

## AN EXCERPT FROM A POEM ON TAGORE

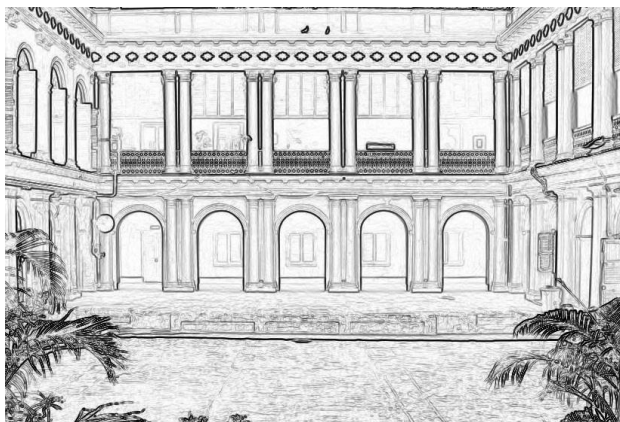
*Keep on, keep trying, I did no more,  
I merely made, to love and adore  
Images of my seeking -*

*Poems of beauty, songs of joy,  
Rhymes for the learning girl or boy,  
Questions, never replies.*

*Don't worry if you don't know me yet:  
When all solutions have been met,  
That day my spirit dies.*

[ From: *Talking at Night to Rabindranath* by William Radice ]

This excerpt was included in the play *The Prophet and the Poet* based on the exchanges between Mahatma Gandhi and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

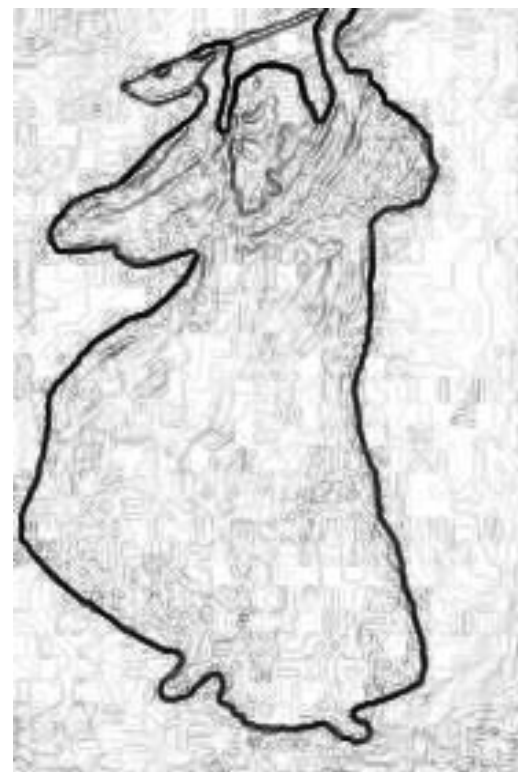


COURTYARD THEATRE is inspired by the performing space in Thakurbadi, the ancestral home of Rabindranath Tagore in Kolkata.

*Welcome to*

# ROBI'S GARDEN

*celebrating the work of Rabindranath Tagore*



*A Courtyard Theatre presentation  
Bangalore Little Theatre*

**SALAAM ROBI !**  
**A Courtyard Theatre presentation**

Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT) has an annual flagship production of a play for children. It is part of an enduring long term programme of Children's Theatre. In 2011 BLT paid a tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore highlighting his work for and with children. It was done through the original play script *ROBI'S GARDEN*.

The material for the theatrical production is drawn from a great fund of Tagore's writing, a lot of it for children, all of it loved by grown-ups as well. These include verse, short stories, plays and sketches (his "riddle plays"), fantasies, autobiographical writing, (esp. his childhood memories), and the letters to his grand-daughter and other children.

A small group of children is on an excursion to Jorasanko where Tagore's ancestral home is located in Kolkata. They enter the courtyard theatre in Thakur-badi and sense a magical air surrounding them. The caretaker of the estate, who looks suspiciously like Kabuliwala, shares an important mantra of Robi-da with the children - that the first step in getting what you want in life is .... *imagination*. It is the surest way to have Robi-da's stories come alive on the courtyard stage.

*Robi's Garden* had a very successful London production in November 2013 with four actors and two musicians. More recently BLT developed an abridged Storytelling Theatre format of several past productions. The programme is called Courtyard Theatre, and the performances are in a wide variety of spaces - drawing rooms, libraries, seminar halls, art galleries, banquet halls, and so on. The presentation may be by either one actor or two actors only, with audience participation. The setting for the performance is minimal and the requirements very simple. There have also been readings of *Robi's Garden* in many places in India and abroad. This performance is the two-actor version.

**THE TWO STORYTELLERS**  
Minti Jain and Vijay Padaki

**Stage Manager**  
Murtuza Khetty

All members of the team are artists in Bangalore Little Theatre. The play is designed and directed by Vijay Padaki, a Life Member of BLT and currently the Convener-Trustee. A major thrust in the programmes of BLT is *Theatre Education*, aimed at revitalizing theatre studies in schools and colleges, including the less privileged schooling systems.

This play is a project within a long term programme reaching schools and children. *Robi's Garden* (and the abridged Courtyard Theatre version) is one in a series of original scripts developed within the programme.

**BLT and PLAY DEVELOPMENT**

BLT was created in 1960, and is the city's oldest and most widely respected theatre society. It is a membership-based organization, with a highly participatory form of management. BLT celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010 and is preparing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 2020.

BLT has a strong reputation in translations and adaptations, and in promoting new play writing activity since the 'seventies. An enduring commitment to outreach activity has led to education and training initiatives, working with schools, colleges and other institutions.

Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation is registered as a Public Charitable Trust with a non-profit status.