

STAGE

THE CLAIRVOYANT WAS A MASTERFUL AND CHILLING PERFORMANCE

A play that was equal parts impossibly beautiful as it was stunningly crucial to the current socio-political times, *The Clairvoyant*, held at Gyan Manch on April 27, had the audience spellbound in the beauty of the performance and united in their opinions upon the sensitive subject. Written and performed by Rijita Chatterjee of *Nasbandi* fame, the talented playwright and actor saw another huge success with this play. The play was co-directed by acclaimed actor Saurav Das, with the flair of each respective director showing plenty in the performance.

The play, which was a solo act by Rijita Chatterjee, depicted the hard-hitting topic of abuse in a manner that was both artistic and tasteful. Following the story of a girl who finds herself echoing and walking the tightrope between futile academia and vain sorcery, this non-linear narrative was a treat to the eyes and a wake-up call to the senses. Having been unable to utter the word abuse throughout the duration of the play, the girl finds herself having been emancipated when she's finally able to do so. The girl

seeks the truth of her narrative throughout the play, with the shadowy world of tarot a main theme.

The spatiality of the stage was exploited to the play's advantage, and the narrative instilled a deep sense of shock and regret in the hearts of the audience. The stage was designed by the prolific Saikat Surai, while the visual mastery of the lights was handled by Satyajit Adhikari. The added musicality by Subhashish Sen and the assistance from Kingshuk Nath enabled the event to be effortlessly arresting. And one must acknowledge the efforts of Chirantan Bhaduri and Janardan Ghosh as mentors for the play. In all, it was truly a play that punctuated a new era of theatre in a post-pandemic world, and an encore of the play will be held very soon at the Academy of Fine Arts.

"It's a musical of course, with live music on stage like the previous play *Nasbandi*. And the concept was received very well. It was a beautiful surprise for performers, especially post-pandemic. Musicians Soumitro Banerjee, Indradeep Mukherjee and Sanjib Pahan held the cues together while shedding light on the narratives accurately. I belong to the world of theatre and it grounds me to my roots," said Saurav Das.

Glimpses...



Actor and scriptwriter Rijita Chatterjee in performance. "The play revolves around the narrative of a survivor not being able to utter the word abuse throughout the play. By the end the protagonist manages to not only utter the word but also liberate herself by finally uttering it. The name *The Clairvoyant* merges into the various plots displayed in the play, envisaging a dilemma — the worldly truth or the truth of an outer world? Where exactly does the mind of the survivor belong? Saurav Das beautifully captures the feeling of the play and orchestrates it into direction. As the scriptwriter I was very happy with what crystallised into form," said Rijita after the show.

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