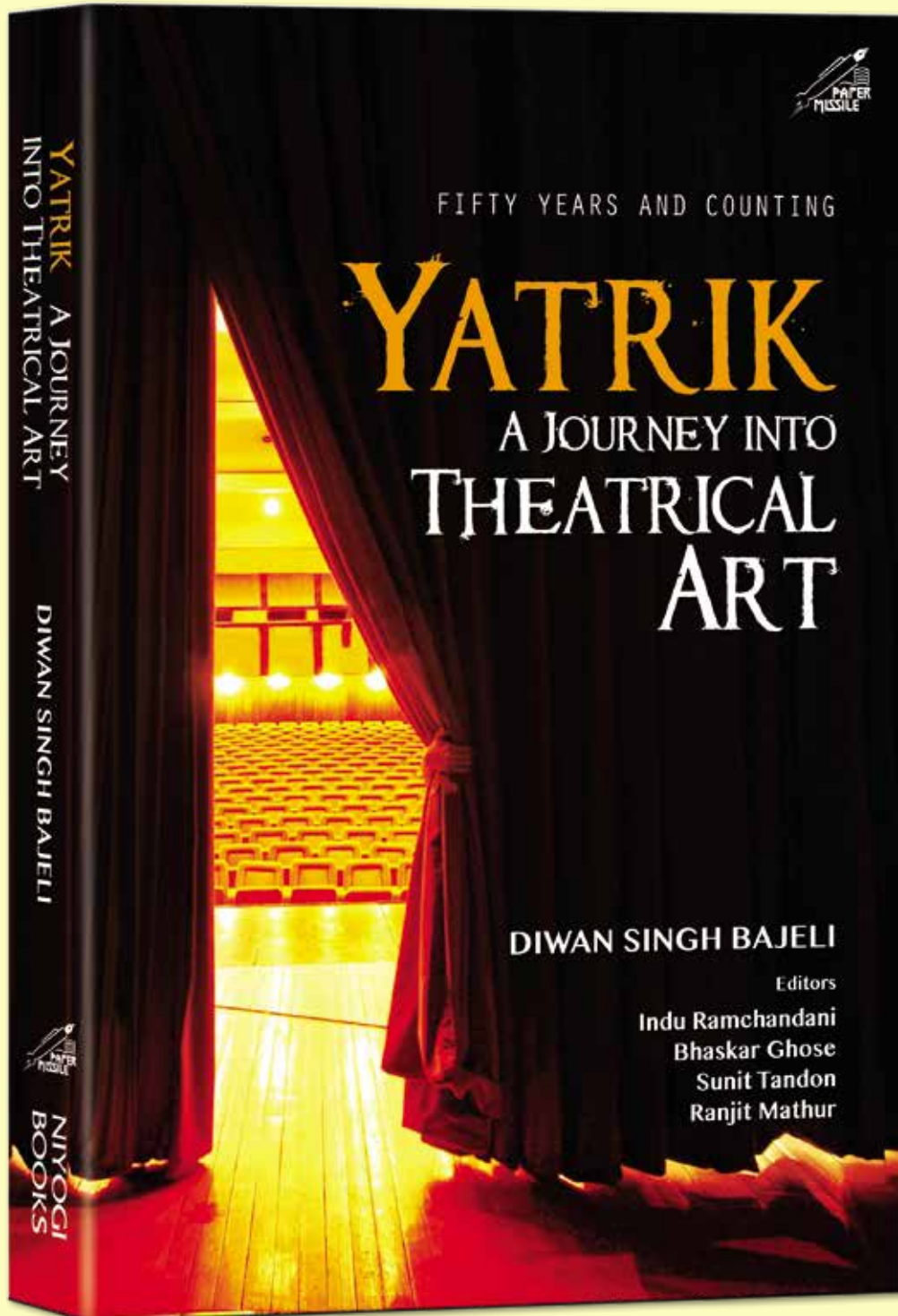


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# YATRIK

## A JOURNEY INTO THEATRICAL ART

by  
**Diwan Singh Bajeli**

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A group of travellers, *yatris* with a passion for theatre, registered themselves as Yatrik in 1964 as a bilingual repertory company. The objective was to project the arts as a dynamic living force by providing regular sustained performances of theatre and other arts.

Having staged almost 300 plays both in India and abroad, held dramatic readings, and conducted several theatre workshops, Yatrik has established its unique presence in the history of theatre as one of the longest-existing theatre groups. Hundreds of performers have walked the stage under the Yatrik banner, and shall continue to do so. This is the story of the journey in the words of the *yatris*.

*So that is what theatre is about—success and disappointment, frustration and renewed hope. What seems impossible, slowly but surely shows rays of light, human strengths and frailties, enduring warm friendships. —Joy Michael*

*I would go on foot from Bengali Market to Pragati Maidan, the venue of rehearsal and staging because those were the days of hardship for theatre artistes. But it did not dampen our spirit and we were determined to do nothing but theatre.—Mohan Maharishi*



**Diwan Singh Bajeli** has been writing on theatre for four decades. His reviews and his interviews of eminent theatre and film personalities have appeared in almost all leading national newspapers.

He regularly reviews dramas for *The Hindu*. A trade union and cultural activist, Bajeli has had a long association with Parvatiya Kala Kendra, and is presently its vice president.

He has written short stories in both Hindi and English, as well as a few one-act plays. One of his books *The Theatre of Bhanu Bharti: A New Perspective* published by Niyogi Books has been widely acclaimed by the press and discerning theatre lovers. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, awarded him a Senior Fellowship in the field of theatre in 2007.

