

ENTERTAINMENT

Indian group stage play on love, betrayal

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A New Zealand Indian group showcasing India's rich theatre is rehearsing a bold play in English on love, passion and betrayal. And its cast and crew also highlight the talented array of a migrant group who see showcasing Indian theatre in English as their attempt at integration.

Prayas, a non-profit organization, will in October stage *The Terrace*, a path breaking play written by Gujarati playwright Madhu Rye.

It is an expose of emotional vicissitudes; a story of meaningful yet forbidden relationships.

The play is a story of conflicting relationships in a sophisticated city setting, travelling between Mumbai and Kolkata. When first performed in India it created cultural shock waves. While the players are Indian, it could be anywhere, an English language play with universal messages about an alleged affair, highly charged emotions and tensions between people.

Last year Prayas successfully staged a folk drama, *Charandas Chor*, in Auckland.

Prayas president and play director Amit Ohdedar says *The Terrace* is different.

"We were looking for an urban view, a very modern play. It's very strong and it has universal messages in it.

"Prayas, literally, means an attempt. Our plays are attempts at reaching out to the New Zealand community, sharing and integrating. Our medium is theatre, music, song and dance".

The range of talent involved is reflected in the cast who include a dance teacher, a medical student, a lecturer from Unitec and a student of engineering from University of Auckland.

The original Gujarati play was staged in the early 1970s in Ahmedabad, Western India. It was later adapted in Hindi and successfully staged at the famous Prithvi Theatre in Bombay.

The Terrace is to be staged on October 12, 13, 14, 2007 at Auckland Centennial Theatre.

- Fairfax Media