

**Trystan and Essyllt at Cowbridge****Inter-cultural  
arts project**

THE sound of cold rain pattering on the roof of Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj Centre created just the right atmosphere for the audience to fully enjoy the kaleidoscope of colour and action involved in the moving tale of the star-crossed Celtic lovers *Trystan and Essyllt* performed last night.

The production, directed by Stuart Cox, uses elements of mime, dance, music and drama in an exotic mixture of traditional story-telling, Indian folk theatre and Welsh folk dance.

The music, composed by Anup Kumar Biswis, who also played the cello, was performed upon a mixture of Western and Indian instruments and contained some striking effects.

The romantic solo cello love music merging into a traditional Bengali boatman's song was a particularly felicitous moment.

The performance was acted by a mixture of professional and local community players who between them created an atmosphere of pleasure in their work which was heightened by the im-

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diacy of the intimate space.

It is a great pity that such inter-cultural productions are so rare in a city like Cardiff. It can only be hoped that this enchanting production will lead to more performances of the same nature.

*Trystan and Essyllt* is a joint presentation by Cardiff's Asian Community and the Theatr Taliesin Wales. This production is apparently the first inter-cultural community arts project of this scale and nature to take place in Britain.

Both as an adventurous project and as a retelling of the tale, the performance makes for an unique and fascinating evening.

The production may be seen for the rest of the week in the Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj Centre in Mardy Street. On May 11 it will be presented in St David's Hall by which time I am sure it will be trimmed and tightened up to preserve its impact in the larger spaces of that auditorium.