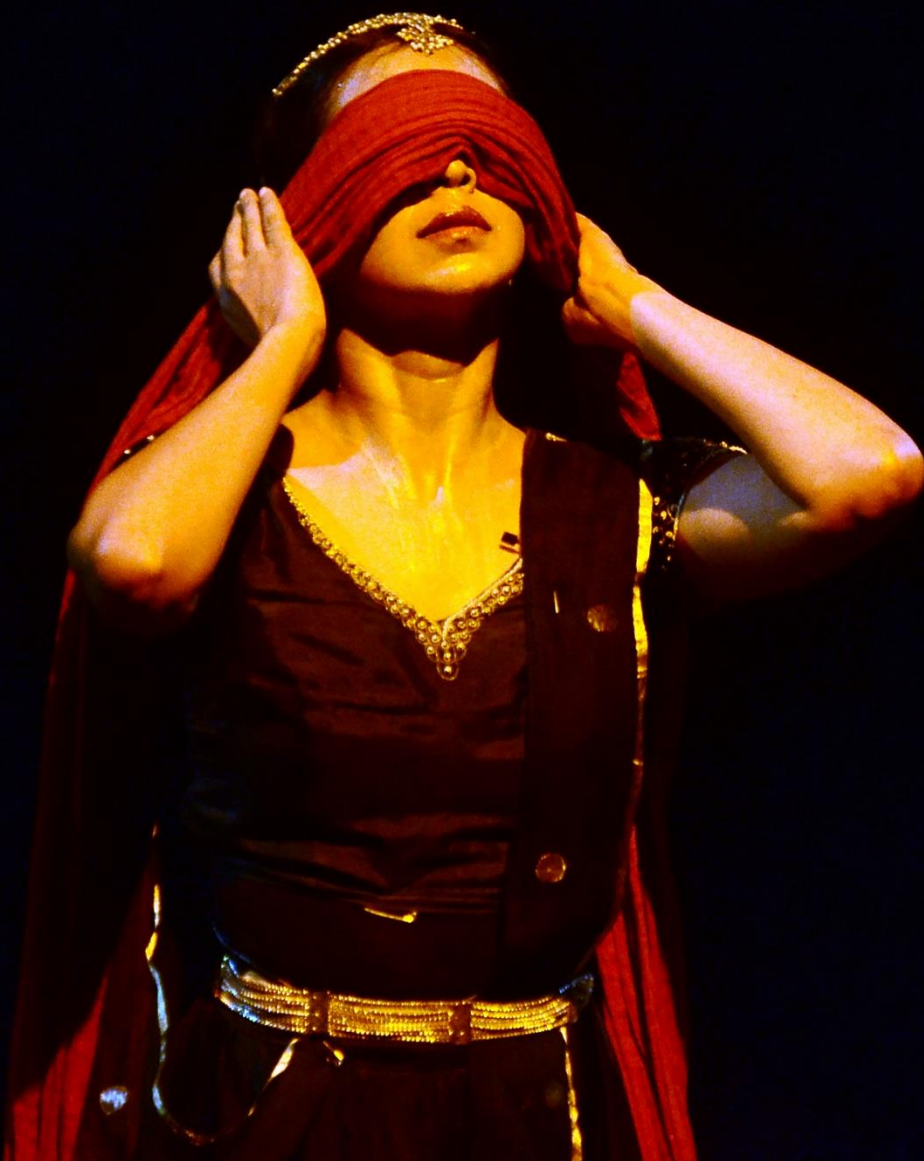


Rage and Beyond

Irawati's Gandhari



Winner of Best Actress Lead META 2015

Winner of Most Innovative Sound META 2015

Rage and Beyond: Irawati's Gandhari is a retelling of the MAHABHARATA, from the viewpoint of Gandhari, the blindfolded queen. It is inspired by the one of the first contemporary interpretations of the Mahabharata by woman anthropologist Irawati Karve.



“In the reimagining of Irawati’s Gandhari in movement, music, and text, I try to keep the pulse of this character as imagined by her author alive in my moving body. I explore her complex and shifting relationship with her blindfold. In doing this, I endeavour to bring alive the violence and contradictions of her inner experience and her various roles as a Kshatriya (warrior caste) woman in the Mahabharata, who finally moves beyond her physical and metaphorical blindfolds. In my exploration of Irawati’s Gandhari, I encounter my own rage, and the blindfolds that we perhaps unconsciously inflict upon our individual and social selves.”

-Sanjukta Wagh



Sanjukta Wagh, founder-director of beej, performer, choreographer, teacher and curator, has trained extensively under Rajashree Shirke in Kathak and Pandit Murli Manohar Shukla in Hindustani Music.

An award-winning ICCR empanelled artiste, her engagement with theatre, her year-long experience at the Trinity Laban Centre of Dance, London, her love of literature and deep unease with comfort zones have led to an interdisciplinary and exploratory mode of work. Sanjukta's dance theatre project, *Rage and Beyond: Irawati's Gandhari* was nominated in five categories at the National Theatre Awards META, 2015 where she won Best Actor in a Lead role (Female).

Hitesh Dhutia is a freelance guitarist and composer from Mumbai. With a background in Folk, Blues, Rock and Jazz he has developed a distinct sound for each of his collaborations.

He has performed with several artistes live on stage and recorded on multiple studio albums, film projects and ads.

Rage and Beyond: Irawati's Gandhari is his first collaboration with dance-theatre, and won him the national award for best sound design at META, 2015.



Deepa Dharmadhikari is a director and lighting designer. She studied light design at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her work as a lighting designer has received critical acclaim.

Conceptualized and scripted by **Sanjukta Wagh** in collaboration with sociologist **Gita Chadha**

Inspired by Irawati Karve's *Yuganta: The End of an Epoch*.

Choreography, Direction, Sound Design and Performance:

Sanjukta Wagh and Hitesh Dhutia

Light Design: **Deepa Dharmadhikari**

Costume: **Gulam Bhai and Sonal Kharade**



Image credits:

Narendra Dangia, Shreeram Aradhya, Sejas Mistry

“Sanjukta's Gandhari, a spoken narrative accompanied by dance and Hitesh Dhutia's sympathetic guitar, was full of high emotion...Sanjukta Wagh is, unarguably, a superb dancer. Her every move is a thing of controlled energy and grace. But in scripting and performing this engagement with Gandhari, she also proved what a fine writer and actor she is.”

-Shanta Gokhale, Mumbai Mirror [2014]

<https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/opinion/columnists/shanta-gokhale//articleshow/34458830.cms>

“Sanjukta is a compelling performer, using theatre, Kathak, silence, visual projection and acoustic guitar to tell the story of Gandhari, the hapless mother of the Kauravas. It was a brilliant, intelligent and moving performance...”

- Anita Ratnam, Narthaki [2014]

<https://www.narthaki.com/info/anitasays/asmay14.html>

“Celebrated dancer/choreographer/writer/director Sanjukta Wagh created this award-winning piece "Rage and Beyond: Irawati's Gandhari" which was presented last night at Symphony Space as part of World Music Institute's "Dancing the Gods"...

Ms. Wagh is an absorbing artist whose performance entranced us for the full hour and a half... We had a fascinating glimpse into another culture and an exposure to a work that left us feeling both enlightened and entertained.”

-Voce de Meche, New York [2016]

<http://www.vocedimeche.reviews/2016/04/sanjukta-wagh-every-culture-has-its.html>

-Alchemy Festival, South Bank Centre, London [2016]

<http://www.asiana.tv/entertainment/dancing-dark>

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