



Acharya Pralhad Keshav Atre

13/8/1898 to 13/6/1969

Atre was a very versatile personality. He was a combination of eminent educationist, playwright, critic, journalist, well-known poet, satirist, prolific writer, screenplay writer, political leader and a very powerful orator.

The owner of Balmohan Natak Mandli, Damuanna Joshi made Atre write his first play 'Sashtang Namaskar', a fine humorous comedy, produced of 10-5-1933.

Till 1950 before Balmohan was closed down, it produced Atre's 9 plays. They were 'Sashtang Namaskar -- 1933', 'Gharabaheer -- 1937', 'Bhramacha Bhopla -- 1935', 'Udyacha Sansar -- 1936', 'Lagnachi Bedi -- 1936', 'Vande Mataram -- 1937', 'Mi Ubha Aahe -- 1939', 'Jag Kay Mhanel? -- 1946' and 'Panigrahan -- 1946'.

In 1938, Atre wrote 'Paracha Kawla' for 'Natya Kala Pravartak'. He wrote 'To Mi Navech' in 1962, which was based on the notorious Kazi court case.

Atre started his own production company – Atre theatres and produced 'Moruchi Mavshi (1963)', 'Buva Tethe Baya (1964)', 'Mi Mantri Zalo (1966)', 'Dr Lagu (1967)', 'Preeti Sangam (1968)' and 'Brahmachari (1969)'. Atre simply ruled over the Marathi stage from 1933 to 1969.

One would not find another playwright ruling over the stage for such a long time. Atre threw light on social evils, through his plays, criticized them and helped in social reforms. Atre's plays will be remembered forever.

