

YUMNAM RAJENDRA SINGH

Yumnam Rajendra Singh is an eminent and renowned Play Director, Theatre Playwright and Actor. Since the establishment of his theatre group **Panthoibi Natya Mandir, Imphal** took his utmost service and contribution for the promotion of theatre movement in the region with all his energies with the high professional and aptitude which bears a 5 (five) decades-long recognition and participated in the festivals of Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, National School of Drama, New Delhi and other National/Regional/State Authorities like Allahabad Natya Sangha, Seagull, Kolkata, Manipur State Kala Akademi and North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Govt. of India as a playwright and play director.



Born on 24th October 1953, the third son of Late Yumnam Apabi Singhand Late Yumnam Ongbi Rupabati Devi at Chingamathak Yumnam Leikai Nityainanda-Kollup, Imphal West of Manipur. Retired as a Central Government Service from the Directorate of Census Operation, Manipur, Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India. As a Playwright, he wrote 128 nos. of Manipuri play Drama, Shumang Leela, Video & Screen (Manipuri feature film) picturised as T.V. serial, shortplays & radio drama. He has written in Drama of Tribal Folk Literature. He worked in more than 40s theatre group of actors, even colleges & university students actor in the state and within the country.

As a lyricist wrote and published 25 number of Manipuri film songs. Contributed as a teacher of Theatre training workshops of many theatre groups in Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Kerala, Chennai, Assam, Tripura and Manipur. Work in Children Theatre. As an Awardee (National/State levels) he got the best Playwright awards in different all India multilingual drama festivals and competition at Allahabad, Mumbai, Bikaner, Assam, Kolkata, Patna etc. and awarded **Henry Ford Foundation (India) Fellowship** during 1993-99 for researching and development of traditional **Manipuri clown actor and clown play production**. He wrote 11 nos. of clown and comedy play and shown in both the State and the Country. He was the Awardee of Theatre Centre Manipur for Playwright and direction in 2005.

- ❖ Awarded **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, India (2007) in Playwright**
- ❖ Awarded **National Vayoshretha Samman Award (2017)** by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- ❖ He was awarded twice **the Prestigious President Medal (Govt. of India) for Meritorious Service** for the **Census of India** in the year **1981 and 2011**.

- ❖ Awarded of sculpture in **Tribal Wood Carving Art of Manipur** by the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**
- ❖ Awarded both Junior and Senior fellowship in the research work on the Traditional Clown of Manipur by **Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**

As a Jury member (i) All India Radio Script Competition, (ii) National Youth Festival, (iii) Manipuri Jatra (Sumang Lila), (iv) National Bal Shree Awardees Nomination and (v) Various National and State level Theatre/Sumang Lila Festival” of Manipur State Kala Akademi and other various festivals outside Manipur. His Plays staged by many Theatre groups of the State & outside.

As a Literary man wrote 121 Manipuri Drama and other literary works and awarded “**Dr Kamal Sahitya Award of Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, 2007**”. His is also an awardee of LEIKOL “**Thiyam Krishnachandra- Radheshakhi Award, 2018**”. Awarded **Natya Bhushan (Drama) Award** of the Manipur Sahitya Parishad-2019, **Khundongbam Brojendro Ningshing Mana** (Award) 2020. As a Researcher, he is associated with various International and National play directors. Still, now he is associating with Regional and State Authorities mainly on Folk and Tribal Culture and Heritage since the last decades. Participated in Playwriting workshops associated with International Theatre Directors of many Countries.

Activities in abroad and overseas, he participated his play **Hanglai** (marionette) had been staged in **Kathmandu (Nepal) and Bangkok (Thailand)**” during 2011 and 2012 in the International Theatre Festivals and the play Hanglai was recommended as best commendable and good play. His written play “**Hanglai**” was shown again at New Delhi in the **International Theatre Festival of Young Audience** organised by **Assitej India, 2014**. In recognition of his long rendering contributions mainly in Playwright (Drama) and theatre he was honoured with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi, Award As Playwright** by the then President of India Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil in the year, 2007 and Vayoshreshtha Samman Award in 2017.

Published (15) fifteen Drama & Produced (12) twelve Seminar Research Papers of the Theatre and Written (6) six articles of Theatre & Drama Published in local & national, and international papers.

He was a former member of the standing committee and programme committee member of Manipur State Kala Akademi, Govt. of Manipur and **North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC)** Dimapur, Govt. of India. He is working as Playwright, Play director of Manipur theatre and Manipuri Shumang Leela groups. Presently, he is Guest Faculty in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, Manipur University of Culture, Government of Manipur