

BOOKS

Tribute to Europe's Asian Role-models

David Spark writes from London

Amidst Europe's current concern with the problems of immigration, which critics fear is leading to a "Fortress Europe" mentality, the positive contributions of past and present incomers is often overlooked. Gemini News Service looks at a book which helps rectify the imbalance.

The Asian Presence in Europe by Zerbanoo Gifford
Published by Mantra Publishing, 5 Alexandra Grove, London N12 8NU, at £9.99

Making their mark



Dadabhai Naoroji, first Asian MP in Britain; Noor-un-nisa Inayat Khan, British spy in Nazi-occupied Paris; and world squash champion Jahangir Khan

WHAT have pop stars Freddie Mercury and Apache Indian in common with cricketer Ranji-tishiji and radar pioneer J C Bose? They are all Asians who, like scores of others, have made their mark in Europe.

The also feature in a new book, *The Asian Presence in Europe*, by Zerbanoo Gifford, a woman born in India who has made her own mark in Britain with three unsuccessful attempts to win a seat in Parliament for the Liberal Party.

Her first book was about a man who succeeded where she failed: Dadabhai Naoroji, the first Indian to become a British MP who won the hearts of the suffragettes with his support for women's rights. In her second, *The Golden Thread*, she wrote about successful Asian women in Britain.

This time she casts her net wider, though she pays particular tribute to Asians active in the arts such as orchestra conductor Zubin Mehta, sculptor Dhruva Mistry and the pioneer of Indian theatre in Britain, Jitinder Verma, as well as to many Asians whose stories have been almost forgotten.

There is Rammohan Roy who was sent to Britain by a Mughal emperor in 1831 to represent him in a dispute with the East India Company. He arrived with his adopted son, his cook, a gardener and two cows, and was invited to the coronation of the new King, William IV.

He advised Parliament on India and spoke against sati, the burning of widows on their husbands' funeral pyres. He had been shocked when he saw his sister-in-law jump on his brother's pyre.

He spoke in favour of the electoral Reform Bill of 1832 and supported the struggle of the rural Irish against absentee landlords. He died of meningitis in Bristol in 1833.

Cornelia Sorabji became the first woman to study law at a British university when she went to Somerville College, Oxford, in 1889. She was not allowed to take her final exams with male students and had to sit them on her own.

"Comrade Saks" (Shapurji Saklatvala) was related to the great Indian industrialist family, the Tatas, for whose steel mills he located coal and iron ore in central India.

But he fell ill with malaria and went to Britain to recover. In 1909 he joined the Independent Labour Party and tried to interest British trade unions in the conditions of Indian workers.

He was elected to Parliament in 1922, was defeated in 1923 and re-elected in 1924 as the only communist in the House.

He was imprisoned for two months after a fiery speech in Hyde Park during the 1926 General Strike. He was, he said, fed in prison, while the striking miners had no money to feed their families.

Zerbanoo Gifford is especially fascinated by Noor-un-nisa Inayat Khan, a radio operator in German-occupied Paris during World War Two, who was shot in the Dachau concentration camp. She was awarded the George Cross.

Noor, great-great-granddaughter of Tipu Sultan of Mysore, was so small and slight that no parachute would fit her so the aircraft flying her into France had to land there.

Before escaping to Britain when France surrendered, she had lived most of her life in Paris, bringing up four brothers and sisters when her American mother fell ill. Her Indian father had already died.

In Britain she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and was turned down for training as an officer because of her support for Indian independence.

However, her fluency in French led to her becoming a radio operator in German-occupied Paris, a dangerous

job because the equipment was bulky and hard to hide. The British Broadcasting Corporation broadcast coded messages, and listening to the radio was an offence.

A month after her arrival in Paris, the Germans captured the only other radio operator in the city. She was told she should leave but chose to stay. A German soldier once found her hanging her transmission aerial from a tree; but she charmed him into helping her. She told another soldier who saw her with her radio that it was a film projector.

However, two Germans infiltrated the French resistance network with which she worked. Realising the network was broken, she reluctantly agreed to leave France but was betrayed before she left. After four attempts to escape, she was put in chains. She died in Dachau in September 1944, at the age of 30.

Gifford says her earlier book on Dadabhai Naoroji brought a huge response from schools and libraries. They wanted more personalities who could be role-models for children. They also wanted modern people with whom pupils could identify.

She says: "They all love Zubin Mehta, but people were fascinated, too, by Jamsetji Jejeebhoy who gave a fortune away, some of it to Ireland at the time of the famines and to flood victims in France. He was given the Freedom of the City of London the same year as David Livingstone."

Her book, which is short and in simple language, is written for British primary school children, but also, she says, for adults who do not read much.

Her royalties will go to Anti-Slavery International, which supports efforts to help children who are bonded labourers in India, Pakistan and elsewhere.

DAVID SPARK is a freelance British journalist.

Book News by Ziaul Karim

Jhabvala Comes up with New Novel

"SOMEONE once said that the definition of the highest art is that one should feel that life is this and not otherwise. I do not know of a writer living who gives that feeling with more unqualified certainty than Mrs Jhabvala," wrote C P Snow and the *Sunday Times* described her as, "a writer of genius... of world class — a master story-teller."



Ruth Praver Jhabvala

The Booker-winning author Ruth Praver Jhabvala's new novel *Shards of Memory* appears on the 15th of the current month. "...Memory" tells the story of the lives of four generations of a family and their involvement with a mysterious and charismatic spiritual leader. With compassion, wit and intelligence it is a tale of love and devotion, family and faith.

Born in Germany of Polish parents Jhabvala at the age of twelve came to England, there she graduated from London University's Queen Mary College and married an Indian architect. They lived in Delhi between 1951 and 1975. Since then, they have divided their time between Delhi, New York and London.

she sets her stories in India and has unconsciously been able to portray a modern India, even if it is only a modern westernised India.



peopled with modern, well-off, cultured Indians. For her, "To live in India and be at peace, one must to a very considerable extent become Indian and adopt Indian attitudes, habits, belief, assume, if possible, an Indian personality. But how is this possible? And even if it were possible — without cheating oneself — would it be desirable? Should one want to try to become something other than what one is? I don't always say no to this question." So, this is how she resolves the question of assimilation in a foreign soil. We find in her an emigre writer who does not suffer, as intensely as others, the loneliness of the exile. does not experience the anguish of separation from a motherland and so is able to write without the bitter alienation of similarly

placed expatriates.

Her published works include four collections of short stories *Like Birds, Like Fishes*, *How I Became a Holy Mother*, *A Stronger Climate*, and *An Experience of India* and a selection from these volumes, entitled *Out of India*. She has so far written nine novels including the forthcoming one the number would be ten.

Her previous titles are *To Whom She Will*, *The Nature of Passion*, *Esmond in India*, *The Householder*, *Get Ready for Battle*, *A New Dominion*, *Heat and Dust* (winner of the 1985 Booker), *In Search of Love and Beauty*, and *Three Continents*.

In collaboration with James Ivory and Ismail Merchant she has written scripts for film and television, including *Shakespeare Wallah*, *Autobiography of a Princess*, *The Euro-peans*, *Quartet*, *Heat and Dust*, *The Bostonians* and *A Room with a View*. *Room with a View* won an Academy Award in 1978. Jhabvala won the Neil Gunn International Fellowship in '78 and the MacArthur Foundation Award in '86.

Bingham Wins Romantic Novel Award

CHARLOTTE Bingham wins Britain's Romantic Novel of the Year Award this year for her *Change of Heart*. *The Daily Mail* comments on the novel, "... a fairy tale, which is all the more delightful as it is not something one expects from a modern novel..." Bingham's award-winning romantic novel hits the bookstores this month.

ENTERTAINMENT

Arabian Nights: Story of Alladdin and the Magic Lamp

GHOST GAURDS THE MAGIC LAMP: The magic lamp is guarded by a ghost and strange natal creatures. Alladdin very bravely overcomes all the dangers and finally acquires the magic lamp since he is the true heir to this invaluable treasure.

The magic lamp contains the world's most powerful genie called Qayamat Gin.

New VOA Programmes "VOA TODAY" and "STATESIDE"

THE VOA English service recently introduced two new programmes, "VOA TODAY" and "STATESIDE." "VOA TODAY" is an innovative, live news and information programme which is broadcast Monday through Friday, 7:10 am to 8:10 am on the following frequencies: Shortwave 7215, 9705, 9770, 11760, 15185, 15290, 15305, 17735 and 17820 Kilohertz.

New Accolade for Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber

Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber, whose musicals have been staged in 41 countries, is the winner of the 110,000 pounds sterling 1995 Praemium Imperiale prize for music.

Winners for the five categories of the 550,000 pounds sterling annual awards by the Japanese Arts Association were announced at a ceremony in London's 370-year-old Banqueting hall on June 15.

Sir Andrew's prize is the fifth for Britain since the 'Nobel Prizes for the Arts' as they have been described, were established in 1989.

Describing his development as a musician Sir Andrew, who in 1982 became the first person to have three musicals running both in New York and London simultaneously, said that he decided at the age of nine that it was his vocation to write for the musical theatre.

Theatre and opera had particularly interested him, he said because "only other interest was art and architecture."

"I think it was the combination of seeing the music in theatre that led me towards musicals and then I found that I loved them and I loved the melodies and I loved the whole way that musicals were put together. So by the time I was eight or nine I decided that was what I wanted to do — I wanted to write musical theatre."

Presentation of the prizes will be made in Tokyo in October

LAMP: After a harrowing experience Alladdin reaches the entrance of this strange cave. Evil Magician Jingalo Jingla shows his desperation to acquire the lamp even before Alladdin can come out of the cave.

Alladdin's suspicions proved right when the evil magician refuses to pull Alladdin out of the cave — if he does not give the lamp first. Alladdin remembers the words of the Fakir in the

desert, who had warned him of the evil intention of the man who is accompanying him.

Alladdin refuses to part with the lamp, Jingalo Jingla tries his best to argue Alladdin to first hand him over the magic lamp. In a fit of anger, frustration and fury, the evil magician closes the mouth of the cave — thus leaving Alladdin to die in the dark out of cold and hunger.

But he forgets that Alladdin has the Tabiz from the Fakir — which will protect Alladdin from all dangers.

Episode 25 on BTV today (Friday) at 8:30 pm.
Crystal Maze
Episode 24 on BTV today (Friday) at 9:05 am.

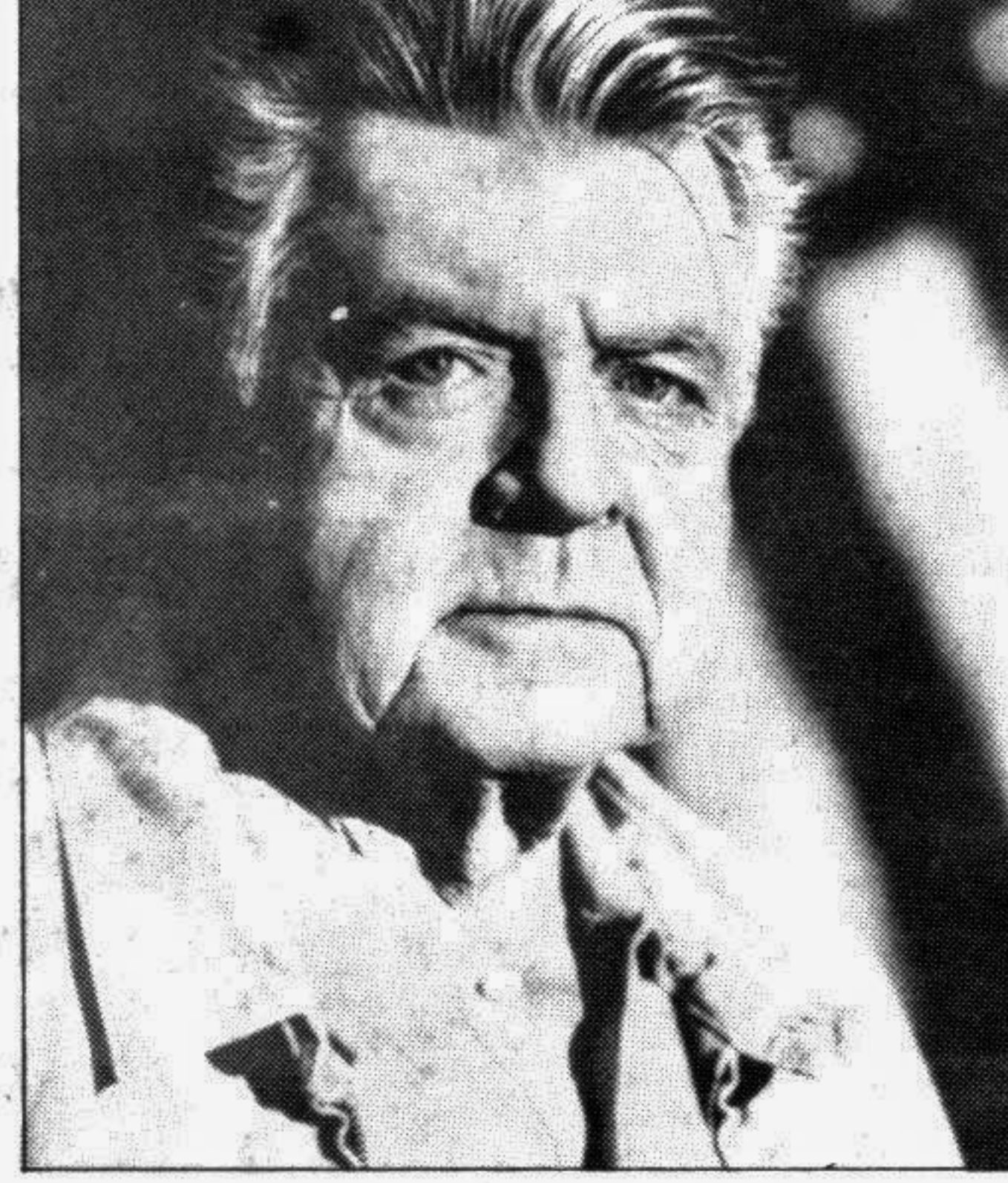
Dark Justice: "Snitch"

JUDGE Nicholas "Nick" Marshall (Bruce Abbott) is forced to let a famous member of a Mafia crime family, Mario Capetti (Ron Gilbert), go free on murder charges. Determined to bring this gangster to justice, Nick asks his friend and fellow "Night Watchman" Moon Willis (Dick O'Neill) to imitate Capetti's uncle. Moon convinces Capetti that his Mafia family will no longer protect him because he is out of control.

With the help of special effects expert Gibs (Clayton Prince), Nick blows up Capetti's house to further convince him that someone wants him dead. Abandoned by his crime family, Capetti now welcomes Nick, disguised as a Federal Agent. Nick offers to protect Capetti from his rivals in exchange for information about many unsolved murders. Nick's offer includes plastic surgery to change Capetti's identity. Capetti agrees, giving away highly secret information in a series of tape recordings. Gibs poses as the plastic surgeon but instead of actually operating, Gibs simply anesthetizes Capetti, then bandages his face.

Nick makes Capetti's tape recordings public just as it's time to remove Capetti's bandages. With his face unchanged, and a swarm of enemies seeking revenge, Capetti has no time to escape.

On Sunday (9-7-95) at 9:00 pm on BTV



Dick O'Neill stars as Amold "Moon" Willis

Time Trax: "A Close Encounter"



DARIEN Lambert (Dale Midkiff) is awakened suddenly by his holographic computer companion, Selma (Elizabeth Alexander), who detects a distress signal from an alien spaceship crashing into Smith Mountain, North Carolina. Selma determines that the spaceship belongs to the peaceful population of Procardians from a nearby solar system. This confuses Darien because, historically, the Procardians don't communicate with the Earth for another 150 years. Darien and Selma leave for North Carolina.

Meanwhile, Jake (Jeff Truman), the local sheriff and his brother, Keith (Christopher Lee), witness the crash. They are startled when a nude Procardian boy, Young Bill (Jesse Spencer), surrounded by an amber aura, emerges from the wreckage. Keith threatens to shoot the boy, who throws a hot white ball of energy

at Keith, then runs away.

While Keith lies comatose in a hospital, Darien and Selma arrive at Smith Mountain. Darien joins Jake's search party to hunt for the alien. In the woods, Darien separates from the group and Selma locates the terrified Procardian boy. Using Selma as a translator, Darien learns that the boy came to Smith Mountain in search of his mate who was accidentally left behind during a previous expedition. Unable to pronounce the boy's name, Darien calls him "bill." He gives Bill clothes to wear and hides him in a motel, promising to help find his mate. Unfortunately, Bill doesn't know what she looks like anymore. Instead of aging gradually as humans do, Procardians develop in spurts, looking entirely different at each stage. She also would be unable to communicate with humans. Darien remembers a mute waitress named Rachel (Dana Tenen), whom he en-

countered earlier at Ralph's Coffee Shop. He returns there and speaks to Rachel's parents, Vivienne (Beth Child) and Ralph (George Mallaby), the owners of the coffee shop. They adopted her about the same time that Bill reported losing his mate.

Darien returns to the motel, warning Bill that he must wait until night-

fall before contacting Rachel. Suddenly, Bill "transmogrifies" into an older man, Older Bill (Bernard Curry), with entirely different looks. Darien attempts to stop him from leaving the motel, but Bill knocks Darien unconscious with a ball of energy. Bill finds Rachel at the coffee shop and they speak to each other in their native Procardian language. Vivienne witnesses the exchange, horrified and confused. She threatens Bill with a gun and he flees with Rachel. Vivienne, Jake and others chase after them.

Meanwhile, Selma revives Darien and they race to the hospital where Selma awakens Keith from his coma. Back in the woods, the armed townspeople surround Bill and Rachel, determined not to hurt Rachel, whom they believe Bill "brainwashed." Darien and Keith arrive and Darien explains to the townspeople that he works for the government and is responsible for the safety of these extraterrestrials. Vivienne and Ralph are shocked and upset until Rachel, in halting English, tells them that she loves them. After a tearful good-bye, the townspeople depart, promising not to tell others about the Procardians. With no means of returning Bill and Rachel to Procardia, Darien uses his futuristic gun to transport them to the year 2193 — when peaceful relations exist between Earth and Procardia.

Time Trax: On Wednesday (12.7.95) at 9:00 pm on BTV

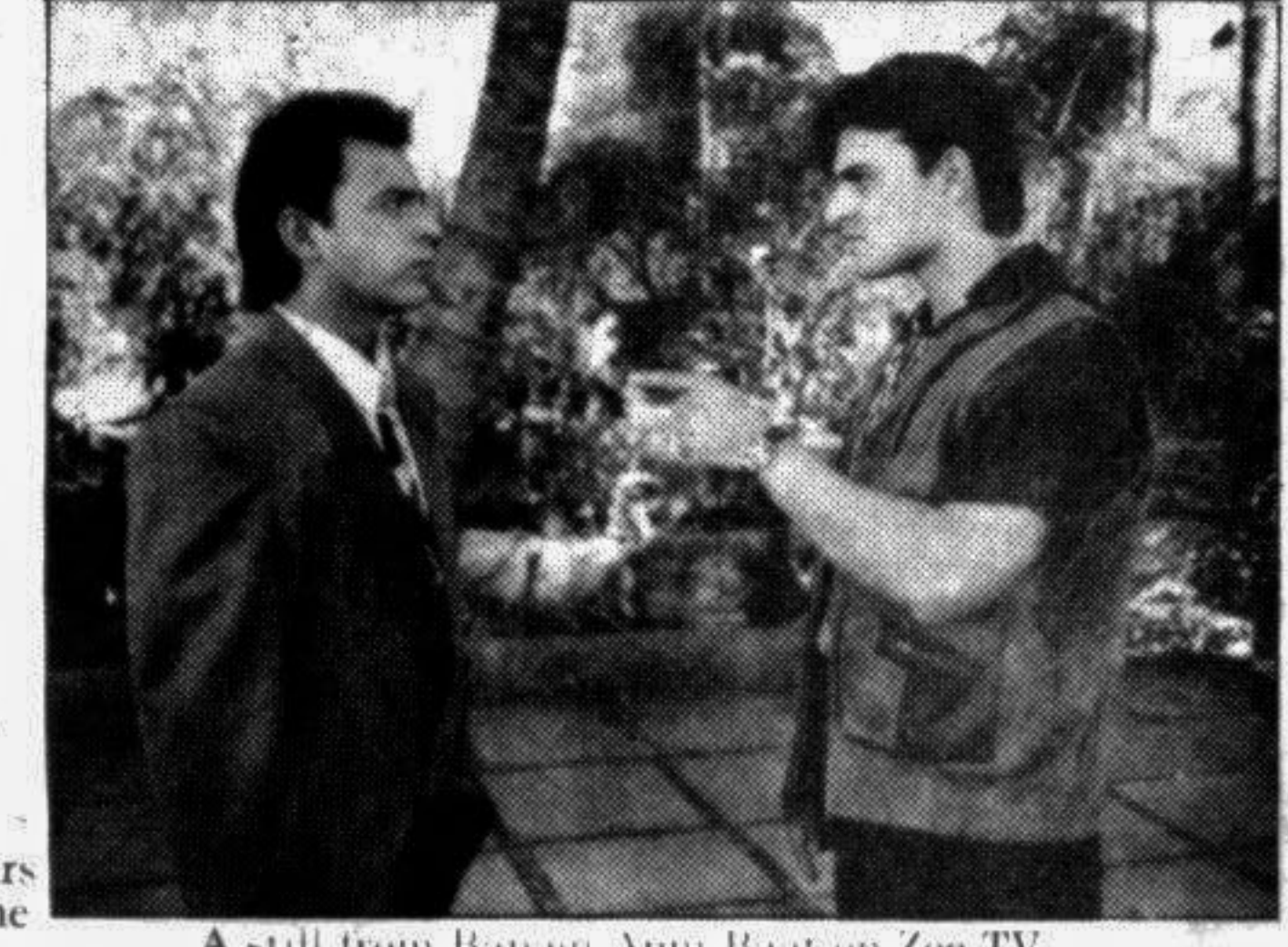
Cliff—'The Young One'—Becomes a Sir

Britain's ever-popular singer and entertainer Cliff Richard has been knighted in

the Queen's birthday honours for 1995 published on June 17.



A still from Bangla Apni Baat on Zee TV



A scene from Eugene Ballet Company USA

Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani



AMY FISHER

BASED on the infamous Buttafucio shooting incident that made Amy Fisher a household name right across America. The

Amy Fisher Story is the uncensored version of events leading up to that fateful day (May 19, 1992) and her subsequent conviction and sentencing.

Drew Barrymore plays Amy, a brash 17-year-old adolescent who was constantly getting into trouble with her father. And like girls of her age she wanted to live life in the fast lane.

However it was first her affair with 36-year-old garage mechanic Joey Buttafucio and later the attempt on his wife's life that rocketed her to stardom. Her trial making headlines for weeks on end.

What makes the story so interesting to watch is the clever use of flashbacks from Amy's past. Not to mention a superb performance by Barrymore.

ENGLISH		CAST
NAME	TYPE	
1. Drop Zone	(Act/Thriller)	Wesley Snipes
2. Blue Chip	(Drama)	Nick Nolte
HINDI		CAST
NAME	TYPE	
1. Taqat	(Rom)	Kajol

Source: Film Fair Video and other clubs.