

Kaleidoscope

The various hues of deepanam - #61

March 2025

*- All the world's a stage,
all the men and women merely players.*

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Fope's opinion



The play performance went well, only one person messed up but it's no big deal. In the play I was James the second son of old Sir Rowland, everyone was loud and clear, also I like the background and props they look really good, and the costumes were also nice, also we had dance at the end of the play and it also went really good even though it was a little weird, and I think that I did good.

-KYRILL

In the play I was a clownish fool named Touchstone, being the fool meant I needed to have a much different demeanor. I could be wise and calm, or I could be carefree and joyful, or sad and melancholy. Being asked to do so much on stage was something I had to get used to, but it made me move out of my comfort zone and try something new. One of the reasons I liked my experience was because of my character.

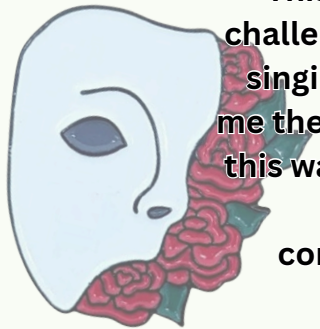
Doing such a big play was something that I thought I could do but I turned out to be a little less hard than expected; that's probably because I have a pretty good memory. The hardest part of the play was the consistency of everyone because when certain people didn't arrive others couldn't practice and when someone filled up for someone they didn't gain anything I feel the play could have been much better if everyone was consistent, the other hardest part was over practicing I had quite a few narrations and because I over practiced I lost my ability to put emotion and my voice into those lines, this may not be true for most as many of my co-actors practiced as much as I did but still did very well. Through all the ups and downs, I feel that we all did well and we all did our best so I don't regret it one bit.



-RAAYA

I'd say the play satisfied everyone, mostly because our expectations were pretty low. But in the end, everyone stepped up at the last moment and put in more effort than expected. It actually worked out really well for me because I learned my lines just by reading them aloud during rehearsals. That meant I didn't have to sit in my room going over them again and again (not that it would've been a big deal), but this way, it felt a lot easier. One thing I really like about plays is that during rehearsals, there's no audience, so there's no pressure to perform. But once there is an audience, you start to realize that some scenes are actually funny because people are constantly laughing. I always get this really happy feeling when I say a line and the audience laughs. If you think about it, the only other way you'd ever get two hundred people to laugh at something you say is if you're a comedian or in a play. What I'm trying to say is that an audience gives certain scenes more meaning. Their reactions—whether it's laughter, sadness, or even an “aww”—let you know what really works. And in the end, it's a great feeling to have people see what you've been working on for one or two months. It makes you feel like you've actually accomplished something. That's exactly how I felt in this play, *As You Like It*. I really enjoyed figuring out how to act in certain scenes and understanding why things were written the way they were. It was fun seeing everyone's different ideas on how a scene could be performed, and in the end, they were all great in their own way. Lastly, I just want to say that my biggest motivation for going to rehearsals was, without a doubt, food. So I'd like to take a moment to thank food for making it all possible. That's it then, bye-bye! :)

-Luce



This was my first time performing in a Shakespeare play, and the language was challenging at first. I played a minor character that had to sing. Although I enjoy singing, I had never performed an English song before, but this experience gave me the courage to perform any song. I had never heard of Shakespeare before, so this was a completely novel sensation for me. Setting up the backdrop was also a fascinating task because it helps direct the viewers to the plot. Since it's a comedy, we were able to justify it by making the audience laugh, which, in my opinion, is the play's achievement.

-Harshana

This year, I participated in our yearly school play, and this time we performed *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare. Getting our roles and practicing was fun, but we soon realized that we lacked proper body language and tone. That's when Aurevan stepped in to help with our play. At first, she was only helping the Hope group since the Faith group had other classes. But once we all came together, everything worked out really well. Aurevan helped us understand Shakespeare's language, so not only did we understand what we were saying, but we also knew how to express it with the right emotions. She also worked a lot on our body language and helped us with our tone and when to add pauses at just the right moments in our lines, which I think made this play much better than last year's. It brought out the humor and made the performance much more enjoyable. One of my favorite parts was studying our characters and imagining how they would act in different scenarios and how they would react. I think that really helped me bring my character to life. The costumes were also a big improvement this year; I absolutely loved mine. The stage was decorated so much better, and the props were fantastic. Every time I was backstage, I would feel nervous about my scene, but as soon as I stepped on stage, I felt completely relaxed. The most embarrassing part for me was when we had to sing and dance. That is a memory that will never leave me. The entire process of putting on the play was difficult, but in the end, the result was not bad at all.

-Aarohi

In recent times scientists have discovered 10 new animal species. A web story published by the times of india gives us a first glance at these creatures. However, as I do not have the desired space to fit all 10 of these species in our magazine, I'll just include the ones that are interesting, or that I want to write about. Sorry about the other 7 that couldn't make it!

St. George's Cross Medusa

Scientists discovered this Jellyfish in the Pacific Ocean. It was given its name due to the red cross in the middle which resembles the cross of St. George. It fends off predators by its Red cross giving it bioluminescent properties. The Jellyfishes distinct properties may suggest that it has cnidarian venom (venom that contains toxins that can cause pain and paralysis)



Blob Nosed Fish

These fish species were found in deep sea environments. It is characterised by its grey gelatinous body which helps it withstand pressure in the deep sea environments. Not much is known about this fish as it has only been sighted once.



Limestone eyelash pit viper

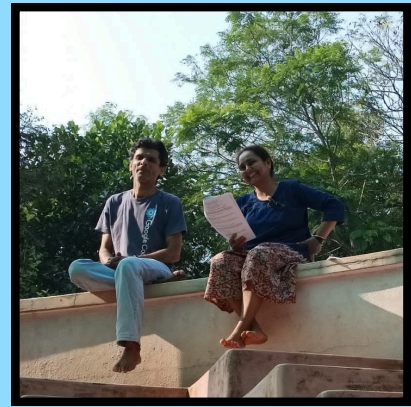
The Limestone Eyelash Pit Viper was discovered in the Thale Ban National park in southern thailand. The viper has a distinct eyelash like scale hence given its name. Its scales being limestone and sandy in colour give it an edge in camouflaging. Like other vipers it has heat sensitive pits on its face, which let it sense any warm blooded animal in the night. The viper contains hemotoxins which immobilise smaller rodents but despite it being harmful for their prey, scientists are still studying it for its medical benefits.



-AARYAN

From Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

It was 11 years ago. Nothing more than an idea. I was a new class teacher then and decided to put the theater as number one item on my list. The search began to find a passionate person who could teach theater. We were lucky to have Simone as the first teacher to help us float the idea of a play performance in Deepanam. They performed a couple of plays in the space of a year. But the biggest hit was 'The Charlie and the Chocolate factory'. We were amazed by the transformation that was brought about by the play. The children were happy. The parents were equally happy.



The Challenges

Of course, it wasn't without its struggles. It was messy and imperfect to start with. There were moments of frustration—teachers losing patience, students distracted and unwilling to focus. Once, a teacher stormed out of a rehearsal, with a decision to never come back. It took some persuasion to bring her back in.

Patience is important for any teacher directing the play. it was necessary for us to balance discipline with encouragement, structure with creativity. There were times when students tested our limits—laziness, forgetfulness, attitude problems. But then, something would shift. A line would be delivered just right, acting would become instinctive, and suddenly, the performance came alive. In the end, the effort was always worth it.



Bringing Stories to Life

For the past seven years, Bhakti has been directing the play performances. She meticulously designs the backdrops and costumes, bringing the stories to life on stage. It's a ton of workload and requires hours of planning to get the desired results for stage props and costumes.

Under her direction, students have performed in big productions such as The Bluebird, The Hobbit, The Mysterious Benedict Society, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, and As You Like It and in short plays based on Egyptian , Indian and Greek myths . Each play was unique as it was done by a different mix of students and skill set.

When a Student Takes the Lead

One year, we faced an unexpected challenge. Usually Bhakti directed the plays, but she was not available as she was busy with other class. I invited another teacher to elp us out but the students were not happy with him, leaving us without guidance in the middle of rehearsals. They all wanted to do the play performance and were desperate for the scrip.

to As You like it : A Passage

I turned to them with a question:

What play do you want to perform? And who will direct it?

Vyomini, a student from the class, slowly raised her finger and said that she will do it. And the rest was history. We settled on *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. The effort that followed was extraordinary. Students took ownership of every aspect—stage setup, costumes, and even direction. The performance was breathtaking. As the final scene unfolded, there were tears in the audience. They were appreciated with thundering applause from the crowd. The feeling of awe and what they achieved was slowly sinking.

It was a moment that I felt this is why we do theater.



More Than Just a Play

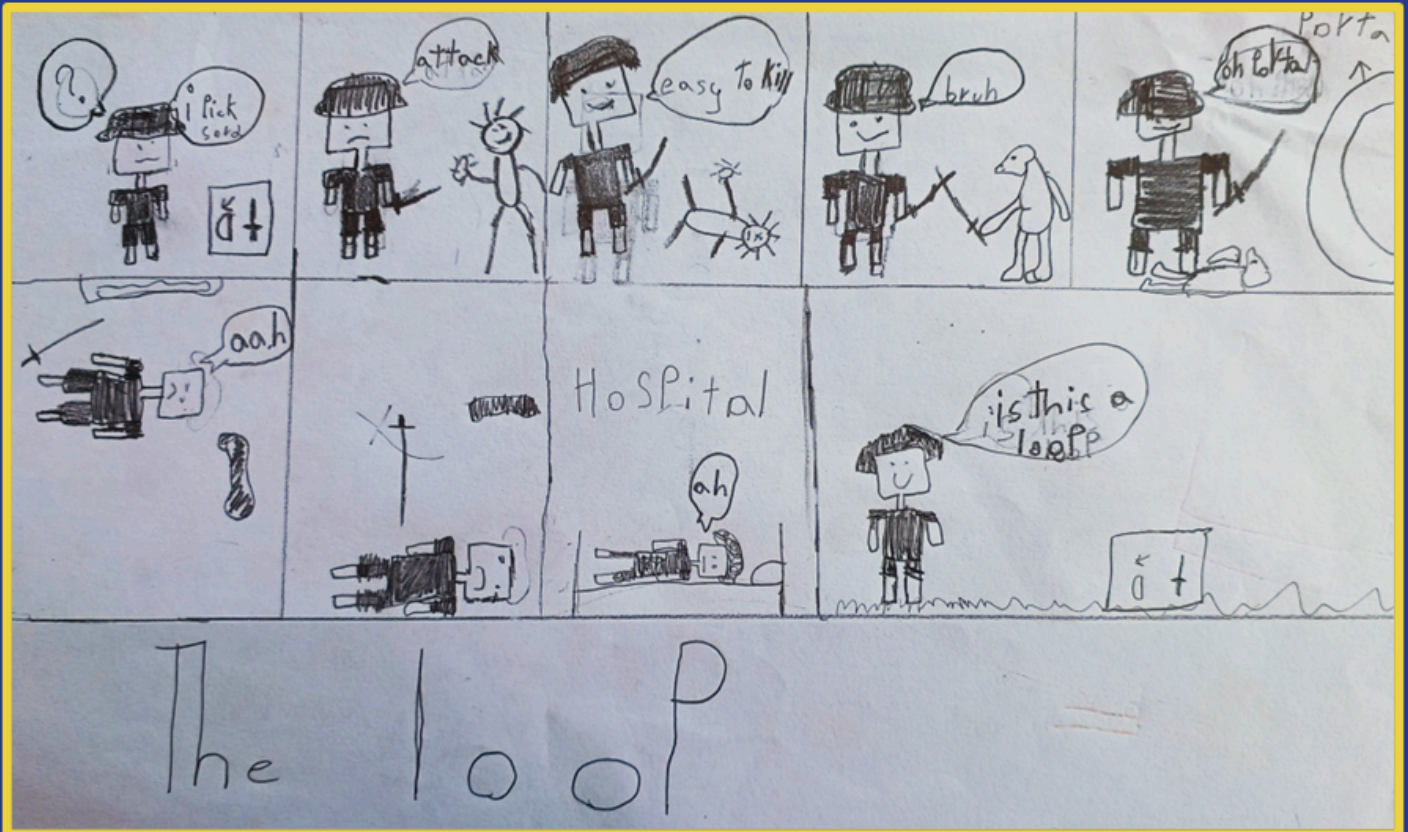
All the performances are close to my heart. Every year, the effort brought about new discoveries with us. Over the years, I have seen students who once doubted themselves find their voices; they learned to articulate, to communicate, and to express. The applause, the validation — it gave them a joy beyond words.

It has given them lifelong memories. Even years later, students recall their time on stage, reminiscing about the nervous energy before a performance, the laughter during rehearsals, and the deep friendships forged behind the curtain.

Yes, theater demands discipline. It requires resilience. But it also creates something lasting—something beyond the stage. Each year, we step into the unknown, knowing only this: the story will change us, as it always has.



The Loop - by Din



Matrimandir - by Nanthana

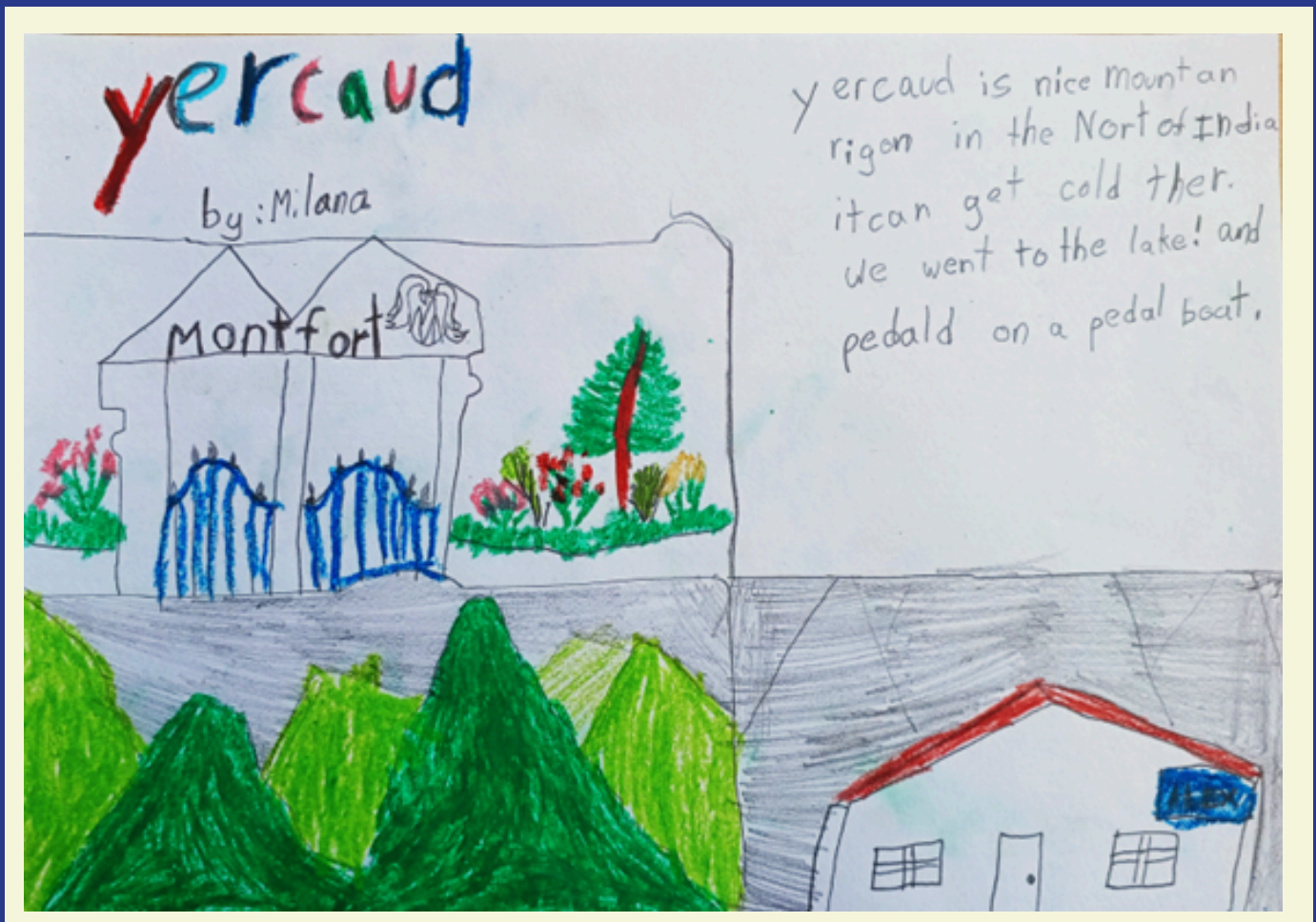


I Like Craft Class - by Keerthi



I like craft class, it is fun! We make craft things. It is very interesting. Suguna teaches us new things like stitching carry bag, dream catcher. Me and Yashwan like the dream catcher. To make the turtle - first I made the big oval and then I put the cardboard on it like a roof. Then I covered with glue, newspaper and scotch. Then I fixed the head, legs and painted. My turtle is ready!

Yercaud - by Milana



Speedies and Strongies - by Yoda



The Speedies and Strongies were really happy. The Legendary Swordsman gave the sword that makes you faster to the Speedies and the one that makes you stronger to the Strongies. The Legendary Swordsman was leaving to the cave exit but out of nowhere a shadowy figure stabbed him. The Strongies and Speedies leaders were sleeping with the swords. The shadowy figure went inside the room and took both the swords. The Speedies leader thought that the Strongies leader took the sword. And the Strongies leader thought that the Speedies leader took the sword. They went to war. But the Strongies and the Speedies saw the shadowy figure holding both the swords. Then they attacked the shadowy figure and took both the swords back - the end.

A Fairytale About Cars - by Bhadra



This is a fairytale. And I like fixing cars.

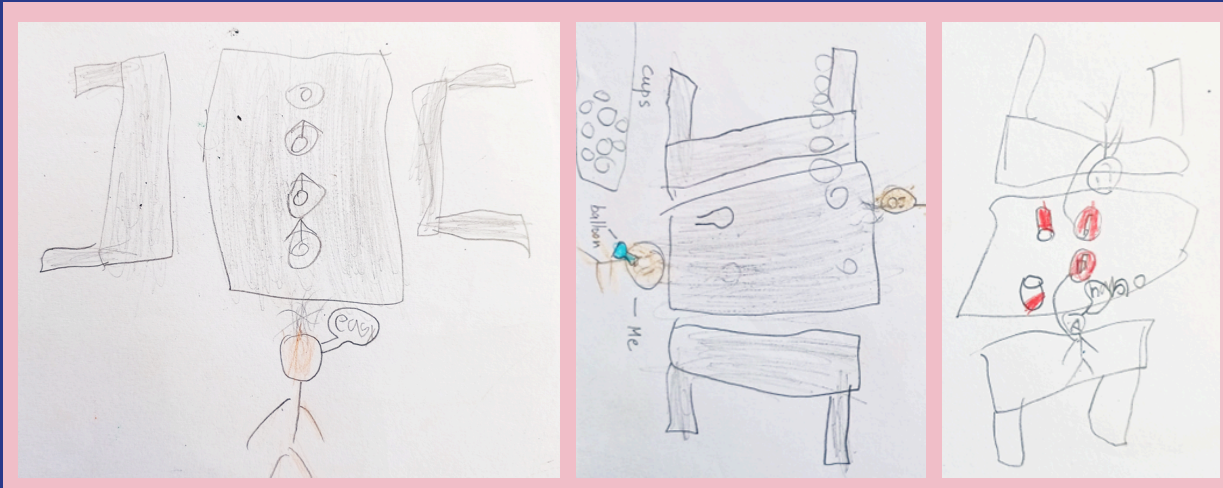
One day I wanted to play with my car and I saw it was damaged. I took the tools and tried to fix it. After a while I fixed it and my brother came to visit. and we played with my car

A Girl Who Lived in the Forest - by Bhavesha



Once upon a time there was a girl who loved nature. She lived in a forest so she had a tree. One day she thought she can make a swing. She took sticks, after she got a rope and after she tied the rope to the sticks. So she got a swing. After, she went inside her home. She loved that day!

In STEAM Fest... - by Kabilan



In STEAM fest I played games. It was so fun! I won, my team won, and the other team lost.

1st game - The game was that there were 4 cups with water inside. One ball was on the first cup. I blew on the ball and it went to second cup. I blew it again and it went to third cup. I blew again and ball went to the last cup and I won!

2nd game - I needed to hold a balloon in my mouth and put it in the cup and blow it. Then I could hold the cup up. Then I kept it down. One by one I took all the cups. My team won that game!

3rd game - In this game there was a glass jar with red coloured water. There was a straw inside. I put the straw in and closed the straw and I took it up. The red water remained inside the straw and didn't fall down!

