

"Too Soon for Daisies" - Kalidas Play

A review
By Madan Shastri

Kalidas' latest play "**Too soon for Daisies**" written by William Dinner is about three women, eccentric and determined to lead a dreamier life than their then destined one; a mundane existence at an old people's shelter.

"O what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" Robbie Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire could have said in reference to this play as these three destitute women weave a tangled web when they assume ownership of a dead man's (played by Vithal Sanapala with fervor) house and watch the web get more tangled when complications arise.



First, the dead man's niece (played very aptly by Girija Naidu) shows up, then the well where they have hidden the body must be reopened, and, finally, they get caught up in moving the body around and plan

to dump it in the sea. The mischievous paper boy (the voice of young Rahul Venkatesh) helps with an alibi when he reports his lost "Guy Fawkes" (the effigy of a Roman Catholic Explosives Expert during King James I rule in the UK, 1570-1606, who wanted to burn down the House of Parliament and everyone in it), and helps to explain the body in the well. But, of course, this is a well constructed comedy and all gets resolved happily in the end when the doctor, played nicely by Arun Vachher, across the street reveals himself as the house owner.



Fortunately for the three women, the policeman (got to see Venkatraman, in the perfect Bobby uniform—well done!) doesn't believe the niece and helps to smooth her transition to face her own problems and move on with life. Either way, the dead man was a bad man and loner who wouldn't be missed.



Kalidasa's enactment on Saturday night at the ICC, had the audience enthralled with the antics of the three central characters Freda, Edie and Joy played magnificently by Anju Vachher, Amrit Kamath and Marilu Raman and off course the key to this whole entanglement; the handyman, played by Srinu Venkatesh, who had to haul the box with the body in and out and up and down was hilarious.



Debutant Director Janani Parthasarathi brought together a wonderful cast of characters and a successful comedy to the Rochester community with three "older" (I say it with reverence, as the make-up by Sanjay Maggirwar, was close to perfection) women in the center of the action. Behind the scenes work was very efficient and the set was apt. As usual, hats off to Dave, the sound man, zero glitches.



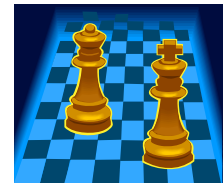
All in all this was a great effort by Kalidas, whose plays are becoming increasingly interesting and enjoyable.

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