

MICA's Sankalp to showcase students' plays

'Marijuana Monologues' and 'Smoke Scenes' are being directed by two MICA students

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Two MICA students of MICA's flagship programme Communication Management have been directing two plays since sometime. Now, they plan to showcase them before the public. Gaurav Banarjee and Neha Vyas who have directed 'Marijuana Monologues' and 'Smoke Scenes' say theatre has enabled them to express themselves in ways they found impossible earlier.

Gaurav Banerjee, director of 'Marijuana Monologues' was driven to MICA for MBA when he read about Sankalp in their brochure. Soon after joining, he realised what it promised were not empty words, that theatre was vibrant and flourishing in the institute. He says, "It does not matter whether I am on stage or not. The association with theatre itself helped me express myself."

On his play, Gaurav says, "Marijuana Monologues deals with the substance and the experiences of its users. It's like the characters are having a conversation and the audience happens to be there by chance. it is a funny take on Vagina Monologues. It deals with the troubles, highs and lows of its three characters."

'Smoke Scenes' director Neha Vyas, a second year student of Communication Management, says, "I found solace in theatre — as a channel for my emotions and energies to connect with people." In the past, she has worked with Viney Verma of Hyderabad's Sutradhar group and Divya Palat's directors' workshop in Mumbai.

WHAT IS 'OPENING NIGHT', 'A DRAG' ALL ABOUT?

'OPENING NIGHT', as the title suggests, is the first step in the theatrical journey of Sankalp. More like an initiation to the committee, it lets the new batch get an idea of the theatre scene at MICA. 'A Drag', apart from representing two plays, also represents the nature of the opening night itself, which, even when it comes in a short burst, will hopefully leave a lingering thought in the mind of the audience about the bigger and better plays to come in the future. "'A Drag' was our way of threading the two very different plays about smoke and smoking up into a single theme.

