

## **SCEDA: END OF THE YEAR REPORT**

Sophia College English Dramatics Association is one of the first established clubs in Sophia College for Women. It is the colleges' official theatre society for students who are interested in this form of expression and want to explore it more. The club consists of members ranging in terms of their expertise in theatre, regardless of whether it is someone new exploring an interest or someone who has years of experience. The club hosts workshops and informative sessions throughout the year in order to help members learn and develop on skills that are required to flourish on or off stage, regardless of being apart of the cast or crew. Sophia College English Dramatics Association conducts its Annual Play every year in the Sophia Bhabha Hall. The annual play is its flagship event, wherein auditions are taken to screen the cast, a production team is put together, a script and story is improvised and months of practice and rehearsing result in a production that is put forth to a large audience. The club captures the essence of theatre as best as it can and facilitates an environment of growth, spirit and a bond between its members. The goal is to create a safe space on the stage for people to embrace their emotions, their personality, their skills, their confidence and their ability to express it.

In the year 2020-21, owing to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and maintaining everybody's health, SCEDA decided to conduct all its events online. Despite the fact that this would hinder the quality of the skillset being learnt about and the participants ability to practice, we wanted to provide a basis of information so that skills could be worked upon within homes and once the lockdown restrictions lifted. SCEDA started its year in the month of **September 2020** and hosted five events during this month. The first event was an interactive session with well-established actor and Sophia Alumni, Srishti Srivastava about the nature of a career in acting and how a background in theatre helped to facilitate the necessary skills and experience needed in order to succeed in a career in acting on screen. The second event revolved around character building in theatre, a very important and necessary part of the theatre process. This was also an interactive session for the audience. The third session, took us through the process of putting a production together starting with the script and essentially ending through curtain call. This was a workshop conducted so as to allow participants direct access to the resource person. The fourth session was more on the lines of a niche in theatre, specifically improv acting. Since improvisation is the mark of a good actor, we thought to introduce this in our events. The last session for the month was

“Method Acting” another niched workshop introducing our audience to a facet of theatre that is now growing and can contribute greatly to acting skills. In the month of **October 2020**, we had an introductory workshop for beginners who are starting out in theatre and would like to knowledge in pursuing through this art form. The second event was for the members only, and was to facilitate a bonding experience between the members. We’d conducted a play reading as an event to facilitate enjoyment and usage of one’s skills in voicing and emoting a character. The last session for this month was a session conducted on Musicals which took us through a journey where a well-known artist in India’s Broadway musicals shared his experience working with them, took us through famous musicals and shared important skills and training required to perform in Musical Productions. In the month of **November 2020**, SCEDA participated in an event hosted by another club talking about political expression through theatre and provided information and examples regarding the same. We also conducted our second play reading for the members. In the month of **December 2020**, we looked at more unconventional forms of theatre: our first event focused on the incorporation of Indian classical music in theatric productions and was an interactive session between the audience and the resource person. The next event for this month was a focus on “Radio theatre” which had more of a focus on voice modulation and the usage of intonation, pitch and tones in the expression of a character or emotion. We ended the year with our own online version of our flagship event, in the month of **February 2021**, called “Bringing Heartbreak to Life.” The whole of January was spent brainstorming an event that could incorporate all these aspects of theatre and essentially, we had two rounds of the event: The eliminations that focused on the theme “Anger” and the finals which focused on the theme “Heartbreak.” The finals were divided into two components: a submission component (wherein the five finalists had to provide a character sketch of the character they had developed) and a performance component (wherein they embodied and performed as their characters for five minutes). The judge for the final event was ‘Jim Sarbh’ and there were three winners of the event.

SCEDA has associated and collaborated with the Bhartiya Sanskritik Parishad, The World Music and Dance Club and International Relations Club during the year 2020-21.

**Nantra Nanjappa**

**Club Secretary**

**Sophia College English Dramatics Association, 2020-21.**

