

Tuesday, Jan 02, 2012, Jammu

‘Laltein’ staged at ‘Budshah Theatre Festival-2011’

GJ REPORT

JAMMU, JAN 1: On the 4th day of the first state level 'Budshah Theatre Festival - 2011', being held at Abhinav Theatre in Jammu which is organized by Ensemble Kashmir Theatre Akademi - EKTA, Srinagar under the supervision of Bhawani Bashir Yasir, Chairman and Director EKTA School of Drama and Repertory, Srinagar in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy and Abhiyan Kalla Manch, Udhampur, presented a Punjabi play "Laltein" adapted and directed by Mohan Mistry.

"Laltein" is a Punjabi play, originally written by Vijay Suman as one act play but re-written by Mohan Mistry to make it full length play. It revolves around a gentle lady "Beguma". Beguma, a social worker, is always keen to help people but her husband, a dacoit, is very cruel and selfish. Play deals with the emotional ups and downs of the life of Beguma, who being meek lady ultimately handovers her husband to police, thus sacrificing her life for the betterment of society, left behind with her lonely daughter - Reshma.

Students in the school tease Reshma for deeds of her criminal father. Later, Beguma dies and one Pujari of the village adopts Reshma. But the question arises that Reshma is a Muslim girl and who will teach Islam to her? The Pujari appoints one Moulvi to teach her the teachings of Islam. The play mirrors the ugly face of our crude society, on one hand and shows the hope of light at the end of dark tunnel on the other. The play optimistically educates the common mind that righteousness bears its fruit one day even at the end of one's life.

The play is an attempt to draw the attention of society towards communal harmony, human values, fight for truth and social belongingness, which, off-course demands sacrifice and selflessness. The driving force of the production is the belief that theatre has to be conscious about its social responsibilities.

All the actors were fresh and raw but deserved appreciation for their confidence. The performance of Usha as Beguma and the little girl as Reshma were comparatively good. Kavi Rattan Sharma, god-father of the theatre in Jammu, who recently was awarded Budshah Award-2011 by EKTA for his contribution to the theatre of Kashmir in the category of direction was the chief guest for today's occasion, appreciated EKTA and its Chairman Bhawani Bashir Yasir, for such initiatives of national scope and significance. He gave away a memento trophy to the Director of the play.