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GURU TALK: The students of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Lalit Kala Kendra and other institutes taking lessons from veteran theatre personality Vijaya Mehta at FTII, on Wednesday.

Vijaya bai's master class at FTII

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Pune: As soon as veteran theatre personality Vijaya Mehta entered the classroom at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) she completely got into the role of a teacher. Within a few minutes, the students knew that the lessons learnt in this particular class would remain with them forever.

It was a master class being conducted by Mehta, known for her unparalleled contribution to theatre, film and television, for the students of FTII, Lalit Kala Kendra and other institutes

on Wednesday. It was a part of Pulotsav, a festival of music, theatre and literature, which would conclude on Thursday.

Vijaya Mehta is fondly known as Bai in the Marathi theatre world. Interestingly, in the good old days school teacher too used to be called Bai. Talented actors like Vikram Gokhale, Nana Patekar, Neena Kulkarni, Reema Lagoo and others were shaped under the disciplined training of Mehta and they still call her Bai.

She became Bai for the young students, who sat around her on the floor. Before she gave them some exercises, she briefed them

about what makes a good actor and director.

"Love your art but don't fall in love with yourself. If you fall in love with yourself as an actor then you stop learning. Never allow make up to get onto your soul," she said.

Defining acting she said, there is no acting, its only reacting. An actor articulates reaction and then shares it with others. Live the role you are playing," she advised.

During the exercise class, she gave short dialogues to students and asked them to weave a story around it and present it. No wonder it was a memorable class!!