

Culture

dance

Ballet or Balle Balle

I was already 30 minutes behind the schedule when I entered Hotel Sheraton's Winter Garden to see the famous Russian Ballet last Saturday. Having missed the Bolshoi performance last year, I thought nothing could stop me this time from enjoying the famous dance show.

by Raffat Binte Rashid

But when I entered the venue of the show, I thought I came to the wrong hotel because they were playing Hindi pop songs loudly and a group of dancers were dancing along with the Hindi beats. I was thoroughly confused; anything but I certainly was not expecting Russians dancing to Daler Mehendi songs and that too ballerinas. Moments after swallowing the

"Balle Balle" number from Daler Mehendi, I realised, the dancers were very much from Russia- tall and slender, graceful and agile.

Slowly I realised what was going on: it was Russian Dancing Troupe alright. But not Ballet. The Dancing Troupe has gone "ultra commercial" and was dancing with Hindi tunes just to fit in with the local crowd—which it must have had considered to be Hindi-music loving.

My idea about the show cleared further with the next act. This act involved different men in red tunic and girls in blue traditional dress performing a Russian folk dance. It was only then I saw the placard behind the stage where it clearly says that Russian dancers were

to perform their folks dance—it was to be a Russian folklore night instead of Russian Ballet night as the ticket and advertisement promised.

I continued to watch the show, now with a sinking heart (as I expected to see Ballet).

The next number was a fisherman's dance. This performance was rather more hilarious than artistic. It was followed by a pleasant dance on courtship and another on peace. After this came a 15 minute "Aasha Bholse Once More" break. This I could take no longer and I concluded my entertainment evening right there.

I must confess that as someone who has never seen graceful ballerinas dancing it was easy to be cheated and never fully comprehend the deceit.

music

A Pleasant Cyclone

SANTOOR, a musical instrument from the valley of Kashmir, is now synonymous with Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma.

After a short briefing about the instrument and the Raga which soon he was going to play, the first stroke begins. He strikes on the base Ni to start the Aalaap of a popular evening Raga; Yaman. As he said earlier, raga Yaman can be spiri-

by Cultural Correspondent

tual, devotional and romantic as well depending on the style of composition. The slow Aalaap gave us a spiritual feeling. I spontaneously closed my eyes. At times his amazingly soft rolling created a feeling of dis-

tance in my mind. He then gradually moved on to Jor-Aalaap. Slowly a musical picture was developing. I could see all the mountains, valleys and rivers of Kashmir running through the auditorium. The syncopated, short, fast Taans in all the octaves can only be compared with a river that suddenly takes a flight before a huge stone and finds its way out to a new dimension. The Pandit was opening the doors to various dimension with those surprising Taans. Creating a whole picture of Raga Yaman Pandit jee takes a short break to start the next composition.

Shafaat Ahmed Khan with his complete individuality and identity joins the maestro with a Tehai followed by a short Uthan in slow Rupak tal. Shafaat is a true accompanist who being also a soloist was not looking for unnecessary prominence. That is the true



nature of an accompanist. Both of them were enjoying with themselves by breaking the meters with deferent rhythm. Shafaat beautified the composition with some of his interesting Laggi from typical Delhi Gharana.

At times Pandit ji was playing the Gath in digun, tigun, and chowgum whereas the Tabla was in the single speed. I was looking for a little philosophy here that we all have actually a particular destination where we all have to come back. No matter how far and how fast we run there is a fixed rhythm in our life that we cannot ignore. Sometimes life changes its colour and flavor but never leaves its originality. These changes are required to remove our boredom. Anyway enough of philosophy.

The concert started 7:15 pm at National Museum Auditorium on March 14 and it took almost an hour to reach in the auditorium. I am sure then we will be able to enjoy a concert with much more perfection and satisfaction was slowly blooming on

pandit ji's face. At about 8:05 pm they moved on to a new gath in teen tal in Setarkhani style.

The excitement in the audience climbed at such a height that they could not keep their hands off from clapping to express their sense of appreciation.

At this point a humorist in Shivkumar Sharma appears. He and Shafaat started playing in such a manner, it seemed that they were going to finish the program and the audience were about to clap but without giving a change they started again with full enthusiasm. The audience laughed instead. In this part of the composition Shafaat was giving us an indication of a cyclone with his amazing Relas. During the composition Pandit ji suddenly used his fingers and bum which gave a variation in the tonal quality. He also played a bit of western style by playing two different notes (1st and 3rd) simultaneously. At last the concert reached to its full climax and that expected cyclone began. The auditorium was filled with sound of a roaring ocean.

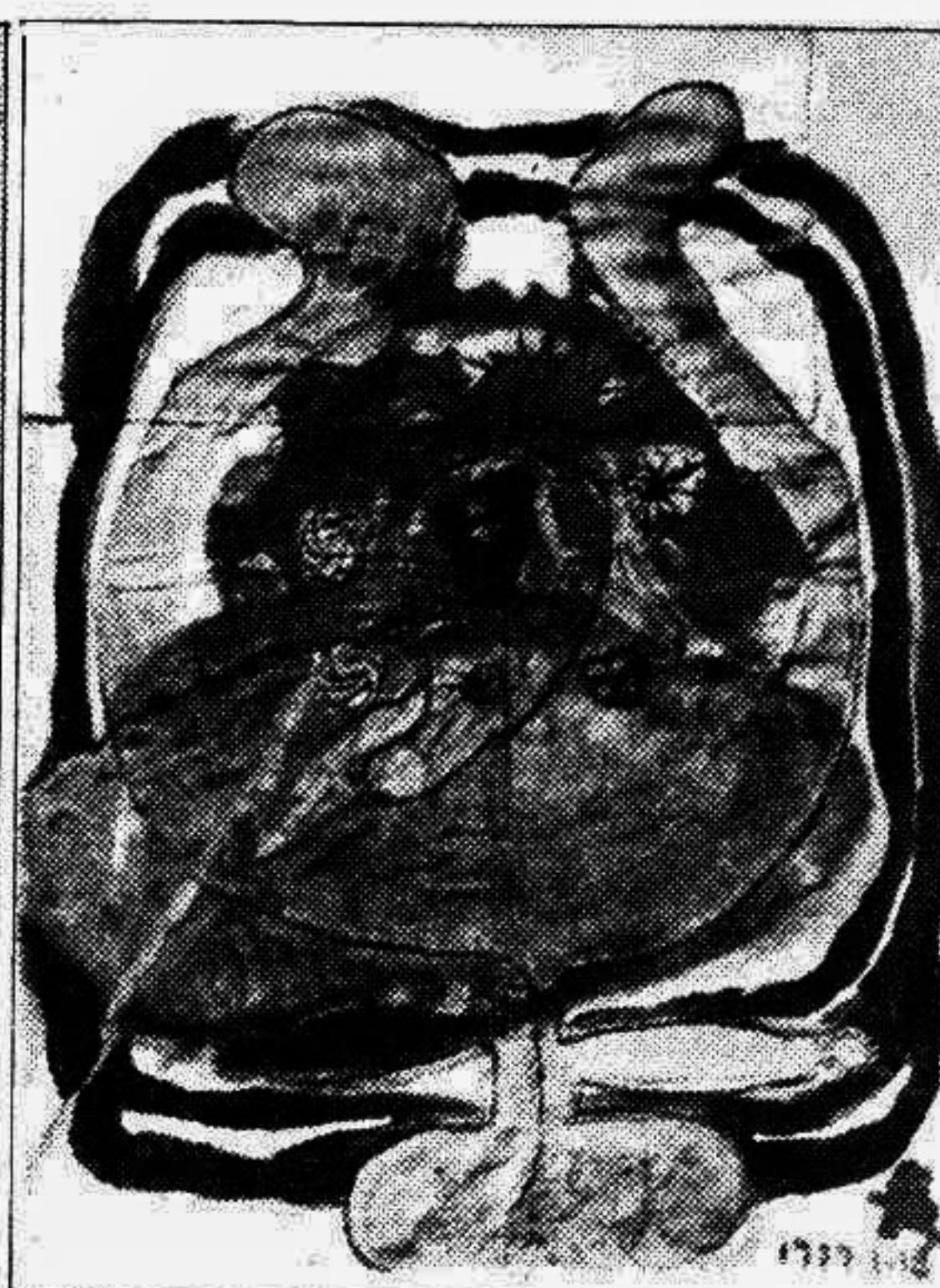
One feeling of gait was troubling me as a listener. We have so many things yet to learn to be a regular goer in these types of classical concerts. We should learn to feel the silence. Silence means a lot in music like in poetry each and every single gap between the lines means more than what actually is written we should know where to applause where not to. We should learn to keep our mobile phone off in the auditorium. I am sure then we will be able to enjoy a concert with much more perfection and satisfaction.

exhibition

Japanese Artists with a View of Their Own



One Wet Day 35x26cm wood lithograph



I See 42x58cm oil painting

FORTY young, trendy and ambitious painters from Japan have sent their works of various mediums, styles and vision to startle and delight art enthusiasts in Dhaka. This superb display of youthful talent and strides in colour and lines were seen at Gallery 21 yesterday, when the exhibit was declared open after 5pm.

by Cultural Correspondent

This display is the brainchild of G S Kabir, who is an artist of remarkable ability and perseverance. Kabir himself caught the art world's attention early in his career when he won a grand prize at an Asian Art Biennale and later went to live and study in Japan, coming to and fro to Dhaka to hold regular exhibits of his own works and that of his Japanese colleagues. Shameen Subarna, the owner of Gallery 21 has been Kabir's steady patron for a

considerable period of time.

The artists, mostly in their twenties, present traditional themes and visions of their country, which are easy to appreciate by even the run of the mill viewers. One does not have to strain to appreciate the depth of dedication and the wide-eyed outlook to represent their way of life. Experimental and daring, they strike ahead full of guts and go. The strokes are swift and dynamic while the colours are both subtle and vibrant, but certainly not flashy or gimmicky. Like all young artists, they are often angry with the world and have definite messages of their own to offer. Using oil, oil pastel, water-colour, tempera, etching and drawing, they present a fresh vision of their environment.

Among the artists that impressed one the most was A. Taniguchi, with his etching. In this one finds the shape of a sliced orange done in dark purple and orange shades touched with sprinkling of lemon dots along with dark minute strokes. H Motoda's collage "My life" is a splendid delineation of everyday life with a plastic bottle in the foreground to set off a sketched table with simplified representation of a fruit and a cup, along with other paraphernalia of everyday existence. All these are done with deft strokes and subtle muted colours.

Similarly fascination is "Surprise, Surprise", done in mixed media with its gentle grey washes amalgamated with forms and lines of ochre, orange and green. This soothing creation has its modern scribbles and washes and appears like some nostalgic dream.

"Words die away" is another spellbinding creation of a kneeling female figure that is preparing to have a bath with a bucket of water. The simplified stone floor and the spidery orange flowers add to the mystery of the brown beauty.

The exhibit includes the works of A Shimizu, A Taniguchi, A Kaneta, C Takahashi, H Motoda, H Sasaki, K Sawamura, K Yamano, K Nagao, K Uchikoshi, K Hirakawa, K Noguchi, K Satake, M Higuchi, M Igaki, M Kondo, M Tsuchiya, M Hayashi, M Ichii, M Funai, N Tajima, N Okada, N Kawashiro, R Ogawa, S Watanabe, S Motojima, S Yoyomaru, S Hisamoto, T Oga, T Miyahara, T Suzuki, T Araki, Y Morita, Y Handa, Y Kondou, Y Nishizaki, Y Shinozaki, Y Oda, Y Sato, and Y Miyaia.

The display will continue till March 30.



Chakaria Rickets, a video film, by Nazrul Islam received the first prize at the 4th International Festival of Films Envirofilm '98 held at Zvolen, Slovak Republic last year. The story of the video is based on Chakaria, a Thana under the district of Chittagong, where people have been affected by rickets for about 20 years where the people affected by rickets are about 70%.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdus Samad Azad handed over the award of ENVIROFILM '98 to Nazrul Islam at a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dhaka, Bangladesh on 11 March, 1999.

The display will continue till March 30.

music

Fusion Music with Aplomb

ROBERT Miller from Miami, USA, presented fusion music on the jazz and saxophone at the USIS on March 5, along with Bangladeshi players like Chandan Dutta and Enamul Haque Omar who accompanied on the "tabla", Md. Youssuf Khan who played the "sarod". M. Mo-

his week-long trip to the Hill tracts as he is besotted with Buddhism and culture based on Burmese origin.

Speaking about this concert in Dhaka, Miller comments, "My concert is what it is. It is a fusion that has had success earlier and will get instant admiration in future. Incidentally, my own original performance with my band 'Rob Miller and Prime Meridian's' is basically traditional jazz."

Although he does not come from a musical background, his family has accepted his choice of career and back him all the way. He teaches, performs and composes his own music. At the same time he does all the necessary odd jobs for his band like playing the manger etc.

Miller who has a great penchant for North Indian classical music learnt under Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, whom he met as a student in London and thereafter a steady rapport developed between them, and there has been an on-going process of performing and learning from him in London and in other cities of the world. He is at present touring India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and enjoyed

This multi-cultural fusion was both exotic and soothing for lovers of modern music in the city, who go in for more than the pop and rock fever.



TV Guide

Tuesday 16th March
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BBC World

6:00 World News Headlines 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Wilderness Walk - Baffin Island 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today /24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Focus: Science World/Earth Reports 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 World Living: The Travel Show 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 World News 2:30 World Focus: Science World/Earth Reports 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 World News 4:30 World Living: Earth Report: Wilderness Walk - Baffin Island 5:00 BBC The World Today 6:30 World Focus: Wild World-Natural World: Beetlemania 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Travel Show-Holiday With Jill Dando 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 World News 10:30 Wild World: Out Of India 11:00 BBC World Living: The Travel Show 12:00 The World Today 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 World Focus: Reporters 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: Talking Movies 4:15 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

CHANNEL [V]

8:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 9:30 Zabardast Hits 12:00 House Arrest VJ Ranvir 12:30 Toofan TV 1:00 Zabardast Hits 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 Turn On T [V] 4:30 Back Bench 5:30 Turn On T [V]-Teen Strip 7:30 First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 Turn On T [V] 10:00 Cabaret 10:30 The Juice

11:00 The Udam Singh Show 11:30 Band at Bedtime 12:00 House of Noise 12:30 Turn On T [V]

Star Plus

6:30 Nishaan 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 The Trial Show 9:30 Good Morning India 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Pria Tendulkar Show 1:00 Hum Tum Gata Chale 1:30 Hello 2:00 Hindi Serial: Saans 2:30 Yeh Hai Raaz 3:00 Swabhumi 3:30 Kabhi Kabhi 4:00 Serial: Badalte Rishte 4:30 Tu Tu Main 5:00 Animal Adventure 5:30 WWF Superstars 6:30 Small Wonders 7:00 Meri Awaz Suno 7:25 The Trail Show 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Hallo VJ Ruby 8:30 In Duniya Ki Setar 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Star News (English) 10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal 10:30 Apradhi 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 Daily Sope: A Mouthful of Sky 12:00 India Business Week 12:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:00 Newheart 1:30 Class Act 2:30 Vegas 3:30 Series: L A Live 4:30 Santa Barbara 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

STAR MOVIE

7:30 Action : Aspen Extreme 9:30 Drama : Corpse Had A Familiar Face 11:30 Comedy : Monkey Trouble PG 1:30 Comedy : Life With Mikey 3:30 Action : Cutthroat Island 5:30 Thriller : Physical Evidence 15 7:30 Comedy : Airheads 15 9:30 Extreme CU 10:00 Action Force : Steel Sharks 12:00 Action : Under Siege 2:00 Comedy : Life With Mikey 4:00 Thriller Physical Evidence 15 7:30 Western : Django Kills 15

STAR WORLD

6:00 Aerobics Oz Style 6:30 Brittish Empire 7:00 Molly Katzen's Cooking 7:30 The Wonder

Years 8:00 Mysterious Island 8:30 Newhart 9:00 Grace Under Fire 9:30 Its A Man's World 10:00 Series: Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Series: Santa Barbara 1:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:30 Molly Katzen's Cooking 2:00 Christy 3:00 Mysterious Island 3:30 Small Wonder 4:00 Brittish Empire 4:30 World News 5:00 Asia News Update 5:30 Home Improvement 5:30 Milli Nagma 11:00 Khabrain 11:30 Serial 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55 Quran-e-Haik 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan (Music Video) 2:30 Animated Classics 3:15 Geography & Samrat School 4:20 Mitti Sona 5:00 Allah Huma Lubabai 5:25 Serial 6:25 Alou Courses 7:00 Serial 7:45 English News 7:50 Sach Much 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Serial 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News & Khushal Pakistan 11:20 Do Sitare 12:30 Dr Quin: Medicine Women (Jean Saymor) 1:35 Khas Khas

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