INDIAN EXPRESS

February 07, 2015

THE NEW INIDIAN EXPRESS, CITY EXPRESS DT: 7/2/2015

Witness a Nail-biting Trial

Express News Service

Chennai: If you're an Agatha Christie fan, you may want to keep yourself free this Sunday. The Stella Players, the drama club of Stella Maris College, will stage their production of 'Witness for the Prosecution' — one of the most celebrated mysteries by the writer.

Directed by the students, this thrill-

Directed by the students, this thrilling courtroom drama follows a brilliant lawyer Sir Wilfrid Robarts as he battles a high-profile homicide case involving a young man Leonard Vole, convinced that he is innocent. Every bit of evidence points towards him as he stands trial for the brutal murder of his unlikely friend and beneficiary, the wealthy widow — Emily French. Vole's only alibi is his calm and coldly calculating wife, but Sir Wilfred's task becomes more impossible when she agrees to be a witness, not for the defence, but for the prosecution.

"It's just one of those classics you can't go wrong with," said 19-yearold Priyanka Narahari, who is co-



The cast of The Stella Players' production 'Witness for the Prosecution'

directing the play. With a 14-member cast and two months of rigorous rehearsals, several first time actors will be taking the stage on Sunday. Although, they promise, newbies or otherwise, it's going to be one heck of a show. Director of the play, Nayantara Venkatesh recalls, "When we told our actors to get into character and come up with their own back stories, we had no idea how seriously some of them would take it." She elaborates, "Our defence lawyer and lawyer for the prosecution have gotten into their

'on stage' rivalry that they're taking funny digs at each other on Facebook." We're not sure whether this counts, given the era of the script, but hey whatever works in showbiz.

Catch 'Witness for the Prosecution' at Museum Theatre, Egmore, on February 8. Two shows will be staged at 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at ₹200, ₹300, and ₹500. Contact +91 99401 97971 or +91 96001 75387, or buy tickets online at www.in.bookmyshow.

