

Festival for kids

The Little Festival did not disappoint. The three musicals that were staged held the attention of the audience all through.

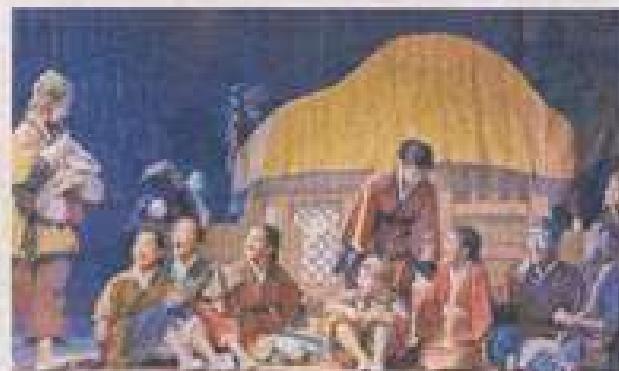
MADHUMITA SRINIVASAN

Children are an easily excited lot. Especially when they are out of school with parents and tend to just enjoy themselves. But maintaining that excitement and interest for two hours is a difficult job but the artists at Little Theater's "The Little Festival" did with ease. The second edition of this annual children's international theater festival featured three musicals.

The first was a Little Theater production, "Agni Gatis" ("The World") directed by R. Krishnamurthy. In keeping with the title, the play had characters (real "aliens") from outer space crash landing on Earth packed in a meteorite-like object. The highlight of the play was the dance by the creatures from outer space dressed in neon costumes.

Song and dance

The second musical was a Indo-Korean production that had 17 kids from Chennai, India and Seoul, Korea coming together to provide a visual treat. An Infot Centre and Theatre Seoul Collaboration,



THEATRE SEOUL: A gripping tale. PHOTO: S.S. HUMAN

"Hwangja Nolbo" though a Korean folktale had a universal theme. It's the story of two brothers at either end of the world yardstick — the mean and greedy Nolbo and the kind-hearted Hwangja — and their families. Nolbo's only aim in life is to amass wealth even if it means to drive his brother and his family out of the house. This musical was an instant hit red pass because of the colorful costumes, sets, catchy songs and dance sequences, but also because of the enthusiasm of the young actors who put up a splendid perfor-

mance. The last musical was "Tre" a Theater Werkstatt Bremen production from Germany. With just two adult actors and empty spaces for props, one wondered how was this could be children's theater? But it proved otherwise. Narrating the story of "Tre," an imaginary one of a painter, the two actors enacted song, danced, played musical instruments on stage and painted as well! With such multi-talented actors there was no need for more than two of them.

As "Tre" traversed the forest,

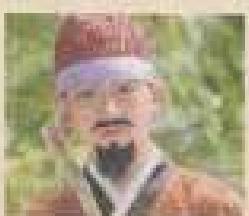
SANJANA BHARADWAJ

P.S.R.R.: Nangashikhaman
The Indo-Korean production provided a platform for cultural exchange. We went to Seoul, Korea to perform with them and performed there as well. We even stayed in their houses. It was a lot of fun. I especially loved the music and dance bit.



SRIGAYATHI, X. P.S.R.R., K.K.

Nagpur: After the last show at Seoul, Korea, some of us had a small party and ventured out into the streets at midnight with an adult. We danced, sang songs, played—all on the road. It was a very memorable experience. We even taught there a few words in Tamil and they taught us a little Korean.



LEE JAI WOOK, 14 years

The experience of being in this production was fantastic. I especially loved the last scene where we all got together and danced. I loved the cultural exchange. I like to find new things especially music.

savannah, sea, desert and the North Pole, each white canvas came to life with colour. As actor Michael Kaliszka painted the canvases on stage to portray the setting, Michael Vandenbosch would enhance it by providing the sound effects. Tre finally finds his way home after meeting interesting characters along the way like a wasp on an Eskimo and a giant.

The three musicals chosen to be staged at the festival stayed true to the term "children's theater", offering their target audience an enjoyable artistic experience. Waiting to see what's in store next year...