

Miranda House University of Delhi
Annual Society Activity Report (2023-2024)
The Ariels, The English Theatre Society, MH

Session Core:-

President - Mudra Banerjee

Vice-President - Nandabala

Production Head - Rajvi Singh

PR Head - Disha Singh

The activities of Ariels, the English Theatre Society of Miranda House, during the session 2023-24, can be divided into three subheadings - Productions, Workshops and the Annual Fest. Here follows a comprehensive report on these activities.

Productions:-

(i) *Annual Production: LIGHTS OUT by Manjula Padmanabhan*

Notes:

An adaptation of the play, the theme centres around the mentality of Bombay residents in the 1980s. The play depicts the depths of sexism and an array of social issues prevalent in society when the characters become subjects to a gang rape and suggest different approaches and perceptions, unique to each character conditional to their standing in society. This goes on until the lights go out.

Cast and Crew:

Director: Pragya Sharma

Actors: Mudra Banerjee, Nandabala, Shania Marak, Devananda, Ashima Bhat, Disha Singh

Production and Backstage: Rajvi Singh and Lakshmi Harikumar

Stagings:

IIT BHU; 20th January, 2024

St. Stephen College; 19th February, 2024 Miranda House; 6th March, 2024

Achievements:

Best Play: 2nd Runner-Up (St. Stephen's)
Special mention(Best Actor): Mudra Banerjee (St. Stephen's)

(ii) *Hamlet*; SSI Production

Cast and Crew: Director: Pavaki Kapoor

Writers: Mudra Banerjee and Pavaki Kapoor

Actors: Avni Tyagi, Naziya Nasreen,Prakriti Pandey,Priya

Stagings: Shakespeare Society of India, South Campus;10th February 2024

Achievements: Nil

Production and Backstage:Akanksha Kothari, Ananya Jaggi, Deeksha Singh,Kashvi Kapoor, Lakshmi Harikumar, Prapti, Tanya, Vanshika.

(iii)*Fairy tale by Kalki Koechlin*

Notes: Adapted from the monologue Fairy tale written and performed by Kalki Koechlin, she uses the metaphor of a fairy tale to critique how society, media, and tradition shape our perceptions of love, marriage and happily-ever-after scenarios.

Cast and Crew: Mudra Banerjee

Director: Mudra Banerjee

Backstage and Production: Avni Tyagi, Anannya Jaggi, Akanksha Kothari, Deeksha Singh, Kashvi Kapoor, Naziya Nasreen, Shania Hopkins

Stagings: *The Tempest*, Annual fest of Miranda House; 5th April 2024

Workshops:

Dastangoi; 30th October 2024

Notes:

Facilitated by Nadeem Shah, the workshop on Dastangoi, an ancient Persian form of storytelling focused a storyteller's ability to express and perform through the voice and its many forms, face and the body; exercises to enhance audience engagement through storytelling of literary pieces.

Lights and Sounds; 2nd-5th March 2024

Notes:

Facilitated by Rajneesh Gautam ,a three-day workshop focused on two key elements of backstage theatre: lighting and sound. Attendees were guided on how to synchronise with the tempo and rhythm of a play, using lighting techniques to enhance overall performance.

The Annual Fest: Vaudeville; April 2024

Vaudeville, The Ariels' Annual fest was organised under two categories;one being the interactive

sessions and the other was a stage play event.

Vaudeville 2024, was an ode to theatre, an inter-collegiate event bringing together students of theatre. It was the last formal event of the session.

Workshops:

The Ariels hosted theatre workshops as part of the interactive section of Vaudeville 2024. It saw the participation of theatre enthusiasts in and around Delhi.

1. Physical Theatre Workshop; 9th April 2024

Physical Theatre Workshop facilitated by Dhruv Rai.

The workshop centred around making one's body the instrument of expression, with individual, in pairs and group exercises.

It focused on body fluidity, expression and rhythm.

2. Clowning Workshop; 10th April 20

The clowning workshop facilitated by Sumit focused on absurdity and elevated dramatism.

Exercises were conducted so as to encourage vulnerability in expression.

Stage Play Event; 18th April 2024

The stage play event was held at Akshara Auditorium, New Delhi. Participating teams with their respective plays are as follows:

1. Aisa Kehte Hai; The Players (Kirori Mal College)

2. Unmaad; Ibtida (Hindu College)

3. Silchar; Sangharsh (Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Evening) 4. Rizwaan, Astitva (Dyal Singh College)

5. Chai Thandi Na Ho Jaaye, Anukriti (Miranda House)