



Balwant Pandurang
alias Anna Saheb Kirloskar

31/3/1843 to 2/11/1885

Annasaheb was born on 31/3/1843 at Gurlhossur in Karnataka. After having finished schooling he came to Pune and set up a drama Company, which soon had to be closed down. He worked as a teacher at Belgaum for sometime, worked in the police department for a while.

In 1880, he saw a Parsi dramatic opera and he was inspired to produce Kalidas's 'Abhidnyana Shakuntala' in Marathi on similar lines. He finished the translation of the first 4 acts in 1880, on the day of Dhanatrayodashi; 'Sangeet Shakuntal' was staged at Anandodbhav Theater in Pune.

The play had 183 songs. The moneylender Gulve from Panvel financed the play. Kirloskar's second

production was 'Soubhadra' and it was an instant hit too. These two plays have really become immortal on the Marathi stage and are performed even today. Annasaheb's third, play 'Ram Rajya Viyog' was performed on 20/10/1884 for the first time.

Annasaheb Kirloskar and his play 'Sangeet Shakuntal' have been milestones, as with them began the golden age of musical Marathi theater.

Annasaheb passed away on 2/11/1885

