



Vishnudas Bhave

1824 – 1901

The pioneer of the Marathi theater. He laid the foundation by writing and performing the first Marathi play 'Seeta Swayamwar', on 5th Nov' 1843 as ordained by the king of Sangli.

The King, on seeing a few Kannada plays, felt like producing some in Marathi and shouldered the responsibility to Vishnudas Bhave, who ably saw it through. After losing the royal patronage, Bhave followed this profession of producing and presenting plays in Sangli, Pune and Mumbai till 1861.

The town of Sangli is therefore considered as the Mecca of the Marathi theater. The year 1843 birth-year; and 5th November is celebrated annually as the Marathi Theater Day.

