



St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College
Department of English
4th ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE DAY
Date: 13.05.2025
Venue: Room No. 2, Main Building
REPORT

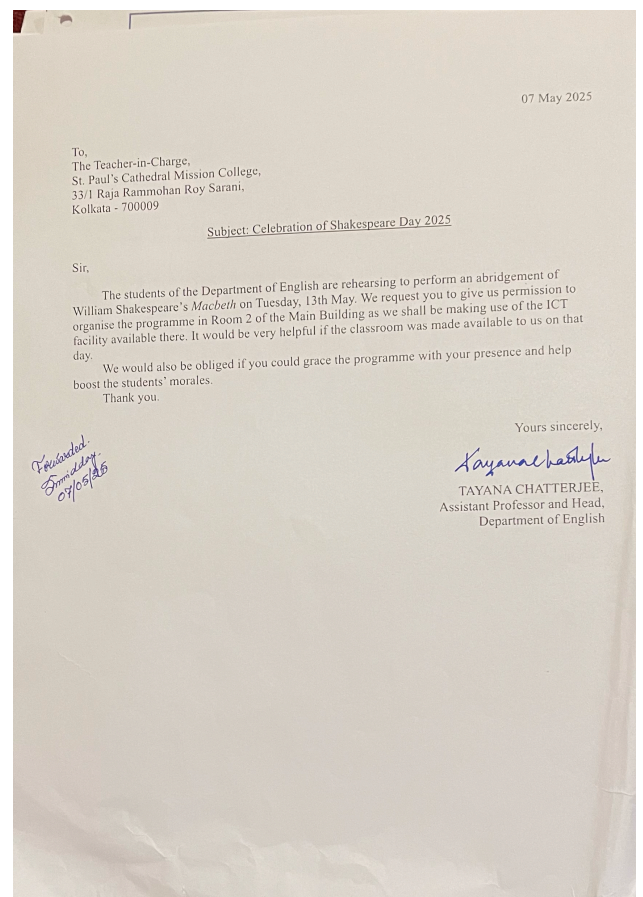
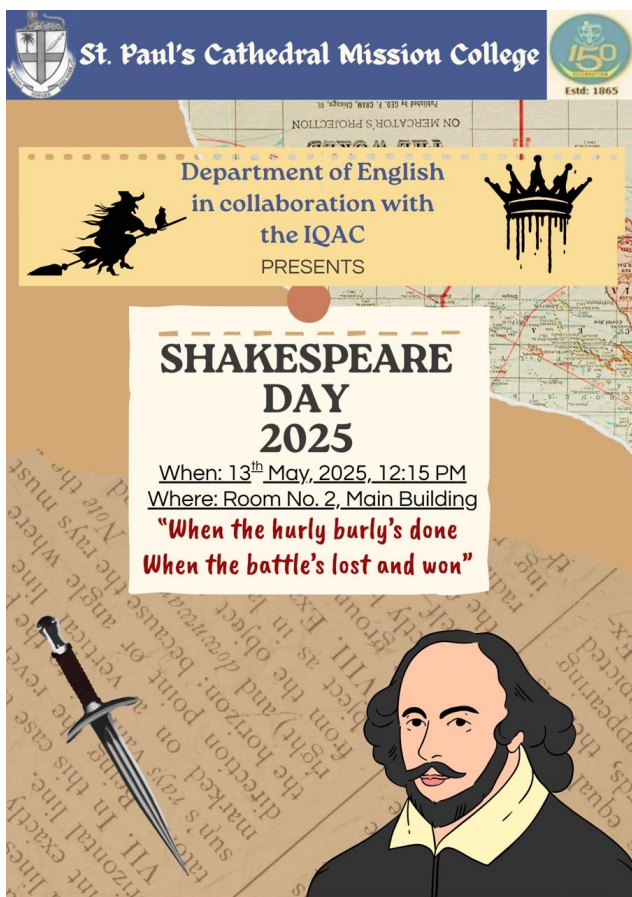
The students of the Department of English presented a number of performances on 13th May to commemorate “Shakespeare Day”. This day is celebrated worldwide around the occasion of the great poet and playwright’s birthday, which is assumed to be on April 23rd. For the past three years the students have been religiously celebrating this day by preparing small performances and speeches inspired by the Bard’s great works. It has become a tradition for the department now.

This year the students had little guidance from the teachers. Prof. Kush Sengupta organised auditions where many students came forth showcasing their abilities. This made us certain of their capability and we allowed them free rein in deciding the manner in which the programme would be conducted. The sequence was conceived and directed by the students themselves, and Sourav Chakraborty, a student of English Honours, Semester 6, coordinated the rehearsals. The first performance was a stellar rendition of Shakespeare’s famous play *Macbeth*, ominously referred to as “The Scottish Play” by generations of actors who believe the play to be cursed. The short summarisation of the main theme was performed by a group of students from the Postgraduate Department of English. The cast included Dipjeet Dutta of the 4th Semester as Macbeth, Sayanjyoti Datta of the 2nd Semester as Lady Macbeth, Debipriya Deb of the 2nd Semester as The Witch, and Soumik Chakraborty of the 2nd Semester as Duncan. It was a wonderfully enacted bit focusing on the murder scene of the Scottish King, Duncan, through which the transition of Macbeth’s character from hero to villain was clearly and expertly projected. The students switched off the lights and used torches to create an eerie and weird atmosphere. The audience was enthralled and the performance was met with resounding applause at the end.

The next performance was by Rudraksha Naskar of Semester 2 of the undergraduate department. Rudraksha chose to narrate a unique sonnet from Shakespeare’s collection— Sonnet 130. The poem highlights terrible aspects of the subject’s appearance, breaking the stereotype of only concentrating on the beloved’s beauty. This was followed by a solo rendition by Soumik

Chakraborty— player of Duncan in the previous act— of one Shakespeare’s most famous creations: Shylock, from *The Merchant of Venice*. Soumik expertly captured the character’s pain and anguish as he uttered “If you prick us, do we not bleed?”, words spoken in great angst by the (in)famous Jew as he bitterly condemns antisemitism, a sad truth the world grapples with even today. Soumik’s performance was truly spectacular. The final act was delivered by the Semester 4 undergraduate student, Rishika Bera, who rendered a startling display of a scene from *Haider*, Vishal Bhardwaj’s unique adaption of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. Prior to Rishika’s piece, Sourav, our compère for the event, requested the audience to observe a minute’s silence in remembrance of the lives lost at Pahalgam and the war ravaging our nation. In doing so he expertly contextualised Rishika’s selection from *Haider*, a film that had brought forth the issues faced by Kashmir. Rishika was expressive and eloquent in her performance. The programme concluded with a summary of the acts presented and a vote of thanks from the Head of the Undergraduate Department of English.

The teachers of the English Department attended the programme, as did teachers from the departments of Bengali, History, History and Sociology. The event was widely praised and appreciated. It was organised in collaboration with the IQAC of the College.





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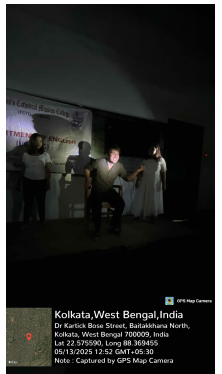
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