

The मैहुर Theatre Festival

1. About the Mwihur Theatre Festival :

It is widely believed that the first dramatic stories were probably told by primitive tribe who would return from the hunt and re-enact the events for the rest of the tribe. The term drama derived from Greek word for deed or Act earliest origin of drama are also to be found in Athens where ancient hymns, called dithyrambs were sung in honor of the god Dionysus.

The native known to be earliest settler of Brahmaputra River valley practiced hunting and gathering throughout their advancement of civilization of their life and livelihood. Their literature, culture art, history, knowledge, custom etc all evolved through folk tradition. The native especially the Bodos inherited a rich folk tradition of narrating tragedy and comedy around the fire site at the onset of winter performing kherai through different dance forms at the altar of Bathou (indigenous faith or religion) for thousands of years is one of the earliest known dramatic performances of the community. Endless tales and legends including Sandw Baodia, Gwhwshrwn, Embushrwn, etc are evidence of the rich repository of dramatic wealth amongst the local native. Similarly, in the earlier times people of bodo community also used the hunting for their livelihood and in Bodo language is called 'Mwihur'. The word Mwihur is comes from grandfather and great grandfather because in earlier times people used hunting to survive. According to Bhaben Narzi book, Bodo Kacharini Somaj Arw Harimu, " People of Bodo, Kachari Community used to hunt pig and deer meat from the forest to eat with rice". From this we come to know that the word Mwihur is a very important for the Bodo tribe.

Taking cue from the genesis of drama Lwrgi Theatre Group has decided to organize the first international drama festival with the title of a Mwihur a Bodo word hunting. The Bodos until recently used hunting and gathering as means of living amidst the vast and lush greenery on the foothills of Himalaya, forest, river, lakes and all kinds of natural resources were in abundance. This help the community to live sustainably amidst the nature and nurture their art, culture, customs and tradition.

However in the past independent India, Bodos and other native had to struggle for their survival and existence. Their ethnic and culture identity were at stake. They put up a very brave resistance and shed their bloods that resulted in protracted conflict.

1. About the organizer of Mwihur Theatre Festival:

From the beginning Mwihur International Theatre Festival has been organized by Lwrgi Theatre Group, Chandamari, Kokrajhar and supported by Government of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Assam. The group was established on 10th May, 2009 vide Registration No KJR/253/L/106 of 2009 dated, 9th July, 2009 under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 with a firm objective to promoting, propagation and preservation of culture heritage in the country at large and promotion and enhance the Theatre movement in the country in particular. Since its inception the group has been running actively and working seriously under the guidance of Sanjib Kr. Brahma who is very dedicated theatre activist in the region.

In every year the group has been organizing residential– non residential workshops, seminar, different types cultural activities, Social Awareness programmes on different themes etc. In every year LTG produced new play productions. Along with dramatic activities the group is working on Folk Music & Dance also. The group has been participated in several National and International Drama & Cultural Festivals organized by the Ministry of Culture, GoI and other Govt. & Non Govt. organizations in different part of the Country.

The main objective of the group is to articulate talent both physically and mentally. So that the youth & children can pay attention on cultural activities even in an unstable social condition in the entire North East India. Keeping in view the objective of the group we have been organizing workshop both for adult and children inviting expert faculties from all over India.

2. Objectives of MTF:

1. To get the recognized Bodo community in international level through the Drama
2. To give the good message to society about Drama.
3. To explore the Bodo Drama and Culture worldwide.
4. To developed the Bodo Theatre in Bodoland region.

3. Events of Mwihur Theatre Festival:

From the beginning Mwihur Theatre Festival has been organized in international basis by Lwrgi Theatre Group with the help of BTR Govt.

The events are:

1. Mwihur International Theatre Festival (The 1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland), 2022-23
2. 2nd Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023-24.

4.1 Mwihur International Theatre Festival (The 1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland), 2022-23:

The Mwihur International Theatre Festival (The 1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland) was organized by the Lwrgi Theatre Group and supported by the Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) at Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar. The event had been held from 28th January to 3rd February, 2023.

Total nos. of 72 applications were received from the different theatre groups and directors of India and abroad for the participation in the **1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland, 2022-23**, beyond the 72 applications there are only 13 nos. of play productions of 10 different Languages were selected by the Jury Board for showcase in the events.

The groups and their plays are:

Sl. No.	Play name	Group name	Language	Director name	State &Country
1	Thokhon	Lwrgi Theatre Group	Bodo	Keshab Mushahary	Kokrajhar, Assam
2	Ghatotkach.... Putra Mor	Purbaranga	Assamese	Mr. Gunakar Dev Goswami	Guwahati, Assam, India
3	The Confession	Theatre Village Nepal	Nepali & Hindi	Bimal Subedi	Kathmandu, Nepal
4	Jugi Triao	Maidi's Artist Association	Santhali	Jeetrai Hansda	Jharkand, India
5	Bithorai Jwhwlao	JATRA-C Acting Studio	Bodo	Jayanta Narzary	Kokrajhar, Assam,
6	Raja Man Wahala	Apurwa Drama	Singhala	Mr. Chamika Hathlahawaththa	Colombo, Srilanka
7	Lomadiyan	Mystic Acts Theatre And Acting	Hindi	Ashok Banthia	Mumbai, India
8	Mangal Yaodraba Numit	Cosmopolitan Dramatic Union	Manipuri	Mr. Nandkumar Moirangthem	Manipur, India
9	Tajmahal Ka Tender	RAS Theatre Group	Hindi	Gajraj Nagar	Delhi, India
10	Balabari	Okhrang The Sky	Bodo	M. Okhrang Boro	Tamulpur, Assam
11	Thaaram	Janabheri Theatre	Malayalam	Abhimanyu Vinayakumar	Kerala, India
12	Rudali	Gandhi Hindusthani Sahitya Sabha and Sumukha	Rajasthani	Arvind Singh Chandravanshi	Rajasthan, India
13	FANS	Paramik Barakpore, WB	Bengali	Subhojit Bandhapadhyay	Barakpore, West Bengal

GLIMPSES OF 1ST MWIHUR INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL, 2022-23

New Play Production "THOKHON"
Designed & Directed by Keshab Mashahary
Staged on 28th January, 2023
in the Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2022-23
(The 1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland)
Organized by Lwrgi Theatre Group.
Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR.
Date: from 28th January to 3rd February, 2023
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Purbaranga, Guwahati, Assam

Play Name: Ghatotkach.... Putra Mor

Language: Assamese

Date: 29th January, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Theatre Village, Nepal

Play Name: **THE CONFESSION**

Language: **Nepali**

Date: 29 January, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Maidi's Artist Association Jharkhand

Play Name: JUGI TRIAO

Language: Santhali

Date: 30 January, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Jtra-C Acting Studio, Kokrajhar

Play Name: BITHORAI JWHWLAO

Language: BODO

Date: 30 January, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Apurva Drama Team, Sri Lanka

Play Name: RAJA MAN WAHALA

Language: Sinhala

Date: 31 January, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Mystic Acts Theatre and acting. Mumbai

Play Name: LOMADIYAN

Language: Hindi

Date: 31 January, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Cosmopolitan Dramatic Union, Imphal, Manipur

Play Name: MANGAL YAODRABA NUMIT

Language: Manipuri

Date: 01 February, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Ras Theatre Group, Delhi

Play Name: TAJMAHAL KA TENDER

Language: Hindi

Date: 01 February, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Okhrang The Sky, Tamulpur, BTR, Assam

Play Name: BALABARI

Language: Bodo

Date: 02 February, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Troupe Name: Janabheri Theatre, Kerala

Play Name: THAARAM

Language: Malayalam

Date: 02 February, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Paramik Barakpore, Howrah, west Bengal

Play Name: FANS

Language: Bengali

Date: 03 February, 2023

Show Time: 2.30 pm.



1st International Theatre Festival of Bodoland (Mwihur International Theatre Festival, 2023)

Presentation of Gandhi Hindusthani Sahitya Sabha and Sumukha

Play Name: RUDALI

Language: Rajasthani

Date: 03 February, 2023

Show Time: 6.00 pm.



4. **2nd Mwiwur International Theatre Festival, 2023-24:**

Again, **2nd Mwiwur International Theatre Festival, 2023-24** was organized by Lwrgi Theatre Group and supported by Cinema & Theatre Department, Govt. of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and North East Zone Cultural Centre Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GOI and Co-Host Sifung Harimu Afad Rowmari, Chirang at Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari, Chirang, BTR, Assam, India. The festival was started from 3rd to 10th January, 2024.

The Government of BTR financially help through the Cinema & Theatre Department, BTR to Lwrgi Theatre Group, Chandamari, Kokrajhar for organizing of **2nd Mwiwur International Theatre Festival, 2023-24**.

In the **2nd Mwiwur International Theatre Festival, 2023-24** there are 10 nos. of Theatre Group were selected from 40+ proposals received from different part of India and abroad for showcased in the in the event.

List of the plays showcased in the “2nd Mwiwur International Theatre Festival”

Sl. No.	Play name	Group name	Language	Director name	State & Country
1	Sakhondra	Lwrgi Theatre Group	Bodo	Sanjib kr. Brahma	Assam, India
2	Once A Horse	Croaking Crevasse Theatre	Non-verbal	Alaya Turcotte & Andres Fagiolino	Canada & Uruguay
3	Bodaraja	Badungdupa, Kalakendra	Rabha	Dhananjay Rabha	Assam, India
4	Arohan	Dapon The Mirror	Multilingual	Pabitra Rabha	Assam, India
5	Life Is a Circus	The Alchemist	English	Chris Bullzini	England
6	The Cage	Abhishakti Theatre Arts Society	Hindi	Debina Rakshit	Punjab, India
7	Charandas Chor	Naya Theatre	Chhattisgarhi & Hindi	Habib Tanvir	Madhya Pradesh, India
8	Clandestine Flames	Rongouli Sanskritik Kendra	Assamese	Gunamoni Boruah	Assam, India
9	Najwr Alabao	Rajkumbri Theatre	Bodo	Sansuma Boro	Assam, India
10	Kelangbar	Yamuk	Kokborok	Chameli Tripura	Bangladesh

Glimps of 2nd Mwhur International Theatre festival, 2023-24
Organized by Lwrgi Theatre Group
Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR and
North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.

Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang, BTR, Assam, India

Theatre Village Site



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Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and
Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang, BTR, Assam.

Felicitation to Hon'ble MP and other Dignitaries



Glimps of 2nd Mwihur International Theatre festival, 2023-24

Organized by Lwrgi Theatre Group

**Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR and
North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, Gol**

Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.

Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of the Play : SAKHONDRA

Name of Director: Sanjib Kumar Brahma.

Name of the Group: Lwrgi Theatre Group, BTR, Assam, India.

Date of Show: 3rd January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex Auditorium Hall, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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**Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR and
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Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.

Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of the play: ONCE A HORSE

Name of Director: Alaya Turcotte, Andress Fagiolino

Name of the Group: Croaking Crevasse, Canadian-Uruguayan

Date of Show : 4th January, 2024, Time- 6:00 PM

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex Auditorium Hall, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.

Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of the Play : BODARAJA

Name of Director: Dhananjay Rabha.

Name of the Group: Badungduppa Kalakendra, Rampurhat Village, Goalpara, Assam.

Date of Show: 5th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex Auditorium Hall, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang
Name of Play : AROHAN
Name of Director: Pabitra Rabha
Name of Group: DAPON The Mirror, Tangla, Udalguri, BTR, Assam.
Date of Show: 6th January, 2024
Venue: Open Air Theatre of Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang
Name of Play : LIFE IS A CIRCUS
Name of Director: Chrish Bullzini.
Name of Team: The Alchemist, Peterborough, london, England.
Date of Show: 7th January, 2024, Time: 4.00 PM
Venue: Traditional Theatre Village Ground, Bodofa Cultura Comple, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR and
North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, Gol
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang
Name of Play : THE CAGE
Name of Director: Deepak Saini
Name of Group: Abhishakti Theatre Art Society, Patiala, Punjab.
Date of Show: 7th January, 2024, Time : 6:00 PM
Venue: Open Air Theatre of Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar, BTR



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Supported by Department of Cinema & Theatre, Govt. of BTR and
North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of the Play : CHARANDAS CHOR
Name of Director: Habib Tanveer.
Name of the Group: Naya Theatre, Bhopal, M.P.
Date of Show: 8th January, 2024 Time: 6:00 P.M.
Venue: Open Air Theatre of Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang, BTR. Assam

Name of the Play : CLANDESTINE FLAMES
Name of Director: Gunamoni Baruah
Name of Group: Rongduli Sanskritik Kendra, Dibrugarh, Assam.
Date of Show: 9th January, 2024, Time- 6:00 PM
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex Open Air Theatre, Kokrajhar, BTR.



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North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.
Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024
Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of the Play : NWJWR ALABAO
Name of Director: Sansuma Boro.
Name of the Group: Rajkhumbri Theatre, Tamulpur, BTR.
Date of Show: 9th January, 2024 Time- 6:00 PM
Venue: Derhasat auditorium Hall, Rowmari, Chirang, BTR.



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North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, GoI
Co host: Sifung Harimu Afad, Rowmari, Chirang.

Date: 3rd to 10th January, 2024

Venue: Bodofa Cultural Complex, Kokrajhar and Rowmari Auditorium Hall, Chirang

Name of Play : Khelangbar

Name of Director: Chamili Tripura.

Name of Group: YAMUK, Khagrachari Hill District, Bangladesh.

Date of Show: 10th January, 2024 Time- 6:00 PM

Venue: Derhasat auditorium Hall, Rowmari, Chirang, BTR, Assam

