

Press Release 1981
DEMAND To Revive DUMADS

PRESS RELEASE

DEMAND TO REVIVE DUMADS

The Delhi University Music and Drama Society(DUMADS) was founded at the initiative of cultural grants among teachers like Mr Frank Thakurdas, Ms Rati Bartholomew IP, Ms Lola Chatterjee MH, Dr Margaret Chatterjee and Bikash Roy Chowdhury, Khalsa, in the 1960s.

DUMADS got a Rockefeller Foundation grant and a matching grant from DU, and expensive tapes, recording rooms and even a microfilm unit were available to teachers and students.

Unfortunately, the entire set of expensive equipment was apparently "Loaned" in 1971-72 by the then VC Professor Sarup Singh to the National Centre For The Performing Arts in Bombay and DUMADS died a premature death.

The University Social Brigade(USB) has demanded that DUMADS be revived and that the equipment, which gathered dust for some years in Bombay, be got back.

USB Convener Mr Sydney Rebeiro said today that it was unfortunate that such arbitrary closure of a vital socio-cultural unit of the campus had been conveniently "hidden" from the public eye all these years.

Now that the UGC has announced sponsrosHIP of film, theatre and art clubs, Mr Rebeiro said, the USB has written to VC Professor Gurbakhsh Singh to renew a cultural contract with teachers and students and to revive DUMADS.

Mr Rebeiro said that DUMADS could initiate and coordinate film/art/music appreciation courses and drama workshons and could collect funds with the help of one-time DUMADS members like Amitabh Bachchan, Dinesh Thakur and Kulbhushan Kharbanda and set up a CULTURAL CENTRE on the campus.

* *

SRR

SYDNEY REBEIRO
CONVENER
UNIVERSITY SOCIAL BRIGADE

* * At a meeting between the VC, South Campus Director and the USB Convener, it was decided to appoint a Steering Committee under Professor Margaret Chatterjee, well-known poetess and drama critic, to make recommendations to the university.

Copy

No. DSC/MC/81/578

March 19, 1981.

Dear Dr. (Mrs.) Chatterjee:

The Vice-Chancellor has approved that a Steering Committee under your Chairmanship may be formed to look into possibility of reviving DUMADS. The names of the members of this Committee will be finalised in accordance with your suggestions. Some names, which have been mentioned in the enclosed letter from Mr. Sydney Rebeiro may be worth of consideration for this purpose. I am enclosing this note from Mr. Sydney Rebeiro for your kind perusal.

I shall be most grateful if you kindly convey your acceptance of the Chairmanship of this Committee and also suggest the names which you would like to include in this Committee as early as possible.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(ABAD AHMAD)

Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Chatterjee,
Head of the Department of Philosophy,
University of Delhi,
Delhi-110007.

✓ cc. Sydney Rebeiro

DUMADS

The DU Music Arts Drama Society

Office : Dept of Music Mall Road Delhi 7 221421/251266

Patron : VC Professor Gurbakhsh Singh

CALLING ALL DELHI UNIVERSITY TEACHERS & STUDENTS

TO

THE DUMADS FRATERNITY

DUMADS was started in 1959 with a view to create a "cultural climate" on the campus. Over the decades it developed into a vital cultural organ of the campus and reached its zenith in the late 1960s, with a series of creative endeavours that included music sessions, theatre evenings and cultural get-togethers. An invaluable collection of western classical music was assembled and made available to teachers and students. Among the prominent names associated with the society are Dhirtiman Chatterjee, Frank Thakurdas, Professor Margaret Chatterjee, Rati Bartholomew, Ms S Ambike, S Anwar IAS, Roshan and Aftab Seth, Lola Chatterji, Dr Krishna Bisht, Ravi "Chashme Buddoor" Baswani, Dr Chadbourne Gilpatrick, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, T R Subramaniam, Herbert Haslam and Amitabh "Superstar" Bachchan.

Owing to lack of organisational effort, it remained in suspended animation for almost a decade.

Approached by some of the elders of the society, Mr Sydney Rebeiro took up the cause of the revival of DUMADS.

A Steering Committee was formed at the initiative of SDC Director Professor Abad Ahmed with Dr Margaret Chatterji as chairperson, with Debu Chaudhuri, Sydney Rebeiro, Dr Iris Paintal, Aziz Quraishi, Durgadas Mukhopadhyay, Rati Bartholomew, Lola Chatterji and Professor S Mutatker.

After due deliberations, Working and Programme Committees were formed and world famous sitarist and Dean, Faculty of Music and Fine Arts Debu Chaudhuri was appointed Chairperson.

The DUTA President and the lady member of the DUSU Panel were coopted.

Notices have been sent twice to colleges inviting DU teachers and students to JOIN THE CULTURAL BAND.

To mark the REVIVAL, a play produced by a predominately DU group, CHHAYANUT THEATRE's CHOR KE GHAR MOR, is being staged in December 1981.

Among our plans are

A DUMADS-MINIMAX WORKSHOP on WESTERN DANCE.

A CINECLUB to include photography, films, slide shows.

AN AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION based on JAIDEV's GEET GOVINDA,

AN ARTISTS CORNER for painters, sketchers, sculptors

"CULTURAL" DIALOGUES.

While the Central Office is at the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts thru the kind hospitality of the Dean, a South Delhi and a West Delhi Branch Office will be opened in January 1982 and meetings etc will be held in colleges in different Zones.

Membership fee Rs. 15 00 for teachers

Rs. 10.00 for students

for a financial year.

We invite your suggestions and your fellowship in this joint cultural endeavour.

Sydney Rebeiro
Secretary
697081

Debu Chaudhuri
Chairperson
646477

Durgadas Mukhopadhyay (Teachers) and Pankaj Rakesh (Students)
Joint Secretaries

Anupam Mahajan
Hony Treasurer

Ranjana Srivastava
Membership Convener

the dumads revival

delhi university music arts and drama society

15 december 1981

5 p m

sir shanker lal hall mall road delhi 110007

chhayanut's

chor ke ghar mor

adaption of jonson's volpone : arun sehgal

direction : subhash sehgal

...we look forward to your presence !

Ranjana srivastava,
function convener
625087

debu chaudhuri
chairperson
646477

THE DUMADS FRATERNITY

Patron

V C Profesor Gurbakhsh Singh

Chairperson

Debu Chaudhuri

Secretary

Sydney Reber

Jt Secretaries Durgadas Mukhopadhyay and Pankaj Rakesh

Hony Treasurer

Ranjana Srivastava

Membership Convener

Anupam Mahajan

Working Committee

Sr Agatha McLoughlin

Leela Omchery

Aziz Quraishi

Sandeep Dhawan

Neena Saxena

Dr Iris Paintal

Margaret Chatterji

Kiran Malhotra

Tojo Joseph

Dr R C Sinha

Ms S Ambike

Rachel Mathew

C S Kalra

Sanjeev Dhir

Dr Pansy Jain

Arun Sehgal

Asha Bhargava

Allaudin

Priuti Paintal

Cynthia Masih

Programme Committee

Dr Sita Nambiar

Parveen Ahmed

Vinod Bhasin

Anand Gupta

Shailla Khan

Varun Kochhar

Dr K K Gorowara

T R Subrahmaniam

Lola Chatterji

G R Taneja

Krishan Ahuja

Valson Thampu

DUTA President

Vivek Bharadwaj

Dr S C Bhatia

Sanket Mahajan

William John

Gautam Paintal

Manjushree

DUSU Vice-President

Dipti Bhalla

Dr Ashum Gupta

Vijay Kohli

Puneet

Sunil Kumar



DUMADS REVIVAL FUNCTION

From the Working-table of the Convenor of Souvenir Committee...

What you say when memory hangs heavy on you and the bright future beckons you from the horizon? The creative expression of the youngman gets stunted in the claustrophobic atmosphere of the mechanical life of long bus-journeys and mundane lectures. There is so much of energy to be released in the right direction, waiting for an opening to find expression in something meaningful, something useful for the society around us. In the University complex itself, you have nine auditoriums, but none of them is functional. They spend nine lakhs of rupees for building an auditorium but the stage still remains below the eye level. In a film show, the curtains do not protect the blazing sunrays peeping into the auditorium. We run out of black papers. The architects and the administrators do not know that you need some provisions for acoustics, some arrangement for lighting up the place where action takes place. The basic principles of acoustics are violated. So sitting in the middle of the auditorium, you do not hear anything properly. People munch 'mumphalis' around you and talk of latest underwear designs prevalent in Paris. This is the milieu. So the disgruntled students when tired of burning buses congregate for their annual *MELAS*—Melagne, Suravi Regeneration et al, hotch potch, the college-day-cum-fete-cum-cultural evening, cum jam session. We asked a lot of people in the University who are sensitive, vibrant,—do all these serve any purpose, do all these relate you to the society around you, do all these inspire and motivate creative activity? The answer was always in the negative. But hope is a dangerous thing! We in DUMADS hope for something potent, something vibrating, something to be seen and heard, a forum for the creative expression of the young people waiting in a forced cultural desert. You have a semblance of facilities. Its effective and complete utilization is what is needed. We are serious about making the North and South Delhi campus, cultural centres of the capital. Why do we have to travel all way to central Delhi when we have so much around us! Because today's budding musicians, the painter, the nimble footed dancer will be part of our national cultural heritage in the future. So let us nurture it properly with care, with motivation.

In the late 60's DUMADS was active. The open-eyed graduate and post-graduate students participating in the DUMADS activities at that time are world-famous actors now, musicians of national importance. But again was it not elitist? Miranda

House provided the hall, where instead of an evening stroll people walked into the hall. The concept of *nouve-ric* was emerging at that time. They listened to obscure music, watched a play without any proper exposure, without any facilities for training, for learning to appreciate it. They watched plays which were set in New York, dealing with problems which never concerned an average Indian in a language which is not our own.

Let us be realistic and result oriented. We have such a rich cultural heritage in dance music and theatre and there is a growing appreciation of the various forms of classical and folk performing arts and certain amount of facilities exist, though disjoint, for learning and appreciating these art forms. Instead of living on borrowed culture, let us understand and enrich our own performing and plastic arts. One thing should be clear in our mind that it is not sufficient to invite prominent artistes to present their commercial performance but we must educate the budding artiste, giving the scope for upliftment. DUMADS should concentrate on creating an awareness of the value of the rich traditions of performing and plastic arts in India. DUMADS should be a workshop in continuuum for creating new talent, for supporting new talents. Let's cleanse ourselves of Vividh Bharati and Sapru House culture. Creative expression culminates in *ananda*.

So we at DUMADS pulled our physical and intellectual resources and fused all our motivations and initiative and got down to hard work. Several committees started functioning synchronously with the blessings of the respected Vice Chancellor, Dr. Curbaksh Singh who gave us financial and moral support as the Patron of DUMADS. The learned scholar and poetess Dr. Margaret Chatterjee showed the path as the Chairman of the Steering Committee. The guiding spirit had been the famous Sitar maestro Shri Debu Chaudhuri as Chairman of DUMADS. Sydney Rebeiro set the ball rolling and made his presence felt everywhere as Secretary. The spirited convenor of the Organising committee Ranjana Srivastava kept us reminding of the promises to keep and works to be done. The young and spirited Pankaj Rakesh made everyone feel young with his enthusiasm and hard work. Other members travelled miles together preparing for the big day. Our programmes are going to be exciting. The *gong* rings for the revealal function

DURGADAS MUKHOPADHYAY
Joint Secretary

The Overactive Chairman of DUMADS Speaks Out.

It is indeed my privilege to say a few words about DUMADS which is being formally revived today on this occasion. DUMADS was started perhaps in the early 60s when I joined the Faculty of Music & Fine Arts in the year 1960. It is a memory worth talking about. It was initiated under the able guidance of Prof. C. Gilpatric, the Deputy Director of Rockefeller Foundation, Prof. Herbert Helsom, who was also associated with our Department. Under the leadership of Prof. Margaret Chatterjee, Prof. Ambiki and many other active members this society was made a cultural organ of Delhi University. During the 60s DUMADS presented many programmes including plays, Western Music programmes, Indian Classical Music and the members were eager to participate more in its growth.

Unifortunately, since the departure of Prof. C. Gilpatric, DUMADS stopped functioning and there was no initiative from any corner to revive it. After a lapse of twelve years under the leadership of Prof. M. Chatterjee and Sydney Rebeiro DUMADS once again was re-born and our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Gurbaksh Singh was very kind enough to give all possible financial and moral help. It is really a great pleasure that we are here today to present this show, which is the first revival show. Now I hope that it will certainly add colour to the Delhi University Campus and that the lovers of Music, Arts and Drama will have an opportunity to participate actively. I am also happy that our initial meeting got a very good response from teachers and students of this University and with the help of enthusiastic workers, I hope that we will be able to establish a cultural atmosphere in the University campus.

Lastly, I will be failing in my duties if I do not thank the members of DUMADS for their active participation in reviving the spirit of DUMADS. Once again I thank you all for joining us today.

—Debu Chaudhuri

WHAT DUMADS WAS ...

Under the Rockefeller Scheme, first Miss Ruth McNeil and then Mr. Haslam were brought to Delhi University in order to boost Western choral music. Rehearsals were held in Miranda House. No good sized choir practised regularly or put on public performances.

Subsequently, Mr. Vanraj Bhatia was sent on a world tour and given funds to choose a complete library of Western music scores and tapes with the necessary equipment for listening. A unit was opened in the then new tutorial wing of the University Library and was very well utilised by the students. All these activities took place during the period of Mr. Chadbourne Gilpatric's attachment to Delhi University, under the Vice-Chancellorship of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh. A number of Indian Classical Music programmes was also organised.

Prof. Margaret Chatterjee

WHAT DUMADS SHOULD BE

When I joined DUMADS the question I asked myself, was, why did I join? The reasons why one must join a society, any society for that matter, is to avoid (if one can) and get out of the stagnancy and staleness that go hand in hand with college life. With hours to do nothing, joining a society, or group is the only way to let oneself out of the disillusionment that one faces with college after leaving school.

Every college in the University has some kind of a budget for literary and cultural activities. A small sum of 49 lakhs was spent over the last ten years for "propagation of culture" through the University. Any visible sings??

Oh no! College do have some thing very cultural-Festivals! The same musicians are invited to all the colleges. What a waste! One college spends Rs. 7000/- for a sarod player, when they could have got someone else as good, cheaper, or the same artist at a less exorbitant price. (Forget the cultural scholarships that could have been given from the above mentioned sum)

Another college paid just Rs. 6,000 to a mediocre dancer for their festival.

Students pay an average of twenty seven rupees per month for sports in one college, while in another, they pay as much as fifty rupees a month! Just compare this amount with the almost negligible amount students pay for cultural activities—in one of the colleges; just one rupee per month!

Where does all this leave us? Just two options. Either join a professional group and do the donkey's job for quite sometime. before you can actually get yourself in the credit's list. Or, join as a member, a society existing at the University level. That's just what DUMADS is?

DUMADS serves a two told purpose, at least to the students. First and the main is the cultural activity. Even if you are not intrested in acting or performing yourself, there is always the oppurtunity to help others do it. Secondly, but not with less importance than the first reason is the awareness that comes from being a member. The amount one learns is not by any chance small.

Pankaj Rakesh

Music is a part of family. I learnt to play western music at an early age and attained some professional expertise. After a lot of cajoling dld two programmes for TV and radio in one year. Now we perform in marriage parties and get paid for it. I don't want to pay bribe and I am young. So what to I do. Wifh hope I joined DUMADS.

Sunil Joseph

**Delhi University Music Arts & Drama Society
Presents**

चोर के घर मोर

CHOR KE GHAR MOR

A comedy in Hindustani

Based on Ben Jonson's Volpone

Adapted by : Arun Sehgal

Designed and Directed by : Subhash Sehgal

Venue : Sir Shankerlal Hall, Mall Road

Date : 15 DEC. 81

Time : 5 P.M

A CHHAYANUT PRODUCTION

OUR PAST

1. Ek Se Badhkar Ek	Comedy	1978	
2. Vdhar Ka Pati	Comedy	1979	20 Shows
3. Chor Ke Ghar Mor	Comedy	1980	21 Shows
4. Dr. Auzaarbano	Comedy	1980	7 Shows
5. Chand Tukde Aurat	Tragedy	1981	3 Shows
6. Rang Basanti	Hindi Play	1981	2 Shows

OUR FUTURE :

7. Diwana Diwan — Based on
Thomas Hardy's Mayor of the Casterbridge Adaptation by Arun Seghal
8. Pheron Ke Pher Main — Apadtation of Seven Years Itche by Arun Seghal

All the plays have been directed by Subhash Sehgal

About the Group

Chhayanut theatres (Regd.) a group of amateurs from the academic fraternity of Delhi University has been giving purposeful as well as entertraning theatre to Delhi theatre lovers, ever since its inceptions three years back. Inspite of the limited financial resources, the artists of Chhayanut Theatre have been regularly coming on the stage. The group has big plans but nothing is possible without your co-operation, Come and join us and let us do things Cultural !

Cast in Order of Appearance

Manohar : Ashok Jain
Murli : Arun Sehgal
Murari : Ashwani Sharma
Shayam Lal : Dr. A.K. Monga
Goverdhan
Dass : Dr. Girish Bakshi
Ragini : Neera Sehgal
Shanti Bhai : Kamal Joshi
Judge : Dr. R.N. Maini
Notary : Yash Pal Kalra
Servant 1 : Harish Kalra
Servant 2 : Subhash Sehgal
Policeman : Kiran Kumar.

BACK STAGE

Music : Avinash Sharma/Rakesh Pandit/S.C. Prashar
Lights : Suresh Arora
Makeup : Artists
Sets Execution : Dr. A.K. Monga/Dr. R.N. Maini
Theme song written by : K.C. Salil

What would be the DUMADS Programmes in the near future . . .

One month long Modern Dance Workshop in cooperation with Minimax starting Jan. 11, 1982, to be conducted by the famous Italian Choreographer Patrizia Cerroni and Durgadas Mukhopadhyay. For details write to Mimimax, K 5/8 Model Town, Delhi-110009.

“Creative Expression of the Handicapped”. A two-dyy exhibition of painting, drawings and sculpture by handicapped artists, followed by an evening of music, mime and dance by handicapped artistes.

Lecture and dance demostration by well known classical dancers. Lecture demostration of Hindustani and Karnataka classical music by famous artists. Baul Folk Music Presentation.

An international evening of dance, music and mime by students from Thailand, Mauritius, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Kenya.

Books on Music, Dance and Theatre written by members of DUMADS . . .

Debu Chaudhuri : "Sitar and its Techniques"—Avon Book Co., G. T. Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.

Durgadas Mukhopadhyay : "In Praise of Krishna"—English Translation, of Geetagovinda—Minimax Publications, K 5/8 Model Town, Delhi-110009

Durgadas Mukhopadhyay : "Lesser Known Forms of Performing Arts in India"—Sterling Publishers, AB/9 Safderjung Enclave, New Delhi-110016.

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