

Kanishke Gayan Rajapakse's new drama

## LITTLE MORE THAN A CHAT

I had the privilege of sitting through parts of the rehearsal of Kanishke Gayan Rajapakse's new drama due to on borads on 4 nov. 2012.

The closure of the ethnic war in Sri Lanka became an occasion for some to celebrate with victory parades, while yet others discovered enough material to blame the government of human rights violations and harassment of ex-rebels and the displaced.

Hardly anyone looked beyond these common pastimes into the misery of millions of innocent citizens as a result of the war, whether they were actively involved or not.

Kanishke Rajapakse in his inimitable manner, peeps into the lives of four families; a disabled war veteran, living under the care of the wife of his third son, and dreaming of his three sons killed in the war coming back; a youth who lost both his legs in the war and subsequently his girl too as a result, living with his ailing mother; a retired government servant, who lost his daughter in a bomb explosion, reliving old memories with his wife; and a newly married couple of graduates in government service, (man has lost a member of his family in an explosion) trying to make both ends meet with their meagre salaries:

What brings these four families together?

That is the question that the dramatist tries to analyse and bring out the unspoken aspect of the war

Kanishke has already made his mark as a young dramatist who avoids the beaten track. Both his short film 'suicide' and the playlet 'Punchin Rosa Mal' produced at SCATS competitions and also the new play 'Koheda Yanne Horek Wage' have amply demonstrated this point.

Kanishke has been successful in getting down from Sri Lanka four of the best actors in Duleeka Mrapana, Mahendra Perera, Achini, and Dhananjaya. He also has made use of the best local talent available; Sreenath Maddumage, Nelum Amarasinghe and Bhanuka Manaratne.

I look forward to the final product, which hopefully, will prove to be much more than a chat and a dessert, but a serious conversation offering the audience something solid to digest and enjoy, and to remember for a long time.

**D.B.KURUPPU**

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