

## Not so Street Theatre: Politics in Theatre of Roots

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**Abstract :** In India, the journey of street theatre was started with Indian peoples Theatre Association (IPTA) as a tool for anti-establishment that was categorized as by the people and for the people. It has expressed common people's feelings, problems, day to day life. It has brought a social change that is downtrodden. By its nature, it is based on communist ideology. Street theatre is a theatre of protest. In India, many folk theatres translate directly 'Street Theatre', those are Veedhi Natakam in Andhra Pradesh and Therukoothu in Tamil Nadu. But they do not convey to common definition of street theatre. There are different folk theatres of different regions in India. All folk theatres have individual characteristic, criteria, taste and flavor that can render distinctive each others. In festivals or special occasions, whole communities come together to enjoy collectively and express their feelings. The Veedhi Natakam means 'street theatre'. Theru koothu is a traditional street theatre in the northern districts of Tamilnadu. Folk theatre has potential to deliver strong messages. It has a socially significant role. At Veedhi Natakam, Vidhushaka takes part for social criticism. Gambhira is also a socio-political folk drama presentation in West Bengal.

**Keywords :** folk theatre, Gambhira, politics, street theatre

**Conference Title :** ICCTLA 2015 : International Conference on Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts

**Conference Location :** Montreal, Canada

**Conference Dates :** May 11-12, 2015