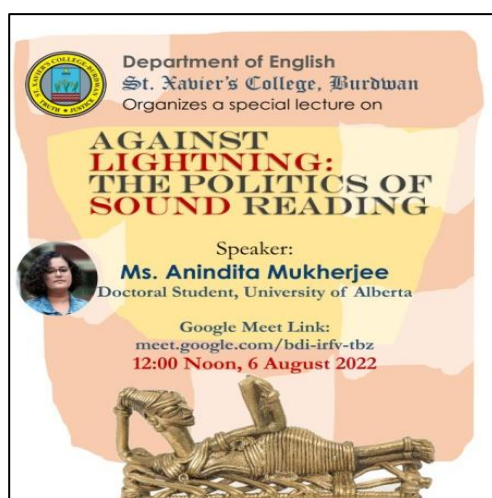


DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

- **AGAINST LIGHTNING: THE POLITICS OF SOUND READING**

On 6th August, 2022, the Department of English organized an online talk by Ms. Anindita Mukherjee on the topic “Against lightning: The politics of sound reading. The programme started at 12 and ended at 1:20 pm. The talk was divided into two halves. In the first half, she talked about the various ways a text could be read and in the second half; she talked about her experience while she was applying for scholarship for her doctoral program. In the question answer session, the students enquired about the various doctoral programmes available and how and when they can apply for it. They also enquired about the eligibility criteria. The programme ended with vote of thanks

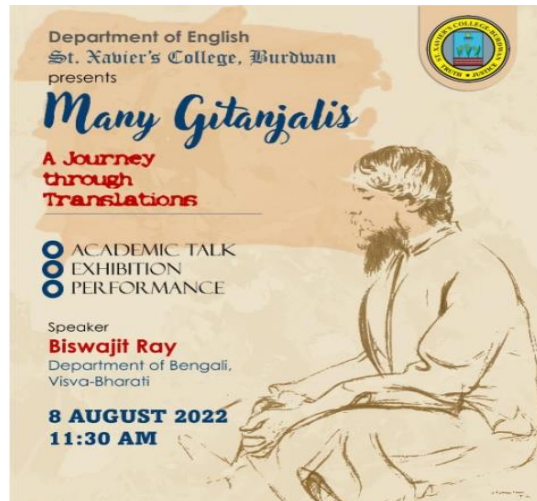


- **MANY GITANJALIS: A JOURNEY THROUGH TRANSLATIONS**

8-20 August, 2022; Venue: Seminar Hall, Academic Building

Students of literature are supposed to acquaint themselves with plurality of perspectives. The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan, have been true to this approach and, through dynamic teaching methodologies, efforts have been made to expand the horizon of teaching-learning experience. 'Many Gitanjalis: A Journey through Translations' was a manifestation of that academic exercise. Prof. Biswajit Ray from Visva-Bharati was our esteemed guest for the occasion and he inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Rev. Fr. Shyamal Paul Makhal, Vice-Principal (officiating), St. Xavier's College. In his enlightening speech, Prof. Ray talked about Rabindranath's philosophy of translation and about the nature of reception. The concluding day experienced another engaging lecture by Mr. Manas Bandyopadhyay, researcher and literary activist, who gave us insight about the journey of *Gitanjali*. It was followed by cultural performances by students from the department of English as well as other departments. The

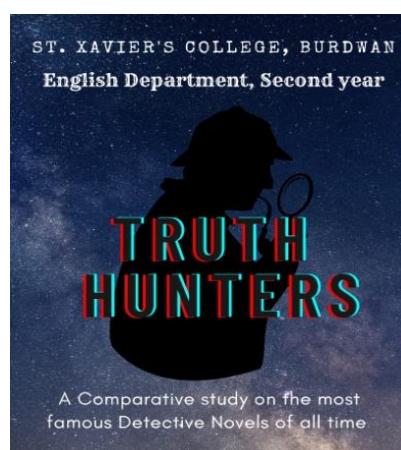
exhibition was well received by the visitors and could attract media attention. News of this exhibition appeared in reputed newspapers thus taking the motto of this exhibition to a wider audience.



● **TRUTH HUNTERS: On the**

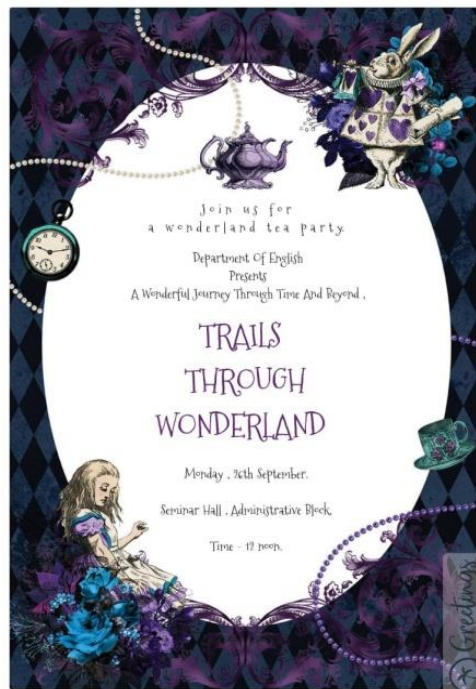
10th of September, 2022 the students of the second year of English Department took part in a unique method of internal assessment. A paradigm shift from the orthodox pen-and-paper tests, the students were to either present on their favourite two detectives of choice or even better, they could upgrade to an enactment of the same! This was a revolutionary step in the learning dynamics which came out to be a fun way of interactive assessment. The whole class was divided into Seven groups and were given the the liberty to choose any two from the four most famous detectives along with their assistants from the English and Bengali detective novel culture. Namely, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. James Watson, Hercule Poirot, Feluda and Topshe, Byomkesh Bakshi and Ajit Bandopadhyay.

Each group put in their cent percent efforts and produced fine quality of presentations and skits. The former of which were enriched with highly researched information and comprehensive opinions embedded into neat slides which for sure were a delight to the anticipating eyes of the entire Department of English in the the Academic Building Seminar Hall. The skits on Sherlock Holmes gave quite a resemblance to the actual styles and traits of the 221B, Baker Street private detective along with his close confidant and assistant Dr. Watson's unbiased perspective in the seemingly complex and deadlocked cases of crime that Holmes solved on his fingertips.



- **TRAILS THROUGH WONDERLAND**

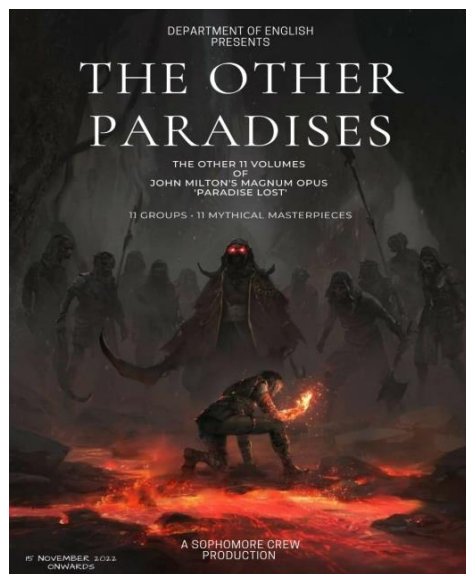
The Department of English organized an exhibition cum presentation on Alice's journey in the wonderland on **26th September, 2022**, at the Seminar Hall, Administrative Block from 12 noon onwards. The programme was titled "*Trails through Wonderland*". The 2nd year students of the Department of English, who have Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in their syllabus, made various posters, paintings and props to recreate the imaginary and colorful world of Alice. Arrangements were made to replicate the Mad Tea party, one of the most important scenes of Alice's journey in the wonderland.



- **THE OTHER PARADISES : Exploring Milton's Paradise Lost**

The Department of English took an innovative approach to teaching the students of the second year, John Milton's epic poem which happens to be his magnum opus- *Paradise Lost*. The syllabus prescribes only the first of the twelve magnificent volumes of the Restoration period literary masterpiece, but the initiative was to acquaint the students well enough with the other volumes for a deeper knowledge base and understanding of the same.

This was achieved by grouping the students of second year into eleven teams of three to four each and assigning them volumes from *Paradise Lost*, ranging from the second to the twelfth volume in an organized manner. These groups were then to make presentations based on the volume they were assigned and present them before the department on pre-determined dates starting from **15th November, 2022**.



- **THE SCREENING OF *ALERT CONDITION: RED***

On 18th November **X-eve** in collaboration with the Department of English St. Xavier's college Burdwan organised the screening of the *Alert- Condition: Red*. Alert-Condition: Red is a film about a young girl who stepped into adulthood. The young girl gets her first menstrual period in public place and she have to struggle with people's prickly and bizarre look. Theevent began with a short speech from our esteemed guest Film maker Mr. Xahid khan about the menstrual taboo and his inspiration for the film. The students were also enlightened by the words of Ms. Oly Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Mr. Sarbajit Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of English. Afterwards the event proceeded towards the much-awaited screening of the film and the students enjoyed it and learned from the session. The last section of the event consisted of an interactive session between the film-maker and our students, where questions were put forward and answers were given.



- **EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION/ ONE DAY TOUR TO BURDWAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**

On Monday, 9th January 2023, The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan had a unique and memorable experience involving a visit to the archaeological museum (archives) situated within the Rajbati Campus of The University of Burdwan. Students were instructed to reach the venue by 11: 45 a.m. and the tour started with a special introductory lecture by Mr. Shyamsundar Bera, a prominent official of the museum who relayed to the visitors the history of Burdwan City, the Raj Bari itself and the Museum. This was followed by a guided tour of the archives.

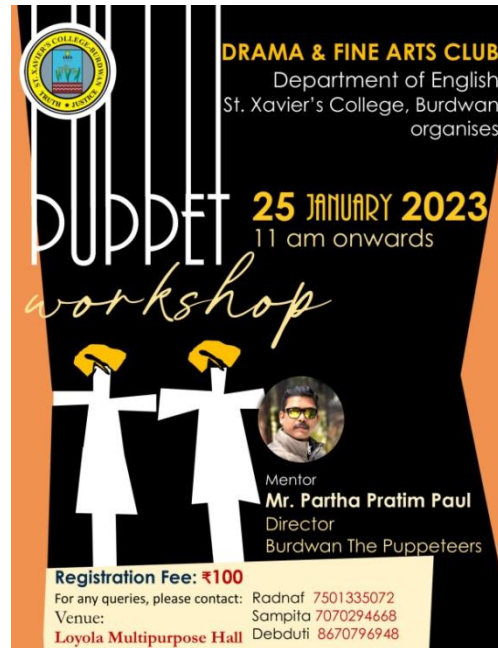
The museum, steeped in ancient history, resonated with the aura of bygone eras. Mr. Bera introduced the visitors to the archaeological, anthropological and historical significance of the many rare statues and artifacts that the museum carefully preserves. Some of these include statues of Uma Maheshwar ranging back to the 11th-13th c AD. The museum also houses a number of other Moortis related to ancient theological practices of the adjoining areas. The visit helped the students recount the rich cultural heritage of their land while allowing them interesting insights into the world of archaeology and anthropology.



• PUPPET WORKSHOP

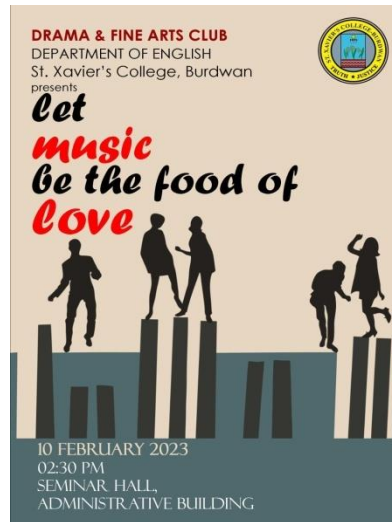
With the dawn of the Drama and Fine Arts Club, we have undertaken various fun and educational activities in recent months. On 25 January 2023 the club conducted a Puppet workshop, which was also the inaugural event of the club, coordinated by Mr. Partha Pratim Paul, director of Burdwan the Puppeteers. The workshop was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Dr. G. Paul Arockiam S.J., Principal of St. Xavier's College, Burdwan in the presence of the coordinators of Associations and Clubs, Dr. Debarati Ghosh, Head, Department of English, and Mr. Saurav Sengupta, Head, Department of Geography and other faculty members. Participation of students across departments made the workshop truly heterogenous in character. Ms. Anuradha Paul, puppetry practitioner and researcher, introduced varied forms of puppets from different parts of the country in a comprehensive presentation. Students dived into the world of creativity and storytelling, where they not only had fun but also learned a lot about various forms of Puppet. The most interesting part was when

participants were asked to act out stories with puppets created by themselves in the workshop. The participants had hands on experience in creating shadow puppets and socks puppets. Many took part in it and the glimmer in their eyes could show the excitement and talents hidden deep within. The event came to an end with shadow puppet presentation by students.



- **LET MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE**

On 10th February, 2023 Drama and Fine Arts club, Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan, celebrated 'Let Music be the food of love'— a musical rendition of love conveyed by the means of art. Performed by the students, the event staged the acts of poetry, solo singing and a special performance by one of the students from Biotechnology (3rd year)— Debargha Bhadury— in celebration of his debut single launch. After 2 years of lockdown, this year finally the whole college came together to celebrate the serenity of love in a world where hatred and violence has taken their toll. The faculty members, students and college administration joined together to bring the event to a success. The faculty members extended their generous help to organise the event and cater to the need of students/members in-charge. In a nutshell, the day invoked great sense of affection and delight in everyone present and helped bring the college together to celebrate this cherished portrayal of love in a state of world that needs it now more than ever.



- **ALTERNATIVE THEATRE PRACTICES IN INDIA: AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH LUCKYJEE GUPTA**

On 17 February 2023 Drama and Fine Arts Club organised an interactive session with eminent theatre artist Mr. Luckyjee Gupta. The discussions revolved around alternative theatre practices in India. Mr. Gupta critically analysed the very word 'alternative' and how it came into existence. He referred to theatre movements initiated by IPTA and remembered practitioners like Badal Sircar who emphatically vouched for 'third' theatre. Students showed high degree of enthusiasm and inquisitiveness regarding non-proscenium practices. The engaging session was followed by the performance of 'Maa Mujhe Tagore Bana De', a solo act by the guest of honour Mr. Luckyjee Gupta. Mr. Gupta travels to different corners of this country, primarily educational institutions, with this nonproscenium act. Drama and Fine Arts Club was fortunate to host the 1120th performance of the play.



- **POSTER MAKING COMPETITION ON THE OCCASION OF BHASHA DIBAS**

The poster making competition was organized on the occasion of Mother's Language Day to commemorate the importance of linguistic diversity and celebrate the mother languages spoken around the world. The event aimed to engage students from various departments in creative expression while promoting cultural awareness and fostering a sense of unity through language appreciation. By organizing the poster making competition, English Academy sought to promote multilingualism, language preservation, and cultural understanding. It provided a platform for participants to express their creativity and love for their mother language, fostering a deeper appreciation for the languages spoken in their communities and around the world.



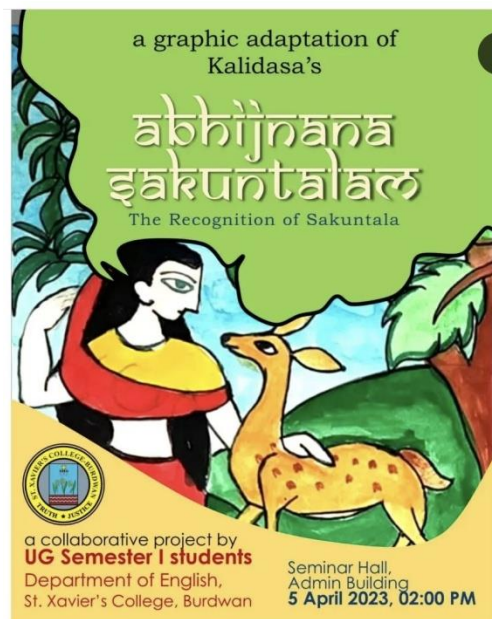
- **WORLD THEATRE DAY**

On 27th March 2023, Drama and Fine Arts club of the Department of English organised an event on the occasion of World Theatre Day to make everyone realise the significance of theatre culture. Drama and Fine Arts club launched their logo on this occasion, and everyone rejoiced the beginning of something beautiful. Next, Father principal enlightened the audience with his words of wisdom on the importance of cultural activities in curriculum. The conclusion that everyone derived from his speech was that culture unites people and makes us realise what is humane. Prithviraj Ghosh, a student of the Department of English, Semester IV, read Samiha Ayoub's World Theatre Day message for everyone. The message highlighted that the world today is scattered and theatre has the power to glue it back. The juniors of the department, that is, the first-year students enacted an adaptation of the great play *Abhijnanasakuntalam* written by the great poet Kalidasa. Mr Braja Saurav Chattopadhyay, research scholar of the department of Bengali, Visva-Bharati and Director of Sahaj Jan, enacted a play called 'Bhul Rasta' written by Badal Sircar.



- **GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION**

On 05.04.2023 UG Sem1 students of the Department of English showed us the most innovative way of presenting a text and also proved their artistic talent to us. The UG Semester 1 students presented a 'Graphical Adaptation' of Kalidasa's famous play, 'Abhijnana Shakuntalam' which was extraordinary in its own. The students were divided into 7 groups as the 7 acts of the play and each group graphically presented their Act through paintings and elaborated each Act which was really magnificent to witness. All the students worked really very hard to create this masterpiece and make it a full proof success and special thanks to our anchor of the day, Shubhau Sarkar for a captivating presence and also holding the thread of the event.

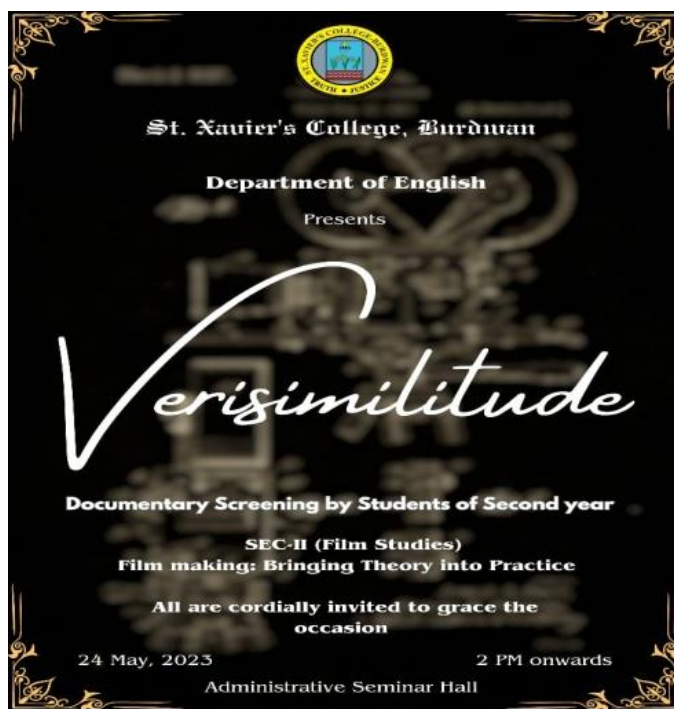


- **VERISIMILITUDE**

24th May, 2023: On 24th May, 2023, self-made documentaries of the 2nd year students of the Department of English were screened in the Seminar Hall, Administrative Building of the college. This was an attempt to turn theory into practice under their academic curriculum of film studies (SEC -II) under the constant guidance and motivation of Dr. Sriparna Chatterjee, the concerned paper coordinator. The entire effort was to give the students an opportunity to explore their imagination and skills and have some kind of hands on

experience on film making. Each group had made their own posters. The efforts and hard work of the students to bring theory into practice was appreciated throughout.

The three documentaries went by the names- 'The recurring smile', 'Mystic Flavours' and '5 cents' respectively. This was a unique approach towards an academic curriculum and inspired the students to break their limits and learn something new. Each documentary was made with immense hard -work and consistency. Along with teaching them the value of teamwork, it also taught them how to approach something new and complete the task with insightful learning.



- **ANNUAL EXCURSION TO GANGTOK**

The Department of English recently organized its annual excursion to the beautiful city of Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, from 29th May to 2nd June. This excursion aimed to provide students with an opportunity to explore the rich culture, breathtaking landscapes, and unique traditions of Gangtok. The trip was meticulously planned to ensure a memorable experience for all participants. Additionally, the excursion offered numerous learning opportunities. Students gained firsthand knowledge about Sikkim's history, geography, and environmental conservation efforts. The journey to Tsomgo Lake and the visit to Nathu La Pass also fostered physical endurance, resilience, and teamwork among the students.

Excursion

The Department of English



St. Xavier's College
2020-2023

College Trip