

Theatre Treat

Films and television are here to stay; but theatre, said to be the first medium of entertainment, is still considered to be an attraction for many, feels Tanvi Malhotra

Theatre, in India, started off as a narrative concept, i.e. reciting, singing and dancing which formed its integral elements. The emphasis on the narrative aspects made theatre essentially dramatic right from the beginning. That's primarily the reason why theatre in India has encompassed all forms of literature and fine arts.



Natya dance

Courtesy: Google Images

Literature, Mime, Music, Dance, Movement, Painting, Sculpture and Architecture – all mixed into one is called 'Natya' or 'Theatre' in English. The exodus from theatre to films is not a new phenomenon. But of late, television, video, film and satellite channels have attracted the maximum number of people from theatre groups because of more money, glamour and market opportunities.

"The audience appears to be fed up with the small screen," says Neha Mehta, a college student, working in theatre as a part-timer. In spite of all the upheavals, Neha feels, theatre has emerged as a winner; being a live and direct medium, theatre always relates on a human level with its audience which can never die.

Prithvi theatre, owned by the Kapoor family, has never seen decline since the time it was started. The Annual Prithvi Festival features the best plays in India. This theatre encourages children to join summer workshops too. It polishes their acting skills, their command over dialogue delivery and the basics of theatre. These workshops are about de-stressing and

setting free your intellectual areas.

"It's evident that acting isn't easy in theatre - whether you are old or new. However, their performances are a class apart compared to mainstream actors," says Pooja Shah, who is an ardent theatre buff. "Acting is an art which mostly erupts from theatre. So if one sees opportunity in mainstream TV or movies, there is no harm. Ultimately they are getting a chance to play the character of their choice and should make use of this platform to the fullest," says Shah.

Definitely, theatre has changed a lot. Actors like Nasseruddin Shah, Anupam Kher, Shah Rukh Khan, Paresh Rawal, Pankaj Kapoor, and Ratna Pathak Shah are a few who started off with theatre and earned their name and fame both in theatre and film industry.

Theatre still continues to provide artists to the film industry. The actors also have given back to theatre more than what they have received. Therefore, under no circumstances theatre would die as for some it's still the best way of entertainment.

tanvi.r.malhotra@gmail.com

G For Passion

Guitar unlike other musical instruments binds people around the world. For a few it is a hobby, some like watching others perform, while some dream of performing with a band

Arvind Barimar, an electronic engineer, sitting in his bedroom at 11:30 pm, after a long days work looks around to search for what he calls his stress buster- Guitar. On spotting it, his eyes lit up and with his guitar pick, he plays his favourite tune, "Hotel California". "There was a movie Desperado, which involves characters playing Spanish guitar. It is an amazing movie. My liking for guitar grew from watching this movie," he says while still playing the tune.

As a young child his interest lay in learning English songs and his choice of songs would always include a lot of guitar strumming. He developed his interest from there and now this instrument has given him another reason to sing.



He began playing it without any professional coaching, but by following concerts of artists like, Pink Floyd, Scorpions, The Verve, Flipsyde, Carlos Santana, Joe Satriani, and Bryan Adams.

Playing the guitar has many benefits, "Knowing to play the guitar is an added advantage. You can always entertain anyone; by strumming your own tune (which you can compose once you learn it) you can always play it in front of a few people and then get praises in return (who would not want praises)." He smiles and with a twinkle in his eyes says, "The most memorable moment was when I sneaked my girl in my house at midnight and sang her a song."

Guitar symbolises elegance and class. One feels at the top of the world as well. He feels, you can forge the world while playing this instrument. It hypnotises you. For those who are a lot into music they can take their liking to another level-a band, which will earn them money, fame and more than that, they get to do what they are passionate about, for a living."

Jatin Kharatmal, a management graduate and lead guitarist of a band believes, "One can say that a guitar is violent and destructive, yet one of the most exotic and romantically expressive Instruments."

What lured him to start a band? He answers, "We were four boys with the

same passion and the ambition to try something different and unique. This lured us to start our own band, which was way back in college." Their experience was exasperating always. He adds, "I vividly remember the first time we went on stage. The very thought of having a live audience, which would judge us then and there, as well as the excitement, truly made us go blank. But when we sang our first song, the crowd sang along with us, this really boosted our confidence. A different energy helps you perform on stage. You are not in your own senses but in a different world where it is just you, the music and the audience. To see people appreciating you, when you are on an emotional high is a feeling hard to give away."



Courtesy: Google Images

TANAYA ADARKAR
adarkartanaya@gmail.com