

## **MADE IN INDIA: A lecture performance on international surrogacy**

On the 24th and 25th of November Global Stories presents MADE IN INDIA as a lecture performance at the University of Copenhagen; a result of a collaboration between Global Stories and the Department of Theater and Performance Studies at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies.



Infertile couples all over the world dream of having their own biological child. In India poor women offer themselves as surrogate mothers for the couple's fertilized egg. It's supply and demand. It's the global market.

Commercial surrogacy is a rapidly growing industry in India. Poor women can gain up to five years of salary in nine months. They do it to improve their lives, to gain independence and to be able to send their children to school. At the same time couples from all over the world have their dream of parenthood fulfilled. Is it a win-win situation? Global capitalism? Exploitation of the poor women of the Third World?

In 2010 stage director Ditte Maria Bjerg met the Indian sociologist and performer Amrita Pande. Amrita wrote her PhD dissertation about surrogacy in India based on field research. Amrita and Ditte decided to create a theatre performance about the invisible stories of the surrogate mothers. It became the documentary performance MADE IN INDIA - NOTES FROM A BABYFARM. The performance toured through Sweden in 2012 and was staged in several venues in Denmark in 2013.

Now MADE IN INDIA has been restaged and brought back to where it started - to an academic environment. In the form of a solo lecture performance Amrita Pande will present the stories of her Indian informants in an auditorium at the University of Copenhagen. With the aesthetic interpretation of Amrita's empirical material, MADE IN INDIA confronts its audience with the ethic dilemmas arising from the commercialization of surrogacy. MADE IN INDIA demonstrates how science and art can enrich each other in dealing with global issues.

MADE IN INDIA will only be presented twice in Denmark. It will then be available for international touring.

#### MADE IN INDIA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

**Performer** Amrita Pande / **Idea and Staging** Ditte Maria Bjerg / **Stage Design** Filippa Berglund / **Research** Amrita Pande / **Video** Miriam Nielsen / **Production Manager** Mette Hornbek Hansen

**Language:** English.

**Time:** Tuesday, 24th of November 2015 at 7 pm  
Wednesday, 25th of November 2015 at 4 pm

**Venue:** University of Copenhagen  
Karen Blixens Vej 4  
2300 København S  
Auditorium 22.0.11

**Tickets:** Order FREE tickets at: [madeinindia@globalstories.net](mailto:madeinindia@globalstories.net). There is a limited amount of tickets. First come, first served.

FUNDED BY the Committee for Performing Arts Project Funding (Denmark).

IN COLLABORATION WITH the Department of Theater and Performance Studies at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies of the University of Copenhagen.

#### PAST REVIEWS

"An internationally significant performance that will hopefully travel around the world"

- Anne Middelboe Christensen, Dagbladet Information

"...a sharp and entertaining analysis of global capitalism and extreme economic inequality"

- Svenska Dagbladet

"Amrita Pande glows with life and commitment as the authentic centre of the performance"

- Monna Dithmer, Politiken

GLOBAL STORIES (2009) is a Danish based production company, founded by stage director Ditte Maria Bjerg. We produce research based performing arts and dig into the socio-political realities of the globalised world. Our megalomaniac desire in all our projects is to share new territories with our audiences, touch their hearts and strengthen their orientation as global citizens. Global Stories latest performance is „Ni hao Nuuk“ (2015).

## BEHIND MADE IN INDIA

The performance is based on the research material of Amrita Pandes PhD thesis from Anand where she independently conducted research over three years, as well as on material produced by the artistic team of Global Stories throughout two travels to the surrogacy clinic in Anand. You can follow the whole process from the idea to the performance on the following blog: <http://madeinindiaglobalstories.wordpress.com/>.

**Ditte Maria Bjerg** has worked as a stage director for almost 20 years. Ditte works in her own company, Global Stories, with research-based docu-fiction, using performative and interactional strategies. Her theater projects deal primarily with economical, sociological and political issues. Among her latest productions are „Paradise - a Pinoy Café“ and „Ni hao Nuuk“. Since January 2014 Ditte is additionally the chairwoman of the Stageart Committee of the Danish Art Council.

**Amrita Pande** holds a PhD in sociology. Her interests as a researcher and educator are: gender, globalisation and social groupings. Amrita currently teaches at the University of Cape Town and published the book „Womb Work: Commercial Surrogacy in India“ at Columbia University Press in 2014.

**Filippa Berglund** is an architect educated at the The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture in Copenhagen. Filippa has been working with architecture and stage design projects as a freelancer since 2006. For many years she has been working together closely with Global Stories and Ditte Maria Bjerg on a variety of productions.

## PRESS CONTACT

For press pictures, information about artists and facts about surrogate mothers; [www.-globalstories.net](http://www.-globalstories.net) or contact [info@globalstories.net](mailto:info@globalstories.net).