



## KIRTI JAIN

Akademi Award: Direction

Born on 11 December 1949 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, Shrimati Kirti Jain obtained her M.A. in English from Delhi University, and went on to do a Diploma in Dramatics at the National School of Drama (1969-1972), specializing in direction. She also learnt Kathak dance from Maya Rao at the Bharatiya Kala Kendra in Delhi.

Beginning her career as a producer with Doordarshan, Delhi, in 1972, Shrimati Kirti Jain joined the National School of Drama in 1977 as an Associate Professor of Dramatic Literature. She rose to be the School's Director, serving in that position from 1988 to 1995. During this period she launched NSD's Theatre in Education (TIE) Company to promote children's theatre, NSD's documentation and publication programmes, and established NSD's Regional Research Centre at Bangalore. She also initiated NSD's collaboration with drama departments at universities abroad, particularly in U.K., Poland and Germany. At present, Shrimati Jain is serving NSD as Professor of Dramatic Literature.

Shrimati Kirti Jain has acted in and directed a number of plays within and outside the School. Her directorial work includes plays such as Girish Karnad's *Hayavadana* (1982), performed with students of the Dartington College of Arts, U.K., Mohan Rakesh's *Ashadh ka Ek Din* (1980) and *Lehron Ke Rajhans* (1992), Mahesh Elkunchwar's *Holi* (1998), and *Subarnalata* (1999) based on Ashapoorna Devi's novel scripted by Geetanjali Shree. More recently, she has directed Dinesh Khanna's *Tinka Tinka* (2002), *Aur Kitne Tukde* (2003) based on Urvashi Butalia's book *The Other Side of Silence*, Kaun Thagwa Nagaria *Lootal Ho* (2004) based on Kashinath Singh's story, *Sab Kuchh Chakachak* (2007), a play evolved with the TIE Company, *Baghdad Burning* (2008), a play improvised from a blog from Iraq, *Ruka Hua Faista* (2010), a Hindi adaptation of Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*, and *Hamara Shahar Us Baras* (2011) based on Geetanjali Shree's novel.

Shrimati Jain has travelled widely, lecturing and conducting workshops in U.K., Poland, Germany, Italy, the former Soviet Union, France, Japan, Bangladesh, U.S.A., and Philippines. She has contributed articles in Hindi and English to several books and journals, including entries made in the *Oxford Companion to Theatre*. Founder-Trustee of the Natarang Pratishthan, she was Project Director and Curator of *Poorva* (2003) and *Leela*, festival of the Asian women directors (2010), held in Delhi. She has received the B.V. Karanth Smriti Puraskar for her overall contribution to theatre from the National School of Drama in 2010.

Shrimati Kirti Jain receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Indian theatre as a director.