Stop The Play
Modern Indian Theater and its Stories of the Forbidden

Professor Ashutosh Potdar

While discussing censorship of Indian plays such as Keechakavadh and Sakharam Binder, Professor Ashutosh Potdar will reflect on how controlling the expression of drama and performance gets complicated through a journey from text to performance and back. As a contemporary Indian writer and scholar himself, Ashutosh Potdar will address issues regarding the perception of a written play and its engagement with the contemporary society, the history, politics and the role of print-performance-culture, and contemporary understanding of the act of forbidding. Some of the questions addressed in the talk: who stops a play and what specifically in it, the idea or content or certain language or its stage presentation? Is the whole play banned or only some part depending on its reception in contemporary culture and society? What is the role of state and non-state agencies? What is the writer’s role in the overall culture of ‘stopping’?

Venue and Time
January 31, Thursday
4.30pm-5.50pm
Scott Hall, 214

Dr Ashutosh Potdar is an award-winning Marathi playwright and a professor of literature and Theater studies at Flame University in Pune, India. Dr Potdar has one-act and full-length plays, poems, short fiction and scholarly essays in Marathi and English. His many awards include the Maharashtra Foundation Award, Aswaghosh Award and Best Playwriting award given by Natya Parishad. He is also a founder and an editor of हाकारा | hākārā (www.hakara.in), a peer-reviewed bilingual journal of creative expression in Marathi and English.

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