

The Echo of Applause in an Empty Auditorium

Fellow Thespians, today is the World Theatre Day (WTD), a day we all look forward to with all kinds of expectations. The throbbing beat of music, the frenzy dance movements, the colorful stage spectacles, the diverse skilling workshops and the speeches. Yet this year like before, we all had geared up for grand celebrations and unbeknown to us that was never to be; so has been the fate of 27th March 2020 WTD, with many nations lockdown.

Reading the speech to an empty auditorium today I heard the echoes of past years applause; I couldn't resist hollering into the empty space, "is there any one out there listening?" However, the silence assured me of undeniable fact that theatre in the 21st Century is faced with many challenges and among them is the call to its social relevancy. Indeed, can we count on theatre amidst the tools for social transformation before, in and after a crisis? Where is theatre today of all days? Has it lost its functional vitality to rumor peddlers? No! Theatre is life and every slice of it is a slice of humanity in action. Even if it is lights out and curtains down today in most parts of the world; the resounding echo of applause of the past years invite us yet to turn on the lights and raise the curtain to a new dawn of our awakening in which humanity can find its soul again.

Best wishes on this World Theatre Day 2020.

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