

Kalidas Play
“It runs in the Family”

by Ray Cooney

Review by Padmanabh Kamath



Kalidas production of “It Runs in the Family” was a smashing hit. Almost every line in the play produced laughter from the audience. The performance by all the cast members (Sumedha Bhagat, Dinesh Chawla, Kalpna Gupta, Amrith Kamath, Aanand Parthasarathi, Ani Patel, Nilesh Patel, Shantha Rao, T. M. Rao, Vasantha Ravindra, Srini Venkatesh) was superb. Director Baal Bhagat again showed his ability to present a performance of this caliber and brought out the best in each actor. Over 300 people attended the 3 performances. The play was presented at the ICC on Dec. 4, 5 and 6, 2009.



Saathi Annual Banquet

By Meera Jain

SAATHI hosted its 6th anniversary celebrations at the ICC ON JAN. 30TH. About 200 guests attended,



demonstrating their support for SAATHI'S mission.

The evening began with President Afshan Qureshi's address followed by honoring those who had selflessly offered their services in 2009. The Finance Report was delivered by Dr. Kamath. A talk was given by a SAATHI client who had the courage to overcome many obstacles to achieve success. A short film introduced by Dr. Shashi Sharma titled 'Ring the Bell' from Break was shown. It sent a powerful message of how ordinary citizens could get involved to help victims of domestic abuse. Each table had a bell that guests could take home as a symbol of the role that we can play in stopping abuse.

The highlight of the evening however was the keynote speaker, Dr. Sujata Warriar who spoke about the struggles and successes of the south asian movement in addressing DV. Sujata is the Director of the New York City Program of the New York State office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. She has written extensively on violence against women and recently authored a publication called 'It's in their Culture'. Recently she traveled to Egypt to help the Egyptian government develop a strategy to address Violence Against Women. Sujata continues to be actively involved in MANAVI, a pioneering south asian women's organization in New Jersey.

A sumptuous dinner was followed by an entertainment program. Parvatha Chidambaram, founder of the Bharata School of Classical Dance, performed a solo and a group dance with her students Anisha Vellodi and Ambika Sharma. There was a short play called 'Women Like Us' which opened with a mood dance followed by monologues of women in different abusive situations. The dance was choreographed by Anushree Shah, founder of Bollywood Dance Mania and the play was written and directed by Meera Jain. The monologues were performed by Shalini Bhattacharya. Anushree Shah, Rho Lawson and Janani Parthasarathy. The actors did a wonderful job and held the attention of the audience despite a heavy theme. SAATHI 'S banquet evening was a big success