

Centre for Contemporary Studies

Invites you to a talk on:

Neuroscience and Theatre

Speaker:

Debesh Chattopadhyay

Director, Theatre group Sansriti, Kolkata

Winner of Best Playwright award, West Bengal Natya Academy, 2008

Monday, 1st June '09, Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: CCS Seminar Hall, IISc, Bangalore 12

Tea/Coffee will be served at 3:30 pm

□ *The interdisciplinary study between Neuroscience and arts has opened up opportunities to consider the effects of creativity on particular areas of human brain. In the near future Neuroscience findings and methods will undoubtedly play an increasingly prominent role in theatre. Michael Gazzaniga said, "How the brain enables the mind is the question to be answered in the twenty-first century" (The Mind's Past, 2000). Described as perhaps the most important finding of the last decade in neuroscience (Ramachandran, 2000), the discovery of mirror neurons has paved the way for understanding such diverse phenomena as the evolution of language (Rizzolatti & Arbib, 1998), emotional empathy in interpersonal communication, and personal social identity and coherence (Gallese, 2003). By establishing imitation as the chief means by which we learn, mirror neurons may ultimately prove to be the simplest and most direct route to understanding and addressing social behavior. Neuroscience thus reveals through its technology images of how the mind works. And through these images is revealed the power of other visual images to move people's emotions before they are consciously aware of it, and to frame the form that thought will take. Neuroscience thus plays a most significant role in policing theory formation in theatre that rely on assumptions about how the mind works.*

□ *There is no simple way to counter resistance toward science as a foundation for thought in the humanities; or to convert scientists to visual ways of thinking; or to inspire some to leave the laboratory for the theatre hall. But research like this one makes a start.*

URL: <http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/Welcome.html>