

City based multi-disciplinary group stage their first offline independent production Unmadinider Kothokota

Raima Ganguly



Mad Balikas

The 1999 Madhyamik batch of Sree Sarada Ashrama Balika Vidyalay, New Alipore, has found a unique way of reconnecting through art and music when they established a group named Mad Balikas. Recently, on Poila Boishakh, the 13-member group staged a production named Unmadinider Kothokota that weaved songs, recitations, and audio drama together at Tapan Theatre.

The idea was to tell the fictional stories of women in Bengal through ancient riddles. Talking about the new production, Paramita Banerjee, editor, and screenplay writer of Mad Balikas, says, “This was our debut offline independent production. We dived into the gold mine of undocumented history and community intelligence, in order to connect the missing dots from the past.” Paramita entirely credits the geeti-alekhya and harekorakamba functions, which made her curious to explore arts from multiple disciplines, saying, “We are fortunate to have a diverse talent pool in our group. This made us curious to explore arts from multiple disciplines. All of us are very passionate about audio drama.”



Performers at the show

Talking about why they chose Poila Boishakh as the ideal day for the show, Paramita says, “This show was meant for Poila Boishakh. Starting from

Khonar Bachan

to the popular backstory of

Ikir Mikir Cham Chikir r

hyme, we zeroed on the forgotten realms of Bengali riddles. Our crime thriller audio drama

E to Boro Rongo Jadu

travelled in time from the defeat of the Great Alexander to modern cybercrime. Only a special day like Noboborsho could have done justice to this canvas.”

The diverse range of attendees were glued to the show till the end. “We are still getting accolades for the show. From Rabindrasangeet to D.L. Roy, S.D. Barman to contemporary Rituparno Ghosh, Jibananda Das to Shankha Ghosh, the song and recitations had unique flavors. The script and presentation of the audio drama, along with good music, stole the show,” says Paramita.

The upcoming projects promise to bring the cultural history of the East, the lost links between Mahajanapadas and ancient Gangaridi. “It’s time to find out some lost links between Mahajanapadas and ancient Gangaridi. We are planning an action-packed audio drama,

Drohokal

– Uncensored, in this canvas.”