samar Chatterjee, Suresh Awasthi, E. Alkazi, Sombhu Mitra, Snehlata Sanyal, Dina Pathak, Sheila Bhasia, Nemichandra Jain, Shrimati Tagore, K.M. George, Prabhakar Machwe (?), M. Bira Singh, I.L. Dass, Romesh Chander, Adi Marzban, Balwant Gargi, H.V. Gupta.

See note on inside back cover