



# expres

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## All that makes a great actor

### THEATRE

Awareness about one's body language is vital, **Anula Aboobacker** found out when she attended the acting workshop conducted by Yog Japee, founder of Theatre Y



Photos : S Kamalakannan

Acting is like a language with its own grammar. The more you get trained, the better you become. Whether there is a programme to be performed or not, one should keep sharpening his acting skills

**THE** charged voice of students, as they repeated in unison, "The quick brown silverish fox jumps over the wide white fence in the lazy land..." filled the hall. It was punctuated by instructions from a tall figure of a man. "Now repeat the line in a sad tone," he instructed and immediately the mood became glum.

The man who had the every student at the Theatre Y workshop in rapt attention at Lifespring 360 degree was Yog Japee, founder of Theatre Y, Chennai.

"If you train your voice and body to suit the situation, you can create illusion even without major props. Even sets and costumes are immaterial if the actors are well trained and the story is strong. A powerful script with awesome dialogues backed by great acting is all that is required for great theatre," Yog remarks.

He believes that language should not be a barrier when it comes to acting. "Though a majority of our scripts are in English, we have done quite a few Tamil plays. We also got the opportunity to do some plays in Hindi in Delhi under the guidance of the UN," he recounts.

"Poetry reading is also an important part of Theatre Y. It helps in improving voice modulation and also makes one enjoy the poem better," Yog says and points out that many students develop a liking for poetry after participating in these sessions at Theatre Y.

"Schools should take the initiative to popularise drama and poetry reading among their students. Kids who undergo such training are more active in their classrooms than their counterparts. Some parents just cannot understand why their kids should join acting classes if he/she does not want to be an actor. Well, my sole reply to them is, 'you never know.'"

"Acting is a form of expression. We get students from various backgrounds including homemakers, management students and working men. When you take up acting courses, you become much more aware of your so-called body language and hence find presenting yourself easier. Acting is like a language with its own grammar. The more you get trained, the better you become. Whether there is a programme to be performed or not, one should keep sharpening his acting skills," Yog stresses.

"There is a huge pool of acting talent in Coimbatore that needs to be properly channelised. Every time I have conducted an acting workshop, I have been struck by the professionalism and dedication of youngsters here. With productions like Coimbatore Theatre Club, the city will soon be witnessing a revolution in theatre. We'll also be setting up a base here soon," he divulges.

### GOING HIGH

Touted to win the Best Actress award, Anjali is on a high. The actress opens up to **Shankaran Malini**

## Alluring Anjali

**YOU** cannot simply get her images out of your head — be it the village belle Anandhi (*Kattradhu Tamizh*) or the fiery independent girl Kani (*Angadi Theru*). Whilst *Kattradhu Tamizh* won her the Filmfare Award for the Best Debut Actress, Anjali is looking forward to another accolade for her performance in *Angadi Theru* soon. With yet another feather being added to her cap, Anjali is looking forward to the release of *Rettaisuzhi* today.

### First big break

I had finished a Telugu film at that point of time when Ram, director of *Kattradhu Tamizh* offered me the role of Anandhi in the film. He said that he could spot the essence of the character in me. And I accepted it. After that, *Angadi Theru* has become yet another turning point in my life. I get calls from people whom I do not even know. Most of these callers are college girls who feel that they can connect with my role.

### About *Rettai Suzhi*

I play a school teacher in the film, who happens to be Bharathiraja's daughter. In *Angadi Theru*, I was seen in *churidars*. But in *Rettai Suzhi*, I will be seen in sarees. It's a kind of bubbly role. And working with stalwarts in Tamil cinema like Bharathi Raja and Balachander is amazing. Bringing them together in a film is not that easy, nor can it happen often and working with them was an honour for me.

### Other projects

I feel blessed that I am getting to work with good production houses and big banners. Cloud Nine is one such production house and *Thoonga Nagaram*, is a first-of-its-kind independent production. Apart from this, I am doing *Magizhchi* based on acclaimed writer Neela Padmanabhan's novel *Thalaimuraigal*. *Thambi Veethothi Sundaram*, which is based on a real incident in Kanyakumari has me in a different role. *Maharaja* is one more film I am doing where I will be spotted in a slightly modern role.

### Plans ahead

I feel that I am being recognised. Now I will be choosy about the roles I pick. I will not attempt something that does not suit me. In the film circles, my make-up men and crew say that my natural skin tone is a major plus point. Therefore, it does not require a lot of make-up. Even in *Rettaisuzhi*, there isn't much make-up. I wouldn't choose flashy, glamorous roles and will not welcome skimpy dresses or intimate scenes.



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**Rapid fire**  
Can't live without: Movies  
Hate to live with: Idleness  
Must carry in purse: My mobile, I-pod  
Favourite song: Nee Paadhi Naan (Paadhi (Ilayaraja song), Un Sirippinil (Pachaikilli Muthucharam) and the songs from my films  
Favourite book: Tell Me Your Dreams  
Hobbies: Watching TV, surfing the Internet.



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**NEW-AGE SWAYAMVARA**  
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**Page:4**  
**MR INDIA IN 3D?**  
MR INDIA 2 STARRING ANIL KAPOOR, SRIDEVI AND SALMAN KHAN WILL BE MADE IN 3D

### MUSIC

Get ready for a musical fiesta, Aalaap, by Gayathiri Asokan at Corporation Kalai Arangan, R S Puram on April 25 at 6 30 p.m. Hindusthani Classical, Ghazals and Geeth promises a power packed session. For details contact 9363143675.



**SPORT:** Don't miss out 'Drag Meet' by Fodder Factory on April 25 at Kari Motor Speedway

**FASHION:** Update your fashion sensibilities at Knit Fair at IKFA Complex today

**FOOD:** Relish the yummy Kebabs at Rathna Residency's fest. On till April 25

### BHAGAVAD GITA

Enrich your summer with Bhagavad Gita and Sloka classes held by NDN Memorial Trust from May 1. Classes will be held on weekends from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Trust premises on Government Arts College Road, Contact 9443433740 for details.



### FILM

Watch Tamanna and Karthi in *Paiyaa*, now at Ambal Complex



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