

7.3 Distinctiveness of College

Theatre and Folk Art Training, Talent Hunt, Grooming

Objectives

- Introduce students to all forms of theatre and all folk art in Maharashtra
- Create awareness among students about various issues of society while promoting social awareness through the forms of folk art.
- Encourage and channelize the dormant talent of the students while pursuing their regular studies in college.
- Create “socially conscious artists”.

Context

Various folk arts like Bharud, Gavalan, Lavani, Gondhal, drama and folk dance exist in Maharashtra. The purpose of which is not just to entertain but to enlighten the society through recreation. Unfortunately in this digital age, such folk arts are gradually disappearing. Though we do not have a drama department in college, Department of Marathi has taken the responsibility of introducing theatre and folk arts to students through training every year. In addition to traditional folk arts, various forms of theatre such as drama, skit, street play and mime are introduced to students. While training, student’s talent is identified and subsequently it is groomed. This has resulted into the shaping of leading actors and performers who have been successful at regional and national level. This practice of the institution has been in continuum since the last thirty years.

Practice

The training is being conducted in the month of August every year and is free of cost to all. Any student from undergraduate to postgraduate can attend this training. This training is not only limited to onstage work but also covers important aspects of the backstage art such as lighting, costume, hairstyle, acoustics, etc. To make this training worthy and excellent, various experts, including famous and successful artists, directors, singers, dance directors, are invited for guidance.

At the end of the workshop, students with special proficiency are selected and they are provided free theatre/folkart training till the end of their education.

As a result of all this, the students who are trained in this way are performing excellently in various Marathi and Hindi TV serials, Marathi and Hindi films as well as in professional Marathi theatre as actors, directors and dance directors.

Evidence of Success

- Trained student Mr. Pravin Dalimbkar have performed 700 professional plays of “Shivaji Underground in Bhimnagar Mohalla” a drama illustrating real history of Shivaji Maharaj.
- A devastating earthquake battered Killari (Dist Latur) in 1993. As a part of social responsibility, the students of the college collected an amount of Rs. 50,000/ through street plays. This amount was then sent to Killari as a relief fund.
- Trainee students have performed many street plays at various places of Aurangabad district for creating awareness among voters which helped to increase voter turnout in Aurangabad district. This has been appreciated by the then Aurangabad district collector.
- Due to his devotion and achievements in theatre, Mr. Avinash Bharti, a student of this institution has been appointed as the “Swacchata Doot” of Maharashtra.
- Institute won overall championship for consecutive 16 (sixteen) years in University Youth Festival (despite nonexistent drama department in college) and was second runner up for subsequent 7 (seven) years.