

Bharati College SSR January 2020

Section 5.3.1

Chilman, the Dramatics Society

The Dramatic Society of the College became active in the year 1999 under the Red Stockings Society of the Department of English. In the year 2001 it became an independent body under the name **Chilman**, no longer limited to one department but open to all students of the College. Since its inception, Chilman has done significant work and has given a new impetus to theatre in the College.

The objective of the society is to foster talent for theatre, and to promote in the College a vibrant theatre culture. For this purpose, it stages productions, mime and mono-acting performances, participates in competitions and the like. Its activities can be categorized under three heads: theatre workshops, major productions and minor and experimental productions.

Workshops. We begin each academic session with an intensive workshop with at least twelve student members. These workshops, which focus on body movement, speech etc., prepare students for full-fledged theatre. Sometimes they go considerably beyond this. In September 2018, a two-week long workshop was held to adapt the famous author, thinker and psychoanalyst Sudhir Kakar's *Mira and the Mahatma* into a Hindi play.

Major productions. Chilman is an ambitious society which strives for excellence. As part of this quest, it puts up one major production every year.

In 2016, **Chilman** performed *Khol Do*, based on the famous story by Saadat Hasan Manto, at several venues.. The team bagged the best production at Kalindi College for *Khol Do*. At Abhivyakti, the Bharati College fest, the team bagged the first runner up prize, while Gunjan Prasad won the best actor award.

Surendra Verma's well-known play *Neend Kyon Raat Bhar Nahin Aati* was performed at Muktheadhara Auditorium as part of a National Theatre festival.

Further, Neha Sharma won prizes for Mono-Acting in several competitions, including first prizes at Hindu College, Janki Devi Memorial College and Amity University.

In 2017 **Chilman** once again turned to Manto's oeuvre, and performed *Kali Salwaar* at multiple venues. **Chilman** performed *Kali Salwaar* at Bharati College and PGDAV College. **Chilman** performed Mahasweta Devi's *Rudaali* (prelims) at Lady Irwin College and at the National Seminar on Migration and Diaspora, Bharati College, on 24 March 2017. Further, Manisha Vishvakarma (English Honours III year), Ekta Verma (B Com Hons I year) and Nidhi Sharma (BA programme III year) performed Mono acts at Manav Rachna International University. Nidhi Sharma and Manisha Vishvakarma took part in Mono Acting at the Bharati College fest Abhivyakti. Manisha bagged the third prize.

Chilman performed Mohan Rakesh's *Ashadh ka Ek Din* at several venues. This is a much-acclaimed play based on a fictionalized account of the life of poet Kalidasa. The venues outside College included AIIMS, Lady Shri Ram College, Sahitya Kala Parishad and PGDAV College (where the production reached the finals). At Abhivyakti, the Bharati College fest, **Chilman** participated with a mono-acting act by Priya (BA Hons. History).

On 17 March 2018, **Chilman** performed *A Night in Jail*, a bilingual adaptation by Dr Sonali Jain of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, a play on Henry David Thoreau by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. The play was performed at India International Centre as the closing event of the International Conference on Thoreau under the direction of Dr Danish Iqbal.

In 2019, **Chilman** performed Mahesh Dattani's celebrated play *Thirty Days in September* at the Sahitya Kala Parishad.. The play holds up a mirror to our society which expects a victim of abuse to remain silent throughout life.

As part of our commitment to good theatre, we are ready to laugh and weep, but also question, provoke, denounce and disturb.

Sonali Jain, Staff Advisor
and Bhawna Shivan, co-Staff Advisor

Chilman