



After Maadhyam, Vaividhya rocks!

Batch of 22 bags Vaividhya fest prize



Jubilant winners of various events of Vaividhya 2022 after the prize distribution.

Atharva Agashe

After the impressive literary fest Maadhyam in mid-March, culture frenzy exploded at SCMC on 25th March, after two long years, as the college held its intra-batch cultural fest Vaividhya comprising music, dance and drama competitive events.

The highlight of the event was the staging of the musical Chicago – a grand performance put up by the Theatre, Music and Dance Clubs of SCMC and directed by Shirin Pajnoo, Anyaa Sharma, Juhli Khara, Sudipti Kumar, Rishab Sengupta and Manya Maswal (Ayden).

Vaividhya commenced with the mono

acting event with Nanda Sajeav from Batch 2022 adjudged as the winner for her exemplary performance. This was followed by solo Hindi and English singing events where Adya Srivastava and Ishita Sharma, both of Batch 23 won the first positions respectively.

The auditorium rocked to rhythmic clapping and the magical swaying of cell-phone flashlights as the singers regaled the audience.

The limelight then shifted from dance to dance as classical and western solo dancing took over the stage. Ashwini Sasikumar and Malavika Binu from Batch 2022 went on to win the respective events with



Ashwini Sasikumar of Batch 2022 who won the Classical Solo Indian Dance.

resounding performances. Dance improv (impromptu dancing) was the event to look out for as each participant was given just two minutes to prepare a song that was chosen via random chits. Malavika Binu emerged as the winner of this round. Group theatre performances provided some thrills as the batches put up some dramatic performances based on the topic given to them.

There were certain rules to be followed and Batch of 2023 emerged the winner.

The group dance was one of the most awaited events and it lived up to expectations. The three batches performed some intense, high-energy dance routines.

The girls of Batch 2023 impressed with their amazing dance moves, but it was Batch 2022 which won this event by successfully incorporating different dance forms in their performance.

The instrumental and vocal group music events were received with much enthusiasm as the audience sang-along and cheered the performers. The events were won by Batch 23 and Batch 22, respectively.

The making of a musical

The directors of Chicago speak their minds



The climactic scene from the musical.

Prishita Das

What inspired you to direct Chicago?

Shirin Pajnoo (SP): When I was elected Theatre Club Head, I knew that I wanted to do something out of the box. Something new, something that has never happened before in SCMC. After two years of sitting at home and just igniting the hope amongst fellow members of the club that we would 'soon' do a grand play wasn't enough. When we got to know that Vaividhya is scheduled for this semester, we knew what we had to do. Anyaa and I wanted to do a musical. And if not a musical, then at least some sort of a collaboration between Dance, Music and Theatre clubs. Soon, the three club heads pitched this idea and after a lot of discussions, we boiled down to Chicago.

Why Chicago, in particular, for SCMC's first-ever musical?

Anyaa Sharma (AS): Chicago is an amalgamation of various emotions - from greed for power and fame to losing everything and being powerless. It works in extremes and the audience experiences a range of different emotions that break the monotony of a play. Chicago is "all that jazz" there could ever be, making it look energetic and extremely fascinating. Jazz is extremely difficult to sing and dance to, but we were sure that it would excite the audience and the directors were not in favour of presenting anything generic and simple.

Do you have a favourite scene or character or moment in the play?

AS: It has to be the last part, when Roxie Hart cry-laughes on her fate. It's so powerful and what makes it even better is the instrumental background score.

How did it feel directing at SCMC after two years online?

AS: We all were extremely emotional by the end of it. I couldn't believe it was happening till it actually happened. The entire cast and crew worked extremely hard. So proud of everyone!

Madhyam brings life on campus back to normal

Batch of 2024 wins Madhyam 2022

Prishita Das

Yashvi Shah

After a gruelling two years in quarantine, attending classes and organising events online, Maadhyam, SCMC's literature and debate festival, finally happened on the campus at the SVC Auditorium on March 16.

Maadhyam is an ode to literary diversity and healthy competition between the three batches of SCMC. Batch 2024 was declared the winners of Maadhyam 2022. From 'Shipwreck' to 'Mic Drop', Maadhyam '22 included a range of competitive events.

Participants showed their verbal skills by speaking in Queens English, without fumbling, in 'Just a Minute', or JAM. In an exciting twist, the participants had to eat chillies and take shots of mystery concoctions arranged by the organizing committee every time they made a mistake. 'Banihan Dakhil', the poetry event, saw moving performances that tackled deep topics like physical abuse, the pandemic, and identity.

In true media college fashion, Maadhyam 2022 stayed current by introducing a new event - 'Wall of Words'. Described as Wordle with a literary twist, the partici-



Winners of Madhyam 2022 pose for a picture on stage after the prize distribution.

pants had to guess the answers to the questions posed in five tries. The questions had themes, like poetry, literature, and Indian pop culture, that kept everyone engaged and guessing.

The events were judged by SCMC professors and guest judges like Ms. Vidya Nesarikar, who is an author and an SIMC

alumnus. She was the judge for 'Mic Drop', a spoken-word poetry event with touching performance that tackled heavy topics like suppression.

As per tradition, Professor Amitabh Das Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism, judged 'Devil's Advocate'.

Cont'd on P-4

Cont'd on P-2