

Press Materials

Theatre from Nepal | Shilpee Theatre Kathmandu visits Germany

[All information also on this project website](#)

The Shilpee Theatre Kathmandu is planning a European tour in July/August 2025. Become a part of it and support an intercultural artistic exchange.

What – Theatre from Nepal

The Shilpee Theatre Group from Kathmandu presents three projects:

- 1.) The literary piece "Lost and Found" addresses gender inequality in Nepal's still highly patriarchal culture. For example, Nepalese women without proof of a father are denied citizenship. The piece draws attention to this injustice and utilizes two narrative strands: a modern one and a mythological one that reinterprets the legend of the Buddha Gautama in terms of gender.
- 2.) The nonverbal piece "Journey of Snow to the Earth" tells the story of a river flowing to the sea. It addresses not only the human relationship with the environment, but also global warming, glacial melt, and pollution.
- 3.) The "Forum Theatre" workshop explores a form of theatre that Shilpee has practiced for many years: The goal is to give marginalized groups within society a voice and to use theatre as a discussion forum for social change. Through forum theatre, Shilpee draws attention to social injustices and attempts to inspire a change in thinking among the audience.

The production

The production is suitable for indoor and outdoor use. Lighting and sound equipment will be used. We will provide our own sets, props, and costumes. We also require video projection capabilities. The play will be performed in Nepali with English/German subtitles.

The Story

Bhumi, 25, is an experienced tour guide and single mother. She often has to deal with government bureaucracy because she doesn't have Nepalese citizenship. She also loves her mother, Rajani, more than anything.

Sagar, 48, is a tourist. He lives in Canada with his two daughters and his wife. Due to numerous conflicts, the couple is on the verge of divorce. Therefore, Sagar believes he must find inner peace. He wants to learn to meditate and study the enlightened Gautama Buddha.

He meets his tour guide, Sagar, in a hotel café. Together they visit the Buddha's palace. As Bhumi recounts the Buddha's story, the two transform into the characters in the tale: Gautama and his wife, Yashodhara. According to the story, Gautam abandons his wife and the child born a few days earlier. However, due to their own pasts, Bhumi and Sagar reinterpret the story.

The narrative threads shift repeatedly: Sometimes they're part of the Buddha story, then they talk about their private lives in the café. Due to her difficult childhood, Bhumi has multi-personality disorder. Sometimes she speaks in the role of her mother, Rajani, sometimes as Yashodhara. Two waiters also work in the café, who play the various supporting characters in the stories. They also have their own funny stories to tell.

When Bhumi has a fit at the end and when her mother speaks to Rajani, Sagar suddenly realizes that Rajani is his ex-girlfriend.

Director's Note (by Ghimire Yubaraj)

It amazes me how the state and the government can suddenly make someone stateless. I have seen many young people in the country where I live who are living without citizenship. The government has robbed us of the opportunity to be global citizens. Why does the country we are born into impose so many conditions that make some people stateless and others citizens of different status, like third, second, or first class citizens? Why is humanity restless in today's modern society? Why do relationships that people have formed based on their own preferences break down in the blink of an eye? Why has humanity lost its way in so many ways in the name of seeking peace? Questions like these inspired me to write this piece.

The play is intended to arouse the audience's curiosity. It aims to facilitate a dialogue between different emotional states. I hope to learn something through these dialogues and discussions. I express my own curiosity with this play. And in doing so, I also seek

new ways to tell stories. I believe that creativity and craftsmanship are crucial in theater. With this play, I want to share a small story from my community with the world.

Workshop Forum Theater

For the Shilpee Theatre from Kathmandu, theater art and activism are inextricably linked. Their productions address social and political issues, as well as gender equality. The goal: to stimulate the thinking of their audiences and bring about social change. To achieve this, they use a theatrical form that Brazilian director Augusto Boal calls "Theatre of the Oppressed." The audience is encouraged to think about the resolution of a depicted conflict and to actively participate in the action.

In this workshop, you can get to know the Shilpee group from Kathmandu firsthand. Learn more about forum and physical theatre and become part of an exciting intercultural exchange with artists from the Global South.

Why – The Mission

The performance of a Nepalese play in Germany offers a unique opportunity for artistic and cultural exchange and to transcend national boundaries through art. For Shilpee, theater and activism are inextricably linked: art is intended to address social injustices and promote a change in thinking.

Intercultural exchange

By telling our society's stories through theater, a profound cultural exchange takes place. This will greatly help us artists develop further. By sharing art and stories through theater, we will not only learn to understand the differences, the beauty, and the difficulties of people living in different countries, but also discover our commonalities. It will help us transcend national boundaries and understand ourselves as people of this earth.

Learning from each other

As Shilpee Theatre, we are deeply committed to our local theatre culture, but there is no formal theatre training in our country. Some of our artists have gone abroad to receive such training and then returned to devote themselves full-time to Shilpee.

We're all about refining and enhancing our work. We want to better understand the craft of theater and the diverse ways stories can be told. We can learn a lot through theater festivals and tours. Our fairy tales and folk theater are rich, but we don't have a long history of modern theater. Modern theater is highly developed in Europe. We can learn a lot from countries like Germany, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. That's why we want to travel to these countries, gain a better understanding of life and society there, and grow as artists.

When & Where – The Schedule

Shilpee is currently planning to tour Germany in July:

- July 8-9, 2025 | Arrival Kathmandu – Frankfurt
- [09. - 14. Juli 25 | EasyStreet Freiburg](#)
- [July 14-17, 2025 | Theaterakademie Köln](#)
- [July 17-20, 2025 | Freudenberg Castle, Wiesbaden](#)
- [20. - 22. Juli 25 | P1 JGU Mainz](#)
- [22. - 27. July 25 | Theaterfestival Sommerwerft Frankfurt](#)
- July 27 - August 1, 2025 | Batida Theatre Copenhagen
- 01. - 04. Aug 25 | Aarhus
- 04. - 08. Aug 25 | Gothenburg
- 08. - 14. Aug 25 | Stockholm
- 14 - 15 Aug 2025 | Departure Stockholm – Kathmandu

Who – The Shilpee Ensemble

Shilpee Theatre aims to entertain audiences with its plays and address socially relevant topics. We aim to rethink theatre through unusual narrative methods and ideas. In Kathmandu, we have our own theatre with a 180-seat black box, where we regularly present our own productions and guest performances.

Director and author

I'm Ghimire Yubaraj, the artistic director of Shilpee Theatre. I've been in the theatre for 25 years and have worked with this company for the past 18. We perform primarily for Nepalese audiences and frequently tour both domestically and internationally (e.g., at theatre festivals in South Asia).

I studied theater in Copenhagen and have traveled across Europe several times with the ensemble there. This time, I dream of taking my company to some parts of Europe with our new play "Lost and Found."

Cast & Crew

Actors: Pabitra Khadka, Sumit Bhandari, Govinda Oli, Suhana Acharya

Team: Rabin Pariyar (Lighting), Sushila Bishwakarma (Music), Anup Timilsina (Music)

Special Thanks: Designers, technicians, and supporters (full list in original).

The Shilpee Theatre Group

Shilpee was founded in 2007. Since then, we have been active through various projects: In 2013, we built a black box theater in the heart of Kathmandu City. Since then, most of the activities and ideas have been developed in our theater house, where 17 people work full-time. Currently, nine artists live in the theater residence. We also operate a small café where our audiences are served before and after the performance.

We do various outdoor and indoor tours. When we perform outdoors, we call it "boundless theater"—translated into Nepali as "Muktarangamanch." We visit various cities and remote villages throughout the country.

We also organize theater workshops at the national and international level. Our methodological focus is on "Theatre of the Oppressed" (Augusto Boal) and "Physical Theatre." We have already participated in numerous international theater festivals with our plays and workshops.

Shilpee has recently been building another theater center in southeastern Nepal. Shilpee has received a small piece of land from the local government. Here, we built an amphitheater with a capacity of 500 seats. We are now adding a black box with a capacity of 200 seats.

Our team consists of 12 artists and five administrative members (two in the café and three in the theater office). Most have been with us for many years. We try to maintain a minimal standard of living through theater. Unfortunately, there is no government support for theater. Therefore, we try to earn a living through various theater activities.

Participants

Cast

Pabitra Khadka | Actress
Sumit Bhandari | Actor
Govinda Oli | Actor
Suhana Acharya | Actress

Crew

Yubaraj Ghimire | Writer and Director
Rabin Pariyar | Light and Technology
Sushila Bishwakarma | Musik
Anup Timilsina | Music

Thank you

Also to the following people without whom the play “Lost and Found” would not have been possible: Sachin Yogal Shrestha (Poster Design), Anup Timalisina (Music Design), Anup Baral (Set Design), Jhaken BC, Dhanraj Sunar, Rabin Pariyar and Gobinda Oli (Set construction), Barun Kaur (Light Design), Pabitra Khadka (Costume Design), Dhanraj Sunar (Stage Manager), Kumar Ale (Production Control), Rupesh Kumar Sah (Marketing Manager), Himanta Thapa Magar (Account) and Bansri Pandey (English Translation)

Supporters

Currently supporting the project:

- [International Theatre Festival Sommerwerft](#)
- [Protagon e.V. Frankfurt](#)
- [EasyStreet e.V. Freiburg](#)
- [Theatre Academy Cologne](#)
- [Siddhartha e.V. Wiesbaden](#)
- [Theater Mienenspiel Mainz](#)
- [Promoting Cultural Diversity - State Center for Political Education Rhineland-Palatinate](#)
- [Little Wolves e.V. Mainz](#)

- [Anita Fricker \(Clown Theatre\)](#)
- [The Commedia School Copenhagen](#)

Videos

- Documentary film about the Shilpee Forum Theatre
<https://youtu.be/4rMH1fTLi0Y>
- The Journey of Snow
<https://youtu.be/FOzSDiwOAQ>
- The Salvation (Regie and Author: Yubaraj Ghimire)
https://youtu.be/1n_yRLpC7f4

Links

- Shilpee Theatre Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/theatreshilpee/>
- Guest performance | Information website (in German)
<https://philipp-neuweiler.de/html/shilpee-europa-tour.html>
- Guest performance | Information website (in English)
<https://philipp-neuweiler.de/html/shilpee-europe-tour.html>

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