



## SUDIP GUPTA

Akademi Award: Puppetry, West Bengal

Born on 5 October 1961, Shri Sudip Gupta is a modern puppeteer. He started his puppetry career in 1983 by participating in a workshop organized by the Calcutta Puppet Theatre. He then decided to take up puppetry as a career. Sudip Gupta established his group Dolls' Theatre in 1990. Since then he has been conceptualizing, scripting, designing and directing all his puppet productions - *Taming of the Wild*, *Padmagatha*, *Shatranj Ki Khiladi*, *Aguner Parshmoni*, *Naak Kata Raja*, *Saheb Baganer Sundari*, *Bang Raja*, *Chutki*, *Chidam Chasir Katha*, *Chi-Chi Land*. He received a Junior Fellowship from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture, Government of India in 1989-90.

*Padmagatha*, where the natural beauty and characters of the epic *Shakuntala* have been used to give an environmental care and anti-pollution message, and other productions testify to his vision. He has participated and conducted innumerable workshops. Sudip Gupta has been involved in Set Designing with renowned artists like Manoj Mitra, Tapas Sen, Biswas Chakraborty. He has worked in different TV serials with Calcutta Doordarshan, and U.G.C., and produced short puppet plays. He has worked and designed puppets for a film for the Election Commission in Kolkata in 2008, and for an advertisement film for videophone publicity in 2011. He has conducted numerous puppetry workshops with CCRT, SPIC MACAY, U.P. Sangeet Natak Akademi, and in Bangladesh. His group has participated in numerous national and international festivals.

Shri Sudip Gupta has received a number of honours for his work. These include the Uttam Kumar Smriti Puraskar by Dishari in 2003; the Meher R. Contractor Award for Puppetry and Performing Arts by Ushta–Te–Foundation in 2006; and the Theatre Award by Theatre Pasta in 2007.

Shri Sudip Gupta receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2017 for his contribution in the field of Puppetry.