Dreams of Winder

Posted on



The triumphant return of ‘Dreams of Winder’ to the stages of Colombo.

During the Second World War, the majority of Europeans found themselves caught in a relentless conflict that shattered lives. As the sounds of explosions echoed through their towns and cities, fear took hold, driving parents to send their children away to ensure their safety. Many were dispatched to relatives or distant churches, while others found refuge in orphanages and affluent homes, often with the backing

of the government. Tragically, most of these children lost touch with their parents and began their lives as orphans.

“Winder House,” an elegant residence in the picturesque town of Sedbergh, England, belonged to a royal family. During the war, it became a haven for orphans, taking in a number of vulnerable children under government direction. However, they were subjected to the harsh rule of a cruel mistress named Madam Molley. What awaited the eight little children who lived in this lonely house? Would they be able to dream amidst their challenges? This is the inspiring story of these eight children, each yearning for kindness and the dreams that had been so cruelly snatched away from them.

“Dreams of Winder” returning to stages in Colombo made a remarkable impact at the 25th State Children’s Drama Festival 2024, securing an outstanding victory with 11 awards and two merit awards, including the title of Best Production of the Year in the English Open category. The play also proudly represented Sri Lanka at the Kolkata International Children’s Theatre Festival, creating an unforgettable experience for audiences who were captivated by the performance. The team received an outpouring of gratitude and admiration from directors and artists from Nepal, India, Iran, and Japan, all of whom recognized it as a remarkable achievement.

Iresha Janaki earned recognition for Best Costumes, while Pathum Akarshan secured Best Stage Management and Ranga Kariyawasam took home Best Lighting. Theniya Ratnayake and Dulan Weerasinghe were each honored as Best Actors, while Thilanka Wickramasinghe and Mashika Methmini triumphed as Best Actresses. Acting merit was secured by Sandamini Dissanayake and Chamuka Induwara. Dulan Weerasinghe also received accolades for Best Choreography, Best Set Design, and second place for Best Script.

This extraordinary production is skillfully crafted by Dulan Weerasinghe and masterfully produced by Navodi Jayasena, showcasing the pinnacle of theatrical excellence.










PLAY BY DULAN WEERASINGHE
FINAL ROUND
DREAMS OF
WINDER