

Star treks into IIT-Gandhinagar

Piyush Mishra | TNN

Ahmedabad: It's not every day that IIT students attend a theatre workshop and that too by a Hollywood actor. The best minds of the country at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, were in for some fun and 'acting' on Wednesday, when Hollywood star Brian Brophy held the first theatre workshop with the new batch.

As part of 5-week foundation program, Star Trek actor Brophy held a one-hour workshop, asking students to let loose and grow in self confidence through his experiences in India. "I want students to learn interacting at interpersonal level, which is lacking in this age of technology," said Brophy, who acted in 1998 classic Armageddon.

Moving from the traditions, new IITs in the country have started organizing a foundation program to make students comfortable and explore their interests in various fields. "Workshops such as theatre will help students unlearn the traditional habits that have restricted their interaction with society," added Brophy.

Interestingly, it was IITGn director Dr Sudhir Jain's idea to bring Brian Brophy for the workshop. Brophy is the director of Theatre at California Institute of Technology (CalTech), the same institute from where Dr Jain did his



Hollywood actor Brian Brophy at a theatre workshop at IIT-Gandhinagar

PhD. "Our director wanted to add creativity to the foundation program so he chose Brophy who has earlier done workshops at Benaras Hindu University," said Ankita Arora, PhD student and coordinator.

Students were enthralled after their first brush with Hollywood. "It was a great experience. He gave an insight into science of Hollywood", said Jugal Shah of Memnagar. "We never got to do all these stuff in school. Theatre is exciting as well as enriching", added Bhargav Chauhan of Rajkot.

While talking to TOI, Brophy also shared his experiences on how Gandhi ji influenced his work as a theatre actor and visiting sabarmati ashram was a holy experience. "Gandhi is very inspiring, his influence is tena-

cious", added Brophy who took up theatre to satisfy his intellectual hunger.

Living on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, Brophy is enjoying the weather and Gujarati food. "I like watching nature here with buffaloes playing in water and trains passing by, it's like the nature is in a rhythm at Ahmedabad", said Brophy who played the role of Parole officer in all time classic The Shawshank Redemption.

Brophy also believes that in the coming time budding engineers and scientists will be instrumental in determining India's future. "I believe this the time for India to make its tryst with destiny. Institutes like IITs are preparing engineers with higher aesthetics and humanism and I see a lot of growth there", added Brophy.