

GENTRAIN SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENT

INDIAN INK

By Tom Stoppard

Saturday, January 17, 2015

American Conservatory Theater

San Francisco, California



The Gentrain Society's next theater trip will be to San Francisco on January 17, 2015, to see A. C. T.'s production of Tom Stoppard's *Indian Ink*. The play started its life in 1991 as a radio drama. It was adapted for the stage and opened in 1995. Its American premiere was at the A.C.T. in San Francisco in 1999, with Carey Perloff directing, so she will be reprising that opening in January.

The play, like Stoppard's later *Arcadia*, is set in two time periods that share space on the stage: 1930, in India, where British poet Flora Crewe has gone for her health, and the 1980s, when an American academic who is writing a book on Crewe, and the son of a painter who did several portraits of Flora in India, descend on the English home of Eleanor Swan, Flora's sister. Both are seeking, for different reasons, information about Flora's time in India and what happened there, where she died of tuberculosis shortly after the events of the play. The play's title refers to the classical Indian theory of the nine *rasas*, which are tones uniting all forms of art. Each *rasa* is associated with a color: *Shringara* is an inky blue-black, the color of erotic love and associated with Krishna, whose skin is always painted that color. The title raises one of the questions pursued by both of the seekers who come to Mrs. Swan (and by the audience as well): did Flora have an affair with Nirad Das, the artist who painted her, or not? In usual Stoppard manner, the play is full of interesting discussion about India and England, Indian and Western theories of art, love, wit, and brilliant stagecraft.

Grant Voth, former Gentrain Coordinator, will give an introductory class on the play on Friday afternoon, January 16, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Lecture Forum 101, the purpose of which is to enhance your understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the play.

The cost is \$65.00 per person which includes bus transportation, play tickets, and the class given by Grant Voth. **Please make your check payable to the "MPC Gentrain Society"** and mail to Wayne Cruzan, 75 Via Chualar, Monterey, CA 93940. **Please put your telephone number on your check.** Questions? Call Wayne at 375-2371.

The bus will leave MPC Parking Lot B on Fishnet Road at 9:00 a.m. for arrival in San Francisco around 11:30 a.m. The play begins at 2:00 p.m. You will be on your own for shopping, sightseeing and lunch prior to the play. The bus will return to Monterey around 7:00 p.m.,