

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, May 18 • 2013 • Issue No. 2346

REGULARS

2

WE ARE NOT

TRUE MEN

3

WEEK GONE

BY

3

EXPENSIVE

WATCHES?

4

## The One Act Play: A Teacher's View

*Vinay Pande writes about the Inter-House One Act Play Competition, and presents some interesting views*

These days everyone talks of a 'global citizen', and The Doon School has a diverse range of activities that prepare the young citizens to take on that mantle when they become adults. I believe that dramatics is one of the most powerful mediums to achieve that goal. Arthur Miller, the famous playwright has rightly said, and I quote him "By whatever means it is accomplished, the prime business of a play is to arouse the passions of its audience so that by the route of passion may be opened up new relationships between a man and men, and between men and man. Drama is akin to the other inventions of man in that it ought to help us to know more, and not merely to spend our feelings".

This year the Inter-House One Act Play Competition had no common themes and the audience got diverse flavors to savour through five brilliant plays. Each House was expected to have a cast/crew strength of not more than forty students and practices began around the last week of March.

The first day of the competition saw Jaipur House perform 'Jaayaz Hatyare', a play by Deepa Sahi and Suresh Bhardwaj, a translation of Albert Camus' 'The Just Assassins'. The play revolved around the bid of some Indian revolutionaries to assassinate the British Governor General. Despite differences regarding the moral issues related with the approaches to achieve the goal, the revolutionaries seemed to believe in 'violence for the sake of peace'. Both Ritesh and Arth were quite good while Bipasha gave an admirable support. Sachin, I felt, was still in the 'Court Martial' mode. The mood of the characters could not surface to the desirable level and better sound and light effects might have helped. Human relationships were outweighed by the violence-dominated mind-set. The strength of the play was its tight production.

This was followed by the Kashmir House production 'Bakri', based on the play written by Sarveshwar Dayal Saxena, a political satire set in a lovely folk theatre style. The play aptly showed the nexus between the anti-social elements and politicians to exploit the poor and illiterate Indian rural masses. Devansh, Smriti and Madhav did a commendable job. Sarvagya as the goat was superb with the 'bleating' which many thought was being played from the background. Kashmir House fielded a large cast and was handled well. I was particularly impressed with the acting and involvement (non-verbal participation) of the supporting actors (the villagers). Unfortunately, the loudness of the musical instruments doused the songs and the audience was robbed of the pleasure of enjoying them. The last performance of the evening was the Hyderabad House play 'Laxmi ka Swagat', written by Upendra Nath 'Ashk', highlighting the social ills such as dowry and disrespect towards women. As far as I can remember, this is the first time a play based on a story from a text book used in school (Aikanki Suman) has been attempted. Yash Raj and Sarvshreshth were so good that you felt like hating them for their greed and indifference towards their ailing grandson. Yash Raj was adjudged the best supporting actor (male) for his sterling performance. Devesh as the grieving father had the intensity of expression but lacked mood variation. Hyderabad House used the space well but could have done more with the sound and light effects.

Saturday evening first saw the Tata House presentation 'Refund', a play by Frigyes Karinthy, a Hungarian playwright. The play is a satire on the education system and Tata House did well to save it from collapsing into a farce. However, I thought excessive ridiculing of the teachers was not in a good taste. Rishabh, Mrigank and Smayan were good but overall, the play appeared to be under rehearsed. Set design and use of props was quite good.

The last presentation of the evening was the Oberoi House play 'Kaal Kothri', written by Swadesh Deepak and influenced by the Italian dramatist Luigi Pirandello. The strength of the play was complete involvement of all the characters, good use of space, good set design and ideal use of live music. The use of theatrical devices, such as the mask, was quite meaningful and was not reduced to mere props. Both Vrindam and Madhav handled their respective characters with great aplomb and were quite rightly adjudged the best actor and the best supporting actor (female) respectively. Everything went well for this play and Oberoi House made a clean sweep of all the awards except one.

On the whole, the plays this year were quite refreshing and speak volumes of the talent, versatility and perseverance of our students. We may complain of toys lost, academic work affected and no free time for anything else, but the fact remains that participation in activities like these go a long way in shaping one's personality and I can vouch for it. The level of acting, the sense of direction, use of light and sound and the aesthetic sense (excellent posters) were all praise worthy.

One aspect that needs to be looked into in future is an effort to revive the original scripts written by our students. That will be the feather in the cap in our effort to impart education through theatre.



## SWIMMING

The School Swimming Team participated in the 6th Brar Memorial Swimming Competition held at the St. Georges College, Mussoorie. Nihansh Saxena won a gold medal and Pratyaksh Parmar and Vinayak Choudhary won a bronze medal each. The Junior Team won a silver medal in the medley relay and a bronze in the freestyle relay. The Senior Team won a bronze in the medley relay and the freestyle relay. Well Done!

## TENNIS

The following are the results of the Dr. S.R. Vohra Individual Tennis Tournament for Juniors:

Winner: Leonardo Pamei

Runner-Up: Viksit Verma

Congratulations!

## HOCKEY

The School Hockey Team played against the Welham Boys School in the David Englis Hockey Tournament and won 3-1. They beat Wynberg Allen School in the final 3-2. Kismat Chopra was awarded the Golden Hockey Stick for scoring the most goals in the tournament, and Akhil Ranjan was awarded the Player of the Tournament award.

Congratulations!

## VIKRAM SETH

The following are the results of the Vikram Seth Poetry Competition 2013:

Seniors:

1st: Rahul Srivastava

2nd: Abhinav Kejriwal

Juniors:

1st: Smriti Nair

2nd: Anirudh Popli

Congratulations!

## THE SCIENTIST(S)

The following are the results of the P.G Pitre Science Short Story Competition, 2013:

Seniors:

1st: Prabnur Singh Bal

2nd: Anshul Tibrewal

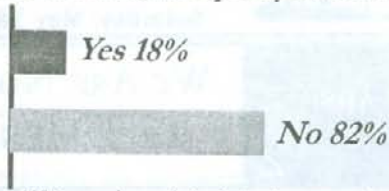
Juniors:

1st: Shiven Khanna

Well done!

## Opinion Poll

Do expensive watches worn by students undermine the ethos of equality in School?



(401 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you know the criteria that one has to meet to sign the Honours book for Good Conduct?

## BASKETBALL

Sehaj Singh Jouhal and Shourya Kishorepuria represented Dehradun in the Under 18 Basketball State Championship at Welham Boys School. Their team won the tournament.

## DEBATING

Following are the results of the Senior English Inter House Debating Competition, 2013:

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Tata

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Oberoi

5th: Kashmir

Final Round:

Most Promising Speaker: Vikramaditya Kapur

Best Speaker: Rahul Srivastava



## Around the world In 80 Words

Six were killed and thirty were injured when a car blew up in Kabul. In Baghdad, twelve were killed in various locations all around the city. The Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in various locations in North-western Nigeria where many policemen were killed. The European Union has fallen back into recession according to the latest figures released by the Eurostat. In Jakarta, two bodies were found as a tunnel collapsed in an underground mine training facility.

## Dosco Doodle

The Terror!  
Madhav Dutt





# We Are Not True Men

*Aditya Bhattacharya talks about the gender biases prevalent in our society.*

Ironically, the very title of my article reflects my own gender insensitivity. In a country that upholds in its Preamble that every citizen has a right to equality, a country in which everyone has equal rights, there is very little hope of women and men being treated the same. Earlier this term I wrote about how as a school we fail to contribute to the status of women. Now I feel as a country we have failed, or rather how, as men of this country, we have failed.

Rape is not a new phenomenon. However, the problem that I am addressing is not that of the crime rate in the country, but again, our insensitive attitude towards the 'fairer' sex. That attitude begins when we expect certain things of women; when we construct a completely different identity for them. We tend to forget that it is only a biological necessity that divides us. We have not only widened Nature's gap, but we have also built walls in our minds that block empathy towards women. Sympathy is of no use to anyone. What most people want is empathy, understanding, and maybe a helping hand. Changing Facebook profile pictures is about as useful as 'liking' pictures of poor kids and expecting them to be well fed with your 'like'. Although social networking has helped raise awareness of national issues amongst teenagers today, all the debates and posts in the world will not make an inch of a difference. Neither will criticizing the Delhi Police or Chief Minister for the crimes change the way the country works. As Indians, we are great at criticizing people. For example, take this article. Few will read it. But I want to make a difference! I feel ashamed every time someone brings up the Delhi rape case, and I see it as an insult to my gender. And I am sure I am not alone. But the very society we live in today, and I speak for all teenagers of this country, virtually forbids us from learning the most important things in life. Instead we spend hours practicing calculus, or studying for the AIEEE or the CLAT.

This is where our insensitivity betrays itself. I know that we do not mean to do so, but our apathy towards gender biases is evident. For example, with board exams round the corner, I could not join the protests in my city against the Delhi rape case. But after those three weeks

We tend to forget that it is only a biological necessity that divides us. We have not only widened Nature's gap, but we have also built walls in our minds that block empathy towards women.

of exams I felt that my time could have been spent much better. Actions do speak louder than words. Watching politicians speak "politically correct" news on TV will not help anyone. Rather it will hinder our intellectual growth. Our insensitivity is so common that it becomes unconscious; a girl on the road cannot walk ten metres alone on the streets of any town without being stared at. It is even worse for female tourists, who are hounded by cabbies, vendors and onlookers as if they were pieces of meat. It is our duty as the empowered sex to at least try to help women feel comfortable and supported. If our insensitivity makes them uncomfortable, then we must change. We need to stop putting ourselves before everyone else. Would any one of us put their safety before their mother's or their sister's? Would we have hesitated to help one of them in times of need?

So the question I put before everyone reading this is not why have you not been working toward change. Rather, my question is do you believe that your own work is of greater importance, urgency and consequence than that of those who need help, who need empowerment and want to be able to spend a day without having to be stared at or discriminated against. If you believe your work is more important, there is no issue. But if that is the path you wish to take, please do not be so insensitive as to comment on the situation women face. Although your intention may be the betterment of women, your comment is about as helpful as Asaram Babu's. Half hearted help is of no value to anyone, and neither are mere words. We have to stop poking our noses into other matters if we cannot even take the trouble to change our own selves. We are members of a generation that is expected to fix this country, and we are a part of a school that takes pride in fostering leadership. Unless we drive this insensitivity out of ourselves we are heading back to the days when women were mere objects, and are no less guilty of oppressing women.

\*\*\*

## The Week Gone By

*Vireshwar Singh Sidhu*

This week was all about the Inter-House Hockey Competition, the run up to the Trials and of course, the rumours surrounding the Board results that kept tensions running high amongst the S Formers.

Hockey was played with great enthusiasm throughout the week and some great performances were put on show for all to witness. Tata house won the Junior cup whilst Hyderabad house clinched the Seniors cup with ease.

It has been a long while since Boards got over and after what seems like an eternity, Board results are finally out. With Board results out, it is easy to make out the S Formers who are satisfied with their results from the gloomy lot. To the gloomy lot I say 'Never mind gentlemen, well tried!'

With Hockey competition done and dusted, activities for this term are over. What remains however, is the fear of the textbooks. The term is almost over but for the final hurdle, the impending danger of Trials. Doscors were seen studying with vigor throughout the week and hopefully it should be enough to fly across Trials and land home safely. Till the term gets over however, keep calm and study on!



# Expensive Watches: Do They Harm our Ethos of Equality?

| Point |

Arnaav Bhavanani

Many a time, we people start out with amazing ideals, which we intend to set in stone. Such ideals prove what we stand for, and in the case of The Doon School, these ideals prove what the Dosco community stands for. Arthur Foot was one such visionary. It is his ideals, and his basic ideas of a model human being that drive the Dosco force even today. One of Foot's founding principles was equality. His was an equality that encompassed all spheres of life, and inculcated such a feeling of belonging amongst the Dosco fraternity that when in school, it did not matter whether one was the son of a labourer or a successful businessman. It only mattered what one did with what they were given. This legacy of equality has been passed down from generation to generation, and there are quite a few people who have left this school with no idea of their form-mates' wealth. However, when I look at the School today, I see many students using every opportunity they can to flaunt their riches. The matter is not confined to watches; however, I will focus on them as they are the largest source of inequality in our School today. Swatch, TagHeuer, Tissot, Armani, the sheer value of watches such as these are astronomical. The very reason people do not generally

**“We don't need a ten thousand rupee watch to prove our worth.”**

if lost or stolen, the loss in itself generates quite the anger back home. When people get watches such as these to School, it tells people that the owner could not care less about the expense, and this in turn creates a feeling of animosity and resentment, and creates divisions between people that were never meant to be there. I am not saying that this is true in every case, but the fact remains: it does happen.

My aim, dear reader, is not to make you think that I am against the majority of the School's opinion, but to make you realize that there is no point of getting a ten thousand rupee watch to school when a thousand rupee one can tell the time just as well. If you walk onto the stage to deliver a speech, are people going to worry about the make of your watch, or the quality of your vocal skills? Does your Board percentage matter on the fact that you had a classy watch to tell you how much time was left, or the fact that you used your brains when you wrote? We Doscos don't need a ten thousand rupee watch to prove our worth. All we need is what we make of what we get; no more, no less.

| Counterpoint |

Devansh Agarwal

Ever since my D-form I have, time and again, heard the words “The sense of equality amongst students”, and ever since then I have been a firm believer of this so called ethos. However, it was only recently that I discovered that this very pillar of equality in school was actually built on a rather shaky foundation. What I write today is not simply going to prove that expensive watches do not harm the ethos of equality in school; it is also going to open some doors that were never meant to be opened.

My first axis of argument is about the kind of equality we follow in school. Fortunately, equality in school is not too harsh and imposing on students. The aim is for students to instill this feeling of equality in themselves, without anyone forcing them to do so. In regards to this, the system of equality in school has to be liberal towards the students so that equality is self-instilled, not forced upon them. A certain amount of freedom in terms of articles like watches has to be there, so that members of the community do not feel forced to do anything of such fashion. If we did not let students wear a watch of their choice, the line between instilling and forcing would become blurred, defeating the purpose of equality in school.

Truth be told, the actual flaw lies in the whole concept of equality itself. No matter how hard we try there can never be an actual equality. There will always be things that seem more equal to some than to others. Take for an example: watches. If the school thinks that students having expensive watch effects the notion of equality in a negative way, they can issue a regulation watch to all members of the community; but then a sense of oppression will be felt by the students. If we try to maintain a prosperous environment for students without oppressing them, a true equality cannot exist. This is precisely where this ethos breaks down. Thus it is essential to grant enough freedom to students, and so, expensive

watches do not harm equality in school. Paradoxically, restricting this freedom would actually be far more harmful to the idea of equality in the school.

In conclusion it is understood that when the school says “equality”, it tries its best to implement the same without being oppressive. However, if freedoms such as a student's choice of wristwatch are taken away from us, it will defeat the purpose of equality.

**“No matter how hard we try there can never be an actual equality.”**

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

IPSS<sup>©</sup> All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. Published by: Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Utkarsh Jha Editor: Madhav Dutt Senior Editors: Vikramaditya Kapur, Kunal Kanodia, Raniz Bordoloi Hindi Editor: Ritesh Shinde Associate Editors: Arjun Kamdar, Aditya Bhattacharya, Amaan Imam, Pulkit Agarwal, Hussain Haider, Vireshwar Singh Sidhu Special Correspondents: Anvay Grover, Arnaav Bhavanani, Devansh Agarwal, Vallavi Shukla Correspondents: Chaitanya Kediyal, Varun Sehgal, CC Chengappa Junior Correspondent: Rohan Singh Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Shrey Nagalia, Anamika Ghose, Arvindanabha Shukla, Umung D Varma Technical Assistant: KC Maurya

