

Choreography Society, St. Stephen's College

- Annual Report 2021-22

The Choreography Society of St. Stephen's College wrapped up its activities for the academic year with more than 190 members under it, who contributed as dancers, choreographers, production, publicity, sponsorship, administration, and technical teams. Keeping its vision, the society provided space for one and all who had the passion, drive, and talent to put forward events and productions as part of a performing arts club. Given that the academic year was roughly spilt into a 7-month virtual functioning and 3-month offline, the involved executive council and members displayed great adaptability and efforts in ensuring that the society remained active despite the limitations and hardships that came with the circumstances.

The society started off its activities with its contribution to the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. The society presented a semi-classical dance performance on the song 'Ae Watan', which was screened in the College Hall as part of the college's Independence Day celebrations on 15th August 2021.

To continue to engage with students whilst preparations for the Launch Production was going on, the society came up with a mini-quiz series titled "DYNAQUIZ" on its Instagram handle, launching its first round on 2nd October 2021. The second round was released on 4th October 2021, and the results were released on 7th October 2021.

On 23rd October, 2021, the society members had the opportunity to accompany the Principal and the staff advisor to CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR's dance fest - 'Nritta'. The experience was extremely invigorating for the students, and was a good learning experience as well.

The society's Launch Production - 'LOCOMOTE' which took place on 13th November 2021. It had initially been planned as an online production, however, when cases had died down, making it safe enough for a green signal for an offline production, the members enthusiastically took up the challenge of having a hybrid mode of production i.e. two productions were presented - online on our Instagram handle and screened with the offline production at the College Hall. The event was graced by the Principal, who also shared a few words of encouragement. The offline production was open to the Residents, Senior Members of the college, and Junior Members in Delhi-NCR who could provide a second dose vaccination certificate to ensure that maximal observation of safety protocols. The event was a successful introduction of the society to the students with all its dance and non-dance verticals finally coming together after almost a two-year gap.

Soon after, the society conducted its orientation on 29th of November 2021 on the platform of Google Meet. Paired with the recent Launch Production, the orientation session gave further details into the working of the society's functionings, and its events.

On 12th December 2021, the society took part in the Annual Alumni Reunion and Lunch by setting up a society profile stall alongside others to showcase the recent growths of the college's numerous societies.

With the beginning of the new year and with the 'Mental Health Initiative' prompt from the IQAC x SSL collaboration, the society conducted a session on "Dancing, Mental Health, and Psychotherapy" led by Ms. Anshuma Kshetrapal, founder member and vice president of Indian Association of Dance Movement Therapy (IADMT).

The Choreography Society in collaboration with Vidyajyoti, vertical of the Social Service League, conducted a freestyle dance session for the children on the song 'Galti se Mistake' on 6th February, 2022 on Google Meet. It was an equally enjoyable session for both parties.

To familiarise students with the verticals and the nature of their work, a Tech Workshop was led by the Technical Head on 2nd February, 2022, along with a Production Vertical Workshop by the vertical members on 10th February, 2022 were conducted.

Usually the first years would be inducted into the society through the Mid-term Production, however as situation did not allow so, a Freshers event was conducted on 12th February, 2022 on Google Meet with a lot of games, dance performances, and a short informal dance session where we learned an original choreography of the students all together.

In the month of March, the society held its annual fest 'RAQS' which usually consists of an intra and inter level dance competition in various categories. This year, however, due to certain restrictions owing to the pandemic, only intra-college level of dance competition was observed. 'INTRA-RAQS: THE REBOOT 2022' was held on 10th March, 2022 in the College Hall with the judging panel consisting of Ms. Ann Susan Aleyas (department of English, St. Stephen's College), Mr. Puneet Arora (founder of 'The Artist Inside You'), and Mr. Pankaj Guglani (The Danceworx). Students competed in four different categories, namely KALA (Indian solo), NATANA (Indian Duo), ARDOUR (Western Solo), and DUENDE (Western Duo). The enthusiasm from the students could be felt in the jam-packed college hall, and the event concluded as a huge success.

The Choreography Society was also able to successfully execute its merchandise sale. The society had collaborated with Canjuice, a popular custom merchandise brand, to release the t-shirts designed by the students on 28th March, 2022.

Additionally, the society had an opportunity to collaborate with St. Stephen's Centre for Advanced Learning (SCAL) to host the fellows from all 5 countries (Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, and Bangladesh) who had arrived as part of the three-month long Young Leaders Neighbourhood First Fellowship programme, supported by India's Ministry of External Affairs, for a short informal dance session - 'Dancescape'. The song for the session guidance was 'Olluleru' from the Malayalam Movie "Ajagajantharam" and the style followed was the South Indian 'Kuthu' style. The main motive for the Informal Dance session it to help the participants relieve stress mentally and physically. And feedbacks from them suggest that the aim was achieved.

And as is usually done, the society wrapped up the academic year with its Annual Production, which was a rough adaptation of the 1984 movie 'Footloose'. The production titled 'Let's Get Loud' featured acting and dancing on stage, following a storyline that was worked on by the students themselves. It was considered the most notable event by the Choreography Society in this academic year, with maximal participation from students as part of its various verticals, and as audience as well.

The Choreography Society has always been, and will continue to be an inclusive space where students with all kinds of talents can learn and hone their skills, and continue to grow as an individual and as a team player.