



**SABHA - THE MULTILINGUAL THEATRE SOCIETY
ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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

Events Reports:

Orientation : Society started its year with the orientation for first year junior members on 12th September 2024, 3 PM in SCR Lawns. It was conducted to familiarise new members with the workings and functionings of the society and encourage them to join us. The session included an address by the President, Vice-President and other council members of society. Fun and interactive activities were conducted to help first years get to know each other. The session concluded with a jamming session.

Aadibhav Auditions : The street play team, Aadibhav's auditions were conducted to select talented individuals for its ventures. The auditions aimed to identify passionate actors who could effectively convey social messages and engage audiences through the powerful medium of street plays. The auditions were conducted from 18th - 21st September 2023 in 2 rounds.

We are proud to inform that Aadibhav was invited by Dr. BRAICH AIIMS, New Delhi to perform a street play on the occasion of their Foundation Day on 28th November. The team performed a play titled, *Cancer - Ek Jung*. We were honoured to have an opportunity to collaborate with AIIMS and contribute to their efforts in raising awareness about cancer. Through our street play performance, we aimed to inspire positive change and promote a culture of health and well being in the community.

Kintsugi Drama : in collaboration with Unboxed - The Mental Health Initiative vertical of Social Service League, we conducted an inter college drama competition as a part of Kintsugi, fest of Unboxed. Theatre societies from various colleges were invited to perform plays based on themes relevant to mental health. The competition was judged by Prof. Ashley.

Tamasha :

The society conducted Tamasha - mid sem fest from 2nd - 3rd February 2024. The two day fest included :

- a. 2nd February : Sabha started its fest with its launch stage production titled *Anaath* which is an adaptation of play *Stolen* by Jane Harrison. The production was directed by Ann Susan Abraham. The play was based on the story of three orphans and their discovery of the meaning of life. As their paths converge, the play explores themes of resilience, the search of identity and the transformation power of hope. The narrative unfolds as a poignant exploration of the human spirit's capacity to endure, overcome and dream amidst life's shadows.
- b. This was followed by *Aaiyna - open mic* event in JCR at 4 PM. 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.
- c. 3rd February : Aadibhav - the street play vertical of Sabha performed *Kaalateet* at 1:30 PM in SCR Lawns. *Kaalateet* is a riveting street play, drawing parallels between the Mahabharata and contemporary challenges. The narrative delves into the timeless issues of nepotism in politics, sexual assault and discrimination based on caste and religion.

Harmony Play : Harmony - the annual fest of St. Stephen's College gave a platform to put up another play. The play was based on the plot "Mother's Day" by J.B Priestley. It is a satirical and humorous depiction of the status of the women, in particular, a housewife in a family.

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. **Colloquy** : a slam poetry competition conducted on 13th April, 3 PM in Mess Lawns, provided a platform for poets and spoken word artists to showcase their creativity and passion for poetry. The competition aimed to celebrate the art of slam poetry and foster a sense of community among participants and audience members. The competition was judged by Prof. Nobi Uttam from the Department of English, St. Stephen's College.
- b. **Movie Screening** : Sabha brought up a screening of the movie *Lunch Box*, directed by Ritesh Batra. The movie is a heart warming, human story that depicts love subduedly but beautifully. With actors like Irrfan Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Nimrat Kaur. The screening was held in AS3 on 13th April 2024 at 4 PM.
- c. **Anhad** : Annual street play competition of Sabha, unfolded at the SCR Lawns amidst a palpable buzz of anticipation. The judging panel included Nakshatra Sachdeva, esteemed theatre practitioner, who brought a wealth of experience to the event. The event was conducted in SCR Lawns from 2-6 PM on 15th April 2024. The street play teams from various colleges participated.

- d. **Cosmic Katha** : collaboration event with The B.Sc. Programme Society of St. Stephen's College, provided a platform for aspiring writers and storytellers to showcase their talent and creativity in crafting compelling scripts to various mediums. Participants were tasked with writing original scripts adhering to guidelines and theme and genre including Science Fiction. The competition was conducted online from 2 April 2024 to 30 April 2024.

8). **Annual Production:** Sabha presented its annual stage production titled "*Raseedi Ticket*" on 26th April 2024, 2 PM in College Hall. The play revolved around the life of Punjabi-Hindi poetess Amrita Pritam. Amrita had a complicated life, tainted with unsatisfying marriage with Pritam, unrequited love from the famous poet and lyricist, Sahir Ludhianvi and her complex relationship with her devoted lover, Inderjeet '*Imros*'. The purpose of the play is to give theatrical exploration to complex themes of love, obsession, human relationships, loss and grief.

In conclusion, the annual report highlights our achievements, challenges, and strategic direction for the upcoming year. We remain committed to our goals and are optimistic about the opportunities ahead.