

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

October 16-27
An exhibition titled 'Transformation', a compilation of works by 14 artists from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Bogra, is going on at the La Galerie of Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka.

Korean Contemporary Painting

October 19-25
To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the diplomatic relation between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged Korean Contemporary Painting Exhibition by Choon Choo Fine Arts Association in Korea at the National Gallery. The exhibition will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm daily (Friday 3pm-7 pm).

Painting

October 10-24
Shilpangan arranged a fifteen-day-long solo painting exhibition of artist Iftikharuddin Ahmed's recent works. The show is open for all from 10 am to 9 pm everyday.

Film Show

October 20
The film 'War and Peace' will be screened at the auditorium of the Russian Cultural Centre to mark the birth anniversary of great Russian film director and actor Sergei Bondarchuk in cooperation with Sergei Bondarchuk film club, at 3 p.m.

Drama Lane

Table with columns: Group, Plays, Date, Theatre, Madhabi, 18, 19 (Baily Road), Dhaka Padatik Ingeet, 20, Desh Natak Birosha, 21, Muktaloy Faand, 22, Natyangan, Unmochon Azrailer, 23, Dhaka Post Mortem, Shonar Khachay, 24, Nandonik Bandi Pakhi, Padatik Shojon Badhiar, 25, Natya Ghat, Shangshad Mahakal Shikhondi, 26, Natya Katha shomproday Centre For The Lesson, 27, Asian Theatre

Performance

Fans flock to Mother Teresa musical

BBC, Online

A musical about the life of Mother Teresa has had audiences flocking to a Rome theatre ahead of the late nun's beatification by the Pope. The show looks back at her five decades of helping the poor in Calcutta, set to reggae, funk and pop songs.

About 1,300 people packed the Brancaccio theatre for its first night. "The aim is not to tackle political problems but to portray her most ephemeral aspects," said the show's creator Michele Paucicelli. Some 250,000 pilgrims are

on Sunday. The part of Mother Teresa is played by 22-year-old actress Giada Nobile, showing the nun battling red tape to ensure food reached the needy.

Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, was treated as a living saint during her lifetime for her work taking care of the poor through her Missionaries of Charity organisation.

The musical's author offers an uncritical assessment of the religious figure, leaving out political controversies such as Mother Teresa accepting donations from the likes of the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell and former Haitian dictator



The musical tells the story of Mother Teresa's struggles.

throughout from the audience, mainly made up of nuns, teachers and pupils. Sister Maria Luisa, an Italian and Latin teacher, who accompanied her school class to see the musical, said it was a little over the top for her taste.

"But I suppose that's due to the demands of a musical. If it can help people to get an idea of what kind of

person Mother Teresa was, then it's already something," she said. "It's a way of showing that even in suffering, you must never give up," said another nun. Mr Paucicelli has previously written a musical on the life of St Francis of Assisi which ran for 20 years in Italy.



The musical uses many musical genres.



Mother Teresa is being fast-tracked to sainthood.

expected to journey to Italy for the beatification ceremony, the final formal stage before sainthood.

The musical, which has already played to 70,000 during a tour of Italy, is one of a number of events being held ahead of the ceremony

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. "A musical needs fiction to make the message more true. It's a photograph of Mother Teresa," Mr Paucicelli said.

The opening night in Italy was greeted with rapturous applause

TV drama

New Drama Serial on Air

Production house Masranga comes up with a new project

HARUN UR RASHID

LOVERS of TV drama have by now watched start of another drama serial on the menu of the satellite channel ntv. Entitled 'Shangshoy', the serial has been scheduled to be aired every Tuesday at 9:10 pm. The first episode of the serial was launched on October 14. Earlier, the premiere show of the new serial was held on October 13 at the Goethe Institut.

Produced under the commissioning of Masranga Productions, the serial has been both scripted and directed by Giasuddin Selim. The young director terms 'Shangshoy' as his 'dream project.' The drama is quite different in nature from what is observed about most of the serials currently being shown on different TV channels. 'It projects characters that are more real-life', claims Selim.

The story of the drama has in its centre a young girl named Tandra. She lives with the family of her elder step-brother, who is a grocery

shopkeeper. Tandra happens to fall in love with Bayezid, the private tutor of her niece. At the instigation of the brother's father-in-law, who also lives with the family, however, Tandra is eventually married off to a middle aged man, Hasan, because Hasan has some influential power in getting Tandra's brother the dealership of some products. Later, Hasan and Tandra move to Dhaka where the latter meets another person named Salequin. The story thus moves ahead through complexities and climaxes.

Selim says that the characters in the drama are more like real-life people. Tandra, for example, appears in the beginning as an innocent simple girl always trying to cope with the rudeness of her sister-in-law and her father. Later, however, some suppressed vices like greed break loose in her character. 'Real-life characters are always combination of both good and bad qualities', explains Selim.

Popular model-turned-actress Joya Ahsan plays the role of Tandra



Joya Ahsan plays the central role of a girl named Tandra in the serial

And it must be admitted that Joya has excelled in portraying the character. Other performers in the drama serial include Inamul Haque, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Naznin and others.

Theatre

Gonder

A play with message

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

GONDER (The Rhinoceros) is the latest production of Prachanot Group, famous for staging quality European Drama productions along with the Bangla in the country. It is the translated version of 'The Rhinoceros' by Eugene Ionesco (1921-1993).

The location of the play is a small French town where German army has established a totalitarian social structure after World War II. The theme confronts us with a universal issue—the difference between man and animal. If rationality is the answer, then the question arises what difference does remain without it? The inherent cruelty takes us to the animal level.

In the play, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis influences the playwright. He has successfully shown that those who try to apply reason bear a strong suppressed force of cruelty within themselves. And after a certain stage they lose their sense of reason and start acting like a beast. The tone of the play is a little surrealistic.

Jahirul Haque has successfully translated the play, while director Kazi Taufiqul Islam Emon's realistic approach indicates that he has thoroughly gone through Staneslavosky. The most remarkable part of his direction is the handling of three sequences simultaneously on the stage.

The set designer M Saiful Islam has created a modern metropolitan city Paris though the plot of the play indicates a small town of the '40s. However the bluish



A sequence from the play Gonder.

green colour of the set vividly indicates the wilderness and primitiveness of the animal.

Two major elements of light designing—visibility and composition—were up to the mark but the texture was not good enough. Symbolic colours could have been used to support the theme. Actors especially Monirul Islam Rubel and Shahnaz Zereen Sattar showed good enthusiasm. The music composition by Rahul Anand was exceptional and artistic, in fact it was the best part of the show.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation provided good logistic support for this production.

Natyajan Drama Festival

CULTURE DESK

REPUTED theatre group Natyajan has arranged a theatre festival from October 16 to 23 in the city. Begum Selima Rahman, State Minister for cultural affairs at Mohila Samity inaugurated the festival. Eminent theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, Chairperson of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, attended the ceremony as special guest.

The festival features six plays by theatre groups of the country as well as from West Bengal. Gandhar, a popular group from West Bengal, is participating in the festival with two of its stage productions—'Char Duar

and 'Jara Brishtite Bhijechhilo'. The visiting group will have two shows of each of the plays.

Among the local groups, Nagarik Natya Samproday will stage 'Raktakarobi', Lok Natyadal will perform 'Kanjus', Dhaka Theatre will stage 'Muntasir', and host Natyajan will perform 'Bhubaner Ghat'. All plays will

be staged at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the Public Library.

At the opening ceremony, singers Mita Haque, Shimul Yusuf and popular actress Chitralekha Guha performed songs from used in different stage plays. Munira Yusuf Meme presented her solo performance 'Phulrani—Ami Tia'.

Below is the schedule of the plays of the festival:

Table with columns: Date, Time, Play Name, Group Name

Dance

Annual evening of Dhrupad Kala Kendra

NOVERA DEEPTA

KAMOLKANTI Sarkar was the founder of Dhrupad Kala Kendra and to mark his seventh death anniversary the organisation, now headed by Sukla Sarkar, arranged a dance evening at the National Museum recently. The chief guest of the programme was the Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman.

The programme started with a 'Bharatnatyam' special 'Alarappa' that means 'blossoming flowers'. The group dance was a spectacular one with the colourful costumes, rhythmic stepping, artistic movement and excellent expressions. Another group dance with the Nazrul song 'Rumajhum Rumajhum Jhum Jhum'. Sarita and Srimonti performed a duet dance with the song 'Rimjhim bijon ei sraon megh'. The light depicting the accurate effect of the storm and rain was great.

The dance guru Sukla Sarkar performed a solo recital titled 'Mirar Bhajan' with the song 'Aj Krishna diwani Mira nacheyre'. Another entertaining group



dance with the Tagore song 'Hriday amar nachere aijkey' was performed by the students of Dhrupad Kala Kendra. Sukla Sarkar presented another 'Bharatnatyam' from the Ramayana called 'Mangalam'. Sohana and Prothoma performed 'Bashori Bajna' with amazing movements and bold stepping. Finally all the students along with Sukla Sarkar performed a creative group dance with the song 'Jhoro Jhoro Jhama'.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 p.m, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm. News(Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm. News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News(Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. CHANNEL-i Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00am. News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV News(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. Latest News(Bangla) at 09 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm.

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 7:30 pm. Payback, Crime/Thriller /Drama. Mel Gibson, Maria Bello. Val Resnick and Porter, two small time bandits, hit a Chinese gang together and manage to get \$140,000. But Val Resnick needs 130 grand alone to buy himself back into his syndication. So, Val turns on Porter together with Porter's wife Lynn, who kills him with two shots in the back. But Porter survives and half a year later, he is back, seeking his share of \$70,000.

AXN: 8:00 pm. Mission: Impossible. Action/Adventure/Thriller. Tom Cruise, Jon Voight. This DePalma film is a big-screen remake of a prior American television show, modernized and updated with all of the eye-popping special effects that a Hollywood mega-budget can buy. The show's Jim Phelps is the leader of the 'Impossible Missions Force.' In this 'episode,' Ethan Hunt is the point man for an IMF mission to catch a spy in the act of stealing information about the 'covert's' of many other covert operatives.

PICK OF THE DAY

Everyone Says I Love You On MGM at 9:30 pm. Genre: Comedy/Musical/Romance Julia Roberts, Edward Norton, Drew Barrymore Holden and Skylar are in love with each other. Skylar lives with a large and extended family on Manhattan. Joe, a friend of her parents, who has a daughter, is alone again after yet another relationship. He flees to Venice, and meets Von, and makes her believe that he is the man of her dreams.

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