

Ekta observes 'World Theatre Day'

Srinagar, March 27 : The 50th World Theatre Day was observed in Srinagar-Kashmir by the theatre community of Kashmir under the organizing initiative of Ensemble Kashmir Theatre Akademi - EKTA (School of Drama &- Repertory), Srinagar, headed by the pioneering theatre icon of Kashmir Bhawani Bashir Yasir, Founder-cum-Director - EKTA.

Addressing members of theatre fraternity at the Office of EKTA, on the occasion which was also attended by some senior journalists of Kashmir, Bhawani Bashir Yasir, quoting the message of Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO on the occasion of the 50th World Theatre Day, said, "Theatre has the power to move, inspire, transform and educate in ways that no other art form can. Theatre reflects both the extraordinary diversity of cultures and our shared human condition, in all its vulnerability and strength". Signifying the importance of observing March 27 as World Theatre Day, he said that it is aimed at to promote international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts (drama, dance, music and theatre) in order to consolidate peace and solidarity between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding of great human concerns and increase creative co-operation between all people in the theatre arts.

And on this historical occasion of universal significance, Yasir, giving his message to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, said, "Theatre makes a nation wise, vigilant and vibrant. It is the art of reading and reflecting the mind of a nation, thus a nation without theatre is a dead nation". Recapitulating the historical evolution of theatre of Kashmir and the concerted efforts of EKTA to rejuvenate the erstwhile dead the-

atre movement of Kashmir, Yasir said that the theatre of Kashmir has to struggle hard to regain its lost glory and earn its legitimacy, which it could do only when it is bold in its form, style and expression with contemporary relevance to Kashmiris national aspirations and unabated sufferings.

Castigating the cultural policy of the State Govt., Bhawani said, "The State has always adopted apathetic attitude towards promotion and preservation of the indigenous culture of the State especially towards the theatre of Kashmir. It lacked a patriotic state cultural policy. It has failed to renovate the Tagore Hall Srinagar - the nerve centre of cultural activities in Kashmir Valley, within the promised stipulated time, which has cost heavily on the cultural activities especially the theatre of Kashmir, in particular". Addressing the

of Kashmiri theatre and to create professional actors, which is the key to bright future for the theatre of Kashmir to reach to the zenith of its glory. In this regard we are providing professional expertise and imparting concerted training in different courses in theatre-arts to the new promising generation who are keen to learn and adopt theatre as their serious profession. Elaborating its activities that in 2011, EKTA produced two productions one of original Kashmiri Play "Trunove" written by Padamshri M.L.Kemmu and another the translation of a British play "Dumb-Waiter" written by Harold Pinter. Both of these plays were performed in the first ever State level Budshah Theatre Festival - 2011 held at Abhinav Theatre Jammu, organized by EKTA from Dec. 29, 2011 to Jan. 07, 2012, he added.

Director EKTA, in his



ACT observes World Theatre Day

Srinagar: In connection with the 'WORLD THEATRE DAY' celebrations, a Seminar was organized by ACT (Actors Creative Theatre), in a local Hotel. In addition to all the member artists of the organization, the Seminar was attended by the prominent scholars, writers and theatre lovers of the Valley. Prof. M. H. Zafar, Director, centre of Kashmir Studies, presented a paper on the 'Future of Theatre in Kashmir'. Other scholars / writers who spoke on the subject included Noor Shah, renowned writer and President of Urdu Academy, Hassan Sahu, renowned short story writer, Shakeel ur Rahman, President Koshur Mahaz, Ashraf Tak, Chief Editor (Urdu), Cultural Academy, Philip, a research scholar from Poland, G. N. Mir, Aftab Nehvi, Shafi Saagar, M. Aslam Khateeb, Majeed ul Islam and other personalities connected with theatre.

The Seminar was conducted by Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan, Chairman of ACT. s. Shameema Akhtar, (Addl. Secretary Cultural Academy) was the guest of honour, Zameer Ashai, (noted Actor of the valley) was Chief Guest and the event was presided over by Khurshid Wani, (former Deputy Director Doordarshan).

Seminar on "The Theatre of Kashmir and Our Role" organized by EKTA on the occasion of 50th World Theatre Day, Yasir highlighted the concerted efforts of EKTA made to reinvigorate a new spirit in the theatre movement of Kashmir. Yasir said that our prime aim is to build the basic infra-structure

address, expressed his great pleasure and honour that on the occasion of opening ceremony of Budshah Theatre Festival - 2011; EKTA instituted five Budshah Award for outstanding contribution to the Theatre of Kashmir in five categories of theatre arts i.e. Playwright, Direction, Act-

ing, Stage-Craft and Life-Time Achievement Award which were respectively conferred upon the legendary personalities of theatre of Kashmir viz. Sh. Moti Lal Kemmu, Kavi Rattan Sharma, Makhani Lal Saraf, Sajood Sainani while the Life-Time Achievement Award was given to the senior most legendary theatre personality of Kashmir Sh. Pran Kishore. Zafar Iqbal Manhas, the former Secretary, J&K Cultural Academy, who was the Chief Guest at the occasion, echoed with Yasir and expressed his great concerns about the plight of the theatre of Kashmir. He appreciated the efforts of EKTA to rejuvenate the erstwhile dead theatre movement of Kashmir. He expressed his dismay about the role of the State Govt. to prosper the theatre movement of Kashmir. Others, who joined the voice with Yasir while addressing the Seminar about the plight and challenges of the Theatre of

Kashmir, included Sheikh Haneef of Kashmir Valley Theatre, Srinagar; Rajinder Tickoo (actor), Reshi Rashid, Artistic Director of Roshan Art Theatre, Pinjora-Tangmarg; Manzoor-ul-Haq of National Bhand Theatre, Wathora; M. R. Naushad, a veteran playwright and founder member of Royal Theatre, Anantnag; expressed their pleasure regarding the concerted efforts and initiatives of EKTA for boosting the theatre of Kashmir.

Concluding the function, production of EKTA "Kol-Baehrei", the Kashmiri translation of British play "Dumb Waiter" and Designed and Directed by Bhawani Bashir Yasir, was screened for the gathering, which attracted the attention of all for deeply portraying the contemporary concerns of life of a common Kashmiri. The audience was spell-bound after seeing the video-graphic production of the play and appreciated the actors.

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