what is TEST?

Theatre for Education and Social Transformation (TEST), also known as Applied Theatre, covers the study of approaches, forms and devices of theatre to be used in a range of educational settings.

In schools, it aims to make teaching and learning in the classroom an experiential, relevant, deeply felt and enjoyable process of participatory learning.

In society beyond it seeks to enable youth and adult groups to explore, grapple with, seek solutions and make performances around issues that have an impact on their lives.

why TEST?

TEST arrives at a moment in the Indian education system when:

- The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, constituted by the NCERT, recognized Drama as an important component of learning at the school level.
- While both CIDC and IB offer Theatre as a subject in high school, in 2014, CBSE also introduced Theatre as a subject at the +2 level.
- Beyond the classroom, Theatre is fast becoming a sought-after educational methodology in a range of scenarios in India. For example, in rural development, women’s groups, corporate entities and the health sector.
- While all these are positive developments, there is a critical lack of teachers and trainers across the board for the required education and training.

who is TEST for?

- Employed school teachers with an interest in using drama and the other arts as a teaching-learning methodology in their classroom.
- Drama teachers employed in schools.
- Freelance practitioners seeking to broaden their understanding and skills in theatre with a view to working in a variety of community and professional settings.
- Those seeking to develop skills for employment in the arts industry.
- Faculty in teacher education programmes, for example, the B.Ed (Bachelor in Elementary Education), DIET (District Institute of Education and Training), which have a Drama component in their syllabus.
- Those seeking employment in Theatre institutions like The National School of Drama and other culture-based institutions.

what does TEST provide?

- Practical demonstrations of how to plan drama explorations where school students may make connections between themes in the textbook, their own lives and the world beyond.
- Approaches and techniques required to plan and conduct workshops with a range of ages, for example, gender sensitisation, enhancing competencies in corporate entities and awareness of rights among marginalized groups.
- The pedagogical understanding required to transform students into active learners who think, act, reflect, solve problems and make critical decisions that impact their lives.
- Educate teachers / facilitators to use their body and imagination creatively so that teaching becomes both a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.
- Prepare drama teachers in the stages of play-making in a way that even while they learn new art forms and entertain an audience, the students’ sense of themselves and their peer relations is strengthened.
- Reading, discussion, analysis and writing assignments on issues that link theatre, education and society.

structure

Summer School in SNU residential, 3 weeks / 21 full day sessions in June
Winter School in SNU residential, 8 full day sessions in Dec – Jan.
Online sesions throughout the year. Student learning will be supported through a series of online workshops, seminars, lectures and assignments.

faculty

Front – ranking teachers and practitioners including international specialists will teach the programme. In 2019, we had experts from the UK, South Africa and India

admission

Qualifications: A Bachelor’s degree in any subject. (Prior experience in theatre is not necessary but could be an advantage).

The admission process will be held in two stages:
1/ An online application form including a statement of purpose
2/ Workshop for shortlisted candidates to evaluate their creative potential, interest and commitment to discovering alternative and participative ways of teaching and learning

SNU

Shiv Nadar University is a multi-disciplinary, research-focused university offering a full range of academic programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, technology and engineering, studies, technology and management. Taught by highly trained and research-oriented scholars, our programmes are designed to develop students with the breadth of vision, knowledge and skills required to succeed in the careers of the 21st century.

Located on a 266-acre campus in India’s National Capital Region, SNU is a private philanthropic institution established by the Shiv Nadar Foundation in 2011.