

Name : Toijam Shila Devi  
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Religion : Hindu  
Marital Status : Married  
Husband's Name : Jeevan Abhiram Ningthoujam  
Mother's Name : O. Sumati Devi  
Father's Name : T. Subhaschandra Singh  
Date of Birth : 01/01/1974  
Blood Group : A +ve  
Nationality : Indian



Language Known : English, Hindi, Manipuri (with writing)

Ednl Qualification: M.A. 1<sup>st</sup> Class in Ancient Indian History form Manipur University in the year  
1996

Qualification in the Theatre : i) Post Graduate Diploma in Dramatic Arts (specialized in acting)  
fom National School of Drama, New Delhi, 2002.

ii) One Year Experience as Stint Actor-Teacher (Child  
Psychology) from TIE Company, 2003-2004

iii) One Year Comprehensive Course in Dramatic Arts from  
Institute of Performing Art, Imphal under the sponsorship of  
NSD, New Delhi, 1996

Present Status : i) Assistant Professor (HOD Department of Theatre and Performance  
Studies), Manipur University of Culture, Palace Compound, Imphal

- ii) Director of the Prospective Repertory Theatre, Manipur (PRTM), Nambol
- iii) Visiting Faculty, Sikkim Theatre Training Centre Gangtok (NSD)
- iv) Theatre Expert for Awardee Selection Committee form Manipur in Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.
- v) Theatre Faculty at Purbottar Sanskar Bharati
- vi) Jury Member for Song & Drama Division, Manipur, Govt. of India
- vii) Jury Member for Inter College Youth Festival, Manipur University

## EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF THEATRE

### A. Experience in Acting (English/Hindi plays)

Sl No	Name of the play	Character	Language	Direction	Writer	Year/Place
1	Island of Blood	One woman show in different character	English	Abhilash Pillai	Anita Pratap	2003-2004 /Germany and Japan
2	Cherry Orchard	Duniasha	Hindi	Tripural Sharma	Anton Checkov	1999-2000 /NSD
3	Khubsurat Bala	Sahell	Hindi	Hema Singh	Parsi Play	2001/NSD
4	Manabhagabtam Ajukamvilas	Sahell	Hindi	B.V. Karanth	Sanskrit Play	2001/NSD

5	As You Likit Scene work	Rosalin	Hindi	Adil Hussian	Shakespeare	2002/NSD
6	Devi Ka Bishuwa	Devi	Hindi	D.R. Ankur	Tamil Play	2001/NSD
7	Ek Inspector Se Mulakat	Mrs, Berling	Hindi	Dr. Anuradha Kapur		2002/NSD
8	Media Material	Media	Hindi	Stephen Suchke	Hainer Mullar	2002/NSD
9	Par Hame Khelna Hai	Bryan/Woma n	Hindi	Dr. Mohan Agashe	Shrirang Godbole	2002/NSD
10	Bagro Basant	Puck	Hindi	Rob Clare	Shakespeare	2002/NSD
11	Ashad Ka Ek Din	Priyangumanj uri	Hindi	Ramgopal Bajaj	Dr. Mohan Rakesh	2002/NSD
12	Azadi Ki Khamoshyan	Nasum	Hindi	Dr. B. Akoijam	Sadat Hassan Mantos	2003/NSD
13	Marat Sad	Main role	Hindi	Sanmugaraja	Germany Play	2002/NSD
14	Khulja Sim Sim (TIE Compan)	Chorus	Hindi	B.V. Karanth		2004/NSD
15	Mera Dost (TIE Company)	Grand Mother	Hindi	Dadi Padamji		2004/NSD

### B. Experience in Acting (Manipuri plays)

Sl No	Name of the play	Character	Direction	Writer/Status	Year/Place
1	Eraokhol	Thambalnu	Wareppa Naba	/Stood Best Play TCM Competition & Allahabad	1989
2	Kanada Pakna Waina Yengani	Chorus	Kh. Ranbir		1990
3	Ei Mamani	Lata	Kh. Ranbir		1991
4	Hingminashi Eikhoi	Nupi	Kh. Ranbir		1994
5	Hingminashi	Mother	Dr. Y. Sadananda	/1 <sup>st</sup> Position N.E. Zone Youth Festival	1995/ Darbhanga
6	Eigidi Cabinet Oina	Bilashini	Kh. Ranbir	Pukhramba Shamu	1995
7	Bir Tikendrajit	Mrs. Grimwood	K. Shyamkishwor		1996-1998
8	Laija	Chorus	Heisnam Kanhailal	Taslima Nassiri	1996 /Imphal
9	Mother	Mother	Th. Bhogen	1 <sup>st</sup> position NE Zone Youth Festival	1998 /Madhya Pradesh
10	Mother	Mother	Th. Bhogen	1 <sup>st</sup> Position National Youth Festival	1998/ Chandigrah University

11	Bor Interviews	Daughter	K. Shyamkishwor	Pukhramba Shamu	1999
12	Lai Haraoba	Tangkhul Nurabi	Ratan Thiyam		2001  /Impha, NSD
13	Gouralila	Sachirani Mother	T. Shila Devi		2008-2016
14	Black Orchid	Blackid	T. Shila Devi	Budha Chingtham	2009-2012
15	Udukhol	Yasodarani	T. Shila Devi	Guru Brindasabi	2011

### C. Experience in Direction of Plays

Sl. No	Name of the Play	Written by	Language	Place	Year
1	Langlenthobi (Alison Mary Fagan)	Devid Selbourne	Manipuri	Imphal, Manipur	2004
2	Adubu Eikhoidi Shannaminnakhini (Pan Hamala Khilachi)	Shrirang Godbole	Manipuri	Manipur	2006
3	Child Marriage		Khasi Jentia	Pynursala Shillong	2006
4	Andha Yug (Amamba Yug)	Dr. Dharambir Bharati	Manipuri	NSD Festivalm NE Festival & Nambol	2007
5	Goura Lila	From different Gurus	Manipuri	All over National Festivals of India	2008

6	Black Orchid	Budha Chingtham	Manipuri	Imphal, TCM Festival, NSD Festival, Keral International ISBA Conference	2009
7	Atoppa Dornacharya Ama	R.K. Sanatomba	Manipuri	Khangabok	2010
8	Udukhoh	Guru Brindashabi	Manipuri	Nambol	2011
9	Durasha	Rabindranath Tagore	Manipuri	Nambol and Festival of State Kala Akademy	2011
10	Sumadhur Sumangal (Childhood wisdom of Shankardev)	Dr. Karobika Deka Hazarika	Assamese	Guwahati, Duliajan and Mumbai	2011-12
11	The Little Tin Soldier	H.C. Anderson	Manipuri	Imphal	2012
12	Wolf of Mount Kanchenzunga	Based on history of Sikkim	Nepali	Sikkim Govt. Senior Scholl	2013
13	Gostha Lila	Guru Brindashabi	Manipuri	Nambol, Manipur	2014
14	The Suicide Room	Budha Chingtham	Manipuri	MDU, Chandrakriti Auditorium	2015
15	Karigumba (Shayad)	Dr. Mohan Rakesh	Manipuri	Nambol, Manipur	2016
16	Langmai Petanga	Manaobi M M	Manipuri	Open Air Theatre, Govt Dance College	2019
17	The Case is Dismissed	Kh. Brojendro	Manipuri	Imphal	2019

18	Ingagi Nongma (Ashad Ka Ek Din)	Dr. Mohan Rakesh E. Dinamani (Translator)	Manipuri	MSDC Auditorium , Imphal	2019
19	Doctor		Manipuri	The Shrine play House, Chorus	2019
20	Mapung Phadaba (Aadhe Adhure)	Dr. Mohan Rakesh R K Mobi (Translator)	Manipuri	Khenjonglang	2019

#### **D. Conducting Theatre/Acting Workshops in National Level**

- i) 5 Days Each Theatre Workshops with Scholl & Local Children at Dharwar, Maysore, Gujarat, Pune Univesity under the TIE Company in the year 2002-2003.
- ii) Theatre Workshops at Bhopal, Bharat Bhawan under the Company NSD 2002-2003
- iii) 5 Days Theatre Workshops at different Govt & private schools of Goa in collaboration with Education Department, Govt of Goa and TIE NSD 2003
- iv) 5 Days Teacher Training Workshop at Nehru Centre, Mumbai in collaboration with Education Department, Govt of Maharastra and TIE NSD 2003
- v) Theatre Classes at different schools of New Delhi, viz D.A.V., Public School, Modern School, Orphan Homework in 2002-2003
- vi) One Month Summer Theatre Workshop at Saket, Amity International School, New Delhi under the TIE Company NSD, 2003

- vii) 15 Days Theatre/Acting Workshop at Pynursila, Shillong under the NSD, 2006
- viii) 15 Days Theatre/Acting Workshop at Gayzia, Sikkim under the NSD, 2008
- ix) 15 Days Acting Workshop at Vasantarao Archarekar Sanskritik Pratisthan, Kankavli, Maharashtra as Theatre Faculty under the NSD, 2008
- x) 5 Days Acting class at Swatantra Theatre, Pune, 2012
- xi) 15 Days Teacher's Training (selected teachers from Govt schools of Tripura) jointly organized by Education Department, Govt of Tripura and NSD at Delonia, South Tripura, as Theatre Faculty, 2012
- xii) One Month Children Theatre Workshop cum Production at Borpathar, Dhuliajan, Assam, 2011-12
- xiii) One Month Children Theatre Workshop cum Production at Govt Senior Secondary School, Yuksham, West Sikkim, 2012
- xiv) Four Days 2020 Vision Purbottar as Theatre Faculty at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, organized by Sanskar Bharati, October, 2015
- xv) Three Days Teachers Training as Theatre Expert, organized by Sanskar Bharati, Manipur, October, 2015.

**E. Conducting Theatre/Acting cum Production Workshops at State Level**

- i) Acting Class for 5 Days at Imphal under the Fort Foundation, organized by Prof. Lokendro Arambam
- ii) Two Days Workshop at Children Film Festival at Imphal under the Children Film Society, Mumbai, 2006



- iii) 4 Month Contemporary Experimental Acting Workshop cum Production at Nambol under the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, 2006
- iv) 45 Days Acting Workshop at Public Theatre, Nambol under the Extension Programme NSD with PRTM, 2007
- v) Two Month Theatrical Rijuvenation on *Goura Lila* at Thambal Marik College, Oinam under the NSD in collaboration with PRTM, 2008
- vi) 45 Days Acting Exploration Workshop cum Production at Nambol under the sponsorship of NSD with PRTM, 2009
- vii) 45 Days Theatre Workshop cum Production at Khangabok, Thoubal under the sponsorship of NSD with PRTM, 2010
- viii) Two Month Long Traditional Theatre Workshop cum Production of *Udukhol* under the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India with PRTM, 2011
- ix) One Month Theatre Oriented cum Production Workshop at Nambol with the play *Durasha* under the Extension Programme NSD with PRTM, 2011
- x) One Month Children Workshop cum Production with the play *The Little Tin Solder of Denmark*, 2012
- xi) 15 Days Scene Work under the Extension Programme NSD on February with Scene Work Production of *Gostha Lila*, 2013
- xii) One Month Long Acting Oriented Theatre Workshop cum Production of *Suicide Room*, 2014
- xiii) One Month Long Traditional Theatre Workshop cum Production on Revival of *Goura Lila* with Local People at Utlou Awang Leikai, August, 2015

- xiv) Short Term Theatre Workshop with Students of Nambol Hr. Sec. School and participated for the first time in Kala Utsav with Traditional play *Goura Lila* on November, 2015
- xv) One Month Long Realistic Acting Workshop at PRTM Studio-Theatre with Production of *Karitumba*, 2015-2016

#### **F. Participation of National/International Theatre Festivals**

- i) Inaugurated the Poorvottar Natya Samaroh, Sikkim, Gangtok on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 at Defence Auditorium by Manipuri play *Goura Lila*.
- ii) Participated the 10<sup>th</sup> International Theatre Festival (Bharat Rang Mahotsav, New Delhi) with the play *Amamba Yug* (Manipuri), 2008
- iii) Participated Poorvottar Natya Samaroh, Guwahati with the play *Amamba Yug*, 2008
- iv) Participated North East Theatre Festival, New Delhi and 4<sup>th</sup> Poorvottar Natya Samaroh North East Theatre Festival, Tezpur with the play *Goura Lila*, 2010
- v) Participated 6<sup>th</sup> National Theatre Festival with the play *Black Orchid* at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 2010
- vi) Opened the 4<sup>th</sup> ISBA International Conference at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi by the play *Black Orchid*, 2010
- vii) Participated the 12<sup>th</sup> International Theatre Festival (Bharat Rang Mahotsav, New Delhi) with the play *Black Orchid* (Manipuri), 2010
- viii) Participated 8<sup>th</sup> Plays Festival of North East at Ravindra Bhavan, Bangalore with the play *Goura Lila*, 2011

- ix) Inaugurated Octave Festival of North East Festival, organized by West Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, NSD, EZCC & Dept of Culture, Govt of Goa at Goa, 2011
- x) Closing play at Children Theatre Festival by the play *Sumandhur Sumangal* (Assamese) at Ravindra Bhavan, Guwahati, January, 2012
- xi) Inaugurated Dalit Adhvyashi Theatre Festival “AKHARA”, Ranchi by the play *Black Orchid*, 2012
- xii) Inaugurated North East Children’s Theatre Festival, Mumbai by the play *Sumadhur Sumangal* organized by NSD in collaboration with Pi-Despande Maharashtra Kala Academy at Rabindranath Mandir Prabhadevi, Mumbai, 2012
- xiii) Participated State Kala Academi’s Festival of Drama with the play *Duraha* written by Rabindranath Tagore
- xiv) Participated Poorvottar Natya Festival, organized by NSD at Jorhat with the play *Goura Lila*, 2013
- xv) Inaugurated by the play *Sucide Room* in the Festival of Woman Director’s Play organized by Department of Art & Culture, Govt of Manipur, 2014
- xvi) Participated Ramayana Mahabharat Poorvottar Sambandh with the play *Goura Lila*, 2016.

## AWARDS

- i) National Scholarship for 3 years from National School of Drama, New Delhi in the 1999 to 2002

- ii) Fellowship Award project offered by NSD for a period of one year i.e. from March 2004 to February 2005 under the eminent Guru Padmashri Heisnam Kanhailal.
- iii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Director and Best Play Production Award in the 40<sup>th</sup> Short Play Competition for Creative Directors, 2009 for the play *Black Orchid*.
- iv) Junior Fellowship Award in Theatre from the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, 2010-2012.

#### EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE WITH EMINENT THEATRE PERSONALITIES

- i) Working with Mr. Abhilash Pillai as an actor for the play *Island of Blood* participated in the Body City, new perspective from India in the year 2003 in Germany.
- ii) In Japan, with the group participated in the Theatre of Provocation South Asian Drama with three days inquiry into the contemporary theatre of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

#### MAKE-UP EXPERIENCE BEFORE NSD

She participated in the two month course of Make-up Training Cum Workshop, held in November and December, 1999 at Public Theatre, Phoijing Nambol.

#### WORKING WITH EMINENT THEATRE PERSONALITIES

During the three years of student in NSD, she acted 14 plays with more than 50 shows in Hindi. Besides acting she exposed some experience in stagecraft like stage management, music, make-up and costume designed. Get privilege for working with eminent theatre personalities

from India and abroad namely: Ratan Thiyam, D.R. Ankur, Anuradha Kapur, Mohan Agashe, B. V. Karanth, Ram Gopal Bajaj, Nasir Uddin Shah, Maya Rao, Abhilash Pillai, Berry John from India and Rob Clare (UK), Stephen Suchke (Germany) and Yitzack Weingarten (Israel) respectively.

#### PUBLICATION OF BOOK

Title : *Manipuri Goura Leela Text: Performance and Design*

#### TRANSLATION OF PLAYS (FROM ENGLISH AND HINDI)

- i) *Par Hame Khelna Hai* (Hindi) of Shri Rang Godbole's play into *Adubu Eikhoidi Sannaminnakhini* (Manipuri)
- ii) *Alison Mary Fagan* of Devid Selbourne (English) into Manipuri as "*Langlenthobi*" (Adaptation in Manipuri)
- iii) *The Little Tin Soldier* of H C Anderson into Manipuri as *Apikpa Kongougi Lanmi*
- iv) *Wolf of Mount Zhong* into Manipuri as *Wolf of Mount Koubru*
- v) *Sayad* of Dr. Mohan Rakesh into Manipuri as *Karigumba*
- vi) *Sumadhur Sumangal* (Assamese written by Dr. Karobika Deka Hazarika) into *Sumadhur Sumangal* (Manipuri).

#### SEMINAR PAPER PRESENTATION

- i) Manipuri Goura Lila (Manipuri)
- ii) Acting Tradition, Continuity & Change (Manipuri)
- iii) Children Theatre & Theatre in Education

## CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Since childhood she started taking parts/roles in plays for schools and local production. She is the grand –daughter of famous and renowned founder Shumang Lila performer (L) Toijam Natho Singh and maternal grand-daughter of (L) O. Ibomcha Singh, Founder Secretary, Sangeet Natak Mandir, Nambol in the year 1923. So, she is the grand-daughter of a heritage cultural lineage family of Manipur.

Her parents, Aunts and Uncles are all belongs to Theatre Activities. For the time being as a Government Employees they left Theatre. But Shila after finishing her Educational Qualification upto M.A. (History), started working professionally in Theatre at the footprints of her grand-fathers and family members.

She further trained theatre education “ Diploma in Dramatic Arts” from National School of Drama, New Delhi. Established her own group known as Prospective Repertory Theatre Manipur” in the year 1997 with theatre enthusiast young talented artistes of Manipur.

She started working with theatre enthusiast people/artistes of Manipur and outside Manipur for promoting Art and encouraging them to bring peace and harmony, integration through theatre by sharing and exchanging our culture. She did Theatre/Acting Workshops for different ages of children and adult artistes in different parts of India. She directed many plays in different languages i.e. English, Hindi, Manipuri, Nepali, Assamese and Khashi Jeyentia, etc. She herself was a good singer and actor. She acted more than 50 plays in Hindi, English, Manipuri, etc.

Her solo performance “*The Island of Blood* ” was highly acclaimed and appreciated by the audience in Germany and Japan. Her play *Black Orchid* was acclaimed as the first play that shows the regional realities in international level in the International Theatre Festival NSB and

ISBA conference of New Delhi. She was highly appreciated and acclaimed as the first women director that gives direction of political play “ *Andha Yug*” – one of the famous play of Dr. Dharambir Bharati.

Director Anuradha Kapur, NSD was very much please with Shila’s work in theatre as a Designer, Director and Actor. So, she asked her to do anything as an award from her side. By taking this chance, Shila wanted to fulfill her dream of revival of the dying art form of Manipuri Traditional performing Art form i.e. Goura Lila, Udukhol, Gostha Lila, etc. which was very famous and favourite art form of Manipur in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century but unfortunately, at present, disappeared from the land of Jewels.

Anuradha Kapur accepted her request of doing workshop to revive the art form of Goura Lila. Under the sponsorship of Extension Programme of NSD in collaboration with PRTM, Shila revive Goura Lila in the year 2008 under the guidance of different aged Gurus with young artistes of Manipur. Many theatre scholars of Manipur and NSD highly appreciated and acclaimed Shila’s work of contribution in theatre as she opened a new account of traditional performing art Goura Lila in the National Level. Since then Goura Lila, as the first time in Manipur history, inaugurated Octave, National and International, Poorvottar Theatre Festival organized by NSD and Inaugurated first time Goura Lila Festival of Manipur at Iskon, Imphal.

Still Shila continues shows of Goura Lila with different local peoples of Manipur and celebrated Silver Jubilee shows of different five plays of Goura Lila in different districts of Manipur in 2015. Now, after revival and rejuvenating Goura Lila by her, State Kala Akademy in the State level and National level by Ministry of Culture recognized “ Goura Lila” and other art form as traditional performing art form of Manipur. Started joining to her by different professional Nata-Sankirtana singer and dancers to promote, impact, educate and to learn Goura

Lila and now makes groups and revive more than 20 groups in Manipur. This is what Shila's great contribution and achievement in Theatre of Manipur especially in Indian Theatre.