

Politics of Representation : Badal Sircar and his 'Third Theatre'

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Abstract:

Political theatre earned wide popularity in 70's Bengal, when the contemporary political turmoil jeopardized the social and personal lives of common masses. But in present days too, it has solid ground and importance in Bengal for protesting against injustice and transmitting social and political messages to a large number of people although the social media have substantial role in the 'platform of protest' now a days. The Communist parties and left-minded theatre persons have rich legacy of political theatre in India. Badal Sircar, a Communist ideologue has presented contemporary divergent social and political issues through his plays which are staged in his 'Third Theatre'. He is truly a political playwright who like a people's leader, makes representation of people in his plays and advocates for their rights. As a communist activist he addresses protest rallies to combat the core social and political issues like poverty, exploitation, capitalism, imperialism, state-sponsored terrorism, physical and mental torture on common people; Badal Sircar tried to do the same through his 'Third Theatre'. The paper will evaluate the treatment of political issues in Sircar's dramas in reference to his selected dramatic texts.

Key words: Political, Theatre, Third Theatre, 70's, Bengal, Communist, Badal Sircar, Issue, Poverty, Exploitation

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