Acknowledgements

This volume would not have been possible without the unstinted support of many people, any of whom took a personal interest in my research. It is impossible for me to list all everyone who contributed to my work for over five years.

I must begin by acknowledging the support and guidance of my supervisor G.J.V. Prasad. Rather than pointed criticism, it was his cautious leniency which ensured that I completed my research under trying circumstances.

Everyone at Janam exhibited an unbridled enthusiasm for my work. They were ever so willing to answer my questions, some logical, some inexplicable, at any time. Moloyashree for her precise responses and several amazing lunches; Sudhanva for his anticipation; Brijesh for bringing in unique points; Ashok for his excessive praise; and Sarita for bewilderment at my Ph.D. 'taking so long'!

My friends and comrades at JNU who, with their commitment and sacrifices, helped me to firm my commitment towards my work and towards an academics of commitment. Jyotirmoy has ever been a foul weather friend, for all kinds of foul weather. Simi and Saugata have always amazed with their warmth and ready to use real life solutions. A special mention must be made of my colleagues at Deshbandhu College for being extremely supportive in the face of adversity.

In the course of my research I have had the privilege of seeking suggestions and sharing ideas with many scholars and academicians. These encounters have been invaluable in tiding over roadblocks and opening fresh avenues. Numerous theatre activists have spoken to me enthusiastically about their work and the experiences of their groups. Special thanks are due to the staff of the National Library, the Natya Shodh Sansthan, the JNU Library, the Natrang Pratishthan, the Sangeet Natak Academy and the Nehru Memorial Library.

My family has been extremely supportive in both academic and non-academic matters. Ma and Pa have been immensely patient and willing to go to any length in healing my anxieties. Nilanjana has been there with me during all the cheerful moments and the not so cheerful ones, and has used every known to her to ensure I complete my research. To her I owe this volume.