

## **Layout 8, Performance/ Installation**

**Pfingstweidpark, 28. June 2015, 17h**

The word utopia is a muse to some while its redundant to others. The word has been brought up several times in literary extracts or fiery speeches but has often ended up being the face of propaganda. It has become a myth that terminates to exist because of the orchestrated disparity between the production and distribution of market dynamics.

The play "Beyond the land of Hattamalla" is a suitable satire on the issue. Conceived by the legendary Indian playwright Badal Sircar, the play mocks the East India Company's monopolist control over Indian trade, handicraft, mode of production and distribution that destroyed Indian economic system completely.

Staged in 1977, the play narrates the story of two thieves, Kenaram and Becharam who while escaping after a theft fall into a river and reached to a land where there is no buying and selling of commodities, people do not know what the money is? No one to guard shops and houses, and food is offered for free. Kena and Becha are dumbfounded with disbelief of something that is too ideal to even believe in.

The two thieves wondered about the many new things like the no-money concept in the immensely idealistic and dreamlike land, they relentlessly chatted with the audience, not only keeping them constantly engaged but also creating a sense of inquisitiveness in them. They enjoy sweet tender coconut water, ingenious desserts at the end of a full meal and even some perfectly ripe bananas, all for free! Even when they make a hole through the wall of the eatery where they had their free meal, the villagers wonder why they couldn't have just used the front gate to enter and take whatever they wanted to. After many hilarious misadventures, the wise doctor from the village enlightens the two utterly confused thieves by telling them that nothing comes for free and that the entire village works hard to get what they want. The thieves, obviously, reform and find themselves jobs.

### **Layout Collective**

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