

Dhoop-Chaon Hindi Theater Group Performs At Emory

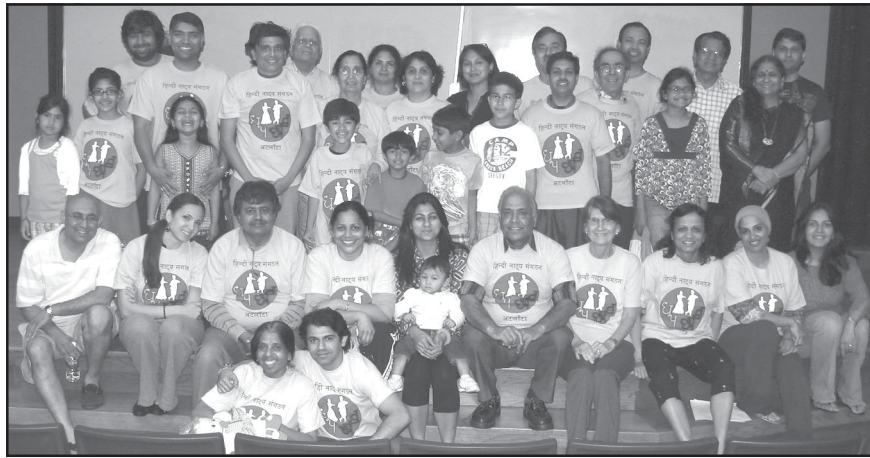
BY RENU KUMAR

Atlanta, GA: Dhoop-Chaon, the Atlanta based Hindi theater group presented another well received show on May 1, 2010 at Emory University's White Hall. Over 300 people attended the show.

The themes of the show was selected in a way that they don't go about preaching people but still spread awareness about language and heritage but pointing out the flaws of our society through creative ideas. Popular songs and everyday language were used and most of the people in the audience could identify with them.

The program started with glimpses of last year's program, which elaborated the fact that with each successive year, Dhoop Chaon has blossomed as a formidable local entity. The emcees Aslam Pervez and Manju Tiwari took the program ahead by telling about Dhoop Chaon's past and emphasizing about the group's motto of keeping the culture alive through literature, theatre and music.

The variety show started with "Vikram Betaal" a drama based on the famous folktale "Raja ke teen kaan" enriched with the fluidity of music to catapult it into a multi-dimensional feast for the



senses. In this presentation, theme or sensation was expressed through a combination of acting, song, sounds, movement, dance, and physical objects.

"PhoolKumari Hans Padee" a play for children was geared up with lots of fun elements with great performances by the students of Natkhat

Rangshaala. It viewed the whole panorama of life from a child's perspective that is to say, with innocence, perspective, sensitivity, honesty and non judgment. The third presentation was video clips from web-serial "Door ke Dhol" and nearly all of us could relate with the story depicted in it.

Bollywood Dance "Chakkar Ghoomio" (in a different style) was a break from the dramas which brought lot of beat to the feet of audiences as they started to clap with their hand while giving beat to the music. The next item was a big contrast to the preceding item. It was a theatrical presentation called "Zameen ke oopar waale" based on a real incident, which had a big impact on the psyche of people who are ordinarily not exposed to thought processes other than what is prevalent in their 'neck of woods'. "Harrappa House" shouldered the responsibility to echo Emory University's White Hall with peals of laughter and to bring the whole ethnic ambience to life with its scintillating performances and screen-play. It revived the feeling of belonging to a place with a great past that had great people like Kabirdas, Tulsidas, Saleem, Anarkali

and PrithviRaj Chauhan as its integral part.

With "Sureli Behenein", the next presentation, Dhoop-Chaon reinstated the fact that some stories never get old and can make the audiences laugh anytime. A mother's worries about three unmarried daughters lead to an unsuccessful attempt to trick an eligible bachelor only to discover later on that she herself was being tricked.

The final presentation a dance performance "Sasural Genda phool" and "Ude Jab- Jab zulfein teri" displayed the metamorphosis of love in different lovable forms as it buds, grows and matures through teens, youth and old age. It was choreographed by Tarana vij.

The program ended with a fashion show that included all participants. Program director Sandhya Bhagar delivered the vote of thanks.

In last few years, Dhoop-Chaon has established itself in Atlanta with the reputation of touching contemporary issues with a touch of humor. This group provides entertainment to all walks of people including those who have left their country and settled in their new home or people who are born here but desire to witness the culture and traditions they hear from their parents/grandparents or read about it in the books. Through this show, Dhoop-Chaon brings out many contemporary issues to underline the contours of our time while providing the best of entertainment.

Jyoti Mahajan Crowned Mrs India International 2010

Atlanta, GA: Jyoti Mahajan of Frederick, Maryland has been crowned the Mrs. India International 2010 in the pageant finals on 22nd May 2010 in Atlanta, GA.

Jyoti is elated to be India's ambassador and feels honored to represent India at the Mrs. International Pageant.

Adrita Khanna, Director of the Mrs. India International 2010 Pageant and Mrs. India International 2008, crowned the new Mrs. India International after culmination of an entertaining evening



L to R: Adrita Khanna, Jyoti Mahajan, Joel Ghanshyam.

where the top five finalists competed for the coveted crown. The guests, a small but involved and encouraging crowd, enjoyed the finals, which also

included some spirited Indian Cultural dances and a fashion show. Joel Ghanshyam was the Master of Ceremony and kept the crowd thoroughly engaged.

Juhi Jagiassi, another top five finalist, was crowned Mrs. Delaware International 2010. Kamlesh Chugh, Rupika Ramchandani and Nivedita Rath Garabadu were declared the first, second and third runner up respectively after an evening of fair competition overseen by a competent panel of judges.

The women of Mrs. India International are married women between the ages of 21 and 56 and originate from India, even though they can be residing anywhere in the world.

Adrita Khanna, was appointed Director Mrs.

India International by Mrs. Mary Richardson, who is the Executive Director of the Mrs. International Pageant, which enters the 23rd year of competition. The Mrs. International Pageant system is recognized for its integrity, high standards, utmost fairness and consistent application of its rules and regulations.

Four Atlanta women, Sandhya Bhagar, Farzana Kalvert, Kim Vaughn and Milena Skollar were honored at the pageant for exemplifying family values.

Adrita was quoted as saying that she wants to use the Mrs. India International Pageant to promote the family values of respect, compassion, honesty and tolerance. She wants to provide a global platform for showcasing the achievements of international married Indian women. She is running the event as a not for profit and donates the net proceeds to charities working for betterment of needy children.



Farzana Kalvert, a long time resident of Atlanta was one of the four women honored at the pageant. Kalvert has been involved with the Flying Doctors of America, the India American Cultural Association (IACA), and is a chartered member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, Emory/Druid Hills. She was awarded the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award by Rivaaj/Raksha in 2004.

NKK Members Enjoy Kannada Plays By Kriyative Theatre Troupe

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta, GA: Nrupatunga Kannada Koota members rejoiced the evening of May 15th, 2010 affianced by Kannada plays presented by acclaimed theatre and television artistes, Professor. Laxmi Chandrashekar and her troupe from Kriyative Theatre, who flew in from Bangalore.

The program started with an invocation, national anthem, welcome speech by the NKK President, Pradeep Vittalmurthy. Accompanied by her fellow artists Sundar Raj, Ramakrishna Kannarpadi and Gajanana Naik, Laxmi Chandrashekar entertained the audience for nearly two and half hours with humorous plays Ratnana Parpancha and Heegaadre Hege. The laugh riot Ratnana Parpancha was a tribute to GP Rajaratnam, who has authored over 150 books ranging from short stories to Kannada litera-

ture. While the first half of the drama captured significant moments of Rajaratnam's life, the second half was based

on one of his plays Kambali Seve.

Based on short stories of T. Sunandamma, the first female humor writer in Kannada, Heegaadre Hege, traced the life of an elderly couple, Sarsamma and Mylarayya enacted to perfection by Laxmi Chandrashekar and Sundar. Backed with catchy music, excellent setting, co-ordination and direction the plays had the crowd in splits.

Members of the executive committee presented a plaque to the artistes. The program was followed by dinner. With over 250 attendees, the plays engrossed the audience with its humor and had folks talking about it even after the curtains were down.

