

Fidelity a key to lasting ties in marriage

Pio Esteves

Tiatr: 'Tum Mhaka Zai'
Writer: Antonet de Sousa
Director: Mayur Mayakar
Institution: J J Production, Santa Cruz
Cast: Salil Naik, Succorine Gonsalves, Shawn Noronha, Webster de Souza, Maria Afonso, Danzil D'Souza, Sam Braganza, Francisco Dias, Jaslyn Dias
Stage Sets: Josan Sequeira and Edmund Dias
Lights: Mahadev Khedekar
Makeup: Joao and Liza Sequeira
Costumes: Marisha and Joylin



KA's 50th 'A' Group Competition 2024-25
'Tum Mhaka Zai'

The story revolves around Jacob (Francisco Dias) and his two daughters, Yulette (Jaslyn Dias/Antonet de Sousa) and Victoria (Maria Afonso). Yulette is suffering from a mental illness, with a tendency to remember and forget easily. While Yulette receives treatment for her illness from a doctor (Danzil D'Souza) and counsellor (Sam Braganza), her sister Victoria is at her beck and call, providing her regular medicine.

On the other hand, there's Elizabeth (Succorine Gonsalves) and her three sons, Salvador (Salil Naik), Dylan (Webster de Souza) and Charles (Shawn Noronha). Salvador tries to assist his mother in running the family business, while the second son, Dylan is a medical practitioner in Belgium.

On Salvador's birthday, Yulette accidentally drops in and love begins to

grow between them. But when Elizabeth along with her three sons visits Yulette to finalize the marriage, she remembers nothing about the earlier encounter.

Finally, Salvador and Yulette unite in marriage and Charles too ties the knot with Victoria. Dylan too returns from Belgium in order to provide necessary treatment to his sister-in-law.

Over a period of time, the love chemistry appears to be drifting from Salvador to Dylan and Yulette. And then unnecessarily there's a furore in the house. Doubts begin to creep in Salvador's mind regarding his brother's

relationship with Yulette. Due to her illness, Yulette gets inclined towards Dylan. Will Yulette's ties with Dylan lead to divorce? How does this commotion get sorted out in the family? What is the end result?

Tiatr 'Tum Mhaka Zai' carries a heart-warming story, thus touching and stirring the heart strings of the viewers. It is a

family melodrama with focus on women and a good twist in the second half.

All the artistes have given good performances in their respective characters. Salil Naik, Antonet de Sousa and Webster de Souza have given their best in the lead roles. They are ably supported by Francisco Dias and Succorine Gonsalves as guardians. Danzil D'Souza and Sam Braganza as doctor and counsellor respectively make brief entries. For some amusement, Shawn Noronha and Maria Afonso entertain and they carry a good dose of laughter pills under their sleeves.

In the section of songs, there's a choral as the opening, followed by six solos, two duos, two duets and one each of trio and quartet. In general, the renditions were satisfactory. A little more focus would have helped to raise the bar.

The stage sets by Josan Sequeira and Edmund Dias and the light designs by Mahadev Khedekar deserve a mention. The background music by Sai Kalangutkar was equally good.

Online entrepreneurs ride the win-win wave



Selling and buying things online seems to be

catching on as women are exploring every opportunity to set up a business online, be it fabrics, garments or local specialities

Aruma Gracias Rathod

With time at a premium, women are choosing to shop online more than ever before. This trend became very popular during the pandemic and has been growing steadily after that. Right from groceries to medicines, everything is delivered at home.

Taking a cue from this, women have embraced technology – and the benefits of social marketing – and are now working from the comfortable confines of their homes raking in money regularly by selling items online on social media platforms. The overheads are negligible compared to what they would spend to rent out a physical space and sell their wares. The most popular business is that of selling sarees, fabrics and garments online. All it requires is a smart phone and a wi-fi connection. If you are a good photographer, it is an added bonus.

One of the brands became a super success only through online sales. Started during the pandemic, this business deals exclusively with fabrics sourced from artisans all over the country. Two friends chanced upon this idea as they loved fabrics which were exclusive but not available easily. The two women now travel all over India sourcing the best fabrics from the weavers and sell these online through dedicated channels on popular social media platforms. The best part is that most of their clients are from overseas.

PROMOTING OUR CULTURE

When former-journalist Sushmita Sen moved to Santiniketan about five years ago, she was exposed to a variety of handicrafts – bags, kantha work, pottery, batik and the cultural heritage of West Bengal. She created a Whatsapp group of her friends from Mumbai and other parts of India and kept posting exclusive merchandise from Santiniketan made by local artisans. "It gave me a chance to promote the talented and skilled artists from here and my clients are more than happy to buy exclusive designs and products at a good price," says Sushmita.

Plus-size women too benefitted a lot from online marketing. Earlier, they would trudge from store to store for their size and fit. But now a few entrepreneurs have started making exclusive plus-size designs that are not boring but stylish, creating a niche market. Free shipping/delivery, festival offers, exchange facility and sometimes cash on delivery have promoted these businesses very well.

While some women are investing in the business, some are doing it even without investments. "Because of online technology and Whatsapp calls and features that are free, I am in touch with a few artisans who are located in the remote villages of India. They send me

images of their products which I re-post and sell with a minimal margin," says Sunita Rao. Some women are conducting online business inspite of working full-time. "I find that I have spare time in the afternoon, so I decided to set up my own dedicated page on social media and keep updating my clients about sales, new stock or when I go live on the media," says Chandni Singh, teacher in secondary school in Delhi.

Online enterprise is not only about goods and services. It can also be related to wellness in the comfort of your home. Sanjeevani is an experienced yoga teacher. She started her online classes during the pandemic and now it is so popular that her students are preferring online to offline classes. She has a regular batch of 30 students and conducts classes once a day for five days a week.

Some women are enterprising enough to cash in on their cooking expertise. With plenty of options for home delivery, they are making special menus for festivals and posting the menu online well in advance for brisk sales. Birthday cakes, cookies, speciality meals are all available online now.

EASY FOR ALL

For women this is a great model of business – to keep busy and also earn. "My children go to school in the afternoon, so that's when I do my online selling. I feel fruitfully occupied and then execute the orders after the live-show," says Ritu Kapoor, who sources fabrics from various states of India and sells online. Ritu moved to Mumbai as her husband was transferred from Gujarat. "I didn't have any friends in the new Society where we moved, so I wanted to do something to keep busy. Sometimes when my daughter has holidays, she too helps by either handing over the pieces to me during the live or helps me with the price list," adds Ritu.

All it takes is an active UPI account for accepting payments, after which the product is despatched, either through a courier service or Indian Post for parcels in India. Regular sales are held to offload stocks or during festivals as a gesture for regular clients, making it a great deal for both, the buyer and the seller.



Understanding autism and embracing neurodiversity

Andre Velho

Autism is a type of neurodiversity – one of the many ways in which people's brains can be unique. Ananya is an autistic teenager. She struggled to make friends due to her communication and interaction differences but found comfort and joy in rhythm from early on. With support and encouragement from her family, she began learning the tabla. Today, Ananya is a phenomenal tabla player, performing live for audiences across Goa.

Roger is an autistic ten-year-old who is still learning to communicate and is being home-schooled since he struggles to learn in a traditional schooling set up. Despite these challenges, Roger is



incredibly social. He eagerly helps his family out with small tasks at home like doing the dishes and laundry, and always offers a warm smile to those around him. Ananya's and Roger's stories echo the

experiences of lakhs of autistic people across Goa who are navigating a world that often does not accommodate them. Their stories are a reminder that every autistic person, regardless of their abilities and differences, has a place in our society and deserves acceptance and inclusion.

Autistic brains are wired differently to most people's brains, as a result of which autistic people see, hear, and feel things differently. They may sometimes socialise or communicate differently, and they also have really cool talents and strengths. The concept of neurodiversity challenges the idea that there is one 'normal' way to think, learn, or experience the world. Instead, it recognizes that neurological differences such as autism are natural variations of human cognition – just like biodiversity in nature. Neurodiversity is not a deficit; it is a difference. While autism awareness is nice, it alone is not enough. Acceptance and taking action are important – welcoming autistic people as valuable members of our society and making meaningful changes to ensure they thrive in Goa.

(Andre Velho is the head of the Autism Program at Sethu - Centre for Child Development and Family Guidance)

Community and public spaces

Public places can be designed to be more autism-friendly, with quiet zones and sensory equipment (like dark glasses and headphones) in malls and supermarkets, and safe community play areas for autistic children.

Returning to Ananya and Roger's stories. Their parents once feared they would struggle to find their place in the world. But through music and social engagement, they have found joy, purpose, and acceptance. Their stories prove that with the right support, autistic people can thrive in their own ways. Goa has great potential to be an inclusive society. All it requires is a shift in mindset from "fixing" autistic people to accommodating them and celebrating their differences. In doing this, not only do their lives change for the better, but Goa changes for the better.

HERE'S WHAT CAN BE DONE:

Education: Schools can move beyond token inclusivity and genuinely prioritise participation of autistic students. This means investing in training teachers and increasing teacher support, working with the child's family and treating children with kindness and respect.

Workplace accessibility
 Workplaces can recognize that autistic employees bring unique strengths. Small adjustments like flexible work hours, clear communication styles, and sensory accommodations can create an inclusive work environment where autistic employees can thrive.

Khoshi Lokanchem Fest

Goa College of Home Science, Campal-Panjim, will organise Khoshi Lokanchem Fest (Happy People's Fest), curated by Festakar Marius Fernandes. This unique festival is an inclusive and accessible celebration of Goa's rich cultural heritage. Attendees can look forward to a vibrant lineup of activities, including a special book release. Some of the activities include Festakar Passoi, Ghumotacho Avaz, bolcaocheo Gozalli, kottiacho nach, the Home Science Sunshine band. The festival will also introduce the 5G: Global Goan Girls Ghumot Group.
Venue: Opp Parade Grounds Campal, Panjim
Date: April 5
Time: 11 am to 5 pm

Lenten Musical Concert

MOCA presents a soulful Lenten Musical Concert by renowned musician Fabiola Lopes e Fernandes, bringing an evening of reflection and devotion through music. Free entry, no tickets required.
Venue: Santa Monica Church, Old Goa
Date: April 6
Time: 6 PM

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert

WOW! I DID GREAT WORK TODAY. IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

DID ANYONE SEE YOU DO IT?

NO.

TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.

YEAH, THAT'S STARTING TO SET IN.

Garfield

I HID A BOX OF COOKIES IN A SAFE PLACE

A REALLY SAFE PLACE

CAN'T REMEMBER?

NO!

Wizard of id

WE'VE GOT HYPOTHERMIA AND CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BELOW THE WAIST, BUT THE ARTIST GOT HIS PRETTY SNOWSCAPE...

crossword 4808

ACROSS

1- Thick piece; 5- Give it ____; 9- Black bird; 12- Volcano shape; 13- Cut off; 15- Cumberbund; 16- Twice tetra-; 17- ____ la vista; 18- Gen. Robt ____; 19- Vacuum bottle; 21- Dressing choice; 23- "You are ____"; 24- Half a fly; 25- Allege; 28- Fragile; 33- National symbols; 34- Miami ____ County; 35- School period; 36- Suffix with cloth; 37- Less diluted; 38- Little spasm; 39- Pro ____ (proportionally); 41- Arabian gulf; 42- Actress Zellweger; 44- Captivated; 46- Comfortable; 47- Anger; 48- Robert of 'The Sopranos'; 49- Makes sorrowful; 53- Guest; 57- NASDAQ debuts; 58- Comedienne Fields; 60- Electric fish; 61- Actor Brad; 62- Femme fatale; 63- Leave in, to an editor; 64- French possessive; 65- Eye covers; 66- Ten C-notes;

Magna ____; 28- Challenged; 29- Biblical paradise; 30- MetLife competitor; 31- Attempts; 32- Roast host; 34- Type of ranch; 37- Mother and father; 40- In the thick of; 42- Hwy's; 43- Most strange; 45- Metal-bearing mineral; 46- Foreigners; 48- Like some college walls; 49- Drinks slowly; 50- ____baked in ____; 51- Specks; 52- Dirty; 54- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 55- Yellow spread; 56- Queue after Q; 59- Prefix with angle;

DOWN

1- Edinburgh native; 2- ____ Ness monster; 3- Pay to play; 4- Tight embrace; 5- On dry land; 6- Mock, annoy; 7- Campers, for short; 8- Himalayan legend; 9- Surrealist Salvador; 10- Cruising; 11- At what time; 14- Dangerous snake, familiarly; 15- Choose; 20- Pigsty; 22- Faulkner's ____ Lay Dying; 25- Blazing; 26- Unsoiled; 27-

solution 4807

EPITIC ESATU CAMS
 AONE NOLTE OXEN
 TSAR DOSES TENA
 ATTA TITO CALLUP
 ENAGT RAPIDITY
 ENAGT GORE FLEE
 LAS DRAKE TNN
 ITIS EELY CHAOS
 ASSISTED HAYDN
 BEEP WORD
 REALMS BER RANT
 ETUI TWEN ALEE
 EARN SPADE TARE
 FLAG ASIST ENDS

sudoku 4808

	2	9			1	6		4
	3	6	4	2				
4		5			6		7	
			6		4	5	2	
	1	8	2		3			
	5		3			9		6
				6	2	7	4	
8		7	1			2	5	

Instructions for Sudoku

9 x 9 letter: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes

solution 4807

1	3	4	8	6	7	9	5	2
8	2	7	5	1	9	4	6	3
5	9	6	3	4	2	8	1	7
3	8	2	6	9	4	1	7	5
4	5	9	1	7	3	2	8	6
7	6	1	2	5	8	3	9	4
6	1	3	4	8	5	7	2	9
9	4	8	7	2	6	5	3	1
2	7	5	9	3	1	6	4	8