



Palekar inaugurates Natya Kalawant convention

(By Staff Reporter)

NAGPUR, June 4: "The Marathi theatre has its own existence in the international theatre today. Every theatre artiste should understand its role in the theatre movement and should not express his regret on its present slackness", observed Mr. Amol Palekar, the famous Marathi theatre artiste while inaugurating the Vidarbha Natya Kalawant convention organised by Akhil Bharatiya Natya Parishad (local chapter) today morning at Vasant Rao Deshpande Hall, Nagpur.

Mr. Palekar in his inaugural speech, further said, that the reasons for the set back which the Marathi theatre is facing today are numerous and television is just a topical excuse. Recalling the old days of Marathi theatre,

he added that the same situation had arisen when talkie films started. A stage artiste today should get himself involved in the situation and should try to analyse the role of the theatre for its development and improvement, he opined.

The programme started with the presentation of a one act play "Utsav" by a local unit, Shefali, Nagpur. The playwright was Mr. Prabhakar Dupare while Mr. Prabhakar Ambone directed the play. The theme of the play depicted the sorry state of affairs of a village and the problems of the villagers. The play presented was based on experimental theatre without the use of stage decoration and sets.

Immediately after the presentation of this one act play the inauguration function was held. Mr. Wasu Gajbhiye President

Reception Committee welcomed the guests. Mr. Amol Palekar and Mr. Rajaram Shinde, with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Prabhakar Dupare Co-organizer of the programme made the introductory remarks. Mr. Wasu Gajbhiye in his welcome speech narrated the objectives of the Natya Parishad and wished that the organising of such conventions would definitely fulfill the basic idea of uniting artistes together.

Mr. Rajaram Shinde

Mr. Rajaram Shinde, President of Natya Parishad presided over the function. Mr. Shinde gave in-depth information about the working of the parishad and its various projects. He welcomed the idea of organizing the Natya Kalawant convention which is only one of its kind in the whole of Vidarbha. Mr. Shinde further

added that he felt elevated by the response from the drama artists and announced that the Parishad will make all efforts to find out solutions to the problems of the artistes. A Federation of the drama artistes will be formed in the near future, he commented.

"Atma Hatyechi Hatya", a one act play in Marathi written and directed by Mr. Ranjan Darwekar, was presented in the afternoon which was heavily applauded by the audience.

Post Lunch Session

The group discussion on the topic "Aajachi Rangbhoomi - Samasya Ani Upay" (The theatre today - its problems and solutions) in the post lunch session received a large response from the audience. The various problems related to the theatre were discussed threadbare by the participants. Mr. Amol Palekar and Mr.

Rajaram Shinde replied to the queries in this session. The group discussions was followed by another one act play titled "Aandhala ved". The playwright and director was Mr. Jayant Upadhye.

Twelve renowned theatre artists of Nagpur presented monologues from the selected plays. The overall standard of these monologue presentations was not up to the mark. However Mr. Ajit Diwadkar, Mr. Mohan

Pande, MTS & Vatsala Polkamwar did satisfy the audience.

Concluding function

The day long proceedings concluded in the evening under the chairmanship of Mr. Amol Palekar. At the concluding stage Mr. Palekar said that drama competitions do not create a healthy atmosphere amongst the participants mainly because there is sometimes a tendency on the part of participants to try to hoot out the competitors play. He suggested that any artiste must follow the ethics and discipline of the theatre. He further added that unless any artiste is not mentally prepared for witnessing any drama or participating in it, he should never enter into this field.

The programme was compered by Mr. Shekhar Bendre, while Mr. Prabhakar Dupare proposed vote of thanks.