

LAKSHYA : THE THEATRE SOCIETY.

ACTIVITY REPORT (YEAR : 2021)

The session commenced with the joining of the new batch after two rounds of auditions which saw overwhelming number of entries. Despite the curbs of the pandemic the society tried it's best to adjust to the online mode to keep the show going. Following is the account of the different theatrical activities and competitions conducted throughout the course of the year :

The session started with a task of making short films in groups of 6 to 7. These films were collectively screened on 3rd January 2021. They included films like 'happiness bank', 'Andha Kanoon', 'Shaksiyat', 'Sahab aur Naukar' and 'Soch'. This was followed by watching all the street plays of different theatrical societies of the Delhi University Theatre Circuit for the first years to have a better understanding of how street plays work. Some famous theatrical activities like the making of novel musical instruments and 'history building' were also held on 7th January 2021. An improv activity of using five random items to prepare spontaneous acts was also held on 6th January 2021. Along with these performing activities, a writing-based activity of creating a written piece with given words in a minute was also held. Moreover, from 11th January 2021, weekly workout sessions started as well. Some informative documentaries on theatre were screened which had the likes of a documentary on 'Jana Natya Manch'. A few other videos and short films of theatrical importance and terminology were also screened.

The successive month started with a journal writing activity, of jotting down one's thoughts for a minute without stopping, to help build a writing habit. A blackout poetry slam was held on 3rd February 2021. An activity of scribbling one's thoughts in doodle form was held which was followed by interpreting one another's doodles. The team participated in the scene writing competition and 'Expressions' (short film making competition) organised by Women Development Cell DDUC. The team won the competition with our short film entry titled 'Genderly Speaking'. Weekly workout sessions were conducted.

Further, a journal activity was conducted once again. A few sessions to explain important theatrical procedures was held. An accent switching improv game 'Passports' was conducted. The team participated in several competitions. In two competitions organised by P.G. DAV, titled 'Aviral' the team won the 1st and 2nd position in a song writing and AD making competition, respectively. Team stood first in a duet slam writing competition 'Colloquy' held by St. Stephens College. In a hattrick, team secured first position in yet another '72 Hours AD making competition' by SRCC. The team began with farewell preparations for the third years from 28th April 2021.

Practises were held for the 'call song' and the 'victory song' of the theatre society. A virtual farewell party for Batch'21 was held on 30th May 2021. Posts of the President and Treasurer, were allotted to Shruti Gupta and Bhavya Barwal along with duties to the team members for the respective departments. Agenda and ideas for the new sessions were deliberated and debated upon. The concept of 'Navras' was taught and an activity based on the same was conducted. Weekly workout sessions continued.

Moreover, a meeting between the teacher convenors and the team as an introductory session was organised online 'Art Intolerance' was decided as the topic for an upcoming campaign on 9th June 2021. Content and ideas were discussed. The team prepared for a short film and mime competition. An activity was conducted wherein teammates were supposed to get one of their pictures and share a memory related to the same. A mental health awareness session was also held followed by some meditation by the team. Facial exercise activity was also introduced. In another interesting session, the team read a play named "Aisa Kehte Hain".

The successive month commenced with continuation of the play reading activity. Two more activities were conducted under the same category. The plays read were; "Aham Bhramasmi" and "Kaali Ghadi". Further, a comprehensive research based discussion was held on specific topics related to the campaign. During this month, the team members also attended a song writing workshop on 10th July 2021, that was conducted by "the Sequin Collective", hosted by Atharv Bhatt. The second years were then introduced to the instructions regarding the instruments used in the street plays. In the following sessions, the topics for the campaign were shortlisted based on the research, and further finalised. Relevant strategies were also discussed for posting campaign related content on social media.

Furthermore, the team discussed ideas for conducting events in the light of Lakshya completing nineteen years of existence. Another play reading activity was conducted wherein an English play named "We won't Pay" was read. In another interesting session, games like "Fictionary" and "Act and React" were played. Moreover, the team discussed ideas for a competition named 'Limelight' conducted by MSIT. After days of brainstorming and hardwork, the entry was sent by team for the same. The team cleared round-1 of Limelight. Results are still awaited for round-2

The team decided to organise an intra college online 'Open mic' event, under the guidance of its teacher convenors, for celebrating nineteen glorious years of Lakshya along with commemorating 75 years of our nation's independence. The theme for the open mic was decided as 'Women of 21st century'. Online meetings were held to plan the entire event. The said event was successfully conducted on 18th August 2021. A singing based activity was conducted in one of the sessions. Moreover, ideas were discussed for making a short film considering the occasion of Teachers' Day.

A short film was created by on the occasion of Teacher's Day, titled 'After Hours' to celebrate the dedication of teachers even in these uncertain times. The team also prepared for the Round 2 of the Limelight competition, and took up an English-translated version of a very famous Marathi play, 'Shantata! Court Chal Aahe' to perform. A short video for the same was made. The team also discussed ideas for another upcoming competition, to celebrate Hindi language. Apart from competitions, team continued practices with different theatrical activities like, 'Emotion box' on 3rd September 2021. A discussion was held regarding the offline practices. An English play named 'Bayan' written by Maheshwari Devi was read.

The following month, the team members who could make it to college started practising in college campus with complete follow up of covid precautions. The offline practices commenced from 29th September 2021 and continued till 20th October 2021. These practices took place twice or thrice per week. The time slot was 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Before every practice, the teammates did a 30-45 minutes workout including a number of warm up exercises. A multitude of activities were conducted during these practices. These included improvisation activities like 'gibberish improv', 'fiasco', 'emotional quadrants' and 'bus improv'. The team members also performed some volume and facial exercises as well. Other activities included 'duck walk', 'character formation', 'mirror activity', 'trash talk', etc.

After a few practices that involved familiarising the teammates with different aspects of theatre through the activities mentioned above, the focus shifted to street play writing from 5th October 2021. The team began writing and preparing a street play 'Berang' for the then-upcoming inter-college competition: 'Mood Indigo' that was to be held at Trinity College, Dwarka. After days of brainstorming for the script and rehearsing, team Lakshya gave its performance on the 22nd of October, 2021.

Simultaneously, other members of the team continued online practices, preparing for our annual stage production. The team practiced on a daily basis. Apart from this the team in a first, made an audio play that got finalised on 28th October 2021. Along with this play reading, and character building activities were held. Throughout these simultaneous

practices, on both the online and offline platforms, the entire team remained connected and updated by having a google meet every weekend.

The team also participated in a script writing workshop on 24th October 2021, with the famous television screenwriter, Divya Nidhi Sharma.

The subsequent month, started with both online and offline practices in full swing.

Further, the team collaborated with the famous 'Lifafa Films' for a 4-day long, theatrical workshop taken by Mr. Sumit Arora. Two days of workshop were virtual (8th-9th November), while two on ground (10th-11th November). The virtual part focused on the importance of team coordination, improv acting, character and story building.

On ground, Mr. Sumit conducted activities that too focused a lot on team building and team understanding. He also focused on the theoretical aspects of acting and theatre in general. Some other activities conducted by Mr. Sumit included, 'musical story narration', 'creating a mime play', 'paint brush' and 'the 7 characters' exercise. All in all, the work shop was extremely insightful and informative.

The team continued to write script for a street play as well, and participated in some online competitions.

Last month of the year, was a time for new beginnings. After exams of the team members ended, preparations for auditions for the new session began. In the meanwhile, the team also sent an online entry for a competition at national level on 5th January 2022, the results of which are still awaited.

After two arduous rounds of auditions with lots of drama and fun, the team welcomed it's newest additions, and started with some basic theatrical activities .