Jogiya Raag a Saga of Unwavering Faith and Silent Longing







On 26th April 2025, at the Sammukh Auditorium of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, the play **“Jogiya Raag”** was presented under the theatre festival **“Katharang“**, organized by

the cultural organization Mailorang. Written by Vijay Pandit and directed by Prof. Devendra Raj Ankur, this production transformed a seemingly simple story into an extraordinary emotional experience on stage.

“Katharang” commenced on the same day with the stage being graced by the presence of senior theatre artist Mr. Amitabh Srivastava, who conducted the inaugural ceremony, and renowned literary figure Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, who attended as the Chief Guest.

The story revolves around Savitri, a woman abandoned by her husband immediately after marriage as he renounces worldly life to become a hermit. Years pass as Savitri patiently waits for him, unwavering in her faith despite societal pressures. Eventually, in an act of poignant resignation, she accepts an unknown ascetic as her lost husband, surrendering herself to her destiny.

Nidhi Mishra, portraying the role of Savitri, delivered a truly exceptional performance. Her command over body movements, dialogue delivery, and the subtle expression of inner turmoil kept the audience deeply engrossed throughout the play. With remarkable ease and depth, she captured the complex emotions of hope, struggle, and despair dwelling within Savitri.

Mukti Das portrayed the character of Bal Mukund with great seriousness and authenticity. His restrained expression of internal conflict and the pain of renunciation, without falling into melodrama, added credibility and depth to his character. His dialogue delivery was composed and truthful, making his presence compelling on stage.

With only two actors on stage, multiple characters were seamlessly brought to life through masterful variations in posture, movement, and voice modulation. This technical challenge was executed with impressive smoothness, making the

character transitions natural and believable.

The innovative use of a simple prop – a saree – deserves special mention. Throughout the play, the saree symbolically transformed – representing femininity, sorrow, or the complex dynamics of shifting relationships, enhancing the thematic layers of the production.

Selection of the music that was played in the play by Sneha Kumar, deepening its mood and emotional texture. Nitin Bharadwaj's lighting design and its careful execution effectively elevated the story's atmosphere, aligning each scene with its emotional tone."

"Jogiya Raag" offered a profoundly moving theatrical experience. The balanced synergy of storytelling, direction, acting, and technical finesse elevated the performance to great artistic heights. The sensitive and sincere efforts of the team ensured that the audience remained deeply connected to the story from beginning to end.

This play is not merely the tale of Savitri's endless waiting and loyalty; it is also a beautiful exploration of human emotions, faith, and the silent resilience embedded in life's most difficult journeys.

Natsamrat Theatre Festival: A Celebration of Dramatic Excellence



Play Scene

Delhi’s renowned theatre group “Natsamrat” once again mesmerized audiences with the 22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival. This grand theatrical event brought together a collection of eight remarkable plays, each offering a unique blend of humor, drama, and thought-provoking narratives. With powerful performances and engaging storytelling, the festival successfully captured the essence of theatre, leaving a lasting impression on spectators.

The festival commenced on March 15 at 6:15 PM with Anton Chekhov’s “The Proposal.” This classic farce, filled with witty dialogue and situational humor, kept the audience engaged. The actors skillfully portrayed the irony of a marriage proposal turning into a heated argument over land and a pet dog. Their impeccable timing and expressive performances made the play a delightful experience. Following this, at 7:30 PM, the satirical play “Kallu Nai MBBS” took the stage. This play blended comedy with social critique, addressing themes of domestic violence and gender dynamics. The protagonist, a drunken barber, finds himself in a bizarre situation where he must endure beatings to prove his worth as a doctor. The fast-

paced narrative and lively performances ensured continuous laughter while subtly conveying a deeper message.

On March 16, the audience witnessed “Chekhov Ka Sansar,” a dramatization of two of Chekhov’s iconic stories. The play beautifully combined humor and profound emotions, bringing out the essence of human relationships and social contradictions. The nuanced portrayal of characters and their inner conflicts made it an enriching theatrical experience. Later that evening, at 7:30 PM, “Kambakht Ishq” explored the theme of companionship in old age. The story of two elderly individuals navigating loneliness and seeking emotional support struck a chord with the audience. The actors delivered heartfelt performances, making the play both touching and thought-provoking.

The festival continued on March 22 with “Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahein” by Ashish Kotwal. The narrative revolved around an elderly doctor and a lively woman, Mansi, whose contrasting worlds collide unexpectedly. The interplay of their personalities created a compelling and engaging storyline. At 4:15 PM the same day, “Meri Biwi Ki Shaadi” by Ranbir Singh entertained audiences with its hilarious premise. The protagonist, a hypochondriac, believes he is nearing death and becomes obsessed with planning his wife’s future after his demise. His anxious attempts to arrange her remarriage lead to an unexpected twist, making the play both humorous and insightful.

On March 29 at 3:00 PM, the thought-provoking drama “Aadhi Raat Ke Baad” by Dr. Shankar Shesh was staged. The story followed a thief who, instead of stealing, breaks into a judge’s house to confess a crime he witnessed—a powerful businessman’s involvement in a journalist’s murder. Afraid for his life, he seeks imprisonment as his only refuge. The intense dialogues between the thief and the judge exposed the flaws in the judicial system, leaving a lasting impact on the audience. The festival concluded with “Kaisa Hai Yeh Paisa” by

Shyam Kumar at 4:15 PM. This emotional drama explored the complexities of family relationships and material greed. A devoted father, who spent his life caring for his children, is neglected in his old age. However, when the children discover he is about to receive a large fortune, their attitude takes a drastic turn. The play's gripping narrative and emotional depth made it a memorable finale to the festival.

The festival's success was driven by the stellar performances of actors Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay, Ansh Rathore, and Rajan K. Bhatheja. Their dynamic portrayals brought depth and realism to each character, making every play a remarkable experience. Behind the scenes, Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh managed stage operations efficiently, assisted by Himanshu and Nisha. Raj Rani's makeup artistry enhanced the visual appeal of the characters, while Rohit Prasad and Rekha Devi contributed to costume design. Vansh Rathore handled the musical arrangements, enriching the dramatic atmosphere. Under the expert direction of Shyam Kumar, each play maintained a unique artistic essence. Hosted at LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, the festival witnessed enthusiastic participation, with audiences applauding every performance. The overwhelming response reaffirmed the timeless charm of theatre and the vital role of groups like Natsamrat in preserving and promoting this rich cultural tradition.

22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival: A Captivating Blend

of Humor, Satire, and Human Emotions



The prestigious Delhi-based theatre group *Natsamrat* mesmerized audiences with a diverse range of plays at the **22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival**. Held on March 15 and 16, the festival showcased four plays, each offering a unique theatrical experience. From comedy and satire to deep human emotions, the performances left a lasting impression on theatre enthusiasts.

The festival opened with **“The Proposal”**, a play by Anton Chekhov that brilliantly captured his signature satirical style. The story revolved around a young man proposing marriage to his neighbor’s unmarried daughter, but instead of a romantic conversation, a hilarious argument over land and a pet dog ensued. The humor was not just in the dialogues but also in the absurdity of the situation and the characters’ temperaments, keeping the audience thoroughly entertained.

Next came **“Kallu Nai MBBS”**, a play that delivered a blend of humor and social commentary. The story followed a drunken barber who regularly abused his wife, only to be outwitted by

her cleverness. Meanwhile, two servants searching for a doctor to treat their master's mute daughter were tricked into believing that the barber was a doctor—but only after receiving a sound beating. The fast-paced narrative, physical comedy, and sharp dialogues made this play a crowd favorite.

On March 16, **"Chekhov Ka Sansar"** brought two of Anton Chekhov's most celebrated stories to life. This performance not only delivered humor but also highlighted the depth of Chekhov's storytelling, capturing the irony and struggles of human existence. The interplay of light-hearted comedy with underlying social commentary made this an engaging production.

The final play, **"Kambakht Ishq"**, struck a chord with the audience by portraying the loneliness of two elderly individuals who find solace in each other's company. The play beautifully explored the importance of companionship in old age, making it a deeply emotional experience. The actors' nuanced performances and heartfelt dialogues ensured that the message resonated with the audience.

Directed by **Shyam Kumar**, all four productions were masterfully staged, bringing out the essence of each story while maintaining their distinct theatrical styles. The performances by **Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Vansh Rathore, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay, Kaushal Chauhan, Ansh and Rajan K. Bhatheja** were outstanding. Stage management was efficiently handled by **Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh**, with **Himanshu and Nisha** assisting. **Payal and Raj Rani** managed makeup, while **Rohit Prasad, Rekha Devi, and Manu Kumar Singh** worked on costumes. **Vansh Rathore's** contribution to music operation, played a significant role in enhancing the theatrical experience. The Natya Utsav was held at LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi.

Overall, the **22nd Natsamrat Theatre Festival** was a resounding success, offering a delightful mix of humor, satire, and emotional depth. Each play had a unique appeal, ensuring that

the audience left with unforgettable memories of this vibrant theatrical celebration.

An Unforgettable Evening of Theatre by “Mask Players Art Group”



The “Mask Players Art Group” theatre group organised two plays on 21 December 2024 at the Blank Canvas Theatre of LTG, Delhi.

The first presentation was “Dedh Inch Upar” which was invited and was performed by the theatre group Banjara of Haryana. In the play, a middle-aged hero is struggling with his memories in a bar against the backdrop of the Second World War. He loved his dead wife immensely but he himself hid from her that she was a part of a secret campaign against Nazism. This solo performance, entangled in many questions and answers like the untimely death of his wife, the helplessness of not being able to save her, the reasons for her death and betrayal, presents many truths of life before the audience. Senior artist Vijay Bhatotia brought this story of Nirmal Verma to life on stage with his direction and acting and kept the audience captivated till the end.

The second play “Daroga ji Chori Ho Gayi” was performed by the organizing team which was written by Jaivardhan and directed by Chandra Shekhar Sharma. The good acting of the actors in the play made the audience laugh a lot. People were rolling with laughter at the witty dialogues. On one hand, the play draws attention to the corruption of government officials, on the other hand, it shows the increasing tendency of the youth to do things like theft and robbery along with studies to live a dazzling life. They do not even think about how much hardship their parents go through for them. The message of the play was meaningful. In the play, the role of Babu was played by Ashish Sharma, the role of Deepak was played by Shipra Jain, the role of Fattelal and the role of the inspector was played by Nikhil Jha and Mamta Rani as a female constable received applause from the audience. In the backstage, Jatin Shaurya did the lighting, Manoj did the music direction and makeup, Sarita Rana did the costumes and Rakesh Sharma and Sangeeta Suyal did the set and props.

Natsamrat Delights Delhi Audiences with Laughter-Filled Performances



Play Scene

Delhi based Natsamrat again came up with its plays which were full of laughter and four plays which were loved by the audience.

Two plays were staged on 16th November. At 3:00 PM Anton Chekhov’s famous story “The Proposal” was staged. The Proposal is the story of a young man who proposes marriage to his neighbour’s unmarried daughter. The story turns worse when the three of them start arguing over whose property it is and whose dog is better. At 4:15 PM the same evening, the play “Kallu Barber MBBS” written by Moliere was staged in which a barber is always drunk and beats his wife. The barber’s wife promises herself that she will teach her husband a lesson. During this time she meets two servants who are looking for a doctor to cure their master’s daughter’s muteness. The barber’s wife tells him that there is such a doctor here, but

he does not consider himself a doctor until he is beaten up properly. Both the servants beat up the barber and force him to become a doctor and take him to their master. Later on, the play takes a very interesting turn.

On 17th November, two plays were staged. At 3 pm, the play “Haye Mera Dil” written by Ranbir Singh, which is the story of a delusional patient who believes that he is going to die and is worried about what will happen to his wife after him, she is very innocent, she will not be able to take care of herself, so he wants to get his wife married again. And later on, the play takes a different turn. At 4:15 pm the same evening, the play “Kambakht Ishq” written by Satya Prakash, which is the story of two old people who have fallen ill due to loneliness and when they meet each other, they understand that they need a support, so that they can share their loneliness.

All the four plays were directed by Shyam Kumar. Among the actors Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Arvind Shandilya, Aman Kumar, Vansh Rathore, Raman Kumar and Shammi played their roles brilliantly. Stage managers Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh, stage manager assistants Himanshu and Nisha, makeup Payal, costume assistants Rohit Prasad and Rekha Devi, music director Vansh Rathore. The play was staged at LTG auditorium Mandi House New Delhi.