



HIREN BHATTACHARYA
Akademi Award : Puppetry

Born in 1926 in the Sylhet district of Bengal, now in Bangladesh, Shri Hiren Bhattacharya took his Bachelor of Arts degree at Visva Bharati Siksha Bhavan College, Santiniketan, and did his Master's at Calcutta University. He received training in puppetry under Raghunath Goswami, and as a part-time student at Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan, had the benefit of instruction from Nandalal Bose.

Associated with the Indian Peoples Theatre Association for many years, Shri Bhattacharya has been active both in human and puppet theatre. He founded the Peoples Puppet Theatre in Calcutta in 1977, which has produced thirteen full-length plays written by Shri Bhattacharya. He has also written plays for the human theatre, collected in the volume Gananatyer Natak. Among these, Buno Hans has received an award from the Government of West Bengal. Shri Bhattacharya has performed with the People's Puppet Theatre all over the country, and has participated in a number of workshops on puppet theatre. Cultivation of Puppetry, a film on Shri Bhattacharya's work, was shown at the Mumbai International Film Festival in 2000. He has published a collection of essays on literature and the arts, apart from several plays.

Shri Bhattacharya has received recognition as a prominent dramatist, from the Government of West Bengal (1994), and has received the State Academy Award as a puppeteer and dramatist (1998).

Shri Hiren Bhattacharya receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to puppet theatre.