
CREATING A PLAY FOR BABA

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Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

November 22, 1975

4:01

MANI: It is seen. Beautifully, beautifully turned out today, really. And Elizabeth was going to be Joseph and Margaret was going to be the angel.

PILGRIM 1: I was Joseph.

PILGRIM 2: You were the Joseph on the Sheppard. [crosstalk]

MANI: And would you be the Christ? Wasn't me! [crosstalk] Nothing, nothing. Just take the cross. It was a beautiful grand house—wooden floor, entrance from here, exit from there. The whole stage you see. And Baba and the audience would sit there. There really was no audience because everybody was acting, so Baba and Mehera were there. So I just had to, this beautiful cross that was cut out in cardboard, just had to carry. I said, "Norina no, no, you are the right one, Norina. How beautiful and majestic you would look just." In the end I persuaded her. But I must be in her play. I said, "Look I'll be one of the three wise men." [general laughter] I had to have a beautiful saree of somebody. And I, Katie and 3 of us were wise men. And we put tea cozies on our heads. Tea cozies! [pilgrims laughing] [inaudible]

Norina wanted an oriental scene. You know at least some touch. So, when Christ passes by with the cross on His shoulder slowly, there must be in the background a little oriental scene. So Baidul's wife from Iran was here. And his daughters were here. So, they were still here. Freshly from Iran.

PILGRIM 3: Just arrived.

MANI: They didn't know any of the languages here. No, nothing. They were straight from Iran, only spoke Irani. Baidul's wife, Soltoon, still had that maqnaeh. You know that oriental head gear that you wear in Iran? So she said, "Aah, I will be pained to do nothing." So I had to explain to them in Irani everything that she said to me in English. Which again was more time for me, consuming. And fresh flowers would be brought and all they had to do was picking them off the tray. Both of them.

[crows cawing loudly]

[inaudible]

And make flowers. Just like string flowers. After Christ has passed, they had to get up and just scatter flowers gracefully and slowly. That would be the end of the play. So I explained to them. [foreign] [crosstalk]

So, what happened at the time, the first part of the play was over, just the finale was coming. And there they were sitting on the stage with Norina [inaudible] With these beautiful fresh flowers, both of them were threading. And Christ passed by. And they were so engrossed in the flowers. [crosstalk]

MEHERA: Norina was so lovely, beautiful, they forgot about the flowers.

MANI: After Norina passed by, suddenly the daughter looked up.

[pilgrims laughing]

The daughter looked up and saw that Christ had passed. And she said [foreign], means mother, "Norina has gone by." [crosstalk] "Oh! Is that so? Norina has gone, come on!" That was the end of the play. Watching the effect, Norina said, "Oh! That galloping!"

And Baba was praising each one so much. Especially Norina for her clip. And Norina got all the best. And then Baba said, "You know Norina, what part of your play I liked best?" "Which Baba?" Baba said, "The end!"
[general laughter-pilgrims clapping]