



Punjab Association's  
**ANNA ADARSH COLLEGE FOR WOMEN**  
(Affiliated to University of Madras)  
**ANNA NAGAR, CHENNAI 600040**

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CRITERION 2

*Experiential Learning*

Drama



Punjab Association's

# ANNA ADARSH COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

(Affiliated to University of Madras)

Chennai - 600040, Tamil Nadu.

Verified & Certified Documents

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*R. Shanthi*

PRINCIPAL





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**Experiential Learning thru Drama(2020-21)**

**Activity : Earth Day Rally by the Department of English**

**Objective :** The idea was to sensitize the students to the needs of the environment and spread the awareness among the general public

**Process:** Students were involved in creating banners, posters, placards highlighting the message that protecting the environment is basically essential for human survival. In specific the message was primarily avoiding water pollution and promoting water conservation.

**Outcome:** Students themselves became aware of the small but significant changes that they could make that could help in reducing water wastage. Since they themselves decided on the slogans and songs on the theme of water preservation, it was an activity that they engaged in with full enthusiasm for a cause they believed in.

**Activity : 'Tales of Waterpakkam'- An Earth Day Play by the Department of English**

**Objective :** To involve the students in a hands on experience on understanding the water pollution in the neighbourhood and the need for sustainable practices.

**Process:** Students went on visits for about two weeks to the neighbourhood water canal. This was a water body that serves more as a sewage canal rather than the fresh water body. They saw the course of the water body, met the people living on the banks and saw first-hand on this pollution affects their physical and mental wellbeing. Based on their experiences, there was a brainstorming session led by an experienced theatre artist. A play was formulated with a series of 'water images' that showcased problems of living by the side of a polluted river and conceptualized using props and accessories that the students collected on their visits. The students wrote the script, decided on the songs and dialogue and chose to impart the message of water conservation in multiple languages. This was staged before the students of the entire college



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**Outcome:** The students could fully comprehend how water is a resource we cannot take for granted. Since the play was outcome of their own immersive experience and they formulated and staged the play based on their understanding and absorption of the issues involving water pollution and the social, economic and health consequences, it was a time of reckoning and contemplation. They staged the play again in a neighbourhood park where there were interactions and engagement with the members of the public on the play presentation and issues of maintaining water bodies.

Link :

<http://primaa.in/>







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Play Performance



Felicitations





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A View of the Audience





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**Experiential Learning thru Drama (2018-19)**

**Activity: 'Writer's Block' – An inhouse Play production by the Department of English**

**Objective:**

To provide an opportunity for students to gain experience in staging - from conception to production.

**Process:**

The earlier play saw the department collaborate with outsourced professionals and a script that was modified and adapted. Moving the learning experience a notch higher, the Department of English embarked on an inhouse production – The Writer's Block was staged at the college auditorium in August 2018.

This play- the seed for which was an imaginative and creative classroom assignment written by a student, was an ambitious project with the students taking over all aspects of the play production with limited outside support. A team of students worked on the script and it was refined and polished with the training for stage handled by a qualified professional. Student had brainstorming sessions for props, sets, sounds, costumes, hair do and various other aspects of stage setup and most of their ideas were concretised on stage. This boosted their confidence level and the contributions evolved into several constructive and creative additions to the performance.

**Outcome:**

After the performance, students were able to reflect on the importance of beginning a venture and executing it successfully to completion. They discussed on how involving a army of volunteers and functioning towards a common goal enhanced the final output of the play. The need for everyone to come together, pool their skillsets, spend their time, think critically and work together as a holistic and happy team was revealed in the post performance feedback



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### **WORKSHOPS**

The Department of English held four workshops for the students in February 2019. The topic for the workshops was decided in consultation with the students and to complement and support classroom learning through diverse experiences.

#### **Dramatic Literature : An Actor's perspective**

Conducted by acclaimed playwright, Mr.V.Balakrishnan, Actor and Director, Theatre Nisha. The workshop brought out the actor in each participant with short performances from everybody. It not only brought out their acting chops to the fore but also helped them learn from the performance of others.

#### **Film, Literature and Culture**

Conducted by Dr.K.Ganesh, Professor and Head, Department of English, Madras Christian College. The workshop blended elements of film and culture with movies provided the base and structure to the amalgamation. The modern day adaptations of various plays of Shakespeare enabled students to participate, relate, regale and rejoice the power of theatre and be a part of its magic.

#### **Rhyme and Reason**

Conducted by Sofia Ashraf, Digital Content Creator and Activist. This was a powerful questioning workshop about the gender norms prevalent in society and the need to question, ponder and analyse the cultural conditioning of girls. With a popular hip-hop song and dance approach, the workshop enabled students to dwell on seeing beyond the boundaries.

#### **Travel Photography and Blogging**

Conducted by Srivatsan Sankaran, award winning photoblogger, the workshop was an experience in how to experience a place and write about it. The offbeat, the unknown, the little known, the unheard, the unseen made for interesting stories that could be told through the lens and the keyboard and students were able to engage and involve in the process of creating a travel experience.





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Workshops in Progress





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**Experiential Learning thru Drama (2017-18)**

**Activity : 'Selfie' – A contemporary Play performance by the Department of English**

**Objective :**

To involve the students in the process of performing in a play. To enable the students to overcome their inhibitions, reflect on the issues that the generation of young people face across the world and to enable interaction and communication through dialogues and discussions in shaping up the play

**Process:**

As most of the students had no prior experience in acting or scripting, it was an outsourced venture with a script that was curated and adapted to Indian sensibilities. The first production venture 'Selfie' was a play handpicked by the department and directed by an acclaimed theatre professional. The play was staged on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017. The play written by Bradley Hayward, a Canadian Playwright was adapted and modified to fit a modern-day Indian scenario. It traces the life of eight different personalities as they go through their final year of college. The trials and tribulations faced by the characters are not unique rather they have universal echoes, so each character was played by multiple students because they are not single individuals but could be any of us.

The Department has always believed in widening the talent pool of students to enable them to dazzle and accomplish. Theatre has traditionally been a way to boost confidence, remove associated inhibitions and stage fear.

Every student who auditioned was given a role, counting only the enthusiasm and interest of the student. With a cast of over 25 students on stage and with a volunteering team of over 50 students helping out with stage setup, costumes, make up, accessories, sounds and lights, props, seating, marketing, ticketing, media reach, sponsorship- the play came together as one cohesive and coordinated power packed performance playing to a packed audience.

**Outcome:**

Students were involved in pre and post production workshops and this camaraderie ensured the stupendous success of the play. Student volunteers with special teams for different departments of the play production helped them understand coordination, time management,



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event arrangement and the need for everyone to feel a part of a team. From picking up skills to understanding the structure of a play production, to documenting the financial resources and budgeting and most importantly, to learn from and about each other, the play provided a whole bouquet of learning opportunities for the students. The post play circle discussion and introspection involving the entire team provided deep thoughtful moments of reflection, engagement and feedback.

**Link to the Press Coverage:**

<https://rufusonline.blogspot.com/2018/01/selfie-anna-adarsh-college-chennai.html?m=1>

**The Introduction to the Play**







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The Performers in *Selfie*





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The Head of the Department, Dr. Archana M Sardana with the Performers







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Cast and the Crew





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