



Bones of the Earth

A Play by Students of Sai University

Based on the short story "The Bones of the Earth" by Ursula K. Le Guin

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The Production

The students of Sai University are thrilled to announce a live theatrical adaptation of Ursula K. Le Guin's short story "The Bones of the Earth", from her 2001 collection 'Tales from Earthsea.'

Our adaptation aims to revive this iconic saga through a combination of theatre, music, and dance, while emphasizing the significance of human connection with nature in living sustainably, without harming the planet.



Our "Bones of the Earth" is a unique play that explores themes of unity with nature and the importance of collaborative efforts to establish an ecosystem where both humans and non-humans can flourish.

Our goal is to encourage positive transformations in individuals and communities by embracing the profound insights of Le Guin. We aim to showcase a different approach to living and caring for ourselves and others, promoting a sustainable future for our planet.

Save the Date



Saturday, 01 June 2024, 5:00 pm IST

📍 Asian College of Journalism

Address: 2nd Main Rd, Tharamani, CIT
Campus, Tharamani, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
600113

Contact: 044 2254 2842

Stay tuned for ticket availability. Follow our Instagram account (@bote_live) for updates and more details.

The Team



We are a 78-member team of first and second year undergraduate students from Sai University, a liberal arts institution in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. As part of our foundational curriculum, we take a Literary and Artistic Appreciation course, in which we have been tasked with adapting Ursula K LeGuin's "The Bones of the Earth" into a stage performance.

Despite our lack of formal theatre education, we are taking on various roles and responsibilities, bringing together our diverse academic backgrounds in various fields, all with the common goal of exploring other domains and emphasizes inclusive and diverse collaboration based on an ethics of care.



The Team



Actors: Abhishek Vijay, Anneswa Choudhury, Yashika V, Shravanthi Balasubramanian, A Ganesh Aadithya, Tanmayee Suresh and Kommineni Manvitha

Directors: Isha Ashvita, Sri Tanya G, Aadhithya Raj, Amit Rajan, Rishikesh Pandey, Dheeraj Kumar Ambedkar, Janaki Alagappan and Shagun Shukla

Assistant Directors: Kabilan R, Anuj Kumar, B.V Sai Shalini and Goutham R

Producers: Sricharan Srivatsa, M Tanishta Varman, Priyanka A, NM Madhumita, Anish Sriram, Yashika V, Sanjit Davuluri, Gunvant Rao P, Shreya Parthiban and Shruti Ashok



Writers: Anneswa Choudhury, Anya Rajyalakshmi Rajha, Dhruva Iyer, Keerthana R, Mehan M, Nikitha K.R, Nivedhitha S and Shravanthi Balasubramanian

Researchers and Editors: Gayanthika Shankar, Nandita N, Varshaa Ramasrinivasan, Vidhyakshaya Kannan and Laya Sivakumar

Purpose

This impactful play subtly raises awareness and inspires change regarding urgent environmental issues while telling a simple tale of teacher and student. Through art, we shed a different kind of light on climate change and environmental degradation, emphasising our deep connection to the earth.

Our goal is to foster a community of change-makers. Through this event and beyond, we hope to support dialogue among college students, environmental NGOs, and green companies, exploring collaboration for positive impact.

We have immersed ourselves in the theatre-making process for two months, with the aim to demonstrate the power of creativity, to raise awareness and catalyze action through storytelling.

Ursula Le Guin's "Bones of the Earth," a compelling tale of intergenerational learning, love, and care for our fellow creatures and the earth, provides the perfect platform for our journey. We hope to do justice to this beautiful and thought-provoking tale in our adaptation.

Our Adaptation

An adaptation of the short story "The Bones of the Earth" by Ursula K Le Guin from the collection "Tales from Earthsea" the play features Dulse, an old, reclusive wizard with a mysterious past, who lives in seclusion on Gont mountain in the world of Earthsea.



One day, Dulse is approached by a young boy named Silence, just arrived from Roke. Having just left the school of magic, Silence arrives at Dulse's door with one goal in mind - making Dulse take him on as a student.



Despite a rocky start, the two form a strong bond as the years go by. But one day, danger looms.

Can this strange pair, a begrudging teacher and his enigmatic, introverted student, together save their city and mountain, safeguarding the little piece of Earthsea that they call home?



Le Guin's Legacy



"It is above all by the imagination that we achieve perception and compassion and hope."
- Ursula K. Le Guin.

Ursula K. Le Guin, an acclaimed author, clinched eight Hugo, six Nebula, and twenty-four Locus Awards. In 2003, she secured the title of Grand Master from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Renowned for her exceptional world-building in the Earthsea Cycle and *The Left Hand of Darkness*, among other works, Le Guin shows us how writing can transcend genres. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest storytellers and thinkers of our times.

Environment & Sustainability

The play aims to promote climate and environmental awareness by depicting characters who live in harmony with the Earth. Through the power of theatre, we aim to highlight pressing environmental issues and convey a sense of urgency.

We are actively seeking out NGOs to establish longer-term sustainability initiatives involving the SaiU student community on the ground. Any surplus proceeds from the play will be directed towards these sustainability projects. Our goal is to foster dialogue about the environment, sustainability, and climate action, encouraging community involvement and inspiring projects that pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.



Directors' Note

As we bring to life "Bones of the Earth," an adaptation of the profound work by Ursula Le Guin, we delve into a narrative that transcends time and space. This play is not just a performance; it is an exploration of the human condition, our connection to the planet, and the intricate dance between progress and preservation.

In directing this piece, we endeavor to capture the essence of Le Guin's storytelling—the subtlety of her characters, the depth of their emotions, and the universality of their experiences. To make the stage a canvas, where the past and future converge, inviting the audience to reflect on their place within the continuum of history.

Our talented cast and crew have worked tirelessly to embody the spirit of the story, ensuring that every movement, every line, and every scene resonates with authenticity and purpose. We are grateful to our mentors and sponsors for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in bringing this vision to fruition.

To our audience, we present "Bones of the Earth" with the hope that it will stir your imagination and awaken a renewed sense of wonder for the world around us. Join us on this journey through Le Guin's visionary landscape, and may you leave the theatre with a heart full of questions and a mind brimming with possibilities.

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We are grateful to the estate of Ursula K. Le Guin for granting us the live performance rights for this premiere.