



Brinda Trivedi



Ipshita Chakraborty Singh



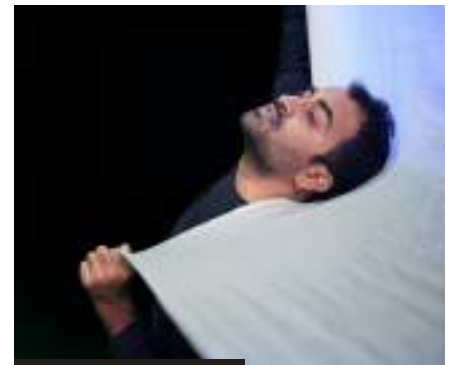
Mahesh Saini



Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry



Pallavi



Ajeet Singh Palawat

# CLASSIC REDUX: REVISITING HAYAVADANA

Bindu Gopal Rao

**W**ithin its captivating narrative lies a profound exploration of self and the relentless quest for identity, echoing the timeless query - "Who am I?"

Directed by veteran theatre director Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry, *Hayavadana* brings together some of the best actors, musicians, and technicians in the Indian film and theatre circles. Recently, *Hayavadana* was nominated in a record 10 categories at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards 2024, winning Best Ensemble, Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female), and Best Costume Design.

With a layered script, a seasoned director, diverse play elements, and a powerhouse cast coming together, the team has spared no effort in ensuring that this retelling of *Hayavadana* is one for the books.

"*Hayavadana* is a complex play and a challenge for any director. In it, myth, magic and realism segue seamlessly, providing immense possibilities for exploration and interpretation. For me, there was no stereotypical formula for a template. It was my intuition; I trusted to lead me through this narrative full of intriguing metaphors. A wonderful team of actors and musicians, designers and backstage support helped navigate this journey bringing 'alive' Karnad's rich and textured play," says director Chowdhry.

Bringing *Hayavadana* to the renowned Ranga Shankara has fulfilled a longstanding dream for



Bhoomija. With nearly 10 successful performances and several prestigious awards under its belt, the play's upcoming six-day run featuring eight shows is poised to captivate audiences.

"I hope all of Bangalore will come to watch," says producer Gayathri Krishna, founder and managing trustee of Bhoomija.

## The USP

If you are wondering why you must go to the show, this version of *Hayavadana* brings together the magic of Karnad's spectacular writing, BV Karanth's evergreen music, and Chowdhry's powerful direction and stagecraft on one platform.

Deepan Sivaraman's stunning scenography and Amod Bhatt's vibrant background score make this a grand visual and aural spectacle. "The play itself, written by Girish Karnad, is a renowned Kannada classic known for its exploration of themes like identity, desire, and social satire. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry is a veteran director known for her insightful interpretations and ability to bring out the best in her cast and crew. The play

*Come May 28, Girish Karnad's Hayavadana is poised to take you on an unforgettable journey, with a series of back-to-back shows running until June 2. Here's why you shouldn't let this opportunity slip away...*

also features strong production elements - a live orchestra, stunning scenography, and lighting design. Finally, the play boasts a cast of renowned actors from Indian cinema and theatre. Their exceptional performances bring the characters to life," says Krishna.

## Music Matters

One of the distinct elements of the play is the music and how it is an integral part of the narrative.

BV Karanth's original score for *Hayavadana* is one of the play's highlights, shaping its atmosphere and emotional impact. "He is an icon in Kannada cinema and theatre and is among the most renowned music directors of his time. Even today, his music retains its allure and fills our hearts with joy - truly evergreen. Bhatt, the music director, has retained Karanthji's magic while creating a vibrant background score for this retelling. He has also conducted a superb live orchestra for the play, comprising Punjab's famed wandering minstrels (led by 86-year-old Harpal Singh). A rarity in these times, live music is used as an integral part of the show. The orchestra and live music elevate the play's soundscape to another level, making *Hayavadana* just as much of an aural spectacle as it is visual," says director Chowdhry.

## Design Elements

The play is also a visual treat with Deepan Sivaraman, the scenographer, known for creating visually captivating sets that enhance productions, showcasing his magic. "Deepan has given us a stun-

## THE TEAM

**Director:** Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry

**Music:** B V Karanth and Amod Bhatt

## CAST:

- Ipshita Chakraborty Singh
- Brinda Trivedi
- Pallavi Jadhao
- Ajeet Singh Palawat
- Ambika Kamal
- Mahesh Saini
- Chaman Bansal
- Guru Bamrah
- Puneet Kumar Mishra

## SINGERS AND MUSICIANS:

- Snehalatha Tagde
- Shubhashree Bhatt
- Bahadur Chand
- Amarjit Singh
- Pradeep Nirban
- Harpal Singh
- Ram Singh
- Gurmit Singh
- Chainis Gill (Minka)
- Raghavendra K

**When:** Tue, 28 May to Sun, 2 June 2024

**Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar, Bengaluru.

**Timings:** 7:30 PM on all days with additional shows at 3:30 PM on Sat and Sun.

**Tickets:** On BookMyShow, priced INR 300 onwards.

ning stage design that transports audiences into Karnad's world entirely. His scenography includes unique elements, such as a specially designed truck and stunning backdrops - earning him a nomination in the Best Stage Design category at META 2024," says Chowdhry.

Gyandev Singh, the lighting designer, is renowned for his ability to use light to create mood, highlight key moments, and focus the audience's attention on specific aspects of the stage. Gyandev's work for *Hayavadana* was nominated for the Best Light Design award at META 2024. "Gyandev's lighting adds that magical finishing touch," says director Chowdhry.

Together, the stage design and lighting in *Hayavadana* work to create a visually compelling and thematically resonant experience for the audience.

