

Miranda House
University of Delhi
Annual Society Activity Report (2024-2025)
The Ariels, The English Theatre Society, MH.

Student Office Bearers:-

President - Disha Singh
Vice-President - Lakshmi Harikumar
Production Head - Deeksha Singh
PR Head - Kashvi Kapoor
Treasurer - Shania Hopkins

Society Convenor - Dr. Parul Bhardwaj

The activities of Ariels, the English Theatre Society of Miranda House, during the session 2024-25. Here follows a comprehensive report on these activities.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION 2024-25

'DOPDI'

A theatrical reimagining of Mahesweta Devi's Breast Stories - Draupadi, this play unfolds against the smoldering backdrop of the Naxalite movement. At its core is Dopdi Mejhen, a Santali tribal woman- rebel, fugitive, survivor.

This is no myth. This is confrontation, a reckoning, a ritual of rebellion. Through Dopdi Mejhen, the stage becomes a battlefield of bodies, voices and history itself. When a woman's body long claimed as the site of her subjugation becomes the site of her resistance, what power is left for her oppressors?

*Draupadi Mejhen stands, stripped but undefeated, and in her unbroken gaze, the play asks:
Who truly wields power?*

Cast and Crew

Actors: Disha Singh, Kashvi Kapoor, Prakriti Pandey, Avni Tyagi, Hana Jain, Akanksha Kothari, Bhumika Sharma, Kavita Godara

Director : Disha Singh

Writing : Deeksha Singh, Prof Parul Bhardwaj, Disha Singh

Ideation Team: Ananya Jaggi, Lakshmi Harikumar

Lights : Deeksha Singh, Ravneet Kaur

Sounds: Lakshmi Harikumar

Music: Devananda

Set: Aditi, Ayerah, Poorva, Siddhika, Tehzeeb, Bhumika

Stagings : -

National School of Drama, Delhi

IIT BHU Kashiyatra - (Special Mention)

Deshbhandu College

Miranda House Auditorium

VAUDEVILLIE 2025 - ANNUAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Theme - *Theatre of Resistance*

1) Day 1 - 7th April

- a) Theatre of Resistance Exhibition Inauguration - SAC - As part of Vaudeville 2025, The Ariels hosted an exhibition that explored performance as protest, memory as rebellion, and the stage as a site of truth telling. Held from 7th to 9th April at SAC, the exhibition invited everyone to step in and engage with the many ways art can resist.

Curated by - Ananya Jaggi, Devananda, Lakshmi Harikumar

- b) Annual workshop - MOVING TEXT by Manjari Kaul

This year, Vaudeville brought to you Moving Text: a Physical Theatre Workshop facilitated by Manjari Kaul, an alumna of The Ariels!

Held on 7th and 8th April 2025, the workshop explored how text can find a life beyond the page, through the body and the space it inhabits.

Participants from across the University of Delhi delved into the art of movement and storytelling, leaving with a richer understanding of physical theatre.

- c) Play Screening - "How Long is February?" – a bold and thought-provoking exploration of memory, justice, and complicity – was screened at Vaudeville '25. Written and directed by Nisha Abdulla, this gripping play, with its sharp satire and unforgettable moments, challenged us to reflect on a world where truth is on trial. The screening was followed by an online post screening discussion with the director herself, Nisha Abdulla, where we dived deeper into the narrative and creative process.

2) Day 2 - 8th April

- a) Play Reading Session - 'Between the Text' was a captivating journey through Habib Tanvir's Sadak as part of Vaudeville '25, in collaboration with Manngadhant.

Facilitated by Karan Singh and Aditya Oberoi, the play reading session explored the depth and layers of the text, sparking rich discussions and insights.

3) Day 3 - 9th April

- a) For the Stageplay under Vaudeville'25, we wanted a space where students from all over the theatre circuit could perform and express themselves. And the dream turned into reality! From the moment the curtains rose, the energy was electric, with each performance showing the true power of unfiltered expression.

Teams performed :-

Rudali - Hansraj Dramatics

Mein Nahin - The Players

Pagla Ghoda - Astitiva

Vrita Vrita - Sangharash

DOPDI - The Ariels

Kacchi Sadak - Masque