

# Event Review

Thursday, September 4th, 2008

## Zimmedari

Director: Jayanta Bhaduri

Last Sunday I had the opportunity to see Rangmanch's Hindi play 'Zimmedari'. Needless to say, it was like watching a beautiful serial so deeply connected to our real life, gradually unfolding on stage.

Zimmedari revolves around the lives of four members of a middle class family based in the outskirts of Calcutta. Each has its own secrets and the play deals with the complexities of human relationships that as always will question the moral fabric of society. Each character delves deeper and tries to bring to reason the sanctity of relationships, characteristics and choices that they have made. At the end you do question this moralistic society we live in.

The antagonist at the centre of the play is a truck driver named Gagan, played fantastically well by Ujjal Ghosh. Gagan is the archetypical truck driver, who gambles, drinks and associates with women. But scratch the service and this truck driver has the heart of gold. His honesty, straightforwardness and love for his daughter bring to light a softer side of this rugged man.

Ujjal Ghosh is perfectly cast as Gagan. He delivers an outstanding performance and the many facets of his character that he brings to life can easily be identifiable by men today.

Sita, played by Sangeeta Hariharan is the 'wife' of Gagan and mother to Payal. She plays the constantly nagging housewife whose objective in life it seems is to mould Gagan from a truck driver to man of a higher standing in society. She loves her daughter and will do anything to ensure her daughter does not lead the life that she herself leads...even if that means 'buying' the affection of her would be son in law.

Sangeeta Hariharan is commendable as Sita.

Payal, the obedient and idealistic daughter is played exceptionally well by Monica Mahendru. Payal's love for Gagan is that of a daughter who is in awe of her father. Their relationship is under scrutiny and suspicion by Sita. The audience eventually comes to realise why when it is dramatically revealed prior to intermission that Payal is not Gagan's biological daughter.

The fourth integral character of this dysfunctional family is Jivan, the idiotic but lovable brother of Gagan. Jivan's desire in life is to be truck driver like his brother. He is a happy go lucky man, who loves his family. Jivan is played by Rahul Gandhi, who has great comedic timing and provides the lighter moments of this emotional roller coaster ride. Rahul was well appreciated by the audience, although at times he became so engrossed in his character that his diction became incomprehensible.

Overall, Zimmedari was a well received Hindi play. The characters and story were very enriching. Look forward to more such presentations from Rangmanch in future.