

October 1, 2012

## It's Namma theatre

Thilagavathi G. Joseph



Mounakkural staged by the students of Stella Maris College.

Namma Theatre of Stella Maris College staged a Tamil play *Maunak-Kuram*, meaning Silenced Prophecies, from September 13 to 15, 2012.

The protagonist is a gypsy woman, a *kurathi*, who lives a life which is in consonance with nature. From her perspective, the *puranic* heroines *Chandramati*, *Draupadi*, and *Seetha* are women who have lost their sense of identity and have been devalued.

With an amalgam of song, dance and acting, the play had the energy of Tamil folk forms, following the Indian theatrical tradition. The cast — all students of Stella Maris — exuded such energy and exhilaration that transformed the theatre space into diverse settings, that of hills and woods, of everyday scenes from villages and cities and of puranic palaces. The students showcased their creativity in the usage of stage props — brooms, mops, sticks, ropes and items drawn from domestic space.

## **Efficient**

The stage was efficiently managed by Mangai (Dr. V.Padma of the Department of English), the Director, who has revived the play after a gap of 18 years, the last was produced in 1994 by *Mounakkural* (Voicing Silence, a project of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.)

The cast derived from the students of the college Karen Savarirayan, as kurathi and Annie Kuriakose, Akshaya, and Gouri Narayan, as Seetha with her sweet voice had a magical charm. Annu Mary, Devi, Dharini, Indhubala and Vidya excelled in their performances. The student director Nayantara Nayar added her touch of creativity to the play. The background music with the traditional 'parai' and 'urumi', the Indian folk version of drums was handled by Nellai Manikandan.

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