



Shimul Yousuf in the play 'Binodini'



Dhaka Theatre's recent performance of 'Putra'.

'Bishwo Shundori' to arrive in theatres on March 27

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After being green lit by the Bangladesh Film Censor Board recently, celebrated TV director Chayanika Chowdhury's debut film, *Bishwo Shundori*, has a release date. The film will hit cinemas nationwide on March 27, commemorating the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

As the threat of coronavirus continues to worry the world, the release of a number of films were recently postponed both at home and abroad. However, *Bishwo Shundori* is set to release on the decided date, if everything goes well.

With the story, screenplay and dialogues written by Rumman Rashid Khan, the film is produced by Sun Music and Motion Pictures Limited and distributed by Jaaz Multimedia. The star-studded cast of the film includes Siam Ahmed, Pori Moni, Suborna Mustafa, Alamgir and Champa among others.



Dhaka Theatre: A legacy

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

One of the most illustrious theatre troupes in the capital, Dhaka Theatre was predominantly formed by young freedom fighters including prominent filmmaker, Nasir Uddin Yousuff, renowned playwright and theatre artiste Selim Al Deen. Established in July, 1973, the group started their journey by staging two plays later that year. The plays, *Sangbad Cartoon* and *Samrat O Pratiwandigon*, were showcased at the auditorium of Dhaka District Sports Association (Dhaka Jela Krira Samity). *Sangbad Cartoon* was written by Selim Al Deen, and directed by Nasir Uddin Yousuff. On the other hand, *Samrat O Pratiwandigon* was directed by Habibul Hasan. The tickets for the show each cost BDT 2 at the time. With the aim of writing original stories and presenting them in a unique way, Dhaka Theatre has made their journey a successful one for the last 47 years. Yousuff and Selim duo delivered many hit productions through Dhaka Theatre.

Celebrated actors in both theatre and television industry have worked in this



Dhaboman is one of Dhaka Theatre's regular plays.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

group. Artistes like Afzal Hossain, Suborna Mustafa, Raisul Islam Asad, Humayun Faridi, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Shomi Kaiser, and, Jahir Uddin Piyar have worked in Dhaka Theatre for many years. The troupe has

world lost the opportunity to be introduced with new characters and stories that he could bring. It is definitely a great and irrecoverable loss.

Some of the popular plays by Dhaka Theatre are *Muntasir Fantasy*, *Dhurto oi*, *Keramot Mongol*, *Trirotno*, *Shakuntala*, *Hathodai*, *kittonkhola*, *Joiboti Konnyar Mon*, *Chaka*, *Bonpangshul*, *Binodini*, along with *Prachchyo*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Ekattorer Pala*, *The Tempest*, and, *Nimajon*, among others. Dhaka Theatre presented *The Tempest*, directed by Nasir Uddin Yousuff, at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre. It was the first play to stage in Bengali language in England.

Currently, the group is actively showcasing three plays -- *Ponchyonari Akhyan*, *Putra* and *Dhaboman*. Popular actor Rozi Siddiqui has been performing in *Ponchyonari Akhyan*, directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, for a long time. On the other hand, eminent theatre personality Shimul Yousuf directed the plays *Dhaboman* and *Putra*. *Binodini*, another remarkable play by the troupe, was last staged in 2018. The play, which is basically a solo performance by Shimul Yousuf, was staged 130 times.

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Us Women 2020
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 8 - 18
 Time: 9:30 am - 7:30 pm

Solo Exhibition
 Title: Parables of the Womb
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
 Date: February 4 - March 28
 Time: 2 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)

Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Joy Bangabandhu
 Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
 Date: March 6 - March 24 (Closed on March 13 and 14)
 Time: 3 pm to 9 pm (Mon - Thurs); 9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm (Fri-Sat)

Cartoon Exhibition
 Title: Shojonghati Rekha
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: February 21 - March 17
 Time: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Art Event
 Title: Bangladesh Art Week Women 2020 - Ora Egaro Jon
 Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani.
 Date: March 7 - 14
 Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Muktiyuddha O Naisargik Bangladesh
 Artist: Akhtar Mahmud Kajal
 Venue: Gallery 6, National Art Plaza, BSA
 Date: March 2 - 16
 Time: 11 am - 8 pm; 3 pm - 8 pm (Fridays)

Two differently abled Bangladeshi artistes to perform in Japan

Two differently abled Bangladeshi theatre artistes will perform in an international disability play, *The Tempest*, which will be staged in Tokyo in May 2020. This collaborative theatre play will be produced by the British Council, in partnership with Owlspot Theater and Graeae Theatre Company, with deaf and disabled artistes from Bangladesh, Japan, and the UK.

The Bangladeshi artists Saddam and Morshed travelled to London in September 2019 to attend workshops, along with other differently abled artistes from Japan and the UK. The workshops enabled the artistes to overcome the barriers of language and culture, and aimed to unify them under an international disability theatre production. Saddam hails from Madaripur and Morshed is a recent HSC graduate from Narayanganj. The duo was selected for the project as a result of their exceptional performances in *A Different Romeo and Juliet*, which was produced in 2016 by the British Council, in partnership with Dhaka Theatre and Graeae Theatre Company.

British Council Bangladesh, focusing on the theme, 'Arts for Social Change' has created a solid track record of using different art forms to bring about positive social changes. With this objective, in December 2019, British Council Bangladesh has formally launched their initiative, Disability Arts: Redefining Empowerment (DARE). The initiative aims to reach artistes with disabilities from different regions of the country and develop their skills through a series of training and capacity development programmes.

SOURCE: FORETHOUGHT PR



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AFD



AFD hosts Manu Chao at Shilpakala

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Alliance Française de Dhaka hosted a musical concert featuring renowned French-Spanish artiste, Manu Chao. The event took place on Wednesday, March 11 at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

This concert was organised on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of 'Francophonie', with the support of the Embassy of France in Bangladesh.