



PUNASHCHA
School of Rabindra Sangeet

The Bhavan
The home of Indian arts



presents a benefit concert in association with The Bhavan, London

Rabindranath Tagore's dance drama

তাসের দেশ

Tasher Desh (Land of Cards)



Tasher Desh, ('Land of Cards') is a dance drama written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1933. Dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, it takes a satirical look at tyranny and regimentation and celebrates freedom of speech, thoughts and deeds.

Produced & Directed by: Shyamali Basu

Keyboard: Samuel Islam June
Tabla, Khol, Pakwaj: Arunava Bardhan
Percussionist: Dr. Kingshuk Das

Art & Digital Partner: TRIGONMEDIA.CO.UK

SCENE 1

Bored by the monotony of his existence Rajputro (the Prince) expresses his deep longing to go in search of a new land where new ideas flourish. The island of his dreams lies in the western ocean, green and surrounded by coral reefs. This is where he believes he will find the embodiment of his new utopian world, Nabina. Despite doubts and fears, the Rajmata (his mother) realises that he needs to seek his own destiny and gives her blessings. Rajputro embarks on the voyage of discovery daring high seas, accompanied by his friend, Swadagorputro.

SCENE 2

After battling with huge waves in a turbulent ocean and shipwreck, Rajputro and Swadagorputro reach the new land where they are ushered into a new world. Here their initial exuberance subsides when they see that the inhabitants of this island are all very similar in nature, they walk talk, dress and think in a regimented way, regulated by the laws of the State. They look and behave like a pack of cards rather than humans. No dissent is tolerated. Foreigners are looked down upon with suspicion. They feel that the tradition and the culture of the island is threatened because of the presence of these two young men who are different and urge their Raja (the King) to banish them. Rajputro appeals to Rani (The Queen) to welcome and embrace the wind of change.

SCENE 3

Tekkani and Iskaboni, feel the change in the air brought in by Rajputro and Swadagorputro. They are enticed by the new ideas, their ambivalence gradually start to sway towards accepting the change.

SCENE 4

The wind of change is now blowing over the island of Tasher Desh (the House of Cards). Beautiful Horotoni feels the soft easterly breeze in her heart carrying the fragrance of distant flowers as if beckoning her to break out from the world of rules and come out in the open garden. All the ladies discard their State assigned uniforms and don newer attires of their own choice. Ruiton joins Horotoni, together they urge everyone to break the shackles of absolute conformity and rules imposed by the State and celebrate freedom of life, nature and spirit. Raja (the King) and Rani (the Queen) follow their subjects and let go of the regime. Winds of change free the inhabitants of Tasher Desh (House of Cards) from a state of spiritual, moral and mental bondage and they are transformed into humans again.