ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis titled **POLITICS OF GENDER IN PERFORMANCE**: A STUDY OF **GROUP THEATRE PRODUCTIONS DURING LEFT FRONT RULE IN WEST BENGAL** is the result of several years of sustained academic research on the topic under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Md. Yasin. Accomplishing this task would not have been possible without his constant support, guidance and encouragement. I am profoundly thankful to him for providing me freedom and encouragement to surge ahead in this endeavour with conviction.

I express my sincere gratitude to my companions in theatre and my students who has helped me to manage the anecdotes with sincere effort and labour, Ms. Ananya Dasgupta, a PG student of North Bengal University and a novice actor in Passionate Performers, Mr. Pratim Sengupta, young dynamic school teacher and my ex-student, Mr. Subhajit Roy, a Guest Lecturer in the Dept. of Pol. Science, Siliguri College who also remained my student, Mr. Partha Biswas, Mr. Partha Biswas, Mr. Ronit Roy, Mr. Abhirup Ghosh and Mr. Subhrendu Sinha, all of whom are my fervent companions in Passionate Performers, who has provided their time, thought, labour and creative energy and in times has given me suggestions and pertinent insights into the area of my research.

I'm indebted to the authority of Siliguri College, Siliguri for sanctioning eight weeks of study leave to me for completing my thesis. I'm thankful to my senior colleagues and my faculty colleague in the Dept. of Political Science, Siliguri College, Siliguri for being there for me in times of necessity and continuously supporting me to

achieve my goal. The non-teaching staff members of the Siliguri College have

always displayed excellent professional ethics whenever I approached them for help.

I would also acknowledge with gratitude, the hospitality provided to me during my

stay in Kolkata by veteran playwright-directors like Mrs. Usha Ganguly and Mr.

Chandan Sen. They, along with Mr. Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Mr. Debshankar

Halder, Mr. Shantilal Mukherjee, Mr. Sanjay Ganguly and Mr. Rudraprasad

Sengupta spared valuable time from their busy schedules to grant me exhaustive

interviews and share from their enormous experiences on the subject of my research.

I am also extremely grateful to the office bearers of Natya Shodh Sansthan, Kolkata;

Natya Akademi, Govt of West Bengal, Kolkata; Little Magazine Library, Kolkata;

and National Library, Kolkata for unstintingly providing me with valuable resource

materials.

Finally, I would like to express profound indebtedness to my family members - my

mother Mrs. Smriti Kanjilal, my wife Monalisa, my only son Amogh and my friends

and comrades of my theatre team, Passionate Performers for the warmth and

confidence they imbued me with during occasional periods of self-doubt. The

memory of my father, late Shyamalendu Bikash Kanjilal, has been a source of

constant inspiration during the past ten years and to him, too, I owe a debt of

gratitude.

AMITAVA KANJILAL

Ph. D Scholar,

Department of Political Science University of North Bengal.