

## The Shakespeare Society

### Annual Report for the Academic Year 2023-24:

The Shakespeare Society, organised a wide range of events in the Academic Year 2023-24, to fulfil its objectives of promoting dramatic arts in college, and making the college theatre space full of enrichment, collaboration, and education.

The session began with Orientation and Launch Production on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in which the first years were introduced to the society. The society had put up a few scenes from Oscar Wilde's *'The Importance of Being Earnest'*. This was followed by some theatre games and an introduction to the society for the freshers.

The society began a novel concept of Monday Games Session, where every week the society organised theatre games, activities, and readings in a walk-in format which allowed everybody an opportunity to associate with the society and introduced many people to the domain of theatre which is an uncharted territory for many freshers. The first session was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and witnessed the active participation of more than 20 individuals. It continued throughout the year till the last Monday Games Session of the academic year on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The society also did two collaborative events with other societies to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of dramatics and have greater traction among student community. The first such event was an open-air play *'The Ballad of Ballabhpur'* by Badal Sircar staged on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in collaboration with the Bengali Literary Society. The play was performed in the Mess Lawns and was attended by a good number of audience members as the mess lawns was filled by a receptive crowd. The use of an alternative space besides the college hall was a welcome step for the society.

The second collaboration event was a Soliloquy Delivery Competition in collaboration with the Poetry Society on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. It witnessed participation from both Stephanians and Non-Stephanians.

After this event, the society began working on the Centenary Playbill: An Oral History Document of the 100 years of The Shakespeare Society. The council members began exploring various books written on the college, various editions of 'The Stephanian' magazine, and other material written on the society. The students recorded audio and written entries from the alumni about their experiences and anecdotes during their time in The Shakespeare Society at the Annual Alumni Lunch organised on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The Intra Rajpal One Act Play Competition was organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, witnessing the participation of 8 teams from college. The event was judged by Theatre Facilitator Saif Rashid and it witnessed enthusiastic participation from the college community. The play *'Kumbh Kutumbh'* went on to represent college in the Inter Rajpal Competition. The play *'Ek Cup Chai'* performed at Akshara Theatre and the play *'LIVE!'* performed at Meraki College Theatre Festival.

For Harmony, the Annual College Fest, The Shakespeare Society put up a devised play, *'Yours'* where actors did a dramatized reading of letters written by individuals from various social contexts and time zones, serving slices of comedy, tragedy, romance, and more.

The Inter Rajpal Collegiate Theatre Competition was held on 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and it witnessed the participation of 7 teams from various colleges in the Delhi Theatre Circuit. The event was judged by Kritika Bhattacharjee and Nayana Sagar. The event culminated with the Rajpal Dinner.

As the final event of the year, The Shakespeare Society put up its Centenary Year Annual Production, *'The Tempest'* on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The play had a team of 29 individuals and a substantial audience to make it a success. The event saw the participation of distinguished guests like Prof. R.W. Desai, Mrs Desai and Mr Sunit Tandon.

As the curtains closed on Shakespeare Society in AY 2023-24, there was a re-invigoration in the activities of the society and a revitalised interest in theatre in the college community. The ever-increasing participation and relevance of the society even in its 100<sup>th</sup> year is a proof of the timelessness of theatre and the constant efforts of many committed senior and junior members over the years that have created, evolved, and re-discovered this society from time to time.



*The Centenary Year Annual Production 'The Tempest' staged on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.*