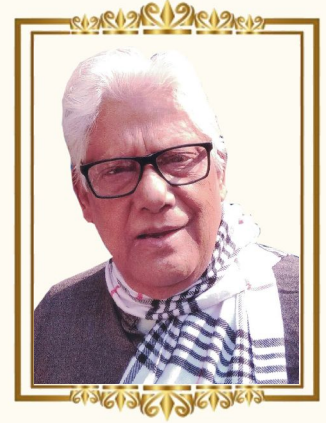




SHRI HARIMADHAB MUKHOPADHYAY (POSTHUMOUS)



Shri Harimadhab Mukhopadhyay was a legendary Indian theatre director, playwright, and actor.

2. Born on 3rd April, 1941 in Balurghat, the district head quarter of South Dinajpur district of West Bengal, Shri Mukhopadhyay's journey as a theatre practitioner of significant repute, had been a fascinating one. His life had been a true testimony of what herculean persistence, unwavering dedication and fierce commitment to one's passion can accomplish despite the toughest of odds and infrastructural constraints. Though attracted to the magic of performative arts since his childhood, tryst with serious theatre eventually blossomed during his student and professional life in Kolkata from 1958 to 1967. During those eventful years, he experienced the pioneering works of the doyens of Bengali Theatre like Shri Sambhu Mitra, Shri Bijan Bhattacharya, Shri Utpal Dutt, Shri Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay among many others. His sense of understanding and appreciation of theatrical nuances were immensely influenced by the varied methods of productions, adopted by these stalwarts. Shortly after his return to Balurghat, Shri Mukhopadhyay joined as a lecturer in Commerce in Balurghat College and established the theatre group- Triteertha in 1969 along with the active support and cooperation of some spirited like-minded individuals. He was unanimously chosen as the director of the newly formed group.

3. Over the course of the next five long decades, Shri Mukhopadhyay directed and acted in over sixty productions for Triteertha. Notable among them were Natyakarer Sandhane Chhati Charitra, Teen Biggani, Manjari Aamer Manjari, Bhangapat, Debi Garjan, Galileo, Jwal, Debangshi, Bichhan (Hindi), Mantrasakti, Patrasuddhi, Matritantrik, Pimama, Raktakarabi and many more. These productions of diverse genres, staged multiple times across West Bengal and beyond in cities like New Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna gathered widespread critical acclaim and firmly cemented Shri Mukhopadhyay's stature as a theatre director/actor to reckon with.

4. Shri Mukhopadhyay's writings on theatre had been equally prolific. He had written over fifty plays. An anthology of his plays has been published in three volumes by a leading publishing house of Kolkata, Punashcha. He had penned large number of essays on various aspects of theatre and these have been published on leading theatre journals like Syas, Basumati, Rangapat Natya Patrika. He used to write a weekly column on his life in Theatre in Anand Bazar Patrika, a leading Bengali news daily.

5. Shri Mukhopadhyay had been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. He was awarded the Dishari award thrice in 1976, 1979 and 2003(Lifetime Achievement) by West Bengal Journalists' Association, Best Actor award in 1986 from the Ministry of Information and Culture, Government of West Bengal for his portrayal in the play, Bichhan; Kanchenjangha award in 1997, Sangeet Natak Academy Samman in Direction from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in 2007; State Drishya and Charukala Academy Award by Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal in 2008; Dinabandhu Purashkar from The Government of West Bengal in 2009, Banga Bhushan Samman by West Bengal Government in 2012. In 2019, Raiganj University of West Bengal awarded him with Honorary D.Litt.

6. Shri Mukhopadhyay passed away on 17th March 2025.