



Manipal International Literature and Arts Platform

6 - 8 April
2023



In Conversation with Bengaluru

Spaces. Intersections. Transitions. Imaginaries.

(SITI)

Masterclasses . Panel Discussions . Workshops . Book Exhibitions . Film Screenings . *Pratibimba* - Short Film Competition

Bhakti Arts in South India



Panelists on the dais

Aryaka Srivastava, Arjun Kumar

The final day of m.i.l.a.p. 2023 began with a panel discussion by H.S. Shivaprakash, Dharmanna Mahaanth and his team on Dissemination of *Bhakti* Arts in Southern India: Past and Present, which was moderated by Prithviraj Kavathur. They discussed the evolution and current state of *Bhakti* culture in urban cities.

The session began with a *Tattvapada* performance after which Shivaprakash spoke about the *Bhakti* tradition. Moreover, he stated that *Bhakti* tradition is based on oral and folk traditions. He concluded by stating that "*Bhakti* is not philosophy but a practice."

Masterclass: Urban Life of Caste



Janaki Nair addressing the audience

Viha Disley, Rakshana Sivakumar

As part of m.i.l.a.p. 2023, Janaki Nair spoke about complex social dynamics and customs that define the roots of caste, the experiences of people living in urban areas and its impacts on urban life. She elaborated on how the caste system persists in playing a vital role in society as urbanisation spreads and cities expand. Through her presentation, she highlighted that caste and gentrification remains deeply ingrained in a city like Bengaluru.

Screening and Discussion: Rallalo Neeru

Ajitesh Menon, Ashwajeet Nair

Kiranmayi Indraganti's film *Rallalo Neeru* (*Hidden Waters*) was screened on the final day of m.i.l.a.p. 2023. It is a film based on *The Doll's House*, a play by Henrik Ibsen.

The film focuses on how women are marginalised in terms of making decisions on socio-economic aspects of life. According to the director, the play had five different adaptations, each one providing a unique perspective. The film highlighted the rising stakes of marital security as it raises questions of self, love and marriage.



Shafi, Kiranmayi Indraganti and Junuka Deshpande (from left to right)

Bengaluru Through the Lens of Migrant Inclusion



Animesh Bahadur (speaker), Romal Singh, Kalpana Golpalan and Madhu Veeraraghavan during the discussion (from left to right)

Mick Mendonca, Tanay Kothiala

m.i.l.a.p. 2023 hosted a panel discussion with Madhu Veeraraghavan, Kalpana Gopalan and Romal Singh, moderated by Animesh Bahadur. The panel discussed social, economic, and spatial inclusion of migrants in Bengaluru. Romal described migrating as not just a phenomenon that takes place due to geographic reasons but also due to economic needs. He went on to state that Bengaluru is a city where its native citizen is indistinguishable because of its inclusivity. Madhu described a migrant to be anyone that resides in an area other than their place of birth. He went on to state that Bengaluru possesses the beauty of experimentation within the city, which is what makes it so unique. Kalpana stated that Bengaluru is an open and safe space for various communities to reside.

Weaving Words – A Poetry Recital



Sourav Roy, Dadapeer Jyman, Reshma Ramesh, Shashank Johri, Mamta Sagar, Pramod K M and Siddartha M S (from left to right)

Viha Disley

A poetry recital, *Weaving Words: Poetry and Performance and Slam Poetry*, was held during m.i.l.a.p. 2023. Hajira Khanum, Siddartha M S, Chand Pasha N S, Dadapeer Jyman, Shashank Johri, Reshma Ramesh, Sourav Roy, Pramod K M and Pasha Bhai are multilingual poets who presented their works during the session.

The poems presented were in Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, and English.

Some of the poems recited were about topics such as love, home, palace and capacity for germination. All the poets are also well-known translators who have translated works from different languages.

Pratibimba: Short Film Competition



Ganesh Chandra Raj distributing prizes to the winners

Shiwangi Verma

As part of Pratibimba - Short Film Competition, seven short films were screened at m.i.l.a.p. 2023. *Chase* by Vishalakshi Mantha, *Finding X* by Himanshu Thakur, *Furs and Strands* by Ravikant Jaiswal, *Mannina Makkulu* by Ridah Zaman, *Still I rise* by Aabha Chhajer, *The Poor Edison* by Gandhi E. and *What's the Price?* by Sharik were the films screened. The prizes for Best Cinematography went to Ravikant Jaiswal, Best Editing and Best Short Film: Storytelling to Himanshu Thakur, Best Screenplay and Best Short Film: Impact to Gandhi E., and Best Short Film: Cityscapes to Ridah Zaman.

Padmavati Kaalaga: Taalamaddale



Stills from *Taalamaddale*

Viha Disley, Aryaka Srivastava

Yaksha Durga Mahila Kala Balaga is a *Taalamaddale* collective, which tries to articulate a distinctly female experience rather than just imitating the male tradition of *Yakshagana*. Through their performance as a part of m.i.l.a.p. 2023 they presented the possibilities of female voice or gaze in traditional *Yakshagana* librettos, songs and dialogues.

Kruti R, a farmer, *Yakshagana* Bhagavatha, a poet, and an independent researcher directed an all-female *Taalamaddale* troupe. Through her practice of *Yakshagana* and her poetry, she has tried to examine the relationship of caste and gender to tradition.

Prize Distribution



DLHS faculty distributing prizes to the students

Ashwajeet Nair, Ajitesh Menon

m.i.l.a.p. 2023 concluded with the distribution of prizes for Saangathya - Literary competitions. Sanjana Muthukumar was awarded the first place and Sura Sharma won second place in the *Verse Vs Verse* tournament. Teams *Orion* and *The Boys* tied in *Lost in the City* competition. Nishanth Shet won the first place in *Battle of Wits*, and Krishna Saraf stood second. Advay Sai won the contest for *Story Behind the Photo* and Rochak Saini secured second place.