

SABHA

THE MULTILINGUAL THEATRE SOCIETY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION

Sabha, the Multilingual Theatre Society of St. Stephen's College was founded in 1930. The Society seeks to incorporate the diverse languages and cultures of India in its productions. Sabha also believes in actively promoting theatre across various platforms – street plays, traditional on-stage theatre as well as experimental open-air theatre. Over the years, it has produced a number of prominent theatre personalities like Konkona Sen Sharma, Benjamin Gilani, Suneet Tandon, Kabir Bedi and Roshan Seth, among many others.

The society conducted the following activities in the year 2022-2023 :

1. **Icebreaking sessions** to start with the theatre activities.

Our ice breaking sessions were aimed at promoting theatre skills.

2. **Tamasha**— A two day long Mini Fest which included-:

- i. Day 1 (21st October) After the pandemic, Sabha came back on stage for the first time with the launch production, *Khwabeeda*.

Aayna— An open mic event which was open to everything under the broad umbrella of performing arts like beat boxing, dancing, poetry etc. There was also On The Spot participation. We had around 15 performances.

- ii. Day 2 (22nd October)

Street Play — Aadibhav, the Street Play vertical of the society, performed *Wajood* for the first time after the pandemic. All the junior members were there to witness the play in SCR lawns.

Dance Theatre Workshop- A workshop was conducted for the students by Ms. Samadreeta Chanda, a well-known dancer.

3. Orientation for the first years

a. The orientation was conducted in the month of November for the first year junior members. It was a fun interactive evening session to introduce them to the theatre society at SCR lawns.

b. Ice-breaking session for the first years

We also had ice breaking sessions and theatre games to make the first years comfortable with the society. Around 35 to 40 first years were present and they were being introduced to the various verticals of the society.

4. Aadibhav Audition

Aadibhav, the street play vertical of the society, conducted auditions for the first year junior members.

5. Performed at DTU for a competition

Following the pandemic, Aadibhav for the first time went for an external performance at DTU called 'Nukkad'. There were around twenty people in the team who gave their best for the competition and promoting the message.

6. Harmony play

Harmony, the annual fest of St. Stephens College, gave the platform for Sabha to put up another play. It was the reversal of the famous fairytale 'Cinderella' and the entire setting was altered. It was a well written play and the message which was aimed to promote through the performance was cherished and acknowledged by the audience.

7. Playhouse

Playhouse, A Danny Mathew Memorial Competition, is an event that focuses on the production wing of a stage play, in the memory of Danny Mathew. The competition

was put up on 27 April, on the World Theatre Day. A lot of teams participated out of which only 5 teams were selected to put up their production plan.

8. Performed at Maitreyi for a competition and won first position

Aadibhav went for an external competition again at the Maitreyi College where we were awarded the first position. This is for the first time that Aadibhav performed and won at a competition.

9. Dastaan

One of the primary features of theatre is that it relates people to stories and vice-versa. Theatre embraces story-telling. It interprets and presents it. Sabha eagerly looks forward to celebrating this facet of theatre by organising Dastaan, Sabha's annual theatre festival. As part of Dastaan, Sabha organises various events including:

- a. ***Mukhauta*(12 April)**- The fest started with the annual production play of Aadibhav, *Mukhauta*, which was conducted on 12 April, 2023. On the same day, *Vyakt*, the monologue competition was conducted which involves participants sitting in a circle and performing in the centre.
- b. ***Manto: Afsaana aur Afsaana Nigaar*(13 April)**- On the second day of the fest, Sabha successfully attempted to relive the stories of Saadat Hasan Manto. An aim to fuse his life, characters and his politics into one chorus of *Mantoiyat*, by creatively adapting his fiction and nonfiction works.
- c. On the **final day (15th April)** of Daastan, Sabha brought up an interactive session with Actor Lakhvir Singh Saran along with the screening of *Khamosh, Adaalat Jaari Hai* by renowned Playwright, Vijay Tendulkar. The interactive session was enriching for all the thespians as Mr. Saran discussed the various aspects of theatre, the play we screened and answered all our questions. This was followed by the closing play ***Maya: Illusion Is The Only Reality*** by Dianolds Media Production. This play was also performed in 2020 as a part of Dastaan 2020.