

Team : Dheemahi Center of Arts

Play Name : #36 Sati Savitri Nivasa

Language : Kannada

Duration: 90 minutes

Age Limit : 14 years above

Playwright – Direction – Music : Karthik Hebbar

Cast: Dr Seetha Kote, Deepika P Aradhya, Yeshaswini Channaiah, Divyashree Grama, vishak Bharadwaj, Madhuri Sheshadri, Darshan Narayan , Pratheeksha, Chethana, Soumya Dixit , Anagha, Vikas , Chinmayi, Sai, Asha

Lighting: M G Naveen

Team Management: Murali Sreeram - 9742119911

Number of shows : 20 (in Bangalore and Mysore)

About Team

Dheemahi Theater was born out of the need to create a safe space for new voices. We are a space for the “outsiders”. We have come together to say stories that have been oppressed and suppressed in other majoritarian spaces. Empathy and Humanity are the main focus of all the work that we create. We as a team thrive to celebrate diversity and secular narratives by exploring and devising new techniques for felicitating these stories. We work around minimalist production setups and maximal internal processes. With a passion for storytelling that transcends boundaries, we strive to create a stage that reflects the kaleidoscope of human experiences. Our productions are more than performances; they are a canvas of shared narratives that resonate with the richness of our collective journey. We aspire to weave together tales that inspire, provoke thought, and unite us in the magic of the theater.

ABOUT THE PLAY : #36 Sati Savitri Nivasa

Synopsis

36 Sati Savitri Nivasa chronicles the lives of three middle class women as they go through important milestones in life. What happens to the lives of women leading a predictable life when it's turned upside down due to an unusual candidate taking residency in their middle class apartment? This is a play about sisterhood, old age, loneliness and friendship. It is also an ode all the chaos that adds beauty to the lives of

these women, including Tv Serials and Cinema. There is music, some dancing and loads of madness in this tribute to women and their strength in this patriarchal society that we dwell in!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am a classical musician, writer, theater practitioner and my arts practice is always an amalgamation of these elements. I create because I have to! Growing up Queer and Gender Fluid, I struggled to find representation in the Kannada arts scene and was disappointed. I tried to fit in and adapt to the arts “as is” but eventually found it suffocating and had to find my own path and create what I wanted to engage with. I try to bring marginalized voices to the fore and my stories or creations always try to question and break patriarchal stereotypes and conditioning. My search is always to find fluidity. Just like my characters either in the plays that I have written, or in the dance-based compositions that I have created which always traverse through the non-binary nature of gender identity or sexuality, the art I create yearns to find fluidity in form and content. I break the structure and form using non-linear narratives, democratic – secular emotional indulgences and fluid emotional paradigms. I attempt to convey the grotesque bizarreness of our social existence with humor and the humorous, funny realities that define us through macabre.

I always like to begin with an uncomfortable space and establish familiarity with the unfamiliar. Most importantly, I want my art to be accessible to all class and caste sections of the society. I often have found it very difficult to mold my form in a way that does not “other” an audience which has no access to learning arts appreciation or delving into abstraction. While I try to abstain from dumbing down my audience, I make it a priority to make my arts inclusive. Having been in circles where art is created and consumed in the same vicious elitist spaces and circles, I yearn to connect to a larger canvas.

Having written, produced and directed three plays, my exploration has always yearned to find that fluidity between sound – silence, prose-poetry, body-realism! I want to say more queer stories which are embraced by the mainstream and more mainstream stories which make the queer community feel that they are “seen”. Whilst I am cognizant of the brutal grays that marginalized voices live in, I believe we need more positive representation of these marginalized characters. My younger queer self, wanted to watch happy endings and stories of hope and not just suicide and tragedies. I work only on stories which are fictional retelling of lived experiences and also for these stories to be specifically told in Kannada. Regional languages have the power to automatically place these stories in a certain space while also making sure to remove them from only English-speaking elite spaces! I strive to create work which opens itself

to a more vulnerable audience who need to hear, get uncomfortable and feel ignited towards a spirit of inquiry through these stories.

I will be glad if my art is also entertaining but I will never be okay if it is not Activism!

About Actors

- **Dr Seetha kote**

Dr. Seetha Kote is a renowned Bharathanatyam dancer and actor. She started learning Bharatanatyam from a young age and has performed in many prestigious venues and events. Her role as Shambhavi akka in Muktha Muktha is dearly beloved by many and has made her a household name across the state. She has acted in many Kannada and Tulu movies, several of which have won National Awards. Having completed her PhD, she is the founder of Dhee Mahi Institution of Arts. She has also been actively involved in theatre productions with many troupes. She has performed her seventy-minute one woman show 'Alegalalli Antaranga' at several prestigious occasions, and has established her own theatre team 'Dhee Mahi Theatre', which has produced well-loved plays that have earned much critical and public acclaim.

- **Deepika Aradhya**

A distinguished theatre artist in Kannada Theatre today with hundreds of shows to her credit and innumerable awards and recognition.

- **Yeshaswini Channaiah**

Yeshaswini Channaiah is a Bangalore-based theatre actor, director and model. She has acted in 20+ plays, ads, shorts, and features. She has also directed many plays for school events.

- **Divyashree**

Divyashree Grama is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer and an actor by profession. She has acted in several Kannada tv daily soaps for over eight years. She has also performed with different Kannada theatre groups and acted in more than 10 plays. She has also done voice-overs for many dubbed serials and movies.

- **Vishak**

Vishak is a theatre practitioner and professional dancer. Having performed in numerous stages over the years, has represented India at a couple of international stages in dance and drama. He made a direction debut in theatre with a very intriguing play named Maryade Prashne which is being staged around the city.

- **Madhuri Sheshadri**

Madhuri Seshadri is a Bangalore-based singer, songwriter and theatre artist. She has actively been a part of more than 50+ shows. She represents Kannada theatre across India in various theatre festivals.

- **Darshan Narayan**

Darshan Narayan is a Bangalore-based theatre actor and singer. He has acted in many plays, movies, and sung songs for movies. **Pratheeksha**

- **Chethana**

With an ardent interest in writing and acting from a young age, Chethana is a graduate in the performing arts. She is a passionate Bharatanatyam dancer and an aspiring theatre artist.

- **Soumya**

Soumya Dixit is an actor and a trained Kathak Dancer who has done numerous theatre shows. A soulful artist who can bring life to the part has also been part of some notable short films.

- **Anagha**

With a strong inclination towards arts and literature from a very young age, Anagha is an aspiring theatre artist. A software engineer by profession, she is also a passionate Bharatanatyam dancer and a Yakshagana artist.

- **Vikas**

- **Chinmayi**

- **Sai**