



MINERVA NATYASANSKRITI CHARCHAKENDRA

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS | GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL



PRESENTS

2nd

National Theatre Seminar 2017

6th-10th January
2017

ON
PLAY TO
PRODUCTION



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Sunday

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Ascension Day

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St. Patrick.
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Low Sunday
Rogation Sunday
Ascension Day

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ED A

Inaugural Ceremony
6 JANUARY, 2017 - TIME : 3.00PM

Distinguished Guests
Sri Subrata Mukherjee
 Hon'ble Minister-in-charge-Panchayaet & Rural Development
 Government of West Bengal

Sri Rajib Banerjee
 Hon'ble Minister-in charge-Irrigation & Waterways
 Government of West Bengal

Smt. Dr. Sashi Panja
 Hon'ble Minister-in-charge-Women & Child Development
 Government of West Bengal

Sri M. K. Raina
 Eminent Theatre Personality

Sri Arun Mukhopadhyay
 Eminent Theatre Personality

Sri Suman Mukhopadhyay
 Eminent Theatre Personality

Sri Debesh Chattopadhyay
 Eminent Theatre Personality

Schedule

Date	Time	Programs	Speakers
6th Jan '17 (Friday)	4.00 PM - 6.00 PM 6.30 PM onward	Lecture Lecture	Mr. M. K. Raina Mr. Suman Mukhopadhyay
7th Jan '17 (Saturday)	3.00 PM - 5.00 PM 5.30 PM onward	Lecture Lecture	Ms. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry Mr. Debesh Chattopadhyay
8th Jan '17 (Sunday)	3 PM - 5 PM 5.30 PM onward	Lecture Lecture	Ms. Usha Ganguli Mr. Arun Mukhopadhyay
9th Jan '17 (Monday)	3.00 PM - 5.00 PM 5.30 PM onward	Lecture Lecture	Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay Mr. Meghnad Bhattacharya
10th Jan '17 (Tuesday)	3.00 PM - 5.00 PM 5.30 PM - 8.00 PM 8.00 PM onward	Lecture Lecture Closing Ceremony	Mr. Balwant Thakur Mr. Bratya Basu

At Minerva Theatre

মমতা ব্যানার্জী
ममता बैनर्जी
ممتا بنرجی
Mamata Banerjee



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ
मुख्यमंत्री, पश्चिम बंगाल
وزیر اعلیٰ مغربی بنگال
CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL




২৯ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৬

শুভেচ্ছাবার্তা

পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকারের তথ্য ও সংস্কৃতি বিভাগের মিনার্ভা নাট্যসংস্কৃতি চর্চাকেন্দ্র-র উদ্যোগে আগামী ৬-১০ জানুয়ারী, ২০১৭, নাট্য জগতের বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিত্বদের উপস্থিতিতে নাট্যবিষয়ক একটি জাতীয় স্তরের আলোচনাচক্রর আয়োজন করা হয়েছে জেনে খুশি হলাম।

অনুষ্ঠানটি আয়োজন করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সাধুবাদ জানাই ও এই মহতী উদ্যোগের সর্বাঙ্গীণ সাফল্য কামনা করি।


(মমতা ব্যানার্জী)

শ্রীমতী অর্পিতা ঘোষ
সভাপতি, মিনার্ভা নাট্যসংস্কৃতি চর্চাকেন্দ্র
৬, উৎপল দত্ত সরণি
কলকাতা - ৭০০ ০০৬

Nabanna, West Bengal Secretariat, Howrah-711 102

West Bengal, India

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From The Desk of the Chairman

The scholastic and the intellectual aspect of theatre has always been of great importance. The whirlpool of new experimentations and old precedents and a discussion there of adds only to the dynamism of the art of theatre as a form, discipline and connecting it to the community for making it a real experience.

Minerva Repertory as an organisation is constantly engaging itself in creating, practicing, fostering and promoting 'Good and Serious' theatre by not only running a repertory but creating forums for presentations and discussions to enhance the radar for both practitioners and spectators for them to be updated with the contemporary scenario and also link with historical aspects of theatre of archival value.

This NATIONAL THEATRE SEMINAR in its 2nd year is part of such initiative to have eminent and veteran speakers from Bengal and the whole of India like M. K. Raina, Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry, Suman Mukhopadhyay, Usha Ganguli, Sanjay Upadhyay, Balwant Thakur, Arun Mukhopadhyay, Meghnad Bhattacharya, Debesh Chattapadhyay and Bratya Basu who shares their expertise, experiences and understandings which will go a long way to educate and train the theatre lovers and practitioners of the city of Kolkata and outskirts, paving the way for their better perspective of theatre in terms of direction, analysis, execution, aesthetics and more.

Let us make this forum as the bridge of friendship and link each one of us in a new way to watch the ripples beneath the ever flowing stream of art.

Let this be the melting point in this era of globalisation where we will know no boundaries but transcend ourselves as theatre lovers to embrace new challenges with changing times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arpita Ghosh' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms. Arpita Ghosh
Chairperson

Minerva Natyasanskriti Charcha Kendra

Minerva Repertory Theatre

The Group:

Minerva Repertory, a wing of Minerva Natyasanskriti Charchakendra, is engaged with research and experimental work on drama which is a glorious event in the cultural periphery of West Bengal.

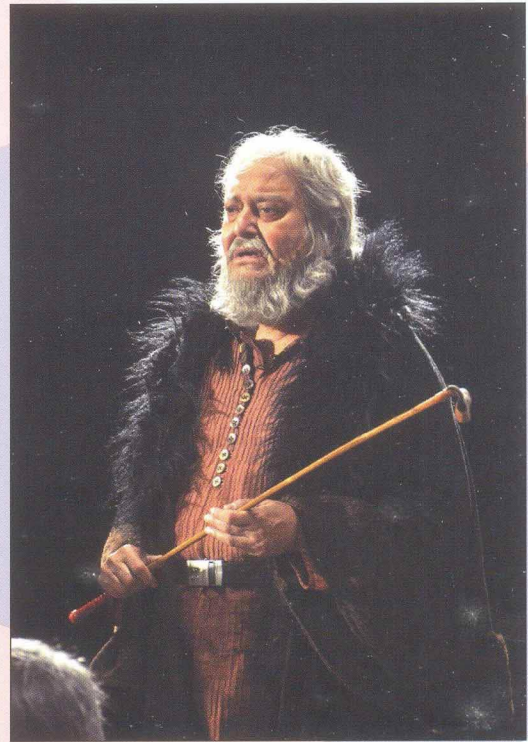
Minerva Natyasanskriti Charchakendra was constituted by a Government Order dated 5th November 2008 with a broader objective as a centre of excellence for promotion of theatre and culture. It was registered as Society under Registration of Societies West Bengal Act XXVI of 1961 on 2nd February 2009. Minerva Repertory was started in July, 2010.

Mission..

Minerva Repertory Theatre aspires to move beyond the narrow definition of theatre to pursue a new awakening in the society by using drama as a social force to understand the history of diverse societies and complexities of varied cultures.

Vision..

The vision of Minerva Repertory Theatre is to create a spirit of vibrant theatre among theatre lovers worldwide with a comprehensive global outreach to all sections of society. We aim to make theatre not only a viable career option for young artists but also an inevitable and relevant tool for understanding the world better through its common language.



King Lear

Director : Suman Mukhopadhyay



Debi Sarpamasta

Director : Debesh Chattopadhyay



Chandragupta

Director : Kaushik Chattopadhyay



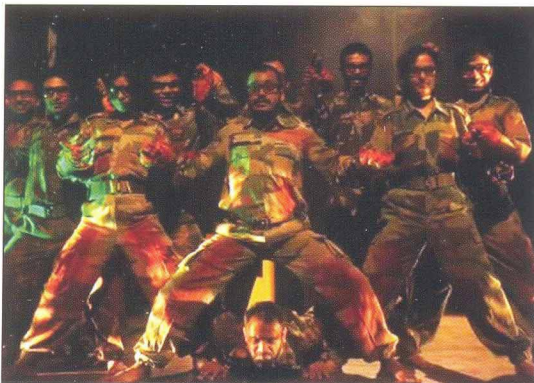
Haju Miyar Kisya

Director : Ashis Chattopadhyay



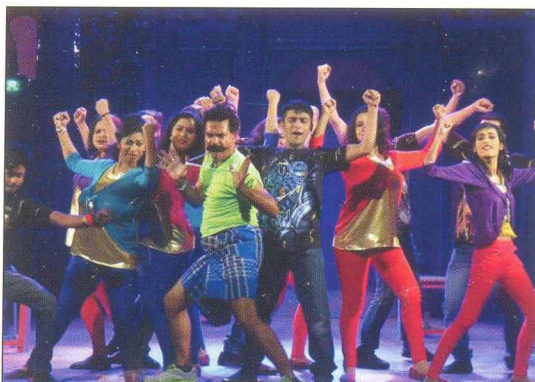
Padmagokhro

Director : Sekhar Samaddar



Kankra

Director : Debasish



Mumbai Nights

Director : Bratya Basu

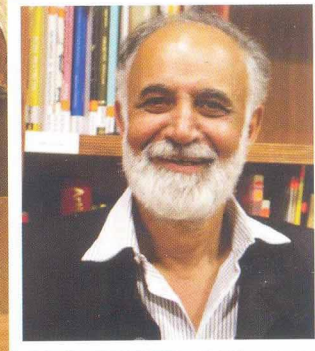
The Repertory presented works of various playwrights and directors who have been associated with it from time to time. These directors have a proven track record of artistic brilliance and thus the young team of Minerva Repertory got a scope to work with them and to get enriched intellectually, philosophically and as well as technically.

The Repertory is a regular performing wing of the Minerva Natyasanskriti Charhakendra which performs plays for the public in and outside Kolkata and occasionally in other States also. It consists of a group of artists, permanent and casual both. It constantly strives to achieve excellence in performance. Over the years the Repertory has produced a variety of plays ranging from stylist musicals to realistic contemporary works of Indian Drama, adaptations of other language plays, etc. On an average, it produces 1-2 new plays in a year and also repeats performances of its earlier popular plays.

The Minerva Repertory Theatre's library is one of the most specialized libraries in the field of theatre in West Bengal. It is one of the biggest knowledge hubs related to theatre in the country.

Minerva Repertory Theatre conducts various workshops for training and motivation of budding artists. Some of the key components focus on development of an artist as a performer in different activities as per his interest. There are learning workshops with special emphasis on the youth which includes vocal training, classes on body movements and installing the essence of acting, production training in various technical applications like stage design, etc. In addition, there are public programs which comprise panel discussions and presentations. These help in raising the confidence level of participants and increasing their knowledge base.

An important publication of Minerva Repertory Theatre is its Theatre Journal. The journal invites writings from National and International Theatre Artists and Analysts. It contains details on the present productions along with Festivals, Workshops, Seminars, Conference organized and Recent Happenings.



M.K.Raina Fri. 6 Jan. 2017 4.00PM

M.K.Raina, a graduate from the National School of Drama, is actively engaged in acting and direction in theatre and media. Refusing to be tied down to conventional professions, Raina has been a freelance theatre person, filmmaker and cultural activist since 1972, experimenting in many languages, forms and techniques. His association with rural and urban theatre across the country has helped him evolve a unique style, where both the forms blend and yet are rich with contemporary sensibility. Raina has been working in Kashmir for the last 15 years, through the times of extreme conflict in order to revive the dying indigenous performance art form of the 'Bhand's, as well as to use culture as a tool for creating spaces of free self-expression in an environment where there is none. He has directed over a 100 plays in several language and conducted workshops for theatre groups, both nationally and internationally. Raina has worked with the leading filmmakers of the country, in mainstream and parallel cinema like Mrinal Sen, Mani Kaul, Kumar Shahni, Buddhadev Dasgupta, Ketan Mehta, Govind Nihalani, Basu Chatterjee, Basu Bhattacharya, Farhan Akhtar, Aamir Khan. His many awards include the Sanskrit Samman in 1980; Sahitya Kala Parishad Award in 1981; Best director of the year by the West Bengal Government in 1982; Best Director Award by Punjabi Academy in 1987; Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1995 and the Swarna Padak Award from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in 1996. He was also awarded one of India's highest theatre awards, the B.V. Karanth award for lifetime achievement in 2007. He has also been involved with academic institutions in various capacities including as a visiting Director at the National School of Drama, visiting Faculty at Hyderabad University, Scholar-in-residence at Jamia Milia Central University, New Delhi and fellow at Hawaii University and Stanford Humanities. He has also presented at conferences and seminars across the globe, including the IFTR 2016 & 2015 at Stockholm and Hyderabad respectively and the Baku international Theatre Conference 2014 in Azerbaijan.



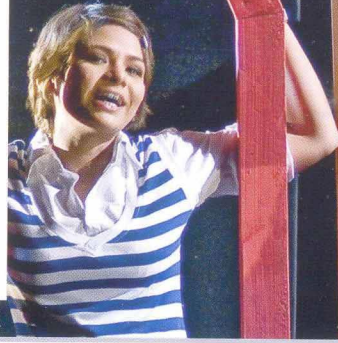
Mr. Suman Mukhopadhyay Fri. 6 Jan. 2017 6.30PM

Suman Mukhopadhyay has done productions ranging from European drama to major adaptations of Bengali masterpieces and productions of Indian plays including Raja Lear, Bisarjan, Teesta Paarer Brittanto, Mephisto, Raktakarabi, Little Clay Cart, Nagamandala, Man of the Heart and Agunmukho. Suman has directed-six feature films: Asamapta (2016; in post-production); Shesher Kobita (2014); Kungal Malsat, (2013); Mahanagar@Kolkata (2009); Chaturanga (2008) and Herbert (2005) which won the National Award for Best Regional Film that year. He participated and won awards in various national and international film festivals including Montreal, Dubai, Munich, San Francisco, Seattle, Kerala etc. Suman has also done number of documentaries, TV series, short films and cine- plays. He was a British Academy Fellow and has been invited to Barbican Centre, London with the play Man of the Heart. He was a delegate to Cannes from National Film Development Corporation, India. He is conferred with Sera Bangali (2014) by ABP Ananda. Suman has received the following awards for Theatre activities : Sudrak Samman for Best Direction (Play Shunya Shudhu Shunya Noy), West Bengal State Theatre Academy Award For Best Direction (Play Teesta Paarer Brittanto), Anandalok Chancellor Award For Best Production (Play Teesta Paarer Brittanto), Achintya Chaudhury Memorial Award (Play Teesta Paarer Brittanto), Asian Paints Shiromoni Purashkar For Best Production (Play Gantabya), Drama Academy of India Award For Best Production (Play Gantabya), Pramathesh Barua Memorial Award For Best Production (Play Gantabya), West Bengal State Theatre Academy Award For Best Production (Play Gantabya), Shyamal Sen Smriti Purashkar for Best Production (Play Coriolanus) and Film Awards: Grand Prix, Chaturanga: Bridge Fest 2009 International Film Festival, Sarajevo Excellence in Filmmaking, Chaturanga: Canada International Film Festival at Vancouver, 2010, Best Director, Chaturanga: Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, 2009, Best Feature Film Chaturanga: New Jersey Independent South Asian Cine Fest, 2009, Best Bengali Film, Rajat Kamal, National Awards Herbert-2006, Audience Award Herbert, Dhaka International Film Festival 2006, Lankesh Award for Best Debut Director Herbert, Best Debut Director at Bangalore 2006.



Ms. Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry Set. 7 Jan. 2017 3.00PM

NEELAM MAN SINGH CHOWDHRY (Dr.) was born on 1951, Amritsar. She is the international face of Punjabi Drama. Trained in the History of Art and Theatre, first at the Panjab University, Chandigarh and then at the National School of Drama. Dr. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry committed herself to the world of theatre early on. After a short stay in Mumbai where she trained children in the arts of theatre. She moved in 1979 to Bhopal, working with the Rang Mandala, a repertory attached to Bharat Bhavan. In 1984 she moved to Chandigarh, forming a theatre company of her own under the name 'The Company'. Chandigarh is the city where she has stayed since, teaching at the Department of Indian Theatre of the Panjab University since 1990, and heading it for a time as its Chairperson. Interested in theatre since her childhood, Dr. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry has been working with a group of traditional actors from rural Punjab, called the Naqqals. From the time that she formed her own theatre company, she began looking for a vocabulary for training urban actors and found it in the traditional forms that still survived in Punjab. Chowdhry's theatre group has participated in a number of major national and International Festivals. Among them have been The London International Festival of Theatre (1993, 1995, 1997) The Uzbekistan International Theatre Festival (1993). The Festival Avignon (1995), The Festival of Perth (1999, 2000), The Singapore Arts Festival (2002), The Laokoon Festival in Hamburg (2003) and many other festivals. Her body of work has included Federico Garcia Lorca's *Yerma*, Jean Giraudoux's *The Mad Woman of Chaillot*, Racine's *Phaedra*, *An Unposted Love Letter* by Doris Lessing, *Nagamandala* by Girish Karnad, *The Suit* by Can Themba, *Little Eyolf* by Henrik Ibsen, *Blood Wedding* by Lorca, and *Street, Patro* (The Wife's letter) adapted from a short story by Rabindranath Tagore. Dr. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry, whose doctoral work was on *Situating Contemporary Punjabi Theatrical Practice in the context of the Trends in Modern Indian Drama 1970-2007*, has been the recipient of several awards, The Padma Shree 2011, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2003), and The Shiromani Bhasha Vibhag Award in 2004. She is a member of the Academic Council of the National School of Drama, and serves on the advisory panel for theatre for The Indian Council for Cultural Relations. She has also been a member of the General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Govt. of India.



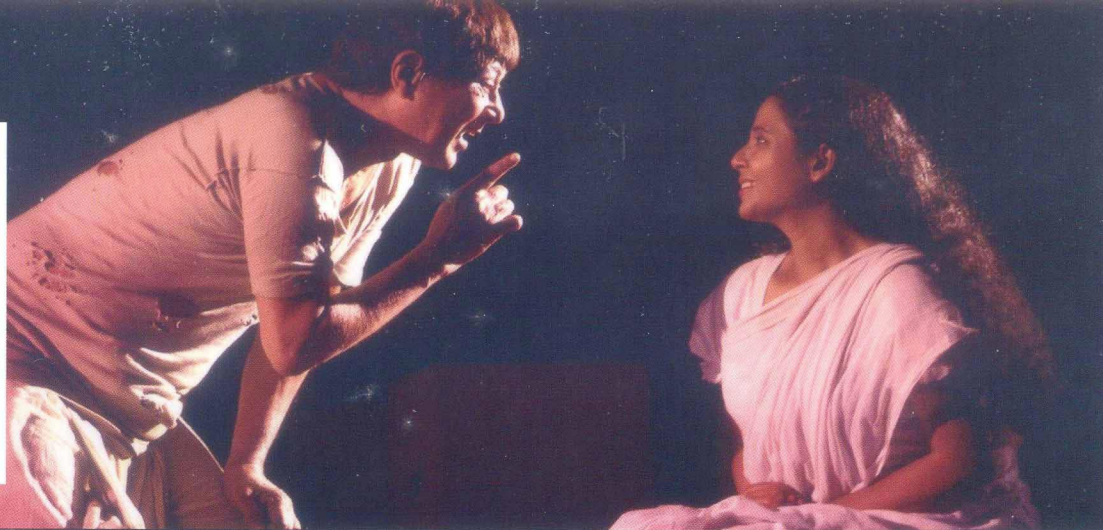
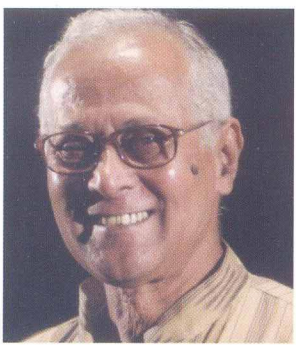
Mr. Debesh Chattopadhyay Sat. 7 Jan. 2017 5.30PM

Debesh Chattopadhyay is an Indian Bengali film & theatre director and actor. He has also acted in a few Bengali films. Chattopadhyay is associated with theatre since 1984. At that time he was 18 years old. In 1989 he joined Bengali theatre group Shilpayan and became a full-time theatre artist. In 1992 he joined theatre group Ganakrishti and acted in the play Manyobor Bhool Korchen. He also worked in the theatre group Theatron. In 1995 he founded his own group Arindam and staged a drama Dwicharini. He has directed several plays for the Bengali theatre group Sansriti. As a theatre Director Debesh has excelled in numerous plays, viz., YAVADANA : Playwright - Girish Karnad, AGNIBARSHI : Playwright - John Osborne, PRATINIDHI : Playwright- Debasish Mazumdar, WINKLE TWINKLE: Playwright - Bratya Basu, PHATARU : Based on Nabarun Bhattacharya's story, CADAVEROUS: Workshop based a short play, ANWAY: Workshop based Intimate Play, EA : Based on story by Peter Bichel, SHYAMASUNDARI : Playwright - G B Shaw, SURJO-PORA CHAI : Playwright - Debesh Chattopadhyay, TETRI KAHANI: Story by Mahasweta Devi, NEKRE O BHERA: Playwright - Debesh Chattopadhyay, FANDI GRAM: Workshop based short play, DREAM DREAM: Playwright - William Shakespeare, BREAK FAIL : Playwright - Debesh Chattopadhyay, EKA, EKA NOI : A Poetry Based Performance, CHENA DUKHHO CHENA SUKH : Playwright - Soumitro Bannerjee, BIKELE BHORER SORSHE-PHOOL : Playwright - Bratya Basu, DEVI SARPAMASTA : Playwright - Manoj Mitra, KANU KAHE RAI : Playwright - Swaradendu Bandopadhyay, BRAIN: Playwright - Debesh Chattopadhyay, CHIROKUMAR SABHA : Playwright - Rabindranath Tagore, CHALOMAAN ASHARIRI : Playwright - Jyotishmaan Chattopadhyay, SHEY : Playwright - Rabindranath Tagore, BHALO MANUSH : Playwright -Brecht/Ajitesh Bandopadhyay. TUGHLAQ-Girish Karnad SAUDAGARER NOUKA-Ajitesh Bandopadhyay. Documentary film on 'Satu Sen' which is financed by the National School of Drama, Delhi. Documentary film 'Dreams Unlimited' on 'Natyamela 2008' produced by Paschim Banga Natya Academy. He is also associated with numerous works on silver screen. Documentary film on 'Rangakarmi -A Journey' based on the activities and contribution of the theatre group 'RANGAKARMI' (Director- Usha Ganguly). Documentary film 'Habib Tanvir' produced by Paschim Banga Natya Academy. 50 Emerging Stars of India by The Week (Independence Day special Issue 2003). Many awards and recognitions have been bestowed on him. He received Best Playwright of the Year in 2002, by West Bengal Youth Council. Best Play of the Year in 2007, by Information & Culture Dept., Govt. of West Bengal for the play "Surjo-Pora Chhai". Best Playwright of the Year in 2008, Satyen Mitra Award by Theatre Workshop for play "Surjo-Pora Chhai". Best Director of the Year in 2008, Shyamal Sen Smriti Puraskar by Theatre Group SwapnaSandhani for the play "Surjo-Pora Chhai". Best Director of the Year in 2009, by Information & Culture Dept., Govt. of West Bengal for the play "Dream Dream". Best Play of the Year in 2010, by Sudrak for the play "Dream Dream". Dinabandhu Mitra Smriti Sammanana in 2011, by Bongaon Natyacharcha Kendra. Best Director of the Year in 2012, Rajat Jayanti Swarak Samman from Anya Theatre, for "Devi Sarpamasta". Navendu Smriti Samman 2012 To The Director Debesh Chattopadhyay, for "Bikele Bhorer Shorshe Phool". Zee Gaurav Award to The Director Debesh Chattopadhyay, for "Bikele Bhorer Shorshe Phool". Zee Gaurav Award for best production "Bikele Bhorer Shorshe Phool". ZEE GAURAV JURI AWARD to The Writer Debesh Chattopadhyay, for "BRAIN".



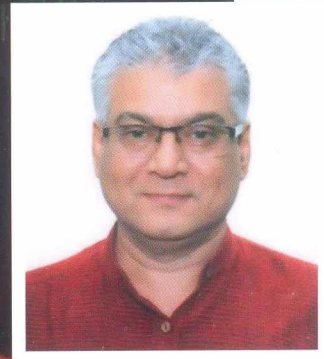
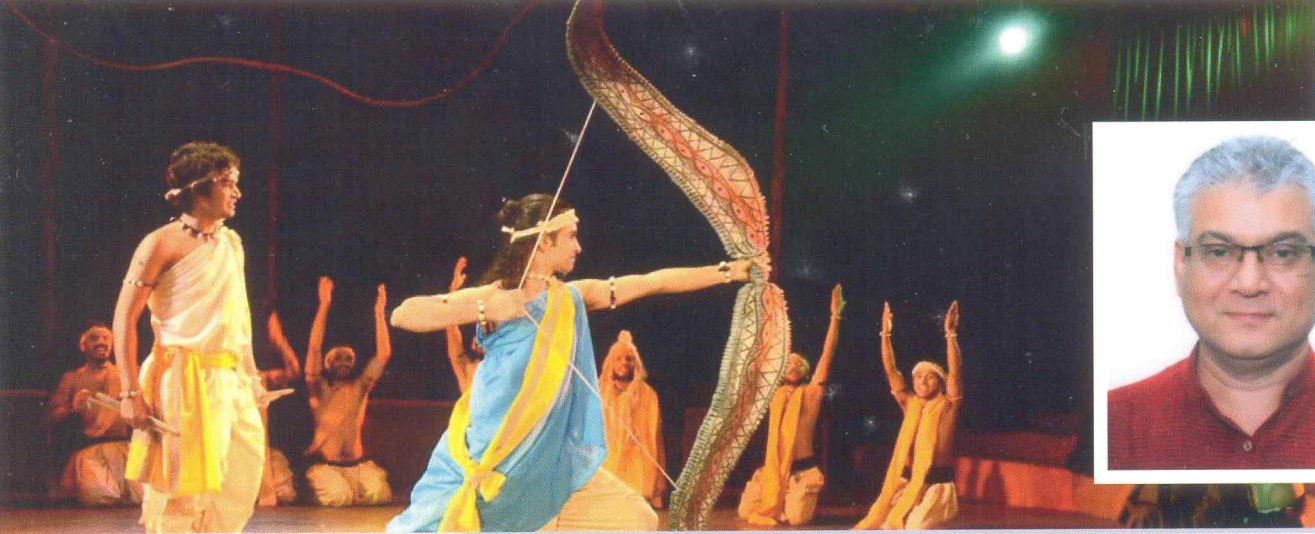
Usha Ganguli Sun. 8 Jan. 2017 3.00PM

Usha Ganguli, a renowned theatre activist, lives and breathes theatre as her first love and passion. Devoted and dedicated to Theatre, her works are enriched by her scholarly and literary sense and sensibilities as has been consistently evident in her presentations through Lok Katha, Mahabhoj, Holi, Himmat Mai, Court Martial, Rudali, Mukti, Chandalika, Manasi, Hum Mukhtara and the list is on. Rangakarmee, the Theatre troupe set up by Usha Ganguli in 1976, remains the most active and prolific group performing in Hindi not only across India but also travelling abroad extensively. Rangakarmee, since its inception, has widely achieved fame and honour throughout the country and in many parts of the world. Usha Ganguli is perhaps the first and only theatre Director in India to be directing a play for a Pakistan theatre group called 'Ajoka Theatre' under their two-year long programme 'Theatre for Peace' project. It includes theatre festivals, workshops, seminars etc.. Rangakarmee is also, probably, the first theatre organization to collaborate with a theatre group in Pakistan. She has directed three short plays based on Saadat Hasan Manto's women characters for the theatre group Nagorik Natya Shampraday at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The plays are named Naam Gotrohin – (meaning nameless, casteless Manto's women). Usha Ganguli has also scripted for Rituparno Ghosh's "Raincoat", Buddhadeb Dasgupta's "She", "Target" for Sandip Ray, "Lohit kinare" for Kalpana Lajmi and " Kabhi dur kabhi pass " for Mrinal Sen. Not surprisingly, awards and felicitations have come a plenty for Usha Ganguli. The prestigious awards, including Best Production and Best Director Award (1993-'94) by All India Critic Association and Paschim Banga Natya Academy for " Rudali ", Best Director Award for Lok Katha by Ritwick Ghatak Memorial Committee, Sangeet Natak Academy Award (1998), Girish Puraskar by West Bengal Govt in 2016 and several other awards from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh State Academies. At present, apart from being the Director and President of Rangakarmee, Usha Ganguli is a revered member of SWAN (South Asia Women's Network) which is a wing of SAARC. She is also currently the Scholar in Residence at the Viswa Bharati University. Usha Ganguli's life, in fact, mirrors the life of one who has dedicated herself to voice the social aspects through a very creative arena of theatre to create a colourful replica of human life.



Shri Arun Mukhopadhyay Sun. 8 Jan. 2017 5.30PM

Shri Arun Mukhopadhyay was born on February 16, 1937 at Shibpur, Howrah. It is difficult to trace out the source of his attachment with theatre art, but he grew up in a healthy cultural environment and after playing with some aimless ventures during his early years he started practising serious theatre by forming a group in the locality around late fifties. Just after finishing his academic career as a commerce graduate he took up the job of a school teacher for a few months and then joined service as a clerk under the state govt. in 1957. Much later, he received M. A. degree in Modern History as a private candidate. In the meantime, he became more and more drawn towards theatre. He joined I. P. T. A. (Shibpur Branch). Starting from early sixties he wrote and directed a number of plays not only for the IPTA, but also for the cultural wing of the State co-ordination committee, a Trade Union organisation of the State Govt. employees. Plays like Howard Fast's Spartacus, Maxim Gorky's Mother and many other plays were produced under his direction in both the platforms—IPTA & Co-ordination Committee. Shri Mukhopadhyay gathered a lot of expertise in writing and performing Poster/Agit—prop plays during this period. CHETANA was formed in 1972 and its first production MAREECH SANGBAD, written and directed by Shri Mukhopadhyay, flashed as a bolt from the blue. JAGANNATH, another production written and directed by him inspired by LU XUN became another hit. On the strength of success of these two plays Shri Mukhopadhyay could dare to work with other experimental productions like 'Bhalomanusher Pala' (Brecht), 'Dukhimukhi Joddhaa', 'Roshan', 'Putul Naacher Itikathaa' though none of them became so much popular. Most of the plays produced by CHETANA have either been dramatised/adapted or written by Shri Mukhopadhyay. Music-Direction of most of the plays have also been done by him. In 1978 Shri Mukhopadhyay acted in the main role of the film 'PARASHURAM' made by Shri Mrinal Sen and was awarded 'Rajat Kamal' as 'Best Actor' of the year. He was selected as a delegate to attend the 'Moscow International Film Festival' held in 1978. Shri Mukhopadhyay received 'Sangeet Natak Akademi' award for Theatre Direction in 2002 and National School of Drama felicitated him in 2005 for his contribution to theatre. State Govt's highest award 'Dinobundhoo Puraskar' was also received by him. Shri Mukhopadhyay and his troupe CHETANA performed in almost all the major cities of our country and in all the districts of our state. They toured 18 cities of U.S.A. & CANADA in 1980 and 1990 to perform shows of MAREECH SANGBAD, JAGANNATH AND KABEER & toured city of Bordeaux, France in 1998 to perform shows of MAREECH SANGBAD. He visited also, Norway to take part in the 'Ibsen International Festival' and his team performed 'Ganashatru' (Bengali adaptation of Ibsen's AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE) in 2004. His team also performed MAREECH SANGBAD in London.



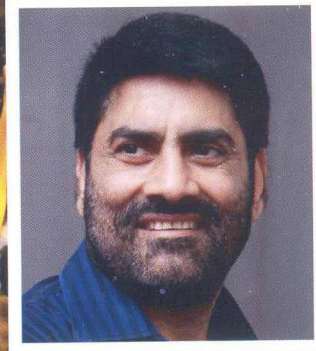
Sanjay Upadhyay Mon. 9 Jan. 2017 3.00PM

Sanjay Upadhyay (1965) is an M.A.(English) from Patna University in 1985. Also got Three years Diploma in Dramatics Specialization with Direction From National School of Drama, New Delhi, in 1990. Sanjay's working experience in the field of Theatre proportionatus to the depth of an ocean : He was working as Artistic-Director, Sri Ram Centre for performing Arts, New Delhi in 1994-96. He formed Patna University Students Cultural Society (PUSCUS) in 1985. He has Participated several times in State Youth Festival & National Drama Festival and National Youth Festival. He was appointed several times as an Observer for National Theatre Festival organized by Sangeet Natak Academy New Delhi. He participated in workshop with Peter-Brooke. He participated sixth International Born Americano the tetro, the Bogotá Festival in Columbia, Suriname and Caracas etc. He is Associatated with National School of Drama (New Delhi) Bhartendu Natya Academy (Lucknow), Patiala Drama Dept. (Punjab University), Ninasam (Karnatka) Mandi Acting Course, (Himachal Pradesh) as visiting faculty. He has directed numerous place viz, Bakari, Bidesia, Jasma-Odan, Nal-Damyanti, Kharia Ka Ghera Gazipur Ka Hajjam, Rustam-Sohtab, Comrade Ka Coat, Company Ustad, Kahan Gaye Mere Uгна, Heera Dom, Ghasi Ram Kotwal, Bada Natakia Kaun, Nandi Path, Neelkanth Nirala, Ambapali, Parti parikatha, Gabar- Ghichor, Three-Penny Opera, Maati Gadi, Malvikagnimitram, Samjhauta, Thumri, Aashad Ka Ek Din, Rahul, Derh Inch Upar, Dastan-e-Habba Aandha Yug, Harsingar, Swapna Mangal Katha, Bulb Jalega, Gagan Damama Bajyo, Ek Tha Chida, Andhon Ka Hathi, Mangosil, Dharti Aaba, Uttar Priyadarshi Company Ustad, Neel Kanth Nirala etc. numerous awards & recognitions have been restored on him. He received Manohar Singh Memorial Award for 2010 by NSD, New Delhi, Abhinav Rang Samman for 2009 by Abhinav Rang Mandal, Ujjain.



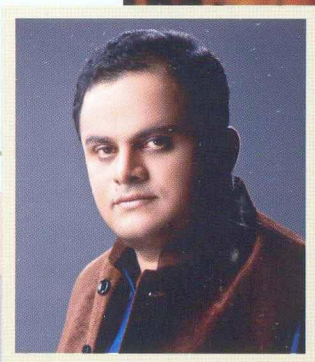
Meghnad Bhattacharya Mon. 9 Jan. 2017 5.30PM

Meghnad Bhattacharya is not only one of the founder members but also the friend, philosopher and guide of Sayak - the theatre group which has become a household word in the world of Bengali Theatre in course of his long and eventful journey of 43 years. The superb efficiency in directorial maneuver as well as stupendous acting skill of Meghnad in 23 Full length & 07 Short play productions helped Sayak to reach the pinnacle of progress. Meghnad is nothing but a spontaneous marvel when he makes original plays and an equally competent creator of translated as well adapted plays of the great masters like Tolstoi, Brecht, Schedrin, Dode, Somerset Maughm. He is the main mastermind behind the continuous full house shows of Sayak for the last 36 years not only in the different parts of West Bengal but also in different corners of the country and in U.S.A. Canada, Bangladesh and Kuwait too. It is under his able leadership, Sayak with its larger involvement in multifarious theatrical activities built up a theatre hall named BIJON THEATRE at North Kolkata in 1979 in the name of the legendry late Bijon Bhattacharya - the father of Bengali progressive theatre. Besides Sayak, Meghnad has acted in important roles in Shakespeare's play directed by Utpal Dutta and legendary Girish Ghosh's play and also Brecht's Puntila directed by Bibhas Chakraborty., produced by the Govt. of west Bengal and Bijoy Tendulkar's Kanyadan directed by Bratya Basu. Meghnad has also directed three plays produced by Prabasi at Toronto, Canada in 2006, 2008, 2013 and two plays in New Jersey USA produced by Epic Actors' Workshop in 2013 and 2015 and Two Plays in Columbus, USA Produced by Spot Light in 2015 & 2016. Apart from theatre Meghnad directed several TV plays in different channels and has also acted in atleast 50 TV serials and films.



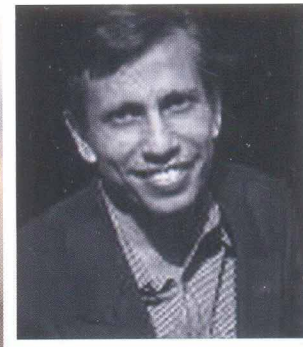
Balwant Thakur Tue. 10 Jan. 2017 3.00PM

Balwant Thakur is an Indian theatre personality and scholar, known for bringing Dogri theatre to international notice. He was honoured by the Government of India, in 2013, by bestowing on him the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of theatre. Balwant Thakur was born on the Christmas Day of 1960 small mountain village in Reasi district of the North Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, to Hari Saran Thakur, a locally known traditional art performer. Thakur graduated in Business Management and Economics from the Government M.A. M. College. University of Jammu and followed it with a graduation in law. He continued studies and secured a post graduate degree in Mass Communication. After the studies, he turned to research and, with the assistance of a National Senior fellowship from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in 1990, he did three years of research on the heritage of performing arts of Jammu. He also won a Ford Foundation grant for his research work under the title, Search for a new Theatre Language. Natrang his organisation was said to be a success from inception, collecting a State Academy award for best production for his play, Challraha. During the next three years, the group staged plays like Neeli Jheel, Nanhen Kandhey Nanhen Pair, Singhasan Khali Hai and Rang Nagri and winning the State Academy awards for four consecutive years from 1983 till 1986. Thakur has written many plays such as Suno Eh Kahani, Aaj Ki Aurat, Is Gran Gi Surg Banai La, Anpaden Da Hall, Jato Khala, Mere Bi Ehen Kish Khaab and Aag and children's plays, Aap Hamare Hain Kaun, and Bhag Beta Bhag.14) The plays brought Natrang nationwide fame and the group travelled in many parts of India like Chandigarh, Shimla, Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Goa, and Bhubaneswar. The rigours of managing a full-time job as the Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages along with his commitment towards Natrang made him quit the job in 2003, and started to devote his time entirely to theatre. One of the major contributions of Balwant Thakur to Indian theatre is the group he founded and the activities he accomplished under its aegis. After quitting from his job as the Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, he started an annual event, Natrang Theatre Festival He also started a weekend show called Sunday Show, in 2004, which has been staging shows every week unabated through the regional turmoil, reaching 500 weekly theatreshows, considered to be a record of sorts. Thakur is credited with the revival of the Kashmiri traditional theatre of dogri and Bhand Pather. Thakur, with assistance from playwright, Moti Lal Kemmu, embarked on a project in which they assembled 1000 bhand pather performers from twenty groups, trained them in modern theatre techniques and the effort precipitated 40 productions in this traditional style. In 2013, the Government of India honoured Balwant Thakur with the fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri. He is a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, which he received in 1999). He has also won the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages award thrice, in 1983, 1984 and 1985. The other awards and recognitions are: Ford Foundation Research grant National Sanskrit Award - 1992 All India Citizen Award for culture - 1994, Gurushree - 1995, Abhinavak Sammon - 1996, Saptrishi Sammon - 2001, Kala Nidhi Puraskar - 2004, Best Director Award - Doordarshan Theatre festival - 2005, Dogra Rattan - 2006, Punjab Arts Council Honour - 2007. Dogri Sanstha Award - 2010, Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Award - 2011, Rabindra Nath Tagore Award - 2011, Gursharan Singh Theatre Commitment Award (World Theatre Day Honour) - 2013.



Bratya Basu Tue. 10 Jan. 2017 5.30PM

BRATYA BASU, (born on 25th September 1969, Kolkata) is an accomplished theatre Artist, a playwright and director. He got passionately involved with Bengali theatre and drama from a very young age. He has become the finest young star in the arena of theatre in the 21st century; He stands out as a playwright, director and an actor. He, however, likes to describe himself as a theatre thinker and activist and has served Bengali theatre for nearly 20 years. Basu started his career as a sound operator for a small theatre group and soon started writing and directing plays with this group. The themes of his writings focus on political fantasy, nature-human relationships, connection between music and life, ethical values and its lack, conflict between love and revolt, bonding between time and culture, etc. While his diverse plays achieved enormous success on stage, they have also succeeded in stirring the emotional cords of innumerable hearts. Basu launched his career as a dramatist and director with the play Ashaleen (1996), described by theatre critics as the first postmodernist Bengali play. His noted plays thereafter include Aranyadeb, Shahar Yaar, Virus-M, Winkle-Twinkle, 17th July, Chatuskon, Page 4: Its also a game, Hemlaat the Prince of Goranhata, Krishna Gahobar, Mukhomukhi Bosibar, Babli, Mrityu Eshwar Jounota, Babarer Prarthana, Darjiparar Marjinara, Aagunmukho, Bhoy, Ruddhasangeet, Bikele Bhorer Sorshey Phool, Supari Killer, Apatoto Eivaabe Dujoner Dekha Hoye Thaake, Altaf Gomes, Cinemar Moto, Ke?, Duto Din, Jatugriha, Anandibai, Boma, Ila Guroisha, Page 4, Fourth Bell etc. These plays are not only popular but also unique in different genres of modern literary theatre and subject to manifold interpretations. His plays have been staged by various Directors like Suresh Bhardwaj, Bapi Bose, Arpita Ghosh, Debesh Chattopadhyay, Suman Mukhopadhyay, Koushik Sen, Kishore Sengupta, Anirban Bhattacharya, Sekhar Samaddar, Biplab Bandopadhyay, Debashis Biswas, Debashis Ray, Debashis Dutta, Avi Chakraborty etc. A compilation of his plays has been published in three volumes in 2004, 2010 and 2016 respectively. He has even directed three films viz. Raasta, Teesta, Tara and acted in many films which include Harbert, Sunglass, Hello Memshaheb, Kaal Bela, Ichhe, Kagojer Bou, Sthanio Sangbad, Teen Kannya, Tara, Mukto Dhara, Hemlock Society, Balukabela.com, Mahakash Kando, Mahapurush O Kapurush, Para par, Jogajog, Natoker Moto, Kalkiyuj, Abby Sen, Asampto etc. Basu has bagged many awards and recognitions. Some of them include the Shyamal Sen Memorial Award (1998), Dishari Award (2000), Satyen Mitra Award (2001, 2003, 2004) and Shilpayan Samman (2015). Bratya Basu, the currently Hon'ble Cabinet Minister and in charge of the Ministry of Information & Technology for the state of West Bengal, has created his own space in contemporary theatre by moving beyond its existing boundaries. He has formed his own theatre group Bratyajon in 2008. The first theatrical production of his own theatre group Bratyajon was Ruddhasangeet (2009), a play on the Rabindra Sangeet exponent Debabrata Biswas's journey of bitter struggle throughout his life in the prevailing system. The play received instant critical and popular acclaim and has so far staged more than a record 140 shows to packed houses followed by Canvasser, Byomkesh. The recent plays directed by him i.e. Boma, Mumbai Nights, Meghe Dhaka Tara, Addyo Shesh Rajani are now a Milestone in Bengali Theatre.



Santanu Bose

has studied Comparative Literature in graduation with German language as subsidiary. He had studied Design and Direction at National School of Drama and took part in acting at Drama Studio London. He also worked as a Lecturer of Art Direction at Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute. Directed over thirty plays (Co-productions with Germany, Australia, Afghanistan), he also did research on dialogue sections for the Film "Name of a River" by Anup Singh. He had done Production Design for the film "Reaching Silence" directed by Jahar Kanungo, an Assistant Professor of World Drama at National School of Drama. Recipient of 'Outstanding Artist' fellowship from Govt. Of India, the New performance grant of India Foundation for the Arts and Charles Wallace Award. He worked extensively on multicultural issues in collaborative process. Some of them are Images of Fertility, a study of Body and gender with Indian and German Theatre Artists, 'Latoon', a reading of Nation and motherhood with Indian and Afghan actors and 'Embrace', an Immodest Green with Australian dancers. He practices bodyweather, a form developed under Min Tanaka in Japan. Some of his works are 'Crab Soup for Theatre Science', UK in Collaboration with The Creative Arts Calcutta, 'Mother Of 1084', a video art piece for Mukha, a museum in Belgium, 'Sottor/ Uttor', a video theatre piece on Maoist movement in India for India Foundation for Arts, 'An Actor Exits', a vocal work-video- acting piece in collaboration with Maxmuller Bhavan, Delhi and Vivan Sundaram Studio.

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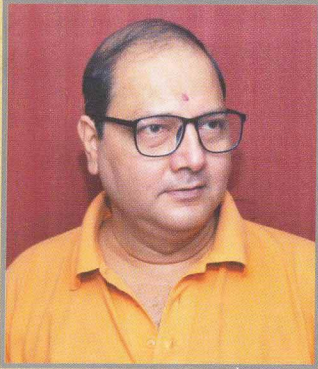
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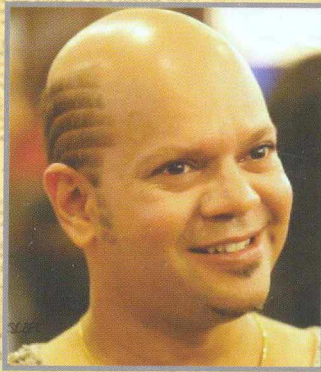
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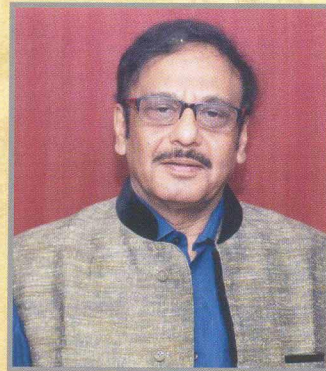
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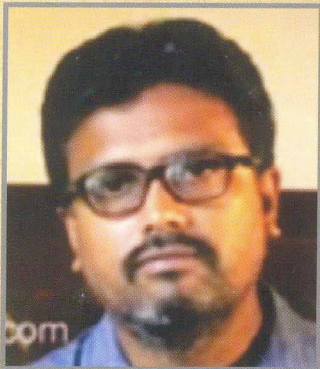
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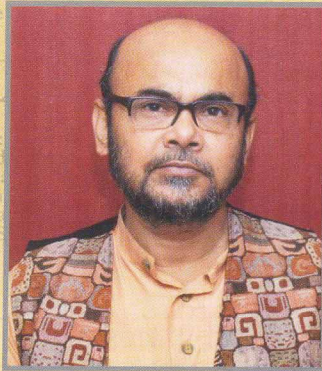
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GOBINDA DAS

MINERVA NATYASANSKRITI CHARCHAKENDRA

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	1884.
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Dec. 25	Palm Sunday
	Good Friday
Jan. 6	Easter Sunday
Feb. 10	Low Sunday
Feb. 24	Rogation Sunday
Feb. 27	Ascension Day—F
Mar. 2	