

# A classic restaged

*Girish Karnad's  
'Hayavadana'  
translated into Telugu  
by Dr. M.  
Nagabhushana Sarma  
was staged recently.*

Devadutta and Kapila. A woman Padmini gets attracted to the intellectual power of Devadutta and muscle power of Kapila. From then on it is a psychological conflict between these three characters. It is another kind of triangular love story, so to say. Here lies fantasy. Devadutta reveals to his friend Kapila he is in love with Padmini. Kapila takes upon him the job of collecting information about her and to get the two married. He succeeds in that attempt. Padmini conceives. After sometime the three visit the Kali temple. And Devadutta severs his head as his offering to the Goddess that he vowed to do so earlier. Unable to bear the separation from his friend, Kapila too does the same. As a shocked Padmini too is about to kill herself, the goddess wards her off from such an act and promises to bring



**Kapila (Prasad Reddi), Padmini (Jayasri)  
and Devadutta (G Sekharbabu)**

the two men to life. She asks Padmini to collect the 'heads' and put them on their torsos. In the semi-darkness Padmini places the heads on wrong bodies. And Mahakali brings them to life. Now the question arises who would be Padmini's man, in this situation. Some sages resolve the issue saying she belongs to the one who has her

husband Devadutta's head, as head is the most important organ of the body. Kapila with Devadutta's head is her husband. He takes her away. Padmini delivers a male child. Padmini, for her own reasons, starts shifting her loyalty to Kapila, who keeps his body trim and attractive. What Padmini does to her child and husband and what will her future be like forms the climactic part of the drama.

Kramadhathi Venkateswara Sarma played the traditional *sutradhara*. Ch.Nataraj was in the brief role of Hayavadana. G. Sekharbabu and Prasada Reddy acquitted

themselves well in the crucial roles of Devadutta and Kapila, while Jayasri suited the role of Padmini. The two roles of dolls played by Masters Srivatsa and Saicharan were used for a comment on men and society. These two little kids remembered their dialogues well.

● GUDIPOODI SRIHARI