A feast of cultural razzmatazz

Marking the beginning of Margazhi, there was a treat for audience in the form of three events on Kikani Matriculation School premises in Coimbatore recently - a kalari exposition, a musical treat by students of Isha Sanskriti; and a bharatanatyam performed by Radhe Jaggi, daughter of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder, Isha Yoga Center. The event which turned out as a cultural event was organised jointly by Sri Krishna Sweets and Coimbatore Music Academy.

Nearly 15 students of Isha Sanskriti performed vadakkkan kalarit, which is more like an artistic expression than a martial practice. The 45-minute-long show included kalarit vandanam, mei payattu, body control acts, kol thari, kettu kari and kur vadi payattu by kids to the beats of murasu and kol vadiga in the backdrop.

The kalarit exposition was followed by a musical treat by the same group. They sang Sundaramoorthy Nayananar's compositions praising lord Shiva and drenched the audience in spiritual ecstacy.

What followed was the highlight of the eve, the first ever performance of Radhe Jaggi outside the Isha Yoga Centre. In the performance titled Shivapriya (the beloved of Shiva) she portrayed a female devotee's perspective towards lord Shiva and how she reaches and connect with the deity.

Radhe's vivacious performance which lasted slightly more than an hour adhered to the traditional rules of the classical dance form. The performance which began with the sthayam kunitha purum was followed by alarippu, offering invocations to god and the audience. In varnam, the centre piece of the performance, it was the portrayal of the woman's divine love on Jagadeeshwara. Her use of bhavabhinaga and the way she transformed herself into the deity and back to devotee were perfect.

It was followed by the padam mugathanai kattiye, bhairavi raga, in which the danseuse through her abhinaya narrated how the devotee questions her deity for not revealing his full self in spite of showing face. The visual treat came to its end with a thilana about Kanji Kamakshi in Hindola, choreographed by Rukmani Devi Arundale.

Radhe proved her mettle with all intensity and subtlety endured throughout the performance. She also received the excellent orchestral support from Jayakumar (vocal), Sudharshini (nattuvangam), Parthasarathy (mridangam) srinivasan (violin) and Sekhar (flute).

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