

FOLK DRAMA ON THE DECLINE: MUGHAL TAMASHA

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ABSTRACT

My article is an in-depth study of the folk theatre in Odisha which is now in its decline. Folk theatre in Odisha is as old as its recorded history. It reflects the culture and tradition of the rural Odisha reflecting the elements of joys and sorrows of their lives, emotions, beliefs, traditions, songs and dances, rituals, customs, religious and social behavior. It was the medium through which the communal harmony of that time was preserved. Mughal Tamasha appealed directly to the people as it was as an indigenous art form. It was one of the unique forms of folk theatre which satirised the feudal system of Mughal Administration. The uniqueness of Mughal Tamasha lay in its multilingual mode of dialogue delivery which included languages like Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, and Oriya. It is presumed that this form evolved during the initial period of the eighteenth century when the Mughals were defeated by the Marathas. In the present times, this theatre form is on the decline due to the revolution of digital technology. Art lovers, social reformers and researchers now should take the initiative of restoring this dying art form.

KEYWORDS: *Folk, Culture, Songs, Theatre Form, Decline*