

WORKSHOP

»A Room of One's Own«
Working Conditions of
Female Artists. Female
Performers in
postcolonial India
in dialogue with early
20th century stage
designer in Germany.



Ass.-Prof. Indu Jain (Delhi University) & Dr. T. Sofie Taubert (UzK),
Fr, 31.05.2019, 10-16h, Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung

Workshop mit Assistant Prof. Indu Jain, Delhi University & Dr. T. Sofie Taubert (UzK): »A Room of One's Own« Working Conditions of Female Artists. Female Performers in postcolonial India in dialogue with early 20th century stage designer in Germany.

Termin: Freitag 31.5.19, 10-16h; Ort: Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung, Schloss Wahn; Anmeldung erbeten unter sofie.taubert@uni-koeln.de

»A Room of One's Own« was the title Virginia Woolf chose in 1928, when she was asked to write about female writers. To claim a room, both metaphorical as well as literal and any real agency though keeps on to be a challenge in various forms of art, with varying levels of impediments with respect to various cultures. In the Indian context, theatre has been predominantly a domain of masculine prerogative. Therefore, it is essential to accentuate the interventions of women like Anamika Haksar (1959)(India) and Anuradha Kapur (1951)(India) who created critical frameworks for potentiality and efficacy by percolating and resonating in other modes of cultural manifestations like theatre pedagogy, wherein with their eye for minutiae they specifically focused on stage design, scenography and the materials of performance in their productions as well as curriculum taught at the drama school. All these artists stressed on how each one of them believes in theatre for change. How material, social and cultural conditions of its making have changed over the years and many face various obstacles too. Therefore, it will be enriching to examine if they were/are successful in creating an alternate theatre inclusive of the labor involved, which is based on reconfiguring the possibilities of their art and unfolding a new perspective.

The Indian examples will be put in dialog with a couple of women not just standing their ground but also developing their fields such as the light technician and stage designer Nina Tokumbet (1899-1947)(Germany), and the stage designer Helene Blum-Gliewe (1907–1992)(Germany).

Indu Jain, research interests:

Support work for women in crisis became my interest ever since I joined Miranda House and became involved with the activities of Women Development Cell in college. Being a member of a women's group 'SAHELI' as well as 'PEHEL', I am deeply concerned about women's issues like their representation in the media, discriminatory personal laws based on religion, sex selective abortions and the rise of communalism and casteism which has had a deep impact on women in India at many levels. Talking to several women who visited Saheli has deepened my understanding of the subtle ways in which patriarchy works. It also made me realise the difficulties involved in working against structural and ideological forces which resist change. My interest in Theatre direction enabled me to use the stage as a platform for spreading awareness about gender sensitive issues in a number of plays performed in the University and made me a stronger person constantly learning a host of things from political awareness to patience.