

Drama of reality

By [Punemirror Desk](#) | Fri, 13 Jan 2012



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Of all forms of art, Kolkata-based and India's only youth-run, youth-led National Arts movement, LOK emerges as a searing voice of dissent.

Conceived and independently managed by a bevy of bright, young minds from some of the most hallowed institutions in Kolkata, this student collective launched Project Yuva last year and travelled to several pockets of the country on a road trip taking theatre out of the confines of an auditorium and the viewership of a selected stratum of society.

They explored alternative spaces by performing on roads, campuses, art galleries, book stores, cafes, shopping malls, lawns and created a new idiom for self expression.

Soumyajit Majumdar, the founder-director of LOK and an undergraduate student at St Xavier's College, Kolkata says, "I am inspired by the pioneer of alternative theatre in India, Badal Sircar, who incidentally also hails from Kolkata.

I look at theatre not in the form of a stage/ non-stage performance but as a space for live-act exploration. Alternative theatre unshackles me from conventions and helps me to build an impactful journey of the performance through close face-to-face contact with the audience.

Most importantly, it establishes that the power of an art form is not confined to the privileged audience class who purchase tickets, but its real power is when it comes out in the open and reaches households."

Profundity in thought is a rare virtue in modern times but this group of young minds oozes this quality in considerable measure. Talking about their theatre which is largely reactionary, Soumyajit says, "I believe that theatre or any art form is a voice of dissent. It can inspire individuals and create visions.

My theatre is always reactionary. Pretence does not enter my performances as I strongly feel that my theatre should react to and represent what is happening around us. I don't call myself or my work revolutionary but it does feel good when people all over the country come and share with us how the play has inspired them. It then feels that my struggle to take the less-excavated road has been worthwhile."

In Pune, Soumyajit will perform a solo musical play titled Walking Along which fuses baul, kirtan, Kabir's dohas, several Indian folk music forms and experimentally narrates a contemporary tale of a young dreamer standing against all odds and walking alone, yet walking along.

- Catch the performance by LOK at TwistnTales, Aundh on January 14, 7 pm

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