

Autism gets stage eloquence

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Dec. 14. — The play "The Gloomy Rabbit" staged by the Still Waters Theatre Group from Bangalore is in the Capital to spread awareness

city
LIFE

about autism and autistic people. The play tells the story of a young man suffering from depression who has fallen in love with a girl who is an autistic person. Each character in the play is seen coming to terms with the "gloomy rabbit", emo-

tions which block them in some way or the other.

The Action For Autism in collaboration with Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism has started to

raise awareness about autism through various activities as people do not have knowledge about it. The international volunteer of AFA, Ms



Still Waters Theatre Group performers presenting the play "The Gloomy Rabbit" to create awareness about autism in the Capital on Sunday. — The Statesman

Aran Corrigan said, "We established the organisation 12 years ago and have been working to

gether of two children with autistic tendencies. The father's role is that of a nurturer, one who is

spread awareness about the disease in the country. This play which is being held across six cities is just a part of our various efforts."

Noted theatre actor, Mahesh Dattani said, "I play the role of a father of two children with autistic tendencies. The father's role is that of a nurturer, one who is

very protective of his children. Due to this relation a certain co-dependency develops between them so much so that when a suitor comes for his daughter, he rejects him. To get in the skin of the character I read case studies of families with autistic children on the Internet."

The writer and director of the play, Mr Vijay Nair said, "Dance is used extensively for therapy in the western countries and that is why I used Bharat Natyam in the play. The message that I want to convey is that everyone has fits of autism in them. It is just a matter of perception as to how much intensity would classify a person as disabled."