

# India and the world

Pics: Eric Rego

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**A**ditya Birla World Academy staged 'Treasures in Covers' by the junior school students, held at Birla Matoshree hall, Mumbai. It was a celebration of theatre and world culture which took the audience beyond the song and dance routine of the usual annual day celebrations. It brought together culture, literature, and civilisations from across the globe.

At its core, it was a saga of four relatively unknown tales from across the world - adaptations of tales from Aaron Shepard. The feeling of going on an extravagant visual journey across conti-



A still from the dance drama 'Treasures in Covers'



Students of Aditya Birla World Academy

nents was evident. One could witness vivid glimpses of the colourful lives of the people down the ages, unsaid tales of common people, having a common theme of human emotions.

'Treasures in Covers' initially started as an extended project. Children added dialogues, choreographed sequences, sketched, surfed and recreated moments in history and cultures around the world. The children were very confident on stage in their dialogue delivery. The hard work of Jehan Manekshaw and his team members, Shaun Williams, Abhishek Saha, Jes-

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sica Nicholas, Shazia Jifri and Tasneem Fatehi was evident by the performances of the students.

Birla, vice chairperson said, “'Treasures in Covers' was only one of the mediums to draw out the best in our children. Our mission lays emphasis on nurturing the innate potential of every child and to see our children so much at ease and so confident on stage gives a sense of fulfilment.” Aditya Birla World Academy endeavours to promote international mindedness and it is through efforts such as 'Treasures in Covers' that children are sensitized towards the beauty of the cultures of the world. “We encourage children to read for we believe that storytelling is indeed a powerful tool to infuse ideas, spark creativity and give free rein to imagination,” concluded Radhika Sinha, principal.