

MADEEHA GAUHAR: BIODATA

1. ACADEMIC: B.A from Kinnaird College Lahore, 1975.

Masters in English Literature from the Government College Lahore, 1979.

Masters in Theatre Studies from the University of London 1985. Thesis on " The Western Influences on the Theatre of the Subcontinent".

2. As a Director:

1974-75. president of the Kinnaird College Najam-ud-Din Dramatic Society. Directed Lorca's ' The House of Bernada Alba'.

1979-80: Secretary of the Government College Dramatic Club. Directed Sartre's "Men without Shadows".

1984: Directed Badal Sircar's 'Stale News' at the Drama DEPT: Royal Holloway College U.K.

1983: Founded Ajoka, a theatre group committed to socially meaningful theatre, which pioneered the alternative productions movement in Pakistan. Ajoka has performed all over Pakistan and abroad and remains the leading and most prolific of all theatre groups in the country.

3. Plays directed for Ajoka Theatre:

1984 • Badal Sircar's "Jaloos"

1985 • Urdu adaptation of Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle".

1987 • Shahid Nadeem's "Barri" (Acquittal) and "Marya Hoya Kutta" (The Dead Dog).

1988 • Urdu adaptation of Brecht's "The Good Person of Sezuan".

1989 • Shahid Nadeem's "Chullah aur chaar divari" (The Stove), on woman rights and on the issue of stove deaths.

1990 • Street plays on women's issues, "Sharam di Gal" (A Matter of Shame) and "Dhee Raani" (Dear Daughter)

1991 • Manto's "Toba Tek Singh" and "Naya Qanoon" (The New Law) and Shahid Nadeem's "Teesri Dastak" (The Third Knock).

• Seraiki language adaptation of Lorca's "Blood Wedding";

1992 • Punjabi adaptation of Brecht's "The Three-penny Opera"

• Shahid Nadeem's "Lappar" (Slap) and "Dekh Tamasha Chalta Ban" (Watch the Play and Move On).

1993 • Shahid Nadeem's "Aik Thee Naani" (Once There Was a Grandmother)

• "Jum Jum Jeevay Jammanpura" (Long Live the Delivery Town) in 1993.

1995 • Shahid Nadeem's "Kaali Ghata" (When the Cloud Turned

- Away). A dance drama in the environment.
- 1996 • Shahid Nadeem's "Kala Mainda Bhes"(Black Are My Robes).
 - 1997 • Coordinated the production of "Dukhini"a play on trafficking of women, a co-production of Ajoka and Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts.
 - 1998 • Brecht's "The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui", adapted as "Bala King".
 - 1999 • Toured India and London with "Aik Thee Naani"and Directed "Bala King" for the International Theatre Festival in Lahore.
 - 2001 • Directed "Bullha" - a play on the life & poetry of Punjabi mystic Bulleh Shah.
 - Directed "Barri"(in English) for the Los Angeles Art Festival in July 2001.
 - 2002 • Directed Adhoori - dance drama on the struggle of Pakistani women, for the National Convention of Women, Convention Centre, Islamabad
 - 2004 • Directed Shehr-I-Afsos - based on the short story by Intizar Hussain.
 - 2006 • Directed 'Dukh Darya' - a play based upon the real life trauma encountered by a Kashmiri woman by Shahid Nadeem.

5. Other Activities:

- Have conducted theatre training workshops in different parts of Pakistan for community, women minority rights activists and Children.
- Participated in theatre and Productions workshops and conferences, seminars in UK, US, Australia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Office-holder in theatre bodies such as the South Asian Theatre Committee and the International Drama and Education Association (IDEA).
- Was among the founders of Women's Action Forum in 1983 and has ceaselessly campaigned for the repeal of discriminatory laws against women and minorities., Lost her lecturers job in a Govt. College and was sent to prison for such activities.
- Was awarded "Tamgha-I-Imtiaz" for her contribution to art and culture of social commitment by the President of Pakistan in 2003.
- Organized 3 Major Indo-Pak "Panj Pani" Theatre Festivals in 2004,2005,2006 in Lahore in which many renowned directors of India & Pakistan participated along with there groups.