

## Summer Shadow Puppet Making & performance camp, IGNCA.

June 10th – 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, Lecture Hall, IGNCA.

The Five day camp involved a composite exposure of the participants to the world of Shadow puppetry and especially the new experiments concerning it. Students from Bal Bhavan and other schools attended the Camp which also included some teachers and parents. About 50 participants involved and immersed themselves in the art of making shadow puppets with which they performed. The camp besides the intensive camp exercises and activities, included perview of puppetry videos, presentations of shadow puppets from different parts of the world and the Naga experimental puppets, live demonstrations and performances.



The first two days were devoted to orienting, informing, inspiring, involving and creating shadow puppets- during this period besides the lesson plans (for puppet making) live demonstrations, A/v presentations and performances were employed. They were informed about the arts and crafts of Nagaland and especially about the 'Tsong-teptsu' style of painting. The participants were given a palette of designs from Nagaland which they employed in firstly making a head mask and then an 11 point puppet whose head arm and legs could be manipulated. The participants were also shown a two puppet performances.



The next two days included exploring two folk stories from Nagaland in Hindi. The participants were informed and involved into making story specific puppets and a script in Hindi and also rehearsed on the same.



The fifth and final day started with two performances by Jimmy Chishi and his team followed by an open house where the two puppet plays were performed by the Camp's participants. This open house also included an exhibition of the head masks and puppets.

It was a successful camp seen from the purview of the performances and the quality of the puppets made. Although the prime focus was on puppet making the functionality of the same was reasonably well presented in the two performances by the participants in the age group 6 – 14 years. It was also a privilege to have Padmashree Dadi Pudumjee visit the camp. The children were very much encouraged and benefited from his presence and conversations. It is hoped that the young participants will take the ideas further as they share their experience. This exciting and encouraging experience supported & organised by IGNSA will indeed help highlight the rich tradition of Shadow puppetry in India to the citizens of tomorrow and also bring in new and fruitful experiments in art and culture.



Three brothers, puppet story inspired from Naga Folklore, Hindi. 2014  
Puppet Play inspired from Naga Folklore, Hindi 2014.



The Elephants Eye,

**Rajinder Singh Taragi**  
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