

Maga Takam

Elena Isaeva's

THE COURTYARD

AS A VANISHING SPECIES

Scenography and Direction
Shurganova Natalya

Lang: Hindi and English

Duration - 3 hrs with interval

17 to 21

JUNE '26

6:30PM



Venue: Chahumukh Auditorium, National School of Drama,
New Delhi, 110001

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA, NEW DELHI

This is a documentary drama written in the verbatim technique. It is based on real stories of residents of Moscow courtyards. The main theme is the rupture between past and present, loss and memory.

The plot revolves around a return: a successful businessman named Sasha (nicknamed the Australian or Pelican) arrives in his old courtyard in Moscow after 30 years, but does not recognize it. Having accidentally met his childhood friend Genka, who remained here as a simple locksmith, the characters begin to remember the past. This is a "kaleidoscope of memories" — time constantly shifts, and the adult characters "transform" into themselves at age 14.

The play was written in 2007.

It was published on October 19, 2007 on the playwright's website. That same year, reviews appeared in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, where it was called a "new play" by Elena Isaeva. It was written specifically for director Vladimir Pankov, and in 2012 a film titled *Doctor (also The Courtyard as a Passing Nature)* was made based on it.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Elena Isaeva (born February 6, 1966, Moscow).

Education: Faculty of Journalism, Moscow State University (1989). Known for her work in various formats, from documentary theater to popular television series. Playwright and screenwriter (*Poor Nastya*, *Don't Be Born Beautiful*). Elena Isaeva actively shares her experience: She heads the literary studio at Bauman Moscow State Technical University and teaches the course "New Drama" at GITIS.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

This is a joint translation by the participants of the performance and artificial intelligence.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Shurganova Natalya



Director, senior teacher at the workshop of Professor O. L. Kudryashov, Directing Department, GITIS, choreographer.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In anthropology, there is the concept of the "bottleneck." There is also a theory that humanity is entering the initial stage of singularity.

Will we survive as a species?

Or will our expansion, in collaboration with artificial intelligence, take us far beyond Earth — but this will no longer be entirely human in the sense we are used to?

In this sense, the courtyard is a model of the world.

A model in which we can observe how the future has already arrived.

How the past is ruthlessly disappearing, giving way to technology.

This is a story of coming of age — of the characters and of ourselves. Because the past must give way to the future. As sad as it may be — we all have to say goodbye to childhood at some point.

This is a fugue of existence.

Human lives intertwine in it like musical parts — sometimes merging into one common sound, sometimes ruthlessly diverging, only to coincide again after some time and then diverge once more.

The courtyard as a model of the world.

The courtyard as a crossroads of lives.

The courtyard as a starting point and a milestone.

The courtyard as a passing nature.

The courtyard as a memory laboratory.

The courtyard as a place of growing up.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Manju Kasaragodu

Alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi, and Ninasam Ranga Shikshana Kendra, Heggodu

Manju Kasaragodu is a theatre practitioner with over a decade of professional experience, distinguished by his ability to bridge classical traditions with contemporary theatrical practices.

His artistic foundation is rooted in rigorous training from two of India's most respected theatre institutions: the National School of Drama and Ninasam Ranga Shikshana Kendra. These institutions equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of global dramatic techniques while fostering a deep appreciation for regional performance traditions.

ABOUT THE INTERPRETER

This is collective work that was taken as a principle for staging the performance. (Or this section can be removed entirely.)



ABOUT THE LIGHT DESIGNER

Daulat Vaid is an acclaimed Indian theatre practitioner, writer, and director, recognized for his profound exploration of human consciousness, silence, and the metaphysical dimensions of performance. A graduate of the National

School of Drama with specialization in Design and Direction, his work bridges classical Indian dramaturgy with contemporary visual and philosophical expression.

He is a recipient of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2022), conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, acknowledging his significant contribution to Indian theatre and allied arts.



CAST & CREDIT

Locksmith/Genka-
Australian/Sashka-
Old Woman-
Nikolai-
Ruslan-
Ivan-
Red-
Zoya-
Olga-
Nadka-
Marinka-
Nina-
Tanya-
Yulya-
Igor-
Uncle Lyonya-
Kangaroo-

Shantanu Soni
Jishnu Thamoj
Manu Jha
Abhay Dutt Bajpai
Vansh Malhotra
Maga Takam
Keshav Mohan
Smita Yadav
Zainab Ali Khan
Bharati Boruah
Kavita Yadav
Anshika Mishra
Sai Pratibha
Shraddha Vishwas
Yuvraj Verma
Manjunath
Bishal Sah

TECHNICAL CREW

Set Scenographer-
Set Assistant-
Set Execution:-

Natalia Shurganova
Satyam Mishra

Vikram Kumar, Dharm Singh Bisht, Brijesh Sharma, Salim , Mufid ,
Hamzuddin, Bindar , Bhola , Pankaj , Kishan , Hashim, Nazar, Zubeer &
All Members Of Carpentry
Set Help-

Farukh, Aas Mohammad, Wasim & Vishnu

LIGHTS

Light Designer-
Assiant Light Designer -
Lights Assistance -

Daulat Vaidya
Satyam Mishra
Ravinder Singh, Wajid, Rakesh, Sheetal,
Sushil, Naveen and others

COSTUME

Costume Designer -

Assistant Costume Designer-
Wardrobe Assistance -

Natalia Shurganova,
Shraddha Vishwas
Pushpa
Anju Dubey, Ashish Kumar, Sanjeev, Sanjay,
Sajid, Usha,Pankaj and others

PROPERTY

Property Design-
Property Incharge-

Natalia Shurganova, Satyam Mishra
Bharati Boruah, Keshav Mohan

Property Assistance-

Arun Kumar Mullick
Neeraj dada
Shamsher dada
Shahid dada

SOUND

Sound operation - Harshit verma
Sound execution and assistance - K Satish, Sunil Singh, Saurabh,
Ehsaan, Rohit, Vivek and others



Projection Mapping- Projection Operation -

Vishala Mahale
Lod Akash

Production Manager -
Asst.Prod. Manager-
Prod. Assistance-

Parag Sarmah
Utpal Jha
Sandeep, Hoshiyar, Kunalvikram Thapa

Eujin Tirkey, Sunil, Deepak, Jitu & others

Still Photography-
Videography -
Editor-
Other Assistance-

Piyush Kumar
Bhupal
Utkarsh Shukla
Sachin Kumar

Mahima Agarwal

Babu Khan & Team
Makeup Incharge -

Zainab Ali Khan, Kavita Yadav

Kavita Yadav

Satyam Mishra

Manjunath H

Natalia Shrugovana





Shantanu Soni



Kavita Yadav



Bishal Shah



Keshav Mohan



Satyam Mishra



Shraddha Vishwas



Jishnu Thamoi



Abhay Dutt Bajpai



Anshika Mishra



Manu Jha



Smita Yadav



Vansh Malhotra



Bharati Boruah



Zainab Ali Khan



Kavita Yadav



Sai Pratibha



Maga Takam



Yuvraj Verma

