

GANAPATI BY ADI SHAKTI at the Chuncheon International Mime Festival in Korea.

Date: 22 October - 2 November 2016

Following an ongoing association with the Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Art Research (ALTAR), based in Pondicherry, we are delighted to support the presentation of their seminal and visually and aurally stunning production *Ganapati*, at the Chuncheon International Mime Festival in Korea in October/November 2016.



Nimmy Raphel



Vinay Kumar K.J



Arvind Rane



Anoop Davis



Apoorva Arthur



Pascal

GANAPATI : (2000)

Written and Directed by : Veenapanai Chawla

The performance is an interpretation of the birth stories related to the myths of *Ganapati* - the elephant-headed God from the Puranic cycle or *Martanda* from the Vedic cycle. It is structured in a recurring cycle of creation, celebration, destruction and return, which parallels the recurrent motif in these birth stories. The return is suggested by a re-telling of the myth repeatedly and from different points of view. The aim is to allow its main concern, that of creation and creativity, to be interpreted at a variety of different levels.

The performance employs different patterns and textures of rhythms. The verbal text is minimal. And both the verbal text and the aural images are supported by visual cues and images. The rhythms used in this piece have been evolved from the rhythms of *Koodiyattam* music and folk rhythms drawn from various parts of South Asia.

About the Festival

The Chuncheon International Mime Festival (CIMF) is an annual international mime festival and is recognised as one of the world's most important mime festivals today. The CIMF focuses on modern mime which utilizes physical expressions and gesture as well as diverse performances such as mime, physical theatre, movement theatre, street performance, site-specific theatre and contemporary dance. The CIMF was awarded the title of "The Best Arts and Tour Festival" from 2001 to 2006 and as "The most Excellent Arts and Tour Festival" from 2007 to 2011 by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea.



About Adishakti

Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Art Research (ALTAR), founded in 1981 in Mumbai, is located on the outskirts of Pondicherry. Artists and experts from a variety of other fields visit Adi Shakti for residencies, sabbaticals, performances and workshops.

ALTAR is a performance and research organization which aims at evolving a new aesthetic, in response to the dilemmas posed by post-colonialism. The most important partner in Adishakti's work towards creating a new aesthetic is the traditional performer. Adishakti acts on the premise, that past disciplines need to be deliberately displaced from their own context in order to throw up a range of new elements within them, not formerly known or apprehended. Within this understanding, Adishakti's position is that the contemporary performer is privileged as a critic whose task it is to reinterpret and, as it were, fill in the blanks within specific traditional forms.

Veenapani Chawla established Adishakti in 1981 and was also its Managing Trustee and Artistic Director, until her sudden, untimely demise in 2014. She has scripted and directed most of Adishakti's performances. Her work has toured India as well as internationally. In 1996 her Impressions of Bhima was performed in Paris, New York (Asia Society) and at UCLA. Her Brhannala was performed at the Singapore Arts Festival, Edinburgh Festival, New York (Asia Society) and the Bonn Biennale. Ganapati was performed at the House of World Cultures,

Berlin, at Mousonturm, Frankfurt and Kampnagel, Hamburg.

Since 1999, Veenapani was engaged in designing the Adishakti campus, which houses the members of the Adishakti Theatre, Dance, Music and Puppetry Repertory Company. The artists' residences, the Guest House and Theatre on the Adishakti campus are the result of a collaboration between her and architect Srinivas Vasthukam of Kerala, a former student of Laurie Baker. Recognised and feted for her devotion to theatre, she was wholly involved in creating programmes for Adishakti to become the highly respected research centre that it is today, for performance arts, with residency programmes and workshops for artists from all over the world.

As part of the **Moving Asia Project** initiated by InKo Centre, 8 artists from Performance Group Tuida attended an artistic residency at Adi Shakti, in December 2011/January 2012. In July 2012, Adishakti artists were invited by Performance Group Tuida participate in the MAP (Moving Asia Project) meeting at the Tutbat Art Festival in Hwacheon, South Korea. In September 2012 Adishakti artists were invited to join a residency program and presentation in Hwacheon and Gwangju. The residency program was the third phase of the India-Korea theatre collaboration which InKo Centre initiated in 2011. InKo Centre's support to the presentation of Ganapati at the Chuncheon Mime Festival in October/November 2016, is in continuation of this ongoing, meaningful association with Adi Shakti.

