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Dog tales carry spirit of Lekhana

Nirmala Govindarajan, TNN Jan 19, 2013, 05.09AM IST

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BANGALORE: Writing for the 'spoken word' is the theme of Lekhana's initiative of connecting words to action. Theatreperson Arundhati Raja has imbibed this very spirit in the play 'The Dog Lines', which set rolling the weekend festival theme on Friday.

"I chose these set of doggie monologues because they embody the spirit of Lekhana," explains Arundhati. In doing so, theatre's connection to the spoken word had manifested beyond what the layman could see.

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"Unless the theatrical piece is a mime, everything about this performing art is the spoken word. These words may be just dialogues between or among people. Any movement or dance that is merely added gives value to the words. Even a musical is about words. Songs carry the plot forward or tell you more about the character you're watching," she adds.

"The actors in this production are all part of Bangalore's best. Jagdish Raja is the most experienced. The others, including Darius Sunawwalla, Vivek Madan, Jimmy Xavier, Pritham Kumar, Noel Manasseh, Rebecca Spurgeon and Deepika Arwind, have done their fair share of acting and so of the spoken word. I cast the actors in a way that I thought suited each dog. Each actor has identified with the dog and taken on the story as their own. That's what counts: when you truly feel the words you are conveying. That's when you carry your audience with you through your story," explains Arundhati.

"For dog lovers and those who know different breeds and their quirks, it's simple because they sympathize with each story. But for others, the stories are funny, sad and entertaining. And the dogs also have the odd dig at us humans, supposed to be their "best friends," says Arundhati.

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