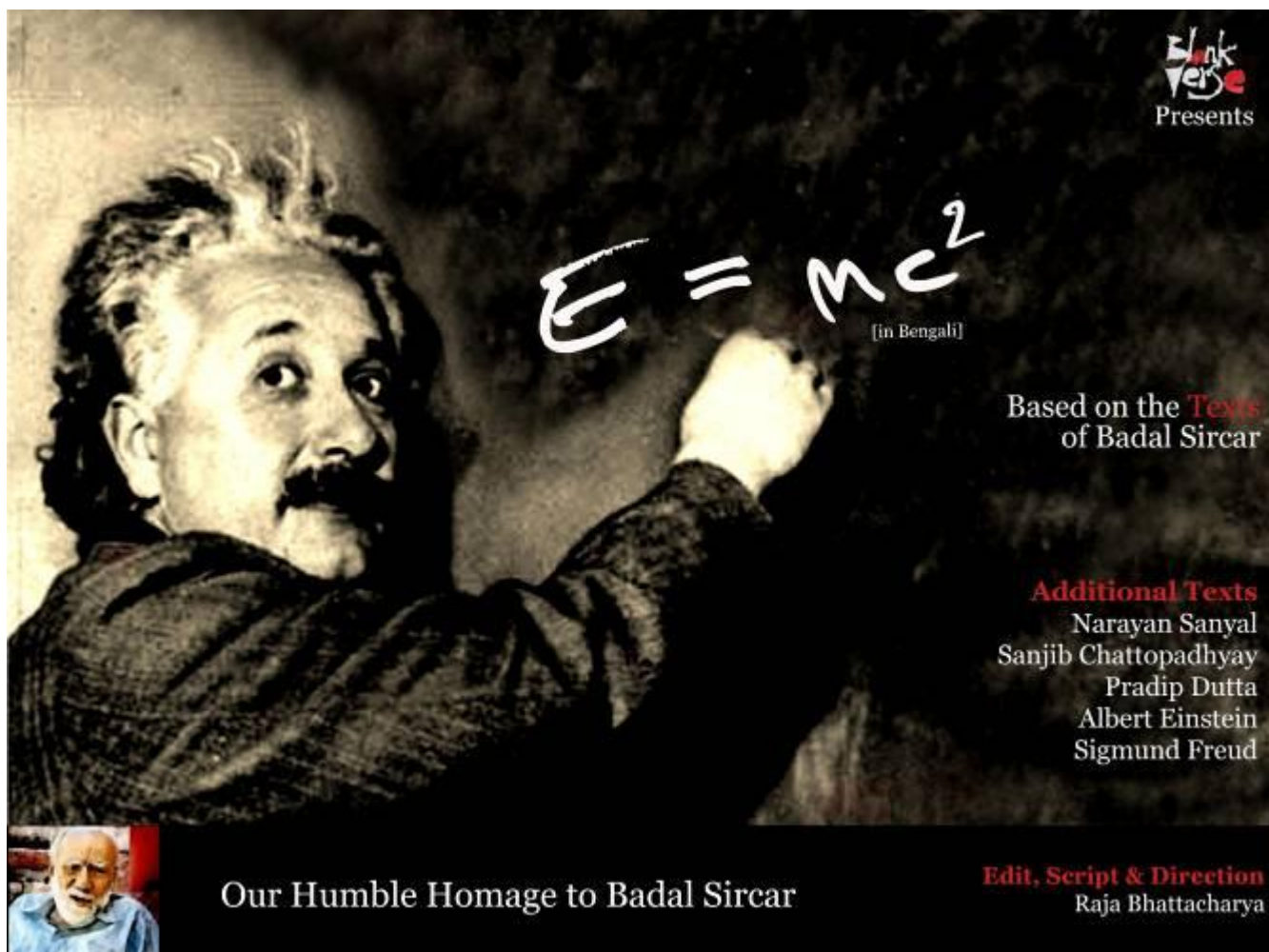


A
Special Brief
of the play
 $E=mc^2$



$E=mc^2$

The Project

$E=mc^2$: This historic, path breaking formula proposed by the legendary Albert Einstein, had taken the world by storm in the former half of the 20th century. Harmless and tame, the little equation might appear; nonetheless it paved the way for a new world, braver but ruthless. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on the August of 1945, showed to the world what an unsuspecting, almost negligible atom could do. It also showed how merciless, cold blooded statesmanship could afflict unbearable trauma to mankind. In the face of world politics, the dangerous strategies taken up by the premiers of the countries undoubtedly were hallmarks of their military prowess, but they could not wash away the stench of dying innocents. Should Japan be blamed because it started the war? Should America be blamed because it dropped the bombs that killed over 2 lacs of innocent, unsuspecting Japanese and crippled a race for generations to come? Do we, the people of the world have no responsibility for these atrocities? Should we forget and may be even forgive?

The renowned theatre personality, Badal Sircar's play **TRINGSHO SATABDI** is a heart wrenching text depicting the socio political causes and effects of the Nuclear Warfare that started with the twin bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Blank Verse has modeled its newest production, **$E=mc^2$** on the lines of **TRINGSHO SATABDI**, as a homage to its recently deceased great playwright. **$E=mc^2$** speaks of the war atrocities inflicted by the nuclear empowered nations, the lives of people who bore the brunt of merciless killings, sufferings unspeakable, unbearable, and the common man, who chooses to forget the dark alleys of history and live a life of denial, wrapped in a make believe of "wonderful world".

The PROJECT in BRIEF

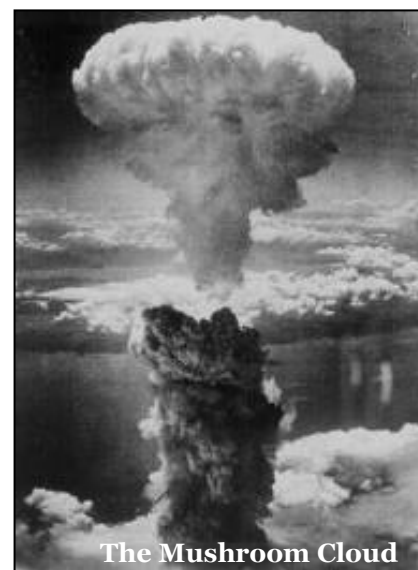
Name of the Play	<i>E=mc²</i>
Type	Humanitarian
Genre	Docu-Theatre
Based on	<i>TRINGSHO SHATABDI</i> by Badal Sircar. [Inspired from <i>E= mc²: Formula for Death</i> by Ferdinand Gigon.]
Additional text	Narayan Sanyal Sanjib Chattopadhyay Pradip Dutta Albert Einstein Sigmund Freud
Stagecraft	Sanchayan Ghosh
Light	Dipak Mukherjee
Music	Swapan Bandyopadhyay
Make up	Biswanath Maity
Costume	Raja Bhattacharya
Projection	Aniruddha Dasgupta
Duration	120 mins. & a break of 10 mins.
On Stage	Dibyendu Ganguly Raja Bhattacharya Babu Dutta Roy Krisnendu Ghosh Hemasree Banik Ambarish Das Durgapada Dhali Sebanti Biswas Palash Gayen Dipak Mitra Paramananda Ghosh Mandira Banerjee Prabir Das Mayukh Dutta Arghya Ghosh
Production	Blank Verse
Edit, Script & Direction	Raja Bhattacharya

The JUSTIFICATION of the PROJECT

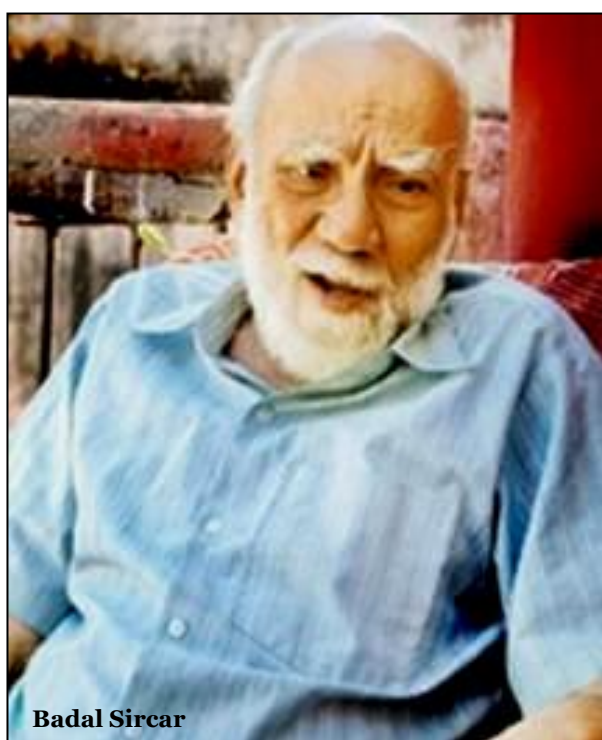
The world was at war with itself. The race of men who desire power; power to rule the lives of others, power to exercise their free will without thinking of the rational consequences, power to give life, as well as crush thousands at the stroke of a pen.... Thousands of innocent lives.....German, Russian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Czechs, Afghan, Bosnian, Yugoslavs, Indian....and so on.....in the name of God, race, complexion, and most astonishingly, in the name of 'Peace'.

The 2nd world war witnessed many life changing events, but none compared to what the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki faced. The atomic bombs landed on the heart of these cities simply to show the world what a great superpower like America could do to crush the Japanese samurai spirit!

Were the bombs necessary? Was it the only way to end the long drawn 2nd world war? History knows that it is to merely showcasing what the American capitalist state had given birth to, after years of toil by multi-national scientists in the much famed Manhattan Project, was the sole objective behind the twin bombings. And what a spectacular show it was! Thousands of men, women and children writhing in pain, blinded by the radiation of the unimaginably powerful A-bomb, perished. Their eyes melted, hair scorched, skin crumpled, hearts burned in agony. Those who died were spared as death engulfed them, but those who survived, lived with the curse of cancer, infertility, radiation sickness, finally a slow painful death. About 2 lacs human lives were dishonored, brutally left to perish. What for? Do we have an answer? Did they have an answer then, those masterminds whose brainchild was the A-bomb?



The Mushroom Cloud



Badal Sircar

Harry Truman, the then president of the U.S.A, had mentioned that the bombings had to be done in order to save thousands of lives. American lives. The mushroom clouds over the skies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had permanently stained the flag of peace.

Contextually enough, we consider that Theatre – the most historically aware, socially committed and concretely manifest Art Form - can help the Youth understand the society and its interrelations in most humanistic terms. Blank Verse is committed to the entire society to put forward and explore the unanswered queries and bring to light what the society is in dire need of: the quintessential humanity! In today's world of raging terrorism, planned massacre, racial killing spree, irresponsible leadership, Blank Verse has set itself on a mission to light the lamps of moral awakening. What more could have been appropriate enough to pay homage to the recently demised Theatre Legend **Badal Sircar**, than to have chosen one of his revolutionary

plays and recreating it as **$E=mc^2$** ! Blank verse pays their humble homage to a great Theatre-personality, whose creations speak so bravely of Truth, Humanity and the Civilization we live in.

The SYNOPSIS

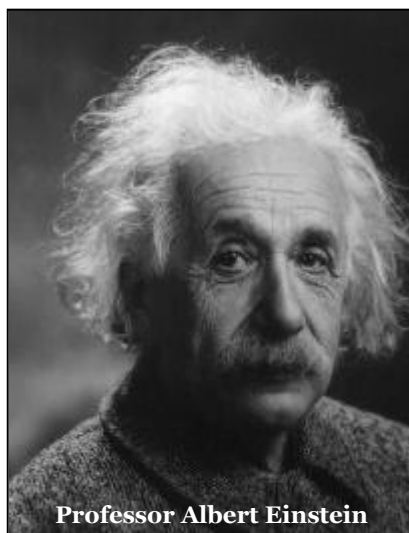
The Story: Based on the backdrop of the world wide picture of suffering and uncompassionate, power driven statesmanship, $E=mc^2$ is a tale of human lives. Lives affected by the A-bomb, real lives, real people; Lives not affected by war, people who chose to remain silent, ensconced in their own world of luxury, comfort in a 'picture perfect' present. As Sarat Chowdhury, the insane professor dedicates his life and his sanity in finding the answers to the unresolved questions, sharp contrast to his friend, 'practical' or rather 'pragmatic' Sadhan, the physicist who has climbed the social, corporate ladder, but chose to shark off the responsibility as a fellow human being to the mishandling of Science. In his life of 'ignorance', Sadhan is happy and content, but Sarat's inquisition to find the answers of the questions the world finds uncomfortable, leads him to 'sense'.



Little Boy, which fell on Hiroshima

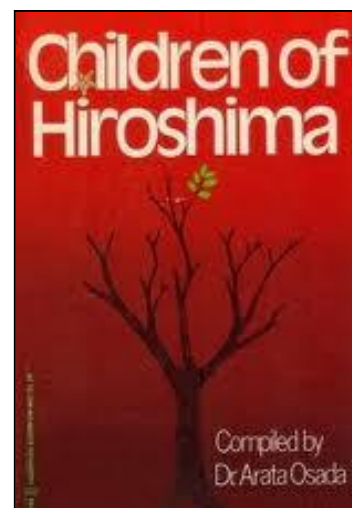
The Form: The play starts with an imaginary trial between the whole mankind, involving Scientists, Professors, Doctors, Engineers, Politicians, Military Personnel in one hand and the rest of the world – charred, bereaved and traumatized - on the other. Digging out of the History and annals, Sarat has collected a huge amount of information on Nuclear Energy and its mishandling by human race. The obvious radioactive fallout makes him scared about the overwhelming danger on Humanity. Being emotionally affected, he calculates backward and finds out the root of the malady. As the trial proceeds, the characters bring forth their sufferings, their memories; their best kept secrets, their untold truths. The reminiscences make Sarat pine for justice, for every individual, for the entire human race.

The Characters: Sarat and Sadhan start their trial with the legendary man whose mathematical genius gave the world a new meaning of 'Energy', Professor Albert Einstein, the great son of Germany. Not only did he lay the foundation stone for a century encompassing saga of invention and harnessing nuclear energy, when the terror stricken scientists of Manhattan Project (just a handful though) were trying their level best to stop the nation from mishandling the atomic giant, this great man took manifold initiative to come to terms with President Franklin Roosevelt regarding the controlled use of atomic energy. Had President Roosevelt not passed away suddenly, before Einstein's letter reached him, history would have been written in a different ink!



Professor Albert Einstein

As they rummage through the lives of Dr. Arata Osada, the Japanese professor who compiled the real experiences of the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dr. Michihiko Hachiya, the first doctor who treated Atomic cancer and his



patient being himself, the engineer Emon Kawaguchi who trades his life in lieu of his sanity as he witnessed both the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings and his fear for being A bomb's favorite child traumatized him for the rest of his life, the Japanese sailor man Masuda, whose life turned upside down by the Hydrogen bomb of 1954, Sarat and Sadhan embark on a dangerous journey of unraveling the hidden truth behind these atrocities, a truth so ugly and ruthless that it puts the entire mankind to re write the humanitarian values.

There were people on the other side of the world too; people who dropped the bomb; People whose lives were changed although they were not charred or burnt or dead.

The journey leads Sarat and Sadhan exploring the mind maps of the dark warlords like General Leslie Groves; the mastermind behind the invasion, whose dedicated concentration to man the scientists of Manhattan Project produced the world's most dangerous weapon of mass destruction. The devastated lady Eatherly, whose husband Major Claude Eatherly had turned psychologically imbalanced as he could never forgive himself for being a part of the world that destroyed another.

There was someone who never repented, never had a second thought over the grotesque act of Hiroshima Nagasaki bombings. Till his last breath he believed whatever he did was the 'right' thing. Lt. Colonel Thomas Ferebee, the ironman, the man who dropped the bomb and shook the world.



The crew of Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the A-Bomb; Thomas Ferebee, extreme left.

And finally comes the revolutionary 'spy'. A spy whose scientific prowess brought the Atom Bomb to life, whose unselfish espionage was a moral revenge to the enslavement, the scientists of the Manhattan Project faced in the hands of capitalist American policy. Klaus Fuchs, another German, who dedicated his life to atomic research but never forgot his responsibility towards the 'greater good'. The legendary scientist gave away the priceless formula for Atom Bomb to Russia, so that the world could share a dangerous weapon which was built by America but the men who built it were mostly un-American



General Leslie Groves

worshippers of Science who had been enslaved by the state.

In their entourage of history, Sarat and Sadhan find devastating truths, which would change their lives for once and for all....

The Questions: $E=mc^2$ unfolds a dark tale of life and death, surviving and suffering of human lives at the hands of the shrewd statesmen who shape the destiny of millions. Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Does Sarat get all his answers? Or does he escapes to a much comfortable life where the unpleasant questions have long been forgotten? $E=mc^2$ has the answers. Watch it.

The DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The sudden demise of the great Indian playwright and Theatre Personality, Badal Sirkar, created a deep void in our minds. So, recreating one of his timeless creations, **TRINGSHO SATABDI** as $E=mc^2$ is a humble but honest effort to pay our whole hearted respects to this great man. Not only did we decide to work with **TRINGSHO SATABDI** just because it is an extraordinary Badal Sirkar play, the message **TRINGSHO SATABDI** conveys is a stark

realistic truth that is so relevant and appropriate in today's world. The nuclear disarmament is a severe issue now, and given the consequences the world had to face due to mishandling of nuclear



Klaus Fuchs

power, be it Hiroshima or Nagasaki or Bikini Atolls or Chernobyl or Fukushima, an effort to put a bridle on it seems all the more relevant and significant.

Working with the text was not an easy task at first. The morbid chapters of history which changed the course of the world, destroyed a part of it and crippled few generations cannot be easy to be understood and recreated. Badalda's text was the guiding light in those hours of confusion. We have assimilated a few more things to the original text, without altering the mainframe of the former script. The task that we

undertook was exhausting. Within a very short span of time we tried to make this production ready for stage. Yes, we faltered at times, the deadline sometimes seemed unattainable, but never lost hope; may be the urge to do something that is so relevant an issue in the society now, encouraged us to march forward. We hope $E=mc^2$ makes us think. Think for us, our future and the future of this world.

The play might not be tagged as 'good', but we want it to make it 'apt' for time. We intentionally avoid the 'beautification' on stage in this regard. We have never provided the characters with adequate detailing in costume, make up and properties, as per the history shows, but unlike creating a 'Classic' one our endeavor is always lurks behind of making it a documentation of Time, Space, Reality and the Aftermath which one may not like but cannot ignore.

After all, Blank Verse always longs for a better World to live in, where our Children take jolly breath of Oxygen in a warless & fearless World. And we should at least care for that, at least we should think of the Children. We cannot let them get charred or waiting in debris for 'radio-active' end of Civilization. So, in this context, if the play, $E=mc^2$ emerges as a vehement propaganda against War, Fear & Nuclear Test all over the World we will consider ourselves human enough to stand before a mirror.

Bests.

