

Summer Theatre Festival: Natsamrat's Celebration of Stagecraft



The LTG Auditorium at Mandi House, New Delhi, reverberated this August with the vibrancy of theatre and the thunder of applause. Organized by *Natsamrat*, the **Summer Theatre Festival** offered audiences a kaleidoscope of performances that made them laugh, stirred their emotions, and provoked deep reflection. Each play was directed by the acclaimed Delhi-based theatre director **Shyam Kumar**, whose creative vision and disciplined stagecraft elevated every production into a memorable experience.

The festival commenced on **2nd August** with Anton Chekhov's celebrated one-act play *The Proposal*. What begins as a simple

marriage proposal soon spirals into a heated quarrel over land and dogs, leaving audiences in peals of unexpected laughter. On the same day, the satirical *Kallu Nai MBBS* was staged—an incisive portrayal of rural ironies through the comic clashes of a drunken barber and his wife. Both plays were so well received that they were restaged on **10th August**, once again drawing enthusiastic applause.

On **15th August**, marking Independence Day, the same two plays returned to the stage. Amid laughter and wit, audiences were invited not only to reflect upon rural contradictions but also to rediscover the sharp brilliance of Chekhov's pen.

The evening of **23rd August** brought a unique blend of sensitivity and humor. *Kuch Tum Kaho Kuch Hum Kahein* by Ashish Kotwal presented an intense dialogue between a lonely elderly doctor and the free-spirited Mansi, unraveling layers of relationships, empathy, and self-realization that touched the hearts of spectators. Following this, R.B. Singh's satirical gem *Meri Biwi Ki Shaadi* had the audience roaring with laughter, as a hypochondriac patient, obsessed with his own imaginary death, entangled himself in absurd worries about his wife's future.

The **30th August** evening immersed the audience in the layered world of Chekhov and the eternal theme of love. *Chekhov Ka Sansar* offered glimpses into the Russian master's life philosophy and stories, while Satya Prakash's *Kambakht Ishq* sensitively explored the loneliness of the elderly and their longing for true companionship—making the audience laugh as much as it moved them to tears.

The festival concluded on **31st August** with two powerful performances. J.N. Kaushal's *Kya Karega Qazi* kept audiences entertained with the hilarious failures and fumbling efforts of the clumsy barber Fakhruddin. This was followed by *Bichchu*, inspired by Molière's classic, which humorously portrayed the tug-of-war between lovers and fathers, blending satire with

sparkling wit.

Throughout the festival, performers such as **Vishwajit, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay, Ansh Rathore, Rajan K. Bhatheja, and Adyasha Mohanty** brought each story alive through their powerful stage presence and spirited dialogue delivery. Balanced use of set design, lighting, and music added to the immersive experience, keeping the audience spellbound.

Equally significant was the contribution of the **technical team**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. **Sunil Rathore, Suraj Singh Pawan, Nisha, Raj Rani, Payal Rani, Rohit Prasad, and Poonam** managed costumes with precision, while **Vansh Rathore** created the musical atmosphere that enriched every performance.

More than a series of plays, the **Summer Theatre Festival** of NatSamrat Sanstha was a celebration of the diversity and power of Indian theatre. With humor, satire, and heartfelt storytelling, the festival not only entertained but also offered profound glimpses into the truths of life. For an entire month, LTG Auditorium pulsated with theatrical energy, leaving audiences with memories that will linger long beyond the final curtain call.

Natsamrat's Theatrical Showcase: A Vibrant Tapestry of Emotion, Satire, and

Humour



On May 24, 31, and June 1, Delhi's L.T.G. Auditorium at Mandi House came alive with a rich blend of theatre as Natsamrat, a prominent performing arts group, presented a trio of compelling plays. Each piece offered a distinct flavour—ranging from heartfelt drama to sharp satire and uproarious comedy—beautifully reflecting the artistic breadth and emotional depth of contemporary Indian theatre.

Tender Reflections: Kambakht Ishq

Staged on May 31 at 3:00 PM, Kambakht Ishq, penned by Satyaprakash, offered a poignant look into the emotional needs of the elderly. Through the lives of two aging individuals coping with loneliness, the play delicately unraveled themes of companionship, vulnerability, and the quiet ache of growing old. With subtle dialogue and restrained yet powerful performances, the production struck a deep emotional chord with its audience, rendering it one of the most moving performances of the festival.

Comic Wit and Social Satire: The Proposal

Staged twice—on May 24 at 11:30 AM and again on June 1 at 3:00 PM—Anton Chekhov's iconic one-act play *The Proposal* was

brought to life with remarkable flair. What begins as a simple marriage proposal spirals hilariously into a heated argument over land and pets. The actors' crisp comic timing, expressive body language, and fluid stage presence transformed the absurdity into biting social satire. It was a delightful reminder that laughter, when layered with irony, becomes a powerful mirror to societal quirks.

Laughter with a Message: Kallu Nai MBBS

Inspired by Molière's classic farce and performed on May 24 at 12:30 PM, May 31 and June 1 at 4:15 PM, Kallu Nai MBBS followed the misadventures of a drunk barber who is forcibly made to act as a doctor. Behind the laugh-out-loud moments lay darker undertones of domestic abuse and the systemic marginalization of women. The fast-paced narrative, witty dialogues, and exaggerated characters created a comic spectacle that managed to entertain while prompting deeper thought.

Direction and Technical Excellence

All three plays were skillfully directed by **Shyam Kumar**, whose vision and theatrical sensibility were evident in the seamless staging. The ensemble cast—Vishwajeet, Munmun, Shivangi, Aman Kumar, Dhananjay, Raman Kumar, Rajan, and Saumya—delivered heartfelt and dynamic performances. Behind the scenes, the production team added immense value: Sunil Rathore and Suraj Singh (stage management), Himanshu and Nisha (assistant stage managers), Payal and Raj Rani (makeup), Rohit Prasad and Rekha Devi (costumes), and Vansh Rathore (music coordination).

Natsamrat's theatrical offering was more than a cultural event—it was a celebration of theatre's power to evoke, provoke, and connect. Through humour, emotion, and satire, the festival reminded us that the stage is not just a space for performance, but a living, breathing dialogue with society itself.

Dramatic Showcase: Masters in Performing Arts (Drama) Present's Two Plays "Kaalchakra" and "Bank Manager" at Rabindranath Tagore University



A three-day workshop (28 to 30 in 2024) was organized at Rabindranath Tagore University under the Faculty of Sanskrit Prachaya Bhasha Kendra Manviki Udaar Kala Sankay. Its participants were students of Masters in Performing Arts (Drama). Two plays were prepared by them. The play "Kaalchakra" written and directed by J.P. Singh and the other play "Bank Manager" written by Anton Chekhov and directed by Shyam Kumar were staged in the Sharada Auditorium of the University on 30 May. The play "Kaalchakra" is based on the legend of Raja Bhoj and Gangu Teli, in which the lead roles were played by J.P. Singh as Raja Bhoj and Tarun Jalota as

Gangu Teli. Vaidyanath Sharma as Vaidya and Amatya, Vashishtha Upadhyay played the role of Ang Raj, Jyoti Upadhyay as Chandramukhi, Ashfaq as Musician, Vansh Rathore as Singer, Neeraj played the role of Dwarpal and Lights Designed by Shyam Kumar. The play Kaalchakra was started with a Jarjar Puja as per the rules of Natyashastra. A unique amalgamation of music and acting was seen in the play.



The second story full of humour “Bank Manager” is about a woman who comes to a bank, forces the manager to fulfill her unreasonable demands, the play is full of some humorous exchange of dialogues between the two and ends with the manager literally losing his mind. Nagendra Sharma played the role of the bank manager, the role of the woman was played by Shraboni Saha, Sachin Verma played the role of the assistant manager, music was directed by Vansh Rathore and lighting was designed and directed by Shyam Kumar.



In both the presentations, senior theatre artist and former director of M.P.S.D. Alok Chatterjee and the Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr. Aditi Chaturvedi Vats and the Vice Chancellor of the University graced their dignified presence as the chief guests. Alok Sir appreciated the play and praised the acting of all the artists. Dr. Aditi Chaturvedi Vats called the students' presentation commendable and called it the heritage of the University. All the students were given certificates after the play. The coordinators of this workshop were Dr. Sanjay Dubey and Dr. Savitri Singh Parihar, co-coordinator Dr. Deepak Tiwari, cooperation from the Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts and Mr. Sharad Mishra, Abhishek Deshmane.

Natsamrat Theatre Festival

spreads its wings to Mumbai

By Shraboni Saha

After establishing itself in Delhi, Natsamrat is now steadily making a mark in Mumbai as well. It successfully organised the 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival for Maharashtra audience



Natsamrat brought the Kumbh of plays for Mumbaikars i.e. 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival where five different plays were staged on May 26, 27 and 28 at Creative Adda Auditorium, Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai.

On May 26, at 6:30 pm, the play Napunsak, written by Manjul Bhardwaj, was staged and at 8:00 pm, the play Teen Bandar, written by Prabuddha Joshi, directed by Nagendra Kumar Sharma, both plays were staged.

The play Aadhi Raat ke Baad which was written by Dr. Shankar Shesh was staged on 27th May at 6:30 pm and the play Chukayenge Nahi, written by Dario-Fo and adapted by Amitabh Srivastava was staged at 8:00 pm and both the plays are directed by Chandrashekhar Sharma.

On May 28, at 7:30 pm, the play Kambakkht Ishq written by Satya Prakash was staged and the play is directed by Shyam Kumar, director of Natsamrat.

Artists from Delhi, Ambala, Mumbai presented the five different plays at the theater in Mumbai. In these plays, there was humor, adventure as well as social messages for the audience. Seeing the audience of Mumbai, it seemed as if they had a lot of love for theatre, that's why the entire auditorium was packed on all three days. Natsamrat director Shyam Kumar says that if anyone wants to give something to the society, it can be done through drama and the audience definitely pays attention to it because it does not give stress to the mind, instead it gives a beautiful message through entertainment.

Editor Manohar Khushalani got Natsamrat Best Critic Award

this day in 2019

The Glittering night of Natsamrat Theatre Awards. This was the most memorable moment of that year for StageBuzz Ed, Manohar Khushalani To be Awarded The 2019 Natsamrat Best Theatre Critic Award. It was indeed a fulfilling moment and an acknowledgement of his decades of consistent and persistent work as a critic for Pioneer (Column: Foot Lights), Mid Day (Culture Cocktail) and of course StageBuzz (Editor).