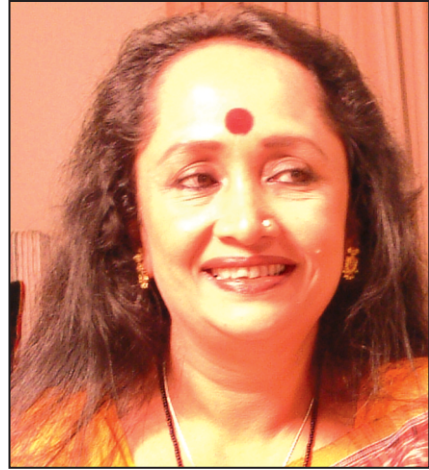


In Focus

Wanted: Talented theatre actresses



(L to R) Ferdausi Majumder, Lucky Enam, Shimul Yousuff and Rokeya Rafiq Baby

ERSHAD KAMOL

THIRTY-FOUR years after the introduction of neo-theatre movement, we can boast of several achievements. However, there are certain problems which are affecting the Bangladeshi theatre. Dearth of quality actresses is one of the major challenges that Bangladeshi theatre faces since its inception.

Theatre leaders believe this is a reflection of the society where women empowerment is a burning issue. According to noted theatre director Nasiruddin Yousuff, "Except for dance and music, I don't see much participation of women in the cultural sectors of Bangladesh. The quality actresses of '70s-'90s are now involved in electronic media. And in any theatre troupe the number of female theatre activists is less than 10 percent."

Apart from the issue of seasoned actresses moving to TV plays, upcoming actresses are also getting busy in private television channels and other lucrative professions.

Pioneering theatre actress Ferdausi Majumder says, "Everyone wants to take the shortcut these days. They don't want to

struggle the way we did. Theatre is a place where one needs to be dedicated and punctual for rehearsals. Because of issues regarding transportation and lack of support from family members, it's difficult for female artistes to be regular and punctual. Moreover, actresses can earn money and fame with less effort in TV plays, as one doesn't need to rehearse for days in an era medium like television."

In fact, after the introduction of satellite TV, the younger generation has a preference for the small screen as compared to other mediums. Actress Shimul Yousuff feels, "The opportunity to achieve recognition in theatre is minimal compared to other art forms such as fine arts, dance and music. Theatre activists have less scope to go abroad."

On the apathy of family members to send their offspring to theatre, Nasiruddin Yousuff says, "The alarming thing is that parents, including theatre activists, don't want their next generation to become theatre actors. In the patriarchal society a son can make his own decision, but a daughter cannot."

Theatre actress-organiser Rokeya Rafiq Baby is more critical about the issue. She

thinks that inadequate scope for women to contribute to the theatre is the basic reason behind the crisis. "Female theatre activists mainly perform. Hundreds of troupes don't get enough chance to put shows in two venues -- Mahila Samity and Experimental Theatre Stage -- that can attract newcomers. As a result actresses are switching to other mediums."

"In fact, in the last three decades we have failed to create a sizeable theatre audience. Theatre to many is an outmoded, elitist, or marginalised medium since it fails to compete with film, TV or the Internet. In terms of sheer numbers, we know that no individual theatre work can gain even a tiny fraction of the TV or film audience," she says.

Once a popular theatre actor, Humayun Faridee who has moved on to films and TV, analyses the crisis from a different angle. He thinks that theatre practice at this moment has decreased because all the major theatre troupes in our country are led by certain families. There is also a lack of theatre stages in our country.

"In fact all of the mediums including cinema, TV plays and theatre are affected because of lack of quality performers. Because of 'face value', the crisis of quality

artistes are not much evident in other mediums. But, as theatre is an acting oriented medium, the shortage of talented actresses is more evident", says theatre actor-director Ataur Rahman.

And because of the crisis of quality actresses, not only the troupes but also the directors and playwrights suffer. Director-playwright Abdullah Al Mamun says, "I have to keep in mind that there can only be one prominent female character in my plays. And I believe this is a major limitation for most of the playwrights."

The solution? Shimul says, "I'm frustrated that the graduates of the theatre departments from three public universities are not involved in our theatre. I think the departments should take initiatives to motivate them to work for the theatre troupes. It can be a solution."

On the other hand seasoned actress Lucky Enam thinks that Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation is not realising the exigency of the problem. She says, "I believe many women are interested in theatre. What they need is the scope to work. Proper initiatives from the government and theatre leaders can solve the problem."

Event

Kafil's concert draws an exciting end to Kamal's exhibition

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Music lovers at Alliance Francaise were treated with 15 songs of tenderness and courage by Kafil Ahmed on the occasion of closing of artist Kamal Uddin Talukder's 2nd solo exhibition *Shey Amar Apon Bhubonpur* on September 27. The words of Kafil's songs aptly complemented Kamal's images. The concert includes songs from *Charjageeti* as well as adaptations of Sudhinderanath Datta's poems. The songs have

been composed by Kafil.

Kamal Uddin Talukder's exhibition highlights his unique visions. The emptiness, the nervousness and the anxiety resulted from lack of communication between beings can be countered by images or words. Kamal's images delineate his expressions while Kafil's words gave them a different dimension.

The concert began with *Bhab naw hoi abhab naw jai*, a song from *Charja*. During the one and half hour concert Kafil rendered

songs including *Rokte godhuli nibhe gechhe bujhi*, *Protidin gori protidin bhangri*, *Ekti pakhi jachhe urey*, *Chho mere chire nilo*, *Africa*, *Masanobu Fukuoka* and more.

The songs celebrate people who are bold enough to live life in their own terms and are also imaginative. Most of these songs concerning contemporary socio-political issues relate to the system of reading and listening.

The concert was jointly organised by actionaid Bangladesh and Alliance Francaise.



Kafil (R) and co-artistes sing at the programme

Movie Watch

'U.S. vs. John Lennon' reopens battle scars

"The U.S. vs. John Lennon" is for moviegoers who have been wondering what happened to a generation's anti-war movement.

Once upon a time a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, a top celebrity risked everything to take on the establishment and actively and consistently opposed the war in Vietnam.

His name was John Lennon, and if you're too young to know this story, or even if you're not, "The U.S. vs. John Lennon" is a must-see.

Produced by VH1, the "Behind the Music" people, and written and directed by veteran documentarians David Leaf and John Scheinfeld, "The U.S. vs. John Lennon" is a timely film indeed, a portrait of a public person taking a public stance on the most controversial issue of his time.

At a time when the politicians were urging the country to "stay the course" and painting dissent as "unpatriotic" (sound familiar?), Lennon condemned the deaths of Asian civilians and performed at demonstrations.

Encouraged by his wife and partner, performance artist Yoko Ono, Lennon became the bearded, bespectacled face of the anti-war

movement and his incantatory "Give Peace a Chance" the movement's anthem. As a result of these activities, Lennon became a target of the FBI and was threatened with deportation because of a prior marijuana bust.

"The U.S. vs. John Lennon" ends on the sad note of Lennon's assassination, but also leaves the audi-

ence happily wondering when "Instant Karma" is going to get you-know-who. If you find it hard to imagine a time when young musicians confronted political issues and their angry, defiant voices were heard on the airwaves, "The U.S. vs. John Lennon" is a revelation.

Source: Boston Herald



Yoko Ono (L) and John Lennon in a scene from the film

CULTURAL FEAS

Charity Art Exhibition

Title: Save a Mother
Venue: Shaju Art Gallery, Gulshan DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: September 30
Time: 6:00 pm

Painting & Drawing Exhibition of Quamrul Hassan

Title: Quamrul Hassan in Line and Colour
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 20-October 4
Time: 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Jean-Claude Carriere Retrospective

Screening of 22 films written/scripted by renowned French screenplay writer Jean-Claude Francois Carriere and made by 13 filmmakers from 10 countries
Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society & The Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi
September 30
5:00pm Cyrano de Bergerac
7:17pm Birth

Special TV programmes on Durga Puja

Trinoyona, a special programme of Durga Puja will be aired at 9:50 pm on October 1 on ntv. The programme starts with Rathindranath Roy's rendition of a hymn to the Goddess. Sushmita Sen has rendered devotional songs. Principal of Ramkrishna

Mission Moth, Swami Akkhranando and journalist Chinmoy Mutsuddi talk about various aspects of the festival. The programme also features dance and songs by Kosturi, Anik and Andrew Kishor among others. *Trinoyona* is produced by Dipu Mahmud.



ATN Bangla will air *Durga Mongol* at 8:50 pm on October 2. The programme includes reports on traditionally significant *mandops* focusing on the history and evolution of the festival along with dance and songs.

Sharmila Bandyopadhyaya and her team of dancers perform in the programme and eminent personalities talk about different aspects of the festival. The programme is directed by Selim Dowla Khan.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bhalobasho Mor Gaan On ntv at 09:10 pm Musical Programme Hosted by Ferdousi Rahman



Grand Finale of the 56th Miss World On Star World at 12:00am Live from Warsaw, Poland

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 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
08:30 Esho Gaan Sikhi
09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Shongbadpotrer Pata
12:30 Nibedon
01:00 Mati O Manush
01:30 Sisimpur
02:15 Bangla Feature Film
04:45 Mahe Ramjan
06:10 Ocean Girl
06:40 National School Debate
07:30 Musical Programme
08:35 Selected Programme
09:00 Drama: Bedonar Baluchore
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
CHANNEL i
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Tritto
11:05 Naa Bola
11:30 Mukto Bazar
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotrer Bangladesh
02:40 Shat Rang
03:40 Music Plus
04:25 Shothyer Shondhaney
05:00 Ramjanur Mubarak
06:00 Vim Monohar Itar
06:20 Shorstar Shakhor
06:35 Shath Goenda
07:50 Game Show: Citycell Letsmove
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Jhora Patar Kabyo

12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shongbadpotro
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodrishti
01:15 Eid Fashion Show
03:45 Islamic Programme
04:15 Mubarak Ho Mahe Ramjan
06:20 Bangla Naamer Desh
08:00 Drama Serial: Jol Pore Pata Nore
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shobuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Bagune
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Jonome
10:40 Shushtho Thakun
ntv
08:35 Aiker Shokal
09:00 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo
10:05 Magic Magic
10:30 Hip Hip Hurray
12:05 Apnar Jigyasa Mukhtangan
02:35 Closeup 1 Tomakei Kujichhey Bangladesh
03:50 Alokat
04:25 Hridoye Ramjan
05:10 Din Darpan/ Itihasher Ei Diney
05:45 Jibon Gorar Ashor
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Shishuder Shomoy
08:25 Ramizer Aaina
09:10 Bhalobesho Mor Gaan
11:25 Dindarpan
Rtv
08:00 Ei Shokal
09:05 Aj Potrikay
09:30 Sa Sa Dhin Tai

10:00 Ami, Tumi, R...
02:30 Islamic Programme
05:10 Oisharjomoy Mahey Ramjan
06:00 Aiker Bangladesh
06:35 Talk Show
06:40 Wide Angle
08:00 Aktel Gopsop
08:50 R-music
10:50 Drama Serial: Modyabarti
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:00 Shoptaho Sheshey
10:30 Talk Show
11:30 Tele Film
BANGLAVISION
08:35 Eider Haowa
09:30 Drama Serial: Tarik Ali Hadari
10:00 Shomoy Ashmoy

01:30 Drama: Chal Ebong Taan
03:30 Drama: Korian
04:30 Drama Serial: Ghor Phera
05:10 Rohomoter Mash Ramjan
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Jonotar Ishtihar
07:00 Ramjaner Swad
08:15 Amar Nayokera
09:00 Shondi Khoney
09:30 Drama Serial: Ghor Phera
HBO
11:30 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2

05:00 Be Cool
07:00 Beauty Shop
08:50 Solo
STAR PLUS
09:30 Saans
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Kyaa Hoga Nimmo Kaa
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 V First Day First Show- Starplu
01:00 Mirch Masala
01:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu Todi Naz
02:00 V First Day First Show- Starplu
02:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
03:00 Karm Apna Apna
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:00 V First Day First Show- Starplu
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 Brandy And Mr. Whiskers
07:00 Buzz Light Year Of Starcommand
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Balaji Celebrity Fusion Dandia
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Nach Baliye 2
STAR WORLD
07:30 One Tree Hill
08:30 Miss World 2006
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 My Wife And Kids
02:00 Yes Dear

Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure
Timecop: The Berlin Decision
New on the Big Screen in September
Darkman II: The Return of Durant
Wayne's World 2
The Nutty Professor
The Skeleton Key
Anaconda
Team America World Police
STAR MOVIES
08:45 Mighty Joe Young
09:45 Patriot, The
01:30 Wedding Date, The
03:00 Life Aquatic With Steve

02:30 Wild Card
03:30 The Simpsons
04:00 Growing Up Gotti
04:30 One Tree Hill
05:30 Criminal Minds
06:30 Ghost Whisperer
07:30 Philly
08:30 Tna Xplosion
09:30 World's Most Amazing Videos
10:30 Enterprise
11:30 Cops
12:00 Miss World 2006
SONY
07:30 Sant Asaram Wani
08:00 Shree Ganesh Spiritual
08:30 Shree Ganesh Spiritual
09:00 Telebrands
09:30 Chart Busters Movie Based
10:00 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Music Beats Music
11:30 Vaidehi Drama
12:00 Contd. Contd.
12:30 Akela Thriller/ Horror
01:00 Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa - Gala 4 Dance
01:30 Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa - Gala 4 Dance
02:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
02:30 Boogie Woogie Dance
03:00 Maitnee - Yeh Dillagi
03:30 Contd. Contd.
06:30 Music Beats Music
07:00 Music Mantra Music
07:30 Chart Busters Others
08:00 Khushi Ki Duniya Drama
08:30 Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa - Gala 4 Dance Show
09:00 Contd. Contd.

09:30 Dol Baaje Contd.
10:00 Contd. Contd.
DISCOVERY
08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Great Savannah Race
10:30 Journey Of Life
11:30 Ultimate Cars
12:30 Baby Story
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Operation Junkyard
04:00 Zach's Ultimate Guide
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Fastest, Tallest, Biggest
06:30 Man And Machine
07:30 Shark Week
08:30 Discovery Spotlight
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
10:30 Future Perfect
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:00 WWS Sky Shop
08:30 Wild
09:30 Untamed
10:30 Finding Elliot: A Remarkable Dinosaur Story
12:00 Nat Geo Junior
12:30 Seconds from Disaster
01:30 Air Crash Investigation
02:30 Naked Science
03:30 Science Safari
04:30 MegaStructures
05:30 Frontline Of Construction
07:00 Wild Safari
07:30 When Dolphins Cry
08:30 NG Investigates
09:30 NG Investigates
10:30 Big Cats
11:30 Nat Geo Investigates