

## **Voice of Shakthi Thursday 22 March 2001**

The magnificent response by the Sri Lankan community to last Sunday's performance by one of Sri Lanka's finest cultural troupes, the Miranda Hemlatha Kala Aashramaya, was a slap in the face to the self-appointed leaders of our community.

Parading their importance at various functions, these people and their organisations like to trumpet the fact that they are the guardians of Sinhala culture and the Motherland. Yet, when a group which represent the finest of that culture requests their help to propagate their artistry to the community, their first thought, in our [opinion](#), is how to make a profit out of it.

And when other Sri Lankans step forward to help, the response of these people was not support for the artistes, but a campaign of villification against them. Through vile rumour and use of their puppets, they circulated base motives for the people who helped to stage the show.

Using their appointees on community [radio](#), they prevented as much as possible, any publicity to attract crowds to the event. Giving priority to the nonsense which they dish out every week in the name of public [broadcasting](#), they hemmed and hawed before giving a measly three minutes for one of Sri Lanka's finest cultural ambassadors.

The money from the show, these cultural guardians told the community, would go to support Velupillai Prabhakaran and the LTTE. Judging others by their yardstick, they said the show was an excuse to raise funds for nefarious activities. And when the entire profit of the show, more than 1,800 dollars, were handed over to the artistes, they were left exposed for what they were, the contemptible vestiges of a society which has brought Sri Lanka to the state it is today.

We salute once again the Sri Lankan community in [Melbourne](#) for expressing their disgust for this vile campaign and flocking in their hundreds to the event. And we at Shakthi will continue to expose you, the so-called patriots, for what you are, a bunch of manipulative, arrogant, publicity seeking dregs of our community.