



Contribution of Rafi Peer in the Field Of Puppet Art

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Abstract: Puppetry is the subject to decline from Pakistan by the lack of interest of the people in it. Rafi Peer has strived to explore the significance and the importance of the puppetry as art form and some extent for the sake of education in Pakistan. The team of puppet art also counts the positive aspects of the puppetry that despite all the odds the art of puppetry is still alive and working in our society. The title of the promotion of this art goes to Rafi Peer Theater and cultural body who run puppet shows on proper platform. Among the all Rafi Peer effort against the puppet art is really countable. The paper contributes towards creating awareness for this art and entertainment through Rafi Peer Theater workshop.

Keywords: Puppetry is the form of performing art in Pakistan.

During the evolution of puppet art in Pakistan the contribution of Rafi Peerzadah cannot be ignored. He travelled to England to pursue his dream to get professional degree of law in 1900. Where he had a chance to witness road side puppet performances and got inspiration to introduce this performing art in Pakistan. He gave up his dream profession of law and started learning the art of puppetry. He spent most of his time in England along with his family where his son Faiaan Peerzadah used to accompany him to watch theater performances. (Tribute 2017)

Rafi Peerzadah was associated with Pakistan showbiz so he proposed this idea of having puppet performances in Pakistan to the fellow artists. He himself established Rafi Peer Theater Workshop; which is also called the Museum of Puppetry in Pakistan. This theater is the root of Rafi Peerzadah's love for performing art which is carried on by his five sons. The foundation of the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop was laid by five brothers, who are responsible to run the workshop, after the death of their father Rafi Pererzadah in 1974.(Ali 2005) Rafi Peer's sons established their own group of puppeteers and made their individual puppets.

The specific intent of this family is to enliven and raise the rural culture among the audience in Pakistan through the medium of puppetry. More than seventy percent of our population lives in the villages and they enjoy every small occasion. The main idea of puppetry is to emphasize the living styles of peasant, such as their festivals, clothing style, season of rain, season

of harvest, wedding, Eid and so on. The focus of the theater is to educate the rural children through the medium of puppetry. The puppeteers are very dedicated and responsible towards their work; they are promoting their local culture and folk art.

Rafi Peer Theater Workshop's desire is to promote the art of children and to maintain the traditional artistic production. The performing art is the best way to entertain and communicate the norms and values of the society to the children. Puppet art is the cheapest art in terms of its making and handling puppets. Traditional puppet art is also identified as folk art which is the specific art form of some specific area (Lahore, Multan, etc.) This performance of folk art is important in the southern district of Pakistan such as Multan and Bahawalpur, and is being practiced by the gypsy tribes. The Rafi Peer group took the initiative to introduce folk puppet art, folk dance, film festival in Pakistan. This group travelled far in the northern areas to interpret their art form and promote folk art during puppetry.

Through the promotion of puppet art, puppeteers changed their way of presentation. They set their shows in a new way by adding loud musical sounds of live singers and continuity of background sound with the variation of the sound expressions. Sometimes the pitch of the sound is low, while sometimes it is very high.

It creates suspense in the mind of the audience specially children, with the addition of multiple light effects. Contemporary new innovations are very helpful for Rafi Peer Theater Workshop group. By putting efforts to work on these patterns they present traditional heritage stories in a new way. Rafi Peer Theater puppeteers move from village to village and city to city to promote their performing art. They set up their small temporary stage on which they manipulate their puppets. Sometimes puppeteers manipulated puppets from the above using strings, or sometimes from the below by handling Rod Puppet, by standing up their hands in the air. Their shows were especially for the children.

They became even more passionate to promote their puppet art among the people. They took care of each and every detail of the puppet carefully and presented it correctly. Rafi Peer



Theater performed in Karachi in the late 1970s started showing on a stagecoach. (Sultan, 2016) A new course to define up a proper staged show in the country initiate at Alhamra Art Council, the first theater of Pakistan. At that time the shows were planned to pop out regularly or weekly. Puppetry had become notable by the effort of the Rafi Peer group, as they also confront the crises of new records, resources, lack of delegations or sponsors and the proper theater place to exercise and study their puppets as well.

They were suffering from the expense because they had not earned enough to pay off and to make new performing stages or costumes for the puppets or to make permanent puppets, that is why the plays were on a temporary basis. Rafi Peer was the only group who was responsible to run the show in a proper manner with modern tales. It was the time when the puppet shows were reaching out to masses easily as the television was also broadcasting puppet shows. In other words television played a vital role to enhance the fame of puppetry through the shows like Uncle Sargam, Massi Museebty, Babloo and Naazi.

Farooq Qaiser was the prominent character who took puppetry to its highest level. First, he introduced puppetry by the show named "Akkar Baker" with the help of Salima Hashmi, he took up another show "Kaliyaan" which was immensely popular among the kids. After attaining continues popularity through these shows, Farooq Qaiser started theater shows for Governmental and private sector organizations. Due to the continue series of popular shows he became a well-known figure among the audience.

Wherever he was invited, audience demanded him to perform in the show and to manipulate his puppets and he did the same. (Ali 2005) It was the time when everyone wanted to attend the puppet show and the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop was the only organization that was responsible for staging the shows with the new innovative stories to build up the contemporary art field.

Puppet Art started in the early nineties, at that time people of Pakistan were much aware of the term puppetry and they used to watch the show live as well as on the Television screen. In the beginning Rafi Peer Group had no permanent set up for puppet shows and for theater activity. However, in 1982 they managed to set up a show in their house in Karachi; this set up gave them an opportunity to start puppetry in new terms and to

Rafi Peer Museum covers the areas of about 5 to 6 acres land (fig 1).

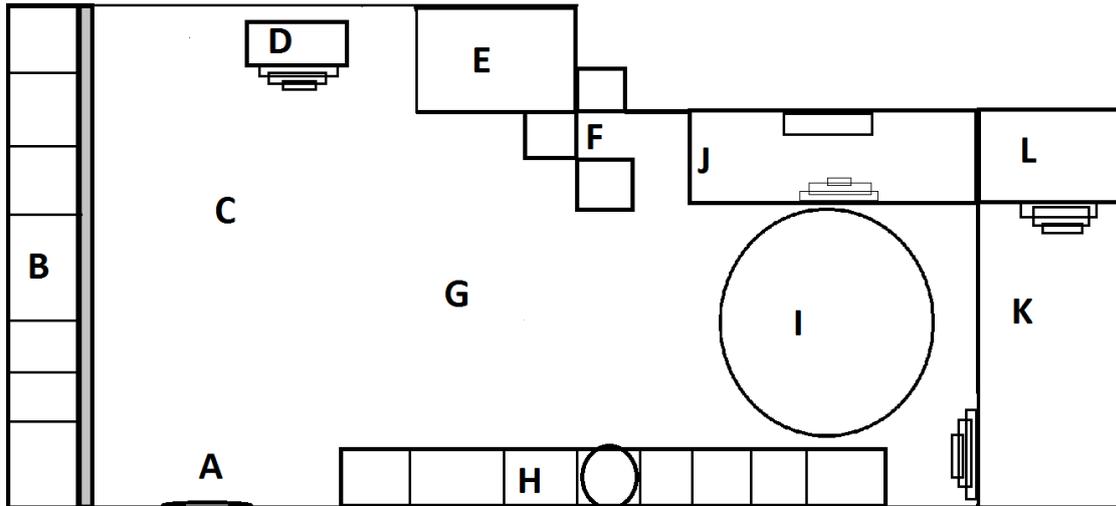
produce new stories. (Sultan, 2016) The demand the puppetry was increasing day by day with growing interest of children in it. Rafi Peer planned to create a separate place for puppets in our country.

In the beginning it was called the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop (RPTW) and later on it was called the Museum of puppetry. It is constructed in Lahore on a private basis and works as a non-government organization. It is located on Raiwind Road, housing society in a very calm and separate area. In the family of Peer Zaadah, Faizaan Peerzadah was the only one who had a great interest in puppets and loved to make puppets himself. He was the one who made many puppets for this organization and gave many innovated new ideas. Faizaan Peerzadah always wanted to become puppeteer but in his childhood there was no such platform available. Because of this reason he was really disappointed.

In Pakistan he was the only one who executed the scripts, which was written by his father for him. He was a God gifted painter but he preferred to play in the performing arts specially Puppet art. He took the initiative to work in this field; whenever the history of Pakistani theater is discussed his name is always mentioned on the top. In his childhood, he was attending his very first puppet show in the Famed garden Bagh-e-Jinnah Lahore. He decided to design his own puppets for himself and he started working on it. He used to visit many states like China, Denmark and many more countries to integrate his ideas of "Learning through Puppet Art."

The most important aspect of Faizaan Peerzadah is to display the rural tradition of Pakistan their festivals, culture, trends in an artistic way at the national and international stage. There are a number of proletarians who are running this museum along with the puppeteers. Some of the trained puppeteers are associated with them from ten to fifteen years, now their children are also engaged in this field. The Rafi Peer Museum enjoys prominence as it is the only museum of Pakistan, where there is a proper display of different kinds of puppets including local, national and international puppets are included.

These puppets are very useful for the students of performing art. The museum attracts large number of students not only from local city, but also from outside the Lahore. The schools also arrange trips and the students of different universities come to see the history of puppet art in Pakistan to visit the Museum of Puppetry.



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| A. Entrance to the Rafi Peer Theater. | G. Garden Area. |
| B. Art and Craft shops. | H. Food stalls. |
| C. Open Air Theater. | I. Sitting Area. |
| D. Stage for Puppet and other performances. | J. Amphitheater. |
| E. Open space for Suponcers stalls. | K. Space before Museum. |
| F. Meeting Room & Guest room. | L. Puppetry Museum. |

Figure 1. Plan of Rafi Peer Museum of Puppetry, Lahore, Pakistan.

Source: Drawing by author.

In the following plan the alphabet ‘A’ shows the entrance gate to the museum, ‘B’ shows the handicrafts shops. Famous handicrafts from all over the Pakistan are displayed here, including the folk traditional clothes, bed sheets, rugs, household utensils, jewelry, purses, shoes, etc. ‘C’ is the open air theater the open theater is a place with a stage for performances. ‘D’ is the stage of the theater. ‘E’ indicates the small space for the food stalls and sponsors stalls. ‘F’ is the Guest and meeting Rooms for the puppeteers who come from other cities for the performances every year. On the other side, ‘G’ is the garden area, ‘H’ is the Food shops, ‘I’ is the sitting area for visitors, ‘J’ is the other small theater like an amphitheater, ‘K’ space before Museum of Puppetry and ‘L’ lays the Museum of Puppetry.

Every evening Rafi Peer Theater plays a small stage puppet play, which is free of cost for the audience who comes for evening brunch or dinner. The museum has a façade with two big puppet statues welcoming the audience. The museum contains library in which the documentation, posters and books related to the history of puppetry are available for the research students, and scholars. The museum has three stories construction. There are approximately 4000 puppets displayed with proper backlight and stage setting. The basement of the museum serves as a studio of the museum, in which recording of the

performances is made. Many foreigner performers and puppeteers come to introduce their talent here.

The Museum of Puppetry also enhances the interest of foreign visitors for appreciation of the culture of our country. On every weekend there are 150 -200 visitors, many families come in the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop visit in the Museum of Puppetry and enjoy as the museum is free of cost, There is also an open theater for 100-150 people. They run up their theater show twice in a day and sometimes three times in a day, while the visitors are more. The puppet show is also free of cost. The environment of the theater is quite enjoyable. Loud music is played for the motivation and development of interest in addition to the sharp colors. After the puppet show the families sit outside the theater area and enjoy the refreshment. A cafeteria is also established within the premises.

There are rows of handicraft shops in the museum premises in which different traditional items are displayed for like carpets, rugs, table mats, door mats, bed sheets, shawls and fabric from Naran and Sawat .The utensils like cups, plates, dishes, glasses and vases are made in Lahore with truck art motives painted on them. These motives include animal figures and abstract art along with poetry (plate 38). The frames with truck art motifs made in Lahore’s southern village portray the folk tradition of our country. The traditional formal and



informal bags and purses, “chabies,” air manual fans” and “pataries” are the traditional items from Sahiwal and Faisalabad.

Blue pottery from Multan fabrics from Sawat and Murre hills, and jewelry from Kilaash also displayed there for the visitors. The museum contains a guest room, for the guests-from the other countries. Rafi Peer Theatre has also arranged workshops for the art students in their workshop regarding the puppet making and puppet manipulation. They also perform in school and college functions. Rafi Peer Theatre has now built their own team of performers; which is considered the best team of puppeteers in Pakistan. Rafi Peer took a long time to build this company for the revival of the puppet art in Pakistan. Now there are hundreds of families belonging to this art group.

They perform in this theater, their children, and wife is also involved in it. While talking to the puppeteer of the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop, Sadiq Sultan the caretaker of Museum of Puppetry told that he is there since twenty six years. He belongs to Lahore and lives there in the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop. He is the oldest Puppeteer as compared to any other. After the big achievement of having a separate theater for the nation Rafi peer also popularize the puppet art on television with the collaboration of USAID. The first show which was on aired was Sesame Street which gained much appreciation. After Sesame Street, other puppet show which became popular on television was Kaliyaan.

The role of the main character Uncle Sargam was played by Farooq Qaiser. In this show Uncle Sargam was accompanied by a female character Massi Musebtay, and they highlighted the social and economic issues with the touch of comedy. In a short time this show became familiar among the people of Pakistan and in other countries as well.

In 1971 the live transmission of Farooq Qaiser show was on aired in more than forty countries. UNESCO employed him and sends him to India to learn many new educational techniques through puppetry. (Taslim 2008) Farooq Qaiser is the living legend known as a puppeteer. The group of Rafi Peer organizes the national and international festivals in Lahore at Alhamra Art Council, and these festivals are named as World Performing Art Festival. These festivals are being arranged every year since 1992. Now the puppet theater involves the vast variety of world performing arts, including many new shows in it. Rafi Peer Theatre has also introduced folk music nights, film festivals, traditional dance nights, Sufi festivals.

It is the massive task for this organization to arrange a worldwide festival, which was a big challenge for them. It was not an easy to plan such a big idea at this time, for all these suggestions they have to arrange the sponsors and full media response to run this event. Before this event not a single show at this level was arranged in the country. There was no source of funding present, but later it was generated to make this show successful. Despite all these planning and ideas the organizers were very confident about what they were going to make. The Rafi Peer enthusiastically wanted to see the response of the public by holding the festival.

The first step is to select the team, which take part in the festivals. The best performers and the best puppeteers are selected along with the group of organizers. There is an open call for the students who want to work for the experience in this festival voluntarily. An international campaign was held in 1991 under Rafi Peer Theater Group, with the image of the Pakistani folk puppets on the letterhead and a poster inviting people to the festival in Pakistan. This campaign drew a response beyond expectations. (Ali 2005) Rafi Peer Theater Workshop works on different varieties of puppets and manipulates them in various ways. They have taken steps for the betterment in the stories.

They boost the ethnic and traditional trend by engaging young talent in the cultural activities of the state. Rafi Peer is the only team which is contemporarily working for the revival of the puppet art. In 1992 the next step is to transfer the letters to the different states. Three thousand letters were sent to the puppet group of the world and waited for their response. The result was totally unexpected, 800 letters were responded. The puppet group of many countries wanted to perform in the Pakistan, because this was the first time when Pakistan invited foreigners to perform in their country. The major problem was how to select a required puppet group for the performances every group of puppeteer wanted to attend and performed at the festival in Pakistan.

The reaction of the public was really overwhelming because it was the first social function when an open air festival was designed. Pakistan was considered as the backward country by foreigners. There was invariably a doubt in their minds about the lifestyle of Pakistan. Foreigners were shy to visit Pakistan because they were really conscious about their health, hygienic food, living areas, or the safety matters. In the nineties the consciousness of people became better. The foreigners were feeling more comfortable to come to Pakistan for their actual aim. The Governmental



help was also required in the case of foreigners. It makes arrangements for the people coming from the outside world and takes care of them. That is why hundreds of people arrive to see the puppet show and sit easily.

The experience of this worldwide festival was really appreciated. The first international festival was held in 1992 the full media coverage along with the invitation cards and brochures were printed in the advertisement. The response of the public was instant the venue where the festival held was Alhamra Culture Complex, which is the only huge place for all the festivals.

In the same complex, three hundred and one hundred seats are housed and there is no empty space left at the day of the festival. Everyone wanted to attend the festival. The numbers of participants were huge, so it was difficult to staged indoor program. To manage extra space the stage and tent were placed to develop the place for the performance. Only the lawns of Alhamra Culture Complex was left for the people to be moved easily and having refreshments.

At the time of the festival the Alhamra Cultural Complex is decorated with banners, buntings, flags, ribbons and huge sized puppets to welcome the audience (plates 43 and 44). This festival has become the biggest festival in the history of Pakistan in which the puppet groups from 800 countries are involved. The puppets groups which participated belong to these countries; Myanmar, Malaysia, Norway, Netherland, New Zealand, Portugal, Pakistan, Poland, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Scotland, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, South Africa, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Thailand, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, Algeria, Kenya, China, Serbia, Morocco, Lebanon, Senegal, Latvia, Cuba, Somalia, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Tunisia.

Most of the puppeteers gift their puppets to the Rafi Peer Museum. Similarly many of the puppets are borrowed from other countries, by Rafi Peer Group. The displayed puppets are from China, Japan, Indonesia, Argentina, Nepal, Poland, Portugal, Tajikistan, Italy, France, USA, Seattle Theater, Central Bonn Germany, Netherland, Egypt, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Iran, Pakistan and India. These puppets are different from each other with reference to their making, costumes, makeup, performance and appearance. Every puppet has its own quality, Chinese puppets are short with a proportionate face structure in addition to this they wear long ornamented clothes, made up

of shining silk material adorn with different beads and buttons.

The making of puppets is either with wood or plaster of Paris. The fine quality of puppet is shown from their faces. After discussing about the puppets it is necessary to explain the puppet festivals in which Folk Puppet Festival and World Puppetry Day is important to highlight. The other national groups which are participated in the International Puppet Festival are Alhamra Puppet Theater Group, Pakistan National Puppet Theater Group, Folk Puppets Pakistan, Rafi Peer Theater Workshop, Folk Puppets Multan, NCA Puppets, Asian Puppets, and Lahore Arts Council.(Ali 2005)

This was the most prestigious cultural festival in Lahore from the private sector in the history of Pakistan. In this International Folk Puppet Festival night, musical group is added to amuse the audience. It also includes food stalls in order to make the atmosphere of the festival more comfortable for the people. A positive change in the country comes out after this great effort, the audience of Pakistan free to attend the outdoor activities of Rafi Peer Theater Workshop. In general, the audience of Pakistan enjoyed the festival for an entire day. Children are the major target group for such a festival to the range of puppets and plays.

The puppet plays are based on the current issues or the common problem faced by people. There is no restriction for the subject or themes. Puppet plays can convey any message that is straightforward or alarming to the people. Most of the puppet shows are based on old folk stories which are presented in innovative ways. The festivals of Rafi Peer Theater Workshop are always successful with the help of sponsors, delegations and the eminent celebrities that grace the occasion with their presence. Many media persons and showbiz actors are involved in the event to enhance the value of outdoor activity and to intermingle with the audience just to share their experience.

This feeling of goodwill, warmth and hospitality boost up the people's level of enjoyment and encourage them to visit the next time. This festival is a good opportunity for the foreigners. Now the foreigners are free to come in Pakistan to share their experiences of art in Pakistan. These festivals are also a meeting place for the actors, puppeteers as well as artists. After the festivals the puppeteer groups went well with great ideas and also gave us many new ideas. This puppet festival is an open platform which allows everyone to become a part of the largest puppet festival in the world. After this great International Puppet Festival, the puppet festivals have been arranged to



take place in every second year to mark the reminiscence of the first festival.

After the five continuous puppet festivals started from 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, these folk puppet festivals are the special festivals which are especially dedicated to puppetry. The success of these puppet festivals, Rafi Peer Theater Workshop festival is now considered as the World Performing Art festivals of puppetry. Achievement of these shows becomes the Pakistan a member of UNIMA International (The Pakistan National Center of, The Union International de la Marionette) and the total numbers of groups are 2500. Total numbers of delegations involved in these festivals are approximately 12600 while the total numbers of performances are 7850. The foreigners, volunteers, media persons, photographers are around 1600.

The temporary venue for the exhibition of puppets is held in Alhamra Cultural Complex. At the time of the festivals when there are hundreds of visitors come to see the festivals and also enjoy the puppets exhibition as well, this custom is carried on every puppet festival, started from the first festival and it would happen only at the time of festivals. Rafi Peer Theater Workshop organized the puppet exhibition which is the part of the first International Puppet Festival as well. After the gradual display, it was necessary to have a permanent display for the puppets. Therefore Rafi Peer construct a separate place to display all the puppets, called a Museum of Puppets. In 1997 Norwegian Embassy approved the ideas of the proper display for puppetry, and agreed to build the puppet museum.

Museum of puppetry contains a vast collection of puppet, in which local and international puppets are displayed. Along with the publications of the festivals, posters, pamphlets and the other related material of puppets festival. The Rafi Peer Theater Workshop extended their boundaries and they used to indulge in different art activities, while trying to revive the old dying and fading art of Lahore, Pakistan. Rafi Peer Theater arranges National Folk Puppet Festival every year, on 31st March which is the Worlds Puppet Day.

In the remembrance of Faizaan Peerzadah, the Folk Puppet Festival celebrated in Peeru's Café. Many puppeteers from different parts of the country are participating in which Bahawalpur, Multan, Islamabad, Cholistan, and South Asian puppeteers are at the top of the list as they come to perform in this folk festival. Amongst which Asghar Bahawalpuri Group of puppeteer is very famous.

The Rafi Peer folk festival is the nucleus of Lahore heritage. Their main purpose is to

conserve the old and ignored heritage of the country with the help of these types of festival. They are very important to recall our cultural importance and to tribute the members associated to this field and cultural activity. The National Folk Puppet Festival is the eleventh annual festival and the eleventh installment of Faizaan Peerzadah to save the beautiful heritage. Rafi Peer arranged three to four day festival in which other forms of art is also included like puppet, dance, film, music and theater.

The world performing puppet festival featured artist such as Krishan Lal Bheel and his troupe, from Cholistan, the Rafi Peer Theater Puppet Group, and The PNCA's National puppet theater group of puppeteers, magicians, folk puppeteers, dancing, mascot's jugglers and much more. Folk art is basically the art of a specific region or specific group, who adopt something in a unity. It may also be considered as an act in a community like their clothes, their habits, stories, and the specific types of songs etc. Pakistan on the whole is a country that have many old traditional trends in which many stories and rhymes are made to convey others orally from generation to generation. The folk puppet group picks them out of a special community and transforms these stories into performance. It is the reason why these traditional stories remain in the mind and transfer from mother to daughter and father to son.

The credit of these festival arrangements goes to Faizaan Peerzadah who took a bold step to enhance the value of traditional art and worked hard to save this art. Along with the Folk Puppet Festival, dance is the other important art to express emotions and moods of individuality and the love of life that is also a language of art which is performed in different way. In different times, dance performances were done in 1995 for the first time in Pakistan.

Pakistan's First National Dance Festival is also arranged by Rafi Peer Theater Workshop with the collaboration of Royal Norwegian Embassy. They intended make an original appearance and effective impression of dance in Pakistan as it is necessary to bring some trained choreographers in the country to train our dancers. The acknowledgement was due to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pakistan for funding the National Dance Festival. The interest of dance initiated in Pakistan by the classical dancers Tehreema Mitha, Indu Metha, Abvaan Barron, by Tehreema Abvaan group of classic dance productions. Apart from these initiatives shows, the Classic Dance Festivals are gradually added into the schedule of Rafi Peer Theater festivals.



Dance is the major part of the performing arts. Many institutes are offering dance classes and proper courses for the students who have an interest in this field. The Institute of Performing Arts, Lahore performs their Classic dance classes under the famous dance instructor Nighat Chaudhry. Since 2003, the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop decided to add all these international performing festivals, upon one large singular cultural festival. For the first time such a festival took place from 17th to 26th November 2003. Ever since, all these festivals come under the banner of the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop Performing Art festivals.

Rafi Peer also includes dance program in the World Performing Art Festival schedule. They also encourage the youngsters to come and promote the dance. In this case the students of Institute of Performing Arts showcased their performances to celebrate the joy of dance. The title of the show was “Rakhs Kahani” and the legend Tahreema Mitha was performed there. The dance festivals are arranged individually to promote the skill of dance. In the Rafi Peer Theater world performing art festivals the dance festival is also included in which the great classical dancer Tehreema Mitha performed.

Rafi Peer Theater is a huge platform in which Rafi Peer gives everyone a great chance to perform beyond the boundaries. Rafi Peer also organizes the Mystical Music Nights in which many western bands as well as the local eastern bands are included. Sufism started through Rafi Peer platform. The very first Sufi festival started in 2002. Sufism combines both the poetry and music tighter to create a best impact on the audience. The Mystical Sufi Festival is also a part of Rafi Peer Theater Festivals. Rafi Peer gradually arranged their festivals in different cities and countries. There are many performing teams who are performed in these festivals.

“The Rafi Peer Artist Management talent has been signed the Sain Zahoor to sing the title track for Rakeysh Omparkash Mehra’s New Film ‘Mirza Sahibaan’ with a soundtrack by Shankar Ahsan Loy.” Rafi Peer Artist Management won the BBC World Music Award when Sadaan Peerzadah and Sain Zahoor went to Mumbai in the year 2016 in March for the recording of the track. These artists of Rafi Peer Management represented

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Pakistan all over the world through their talent went to Amsterdam for the performances of singing.

The Rafi Peer has taken a bold step in the field of multimedia. They have also been arranging the Youth Performing Arts Festival since 2001. In this festival Rafi Peer family is involved with their new experiences. In this festival Rafi Peer’s child and Grand children were involved with their new experiences and engaged the youth in this Art field as they also engaged in the Pakistan Drama production and wanted to produce new media invention. In a Note the director of Youth Performing Arts Festival Alena Peerzada said that of all the cultural festivals the especially YPAF is close to my heart. Being the First of the festival created especially to provide young people with a creative and collaborative platform; it evokes the million memories from my own youth.

The head of content Yamina Peerzada said “the Youth Performing Art Festival is a festival for people who truly love the performing arts. Our mission is to inspire young talent, to empower them by teaching skills to help create and build an audience for tomorrow.” The Youth Performing Art Festival is so much more that kids coming together to put up their ideas in the form of the show. It is the only available place for the performing arts students where our young ones come to present and learn to speak out and share their opinion with others, a place where we learn and deliver our ideas related to performing arts Yamina Peerzadah said I have waited for these festival to see the new innovations of our young ones.

Every group of puppeteer has its own nature of how to handle the puppet and to manipulate it. The annual puppet function known as the World Puppet Day held on 31st March of every year. Whenever a festival is arranged in Lahore, many puppeteers come from the different cities of Pakistan and performed at the Rafi Peer Theater Workshop. There are seven to eight puppeteers trained for their own respective interest of puppetry. They also pay tribute to Faizan Peerzadah as he was behind all the efforts to develop this field. It is because of him that the puppeteers are surviving and striving to make this art flourish.