Std. 9 presents

The Land Of Cards

tasher desh

by

Rabindranath Tagore

Direction:

Suravi Banerjee

30 & 31 August, 2013
Time: 7 pm
Venue: The Alliance Française Auditorium
“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

Tagore

Tasher Desh is one of Tagore’s most famous dance operas and was first performed in Kolkata in 1923. Tagore was inspired by Alice in Wonderland and Western opera when he wrote the dance opera - a satirical portrayal of a society ruled by strict conventions and a veiled criticism of the British Raj.

Tagore had a profound faith in the potent power of childhood innocence. He was an eternal optimist and believed in the capacity of travel to cultivate the innermost spirit. These philosophies are clearly delineated in Tasher Desh where Tagore’s conviction of the arts as a dynamic instrument for education is exemplified. Here the battle between freshness and orthodoxy progresses through a narrative that is a dramatic combination of dialogue, dance, music and song.

Set in a seemingly naive context, a heroic stereotype, embodied by a Prince, thirsts for adventure and the challenge of the unknown. He is flung into a land of childlike imagination. That Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland inspired the characters in the Land of Cards, is no coincidence. Here the rigid metaphor of the cards encapsulates the sterility of caste, class and regulation. And only the wild, unfettered chaotic nature of the Prince can demolish this arthritic rigidity and compel effective change.

The music of Tasher Desh is a stylistic blend of Indian classical music ragas and Western opera and unique to Tagore known as Rabindra Sangeet. Written in Bengali, our production has the dramatic dialogue performed in English but the original language for the songs. Tagore wrote the script and lyrics. He also composed the melodies of the songs and, in keeping with Indian tradition, musicians improvise around the songs during live performance of the play.
The Cast

Prince: Utsav Tatu
Merchant: Arjuna Moola
Mr. Five: Ram Vishwanathan
Mr Six: Nesan David
King of cardland: Kabir Sabharwal
Knave: Kartik Sundar
King of diamonds: Aprameya Ganguly
Mr Ten: Varun Vasudevan
Pundit Ten: Shiv Patil

Queen Mother: Aria Pradhan
Queen of cardland: Lavika Motwani
Princess of cardland: Rhea Kashyap
Miss eight of Clubs: Ananya Marie Moncourt
Miss ace of Hearts: ShivaniPatil
Queen of Hearts: Gehna Manglani
Queen of Diamonds: Purvi Bajaj
Madam Ten: Kavya Pinto
Madam Ace: Thangam Chandy
Miss Ten: Tara Mary Kuruvila
Credits

**Direction:** Suravi Banerjee

**Assistance:** Anusuya Roy
Ratula Datta

**Music direction:** Anjana Banerjee

**Singers:** Anjana Banerjee
Sampada Marballi
M. R. Bhat
Shukti Dutta

**Tabla:** Udayaraj K.

**Flute:** Shibnath Chakraborty

**Choreography:** Ratula Datta

‘Cards’ design: V.P. Baalakrishnan

**Lights design:** Arun Murthy

**Lights execution:** Backstage Boys

**Props & costume Design:** Suravi Banerjee

**Set design:** Suravi Banerjee

**Set construction:** Rajanna M.

**Graphic support:** V.P. Baalakrishnan

**Poster Illustration:** Shivani Patel

**Backstage:** Juhi Talwar
Shweta Belur
Nithya Damodharan

**Administrative support:** Geeta Paul
Joel Kribairaj
Neelambika Shashidhar
Sonia Arujah