



## Badal Sircar

- ✚ Badal Sircar was born in Calcutta in 15 July 1925.
- ✚ His real name was Sudhindra Sarkar.
- ✚ He was initially schooled at the Scottish Church Collegiate School.
- ✚ An influential Indian dramatist and theatre director who tried to emancipate himself and his work by breaking boundaries.
- ✚ Known for his anti-establishment plays during the Naxalite movement in the 1970s
- ✚ Took theatre out of the proscenium into public arena
- ✚ He founded his own theatre company, Shatabdi, in 1976
- ✚ Pioneering figure in street theatre as well as in experimental and contemporary Bengali theatre
- ✚ Inspired by Grotowski and Euginio Barba, he started a new movement in the Indian theatre world, also known as **‘Third Theatre’**
  - He brought new ideas and methods to Indian theatre from the West for the development of Third Theatre
  - This new generation of theatre was a result of his experimentation with theatrical environments such as, stage, costumes and presentation.
  - He created a direct communication with audience and emphasised on expressionist acting along with realism.
  - His Third Theatre is seen as a reaction against British style proscenium stage which was prevalent in Indian cities during colonial rule.
  - Sircar was influenced by Indian folk theatre forms like; Jatra, Tamasha, Bhawai, Nautanki and Kathakali, Chhau and Manipuri dances from which he derived very much for his Third Theatre.
  - Badal Sircar’s Third Theatre was a movement that challenged the conventional norms of both city based theatre and folk theatre.
  - His attempt was to bridge the city-country divide through an art form that had the potential to be transformative and subversive.
  - The city theatre was not a natural development of the traditional form of folk theatre adapted to urban conditions but rather was a new form of theatre based on Western theatre in terms of the story, theme, characterisation, stage, lighting, acting style.
  - Traditional village theatre, on the other hand, had retained most of its indigenous characteristics and even thrived, in many cases.
  - Their irreconcilable estrangement needed to be bridged according to Sircar and that was the main aim of establishing Third Theatre
- ✚ He is one of the leading figures in the revival of street theatre in Bengal.
- ✚ He revolutionized Bengali theatre.

- ✚ Sircar's innovations in the use of public space have had a profound impact on Indian theatre. Badal Sircar influenced a number of film directors, theatre directors as well as writers of his time.
- ✚ His plays are seen as a reaction against this exploitation inflicted by colonialists as they spoke common peoples' conditions and expressed concerns, aspirations and frustrations of the new ruthless urban generation.
- ✚ Though his early comedies were popular, it was his angst-ridden *Ebong Indrajit* (And Indrajit) that became a landmark play in Indian theatre.
- ✚ His rise as a prominent playwright in 1960s is seen as the coming of age of Modern Indian playwriting in Bengali.
- ✚ Wrote more than fifty plays
  - *Evam Indrajit*
  - *Procession*
  - *Basi Khabar*
  - *Baaki Itihaash*
  - *Tringsha Shatabdi*
- ✚ He died on 13 May at Kolkata at the age of 85