

# Stage is set

**N**andita Das is one of our favourites because she shows no trace of the arrogance of other activist-actors of our acquaintance. That she's married to an environmentalist, Subodh Maskara helps, we think. Which is why we were particularly keen to go see *Between the Lines* last Saturday at Tata, and cheer this maiden venture for both: Nandita's debut as a writer-director of plays and Subodh's as actor-producer. It's also the first venture of their Chhoti Production Company, which 'aims to tell compelling stories through various creative mediums'. Our cheers didn't fall by the wayside. The story of a lawyer husband and wife who find themselves on opposite sides in the courtroom, and the way it insidiously erodes their 'perfect' marriage is written sensitively and convincingly portrayed; we are even ready to forgive Maya-Nandita's sometimes overstretched feminist slant. The real-life couple's personal chemistry segues into their performances. If we dare say that rookie Subodh's matched veteran Nandita's, the latter can share the glory. He may have trained for this debut with Waman Kendre and Mahesh Dattani, but the director is important, no?

We also enjoyed the after-party at Amadeus next door because, while it featured many of Glambai's familiar faces, they were clearly here as actors, activists and most important of all, long-time buddies Nandita and Subodh. Encore!

