"Strachu Nie Ma (No Fear)" - An Analysis of the Documentary Performance

This analysis is dedicated to identifying and examining the most important elements I focused on during the two years of creating the performance "Strachu Nie Ma" (No Fear), which premiered on November 12, 2016, in Kolkata, and its Polish premiere on December 16, 2016.

In the following chapters, I outline the stages of work on "Strachu Nie Ma," such as gathering documentary materials during workshops with widows residing in the Vrindavan ashram in 2015, working on the text based on the collected materials, workshop readings and presentations of the performance outline, and rehearsals in India, which culminated in the premiere in Kolkata in 2016.

In subsequent chapters, I analyze the tools of documentary theater, the situation of widows in India against the backdrop of political tensions in the country, and describe Indian intellectuals who address the topic, combining non-fiction writing with fiction in their work.

Then, I move on to analyzing the theatrical tools used with Polish-Indian actors during rehearsals in the village of Shantiniketan. I quote conversations conducted for this work and refer to an interview with the actresses broadcasted before the online premiere of "Strachu Nie Ma" in 2024, where the actresses spoke for the first time about the process of building their roles and the theater created at the intersection of two cultures.

I analyze the performative tools used in the performance, refer to the concept of ritual entering the theater, quote excerpts from the script, and analyze the musicality of the performance, which, like the entire spectacle, connected two cultures.