

Report:2011-12

The English Literary Society of the college was engaged in a series of events in the past year. The students of all the three Honours classes undertook to produce **Shakespeare's *Macbeth***. They staged a self-produced, self-directed and self-scripted version of *Macbeth* on 18th February 2011 in the College Auditorium for all the students and received praise and encouragement from the Principal for their initiative.

The new academic session began with enthusiasm as the older members of the society hosted a **Freshers' Welcome** on 24th August 2011 for the first year students. They were warmly welcomed to the Department and were oriented to the goals and working of the Literary Society.

The **First Term/ Semester activities** began with the **Tagore Series** - a series of film screenings and a talk/discussion by Dr. Nirmalya Samanta. In continuum with the commemoration of Tagore's Birth Centenary Year, we organised screenings of Satyajit Ray's *Charulata* on 15th September 2011 followed by a screening of Ray's *Home and the World* on 16th September 2011. The series ended with a talk on 'Women, Nationalism and Cinema in the Indian Context' by Dr. Nirmalya Samanta on 20th September 2011.

The Literary Society also initiated a '**Literary Theory Series**' for the benefit of the Honours students in October 2011. The **Introductory Lecture, ' Why Lit Theory? '**, was delivered by Ms. Sanam Khanna, Dept. of English on 20th October 2011 and she engaged the students with a lively and interesting presentation on the beginnings and rationale behind literary theory. The **Second Lecture**, held on 27th October 2011, revolved around the '**Beginnings of Marxism**' and was delivered by eminent academician, Dr. Badri Raina. The students and faculty of the English Department tasted the finesse and brilliance of the accomplished academic who enlivened his audience with his characteristic wit and knowledge.

In the **Second Term**, the Literary Theory Series continued with a lecture on Structuralism by Ms. Nidhi Bhandari and Post-structuralism by Ms. Gayatri.

'The Text as Theatre' was the title of an engaging **lecture** delivered by **Dr. Indira Menon** on 24th February 2012 to the students of the English department.

The highlight of the second term was our **Annual Literary Festival, Litluminous**, held on the **3rd and 4th of April 2012**, which was a big success!

The theme for the festival, '**Silenced Expressions**', was Censorship and Art. We explored and debated the issue of censorship, and the students and participants dialogued with this menace that is increasingly impinging upon the freedom of expression in civil society today. Our agenda therefore, was to look at a wide array of texts, authors and artists in order to interrogate the status and significance of Art, in the contemporary Indian context, for the artist; the nation-state and the citizen; the consumer and market forces; and the individual.

The **Inaugural Panel Discussion** began at 10:00am on Tuesday, 3rd April in the college auditorium. The eminent speakers were Sanjoy Roy, Teamwork Prodn.; Shoma Chaudhury, Tehelka; Arjun Ghosh, IIT Delhi and Bindu Menon, Dept. of Journalism,

LSR College. This power-packed panel set the tone and spirit for the rest of the festival as we grappled with and debated 'censorship'.

A **Screening** of Lalit Vachani's film on JANAM was held at 1:00pm following which leading theatre activist, Ms. Moloyashree Hashmi led a discussion on the challenges and aims of protest art and street theatre. The students were enthralled and inspired by her words and sheer presence.

The second day of the fest witnessed **Student paper presentations** in the morning. This was followed by an innovative **Read-it-Aloud session** in the beautifully decorated Chaupal, where students and teachers read and discussed excerpts from controversial texts.

The two-day fest ended with energetic and creative **Performances** by the college band, 'The Rumoured Project' and a silent play, titled 'Silence Speaks', by the students of Zakir Hussain PG College (E).

The highly successful festival this year was the result of the untiring efforts and creativity of the students (Ishanti Ghose, 3rd Yr and Vini P. Nair and all the Litluminous volunteers) and teachers of the English department.

- Nidhi Bhandari, LitSoc Convenor, Dept. of English