

True-to-life portrayal of 'Prajanayakudu Prakasam'

BY CHAGANTY

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RASARANJANI presented the inspiring Telugu play, *Prajanayakudu Prakasam*, with a good impact at the Ravindra Bharathi today. Written by Dr Modali Nagabhushana Sharma, the play dealt with Tanguturi Prakasam who was loved by the people so much that they called him "Andhra Kesari" (lion of Andhra) and 'Prajanayakudu' (leader of the people). A man of indomitable spirit, the lion-hearted Prakasam showed his chest to the police, when they were threatening to shoot him during the time of the 'Simon-Go-Back' agitation. Even Gandhi who first opposed Prakasam and tried to dissuade him from contesting for the post of premier of the undivided Madras Province, later appreciated Prakasam's good work as premier.

Having suffered pangs of hunger and poverty right from a very tender age, he faced countless trying moments with his never-say-die attitude that carried him forward. Staving off the challenges in his life, he first became a barrister to fight for justice to the poor before he saw the transformation in him as a front-line leader. He spent all his money and property for the cause of the people and gave up his lucrative legal profession in order to fight for the country. His spirit of service was such that he did not keep anything for himself



A scene from the play 'Prajanayakudu Prakasam'

and the people around him willingly supported him for his openness and honesty.

His own colleagues, politicians with self interest uppermost in their minds, stabbed him and ensured that he lost his chiefministership of Andhra. He was incidentally the first chief minister. He died due to sun stroke while trying to help a poor man's cause as he had to travel in hot sun for the purpose.

The play, recollecting many poignant events, drew spontaneous appreciation from the audiences.

Chatla Sreeramulu essayed the role of Prakasam with great prowess and spontaneity. Burra Subrahmanya Sastri played true to reality, the widowed mother of Prakasam. Others in the cast included B. N. Prathima, Hemamamba, Someswara Rao, Kalyani, Narasimhaswamy, Surabhi Syamala, etc. It was a 50-member cast assisted by about 15 technicians to back up, all of whom acted as a well-

knit team. The author himself directed the play and also acted as one of the narrators, the others being Prasad and Somayajulu. Garimella Ramamurthy was the man behind the sets, costumes design and production. The play is a must for not only the elders but the youth for whom it has a powerful message. Rasaranjani it may be recalled has been attempting to attract ticket buying audiences for the last six years.

The play will be repeated tomorrow.

Dance drama

A P Department of Culture will present the well-known Natyacharya Korada Narasimha Rao and the noted danseuse G Padmaja and party in the Telugu Kuchipudi Yakshagana, Alamelu Manga Vilasam, at Ravindra Bharathi on Friday. The play will commence at 6.30 p.m., and admission is open to all, a press note issued by the Department of Culture said.