Festival for kids

The Little Festival did not disappoint. The three musicals that were staged held the attention of the audience all through.

MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

Children are an easily excited lot. Especially when they are out of school with permission and told to just enjoy themselves. But sustaining that excitement and interest for two hours is a difficult job that the artists at Little Theatre's "The Little Festival" did with ease. The second edition of this annual children's international theatre festival featured three musicals.

The first was a Little Theatre production "Adol Osota' This World" directed by H. Krishna Murder. In keeping with the title, the play had characters (real "aliens") from outer space crash landing on earth packed in a suitcase-like object. The highlight of the play was the dance by the creatures from outer space dressed in neon costumes.

Song and dance

The second musical was a J-Cor-Fest production that had 17 kids from Chennai, India and Seoul, Korea coming together to provide a visual treat. An IKe Centre and Theatre Seoul Collaboration.

THEATRE SEOUL: A gripping tale. PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR

"Hemplo Noll" though a Korean folktale had a universal theme. It's the story of two brothers at either end of moral yardstick - the mean and greedy Nollu and the kind-hearted Hemplu and their families. Nollu's only aim in life is to acquire wealth even if it meant to drive his brother and his family out of the house. This musical was an instant hit not just because of the colorful costumes, acts, catchy songs and dance sequences, but also because of the earnestness of the young actors who put up a splendid performance. The last musical was "Trees", a Musical Theatre World premiere production from Germany. With just two adult actors and empty canvases for props, one wondered how this could be children's theatre? But it proved otherwise. Nurturing the story of "Trees", an imaginary son of a painter, the two actors enacted, sang, danced, played musical instruments on stage and painted as well. With such multi-talented artists, there was no need for more than two of them.

As "Trees" traversed the forest, mountain, sea, desert and the North Pole, each white canvas came to life with colour. As actor Michael Habilitz painted the canvases on stage to portray the setting, Bodek Raufratzen would enhance it by providing the sound effects. "Trees" finally finds his way home after meeting interesting characters and stuck along the way like a wise owl, an Eskimo and a giant.

The three musicals chosen to be staged at the festival stayed true to the theme "children's theatre", offering their target audience an enjoyable artistic experience. Waiting to see what's in store next year.