

Herald Cafe



AN ART EXHIBITION ON ST FRANCIS XAVIER AT BORIM



PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF THE SISTERS OF THE HELPERS OF MARY IN GOA

Did tiatrs underperform at KA's annual competition?

Family-themed performances dominated the Kala Academy's 50th Tiatr 'A' Group Competition, with a few tiatrs focused on current issues that are affecting the state

Pio Esteves

Kala Academy (KA)'s 50th Tiatr 'A' Group Competition 2024-25 concluded with the participation of 14 (3 troupes from South and 11 groups from North Goa) socio, art and cultural associations from across the state. With the exception of a handful, a good chunk of Konkani writers preferred to rope in directors with vast experience in the field of Konkani 'nattaks'. Probably those writers might have thought that their active involvement in directing their troupe members would help raise the bar and standard of tiatrs.

TIATR LOSING ITS AUTHENTICITY?

It seems some of the seasoned, experienced directors fell short in directing the tiatrs presented for the competition annually. The flavor of 'nattaks' is being encouraged in the rich, traditional tiatrs, which include the seven 'podde'.

Just the mere inclusion of songs in different categories in between the 'podde' cannot be termed as a tiatr. Such was the case of one tiatr for this year's 'A' group competition where the entire presentation was only on one background setting. It was also observed that one of the prize winners of last year's competition fell short of creative ideas and a tiatr was brought on stage with a twist here and there in last year's production.

SONGS: THE NECESSITY OF TIATRS

In the section of songs, there was only one troupe which brought some novelty in the opening song, with a mixture of traditional folk song. There were good renditions on stage on varied subjects from teenagers, youth to the senior tiatrists. But unfortunately, 'forgetfulness' empowered some of the singers, including the senior-most tiatrists, but none quit midway, thus fulfilling their mission on stage and passion for singing.

Although off stage 'prompting' has reduced in tiatrs, which is a good trend, yet it was noticed that it still continues for renditions in the competition. Such practice must be stopped as it only adds to bad taste. With regards to the band offstage, in some tiatrs, the



live music was blaring and often empowered the singers on stage. A handful of musicians knew the art and technique of controlling the sound, thus providing a pleasant listening to the viewers.

THE ROLE OF COMEDIANS

In the comedy section, in some productions, there were too many comedians on stage to entertain the audience and exaggeration and 'overacting' spoiled the entire show. In other presentations, the element of comedy was quite moderate, thus, enabling the spectators to enjoy the tiatrs.

WRITING STRONG STORYLINES

Fr Roman Rodrigues from Rosary College, Navelim, who watched the competition

tiatrs, said, "From 1974 to 2025, competition tiatr has made commendable progress in all aspects. However, being its golden jubilee year, much more was expected from the participating groups this season, leaving the audience somewhat disheartened. Among the 14 participating teams, most themes were repetitive, focusing on Goa, its land and its people. The storylines lacked an element of surprise, the creative aspects did not meet the expected standard and stage settings—except for those of 2-3 groups—reflected a lack of effort. Many singers forgot their lyrics, while some struggled to maintain the correct pitch. Although a few tiatrs had promising beginnings, they failed to sustain their impact

until the end. Unfortunately, no tiatr this year introduced a fresh or innovative concept."

"Usually, from an audience perspective, it is difficult to predict the winners as the competition is intense. However, this season, I felt there was no real competition at all," Fr Roman said, further adding, "There was a sense that some directors prepared their competition tiatrs with the intention of later converting them into popular tiatrs. This approach may have impacted the overall standard, as it led to inclusion of numerous comedy characters."

A NEW GENERATION ON STAGE

Steve Rodrigues, another tiatr among the audience, said, "It was amusing to watch little kids on stage for the renditions and a pool of



talent was visible in their presentation. Tiatr is basically to entertain the crowd and so the element of comedy is a must. But in the competition comedy went amiss and its pulse couldn't be felt among the audience. Dialogues in the tiatrs were not thought-provoking and the comedy songs were not up to the mark as far as composing was concerned."

TIATRS LOSING ITS WINNING CHARM

One of the participants of yesteryears, Augie de Melo said, "This year's contest showcased a variety of performances, but a few noticeable patterns emerged. Some groups seemed to repeat similar concepts and characters, with only change in the stage setting. While certain groups excelled in the play's execution, their musical segments fell weaker in comparison. Some comedy segments lacked coherence, making it difficult for the humour to connect with the audience. Interestingly, 2-3 groups incorporated a distinct flavour of Konkani 'nattak' into their performances, adding a unique touch to the competition."

SWIPE RIGHT

Ananya Panday drops BTS pics of her character Dilreet Gill

Ananya Panday is all set for the theatrical release of her upcoming movie, 'Kesari Chapter 2'. She recently attended the film's trailer launch with her co-stars Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan. Now, she has shared some behind-the-scenes pictures of her character, Dilreet Gill. Ananya Panday took to Instagram and dropped two monochrome BTS photos of her character from 'Kesari Chapter 2'. She was seen wearing an ethnic suit with earrings. Her hair was styled in a braid. In the caption, Ananya wrote, "Creating Dilreet Gill for #KesariChapter2 have you watched our trailer yet?"



Russell Brand charged with assault and rape

UK comedian and actor Russell Brand has been charged with multiple federal offenses. Brand has been accused of one count of oral rape and one count of indecent assault, according to the Metropolitan Police. The force revealed that the allegations concern incidents that took place between 1999 and 2005. In one incident, a woman was allegedly raped in the Bournemouth area. The actor-comedian has also been accused of indecently assaulting another woman in the Westminster area of London in 2001. Another plaintiff alleged that Brand raped and sexually assaulted her in 2004. The fourth incident involves a different woman who was allegedly abused and sexually assaulted in the Westminster area between 2004 and 2005.



Lindsay Lohan accepts the CinemaCon Vanguard Award during the CinemaCon Big Screen Achievement Awards in Las Vegas.

When love transcends every hurdle

Film review: 'Mog Asum'
Cast: Purab Kholi, Anjali Patil, Prince Jacob, John D'Silva, Meenacshi Martins, Gillian Pinto, Vikram Acharya, Moumita Pal, Tamara D'Souza, Madhavi Pai, Nidhi, Adwait
Story Screenplay/Director: Agnelo Angelo Braganza, Radheshyam Pipalwa
Production: Flowing Mandovi Films

Pio Esteves

The story revolves around Jack (Purab Kholi), a musician by profession, his spouse Gracie (Gillian Pinto) and their two children, Alison (Nidhi) and Andre (Adwait). After the premature demise of his spouse, Jack visits the cemetery to offer floral tribute to Gracie on their wedding anniversary. As he tries to converse with Gracie, remembering her favourite flowers, he sees his just-arrived-from-the-dead spouse. Fearing



it to be a spirit, Jack flees from the scene. But on several occasions, Gracie appears to Jack gracefully, who gives 'please-move-on' advice to her bewildered husband. Jack is unable to digest her words of encouragement.

Back home, Jack misses his spouse, especially during the Christmas season and has to face the hard reality of parenting his two grown-up children single-handedly. But he accepts the challenge.

As events unfold in Jack's

Film Review MOG ASUM

life, there's his immediate neighbour, 'Ghora Maim' (Meenacshi Martins), who stands like a pillar to support him, while he tries to assist her in her daily chores. Her grandchild Nataline (Anjali Patil), who is a children's author, returns from abroad after receiving intimation about her fall.

And in order to take care

of her grandmother, Nataline, who is known as Natty in the neighbourhood, stays back for some time. Natty has a fascination with writing through her mentor (Prince Jacob) and she pens novels. She also finds a publisher (Vikram Acharya), who is willing to take up her new project.

Just when Jack tries to digest the hard truth of Gracie's demise, there's an attraction building up between him and Natty. On the other hand, the publisher also takes fancy to the author and makes attempts to win her over. But Natty is reluctant to give in easily.

Now, will it be easy for Jack to forget his departed spouse and make a new beginning with Natty? Will Natty complete her novel she has just begun penning? What is its ending?

'Mog Asum' is a fantasy-comic Konkani film with a fine script and sleek direction. The events unfolding on the screen keep the viewers glued to their seats. The shots are professionally done, with some

eye-capturing scenes.

Instances of the Konkani agitation is brought back in the film when Prince Jacob recalls the hardships faced during that period. The film also carries a small dose of comedy by Antonio (John D'Silva), who runs a bar and restaurant. There are a couple of songs wrapped in the film which are appealing to the ears.

Purab Kholi and Anjali Patil are in the lead roles and they are ably assisted by Gillian Pinto as just-arrived-from-the-dead wife. Meenacshi Martins stands out as the grandmother. Vikram Acharya, Moumita Pal, Tamara D'Souza and Madhavi Pai have extended good support. The child artists Nidhi and Adwait are equally good, displaying innocence in every act.

The music composition is by Myron Estibeiro, with Varun Sanda as chief assistant director and Velanie Fernandes as assistant director. Sound design is by the Sound Architect and Danzil Carrasco has worked on the art.

Photography Competition

Theme: SAVE WATER, SAVE LIFE

Rules:

- Photo must be original, unedited work.
- Competition is open for all age limit.
- Each participant should send 1 photograph.
- File names should include participant's name.
- JPG format only.
- Each entry must have a short description.
- No watermarks or identifying marks allowed.
- Entries must not violate copyrights or privacy rights.
- Photos should not depict elected government officials or have been previously submitted to other contests.

DEADLINE: SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY APRIL 10, 2025, 12:00 AM.
ANNOUNCEMENT: WINNERS WILL BE REVEALED ON APRIL 15, 2025.
SEND YOUR ENTRY ON: digitalmarketing@herald-goa.com
CONTACT: 9370250511 / 9049650972