

theatre

The Importance of Being Funny

Kaos Theatre U.K captivates city's theatregoers with Oscar Wilde's sparkling play
The Importance of being Earnest

By Ziaul Karim

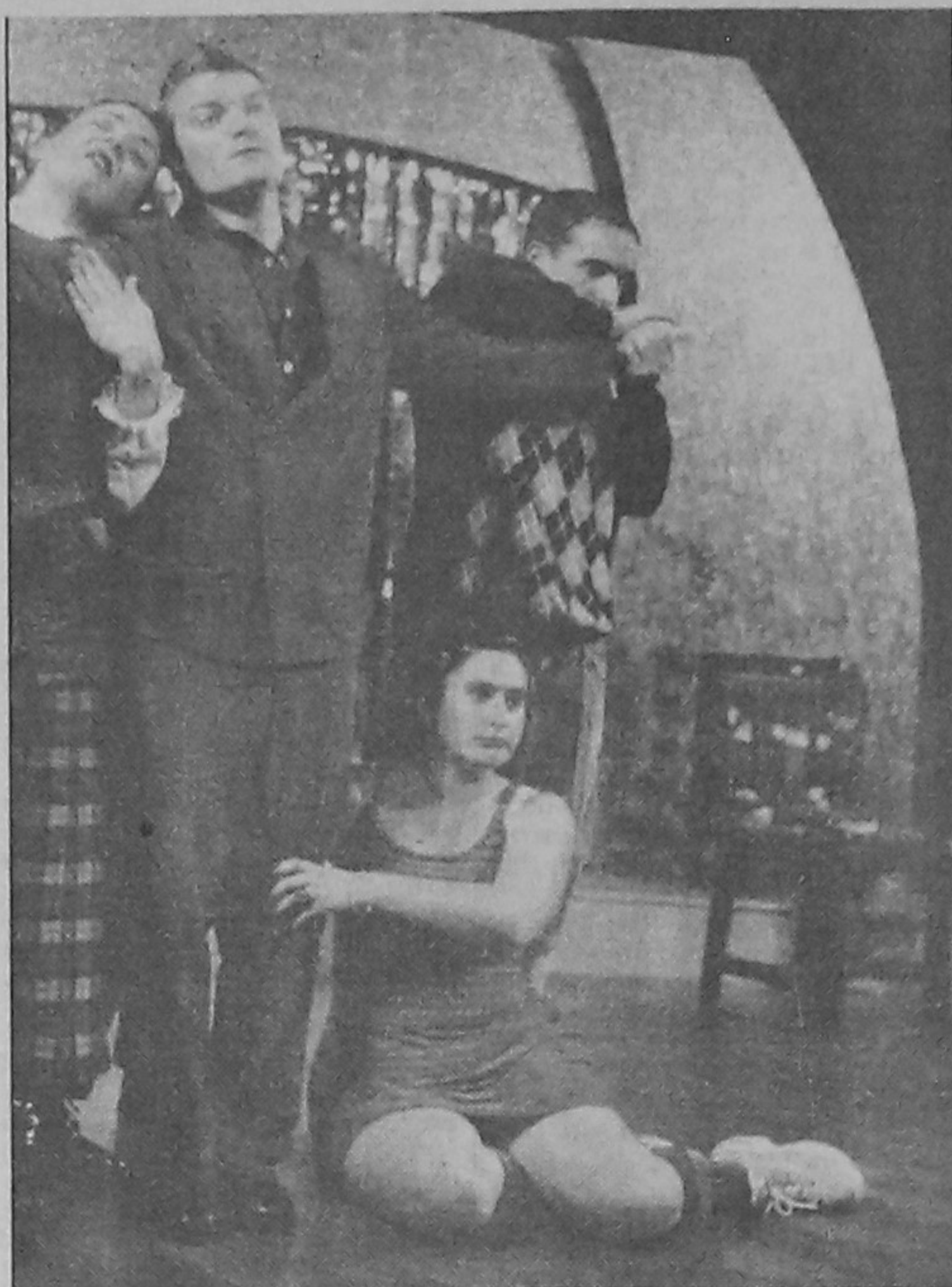
WHAT'S in a name? This Shakespearean indifference to one's name or by extension to identity has been satirically dismantled by British poet, playwright and novelist Oscar Wilde in his witty and light-hearted play of aristocratic manners and high society, 'The Importance of being Earnest'.

replete with frivolous behaviour and witty gems of wisdom and formidable individualism, has been significantly revamped to suit the contemporary taste. The production is so ingenious that it appears to the audience as if they are watching the fall haute couture collection of CK or YSL.

"The justification of choosing a nineteenth century play was its relevance to our time," says Xavier Leret the perky director of

impression on the Dhaka audience. Their witty exchange of words becomes quotable quotes like when Algernon says, "Girls never marry the men they flirt with." Whenever these two friends meet there are verbal clashes and then exchange of witty remarks and retorts. These exchanges are greatly presented with physical movements that are very nearly close to ballet.

Jack Worthing is a resident at the Manor House at Woolton. He frequents London for pleasure. In order to account for his frequent visits to London, Jack has invented a story that he has a younger brother called Ernest who lives a loose and irresponsible life in the city, and who often gets into trouble thus making it necessary for him each time to go to the city and help his brother out of difficulties. Jack has fallen in love with aristocratic Gwendolen, the daughter of Lord and lady Bracknell, and has travelled this time to London to propose her. In London Jack has given his as Earnest to all his friends and acquaintances including his lover. Like Jack, his friend Algernon has also invented a man who does not exist. He calls this man by the name of Bunbury, and he describes this man to his friends and relatives as an invalid living in the countryside. Whenever he wishes to go into the countryside, or whenever he wishes to escape from his aunt



Jack Corcoran (2nd from L) playing Algernon Moncrieff in a scene from the play, at his feet is Jill Norman in the role of Cecily Cardew - Star Photo



The Kaos Theatre team - Star Photo

This play which first opened in 1985 is a brilliant expose of social follies and the Kaos production that ran at the British Council auditorium for three consecutive nights from Oct 13-15 to the thunderous laughter of the audience is a fantastic interpretation of the ultimate comedy of manners.

"We should treat all the trivial things of life seriously, and all the serious things of life with sincere and studied triviality", wrote Oscar Wilde of the philosophy of the play. The Kaos production is a 'delicate bubble of fancy' to use Wilde's own words. This Kaos Importance of being Earnest is delightfully choreographed and punctuated with hilarious broad physical comedy. The nineteenth-century characters of the play are brought back to life in red plastic pants, in leopard-skin leggings and skin-tight dresses who look more like MTV VJs. The play

the group. In his interpretation one finds how Wilde's comedy of manners is closely related to post-Thatcher New Labour Britain particularly with its adoration of image over substance. Cecily (Jill Norman) and Gwendolen (Jordan Whyte) are in love with the idea of what someone called Earnest represents and are obsessed with the notion that they could never love a man with any other name.

This three act play opens at Algernon's flat in Half-Moon Street with butler Lane and his unassuming chorus of servants keeping a menacing presence on stage. The stage decor set the mood of the play and enlivens further by the creative play of spot light. With brief dialogue between Algernon Moncrieff (Jack Corcoran) and Jack Worthing (Ralf Higgins), this skin-headed Jack with his naval pierced has created a lasting



Jordan Whyte (C) in the role of Gwendolen Fairfax in the play Importance of Being Earnest - Star Photo

Lady Bracknell's boring dinner parties, he offers the excuse that he is going to see his friend Bunbury whose condition is causing anxiety.

This fast paced play an intimate blend of physical theatre and clowning ends in revelation of true identity of Jack and Algernon and the obstacles to their marriage to Gwendolen and Cecily are removed in the process.

This Kaos Importance of being Earnest winner of Best Ensemble Award and the stage award for Acting Excellence 1999 staged on 40 venues of UK before receiving Time Out's Critic's Choice during its three-week run at The Oval House, London in 1998.

festival

Drama festival Starts with a BANG!

Natyajon celerates its drama week at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium

By Shahana Parbeen

NATYAJON'S week long drama festival began at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium at the Public Library. Two theatre groups from Calcutta, 'Shanglap Calcutta' and 'Lok Krishit Calcutta', the dramas start each day at 6:30 pm and the festival will run till Saturday.

Lavish arrangements were made to celebrate the festival. The inaugural programme was very festive. The program had been divided into two sessions, one for discussion and the other for entertainment. And what a show it was! The inaugural was of course sombre and serious with the ever favorite Rabindra Sangeet 'Ananda Loke'. There were a lot of discussions and speeches. Sara Zaker, the chairperson for Group Theatre Federation and Ramendu Mazumder, the chairperson for Sammilito Sangskritik Jote were present as special guests and inaugurated the festival by the lighting of the Pradeep.

Then came the real treat. The audience was treated to the absolutely thrilling 'Khol and Tabla' play of artists Madhu Barman and Gopal Barman from India. This duo of brothers has

enthralled guests worldwide with their expertise in playing these instruments. They were invited especially for the inaugural celebrations and when asked about how they felt about playing Bangladesh's very own 'Khol', they said they had always looked forward to playing the instrument in its land of origin. The auditorium reverberated with their thundering performance and left the audience bewildered at the beautiful music these simple instruments were able to produce. There were songs and dance too. All in all, the festival started with a BANG.

Theatre lovers will have the chance to enjoy dramas produced by both Bangladesh as well as Indian groups at the lavishly decorated Public Library. Banners, festoons, balloons, colourful umbrellas aptly beckon all theatre lovers as well as the occasional patron to peek inside and have a look at the treats in store at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium.

The festival will end on Saturday. There will be productions by 'Shanglap Calcutta' (Shudrayon), 'Lok Krishit Calcutta' (Kehla Ghore Eka, Nobel Prize), Natyajon (Bhogar Pala, Ghrirong Pribet).

Recommendations



Indian Classical Music

The high commission of India has lined up a number of classical performances through starts with a classical tabla recital by Yogesh Samsi on October 20 at the country in the next few days. It all starts at 7.00p.m. at the Indian Cultural Center, which is followed by the classical vocal recital by Ustad Rashid Khan on October 24 at the Engineers' Institute in Chittagong and on October 25 at the National Museum Auditorium, Dhaka. Both shows will start at 7.00p.m.

Musical Soiree

Organised by Surtali Music School a musical soiree is going to be held at the India Cultural Center auditorium on October 21 at 6 in the evening. Students of the Surtali Music School and principle Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid will perform in the programme.

Face to Face

Chalachitram Film Society in association with Goethe Institut has organised a programme which, includes screening of four television package dramas and a face to face interview with the drama makers after the screening.

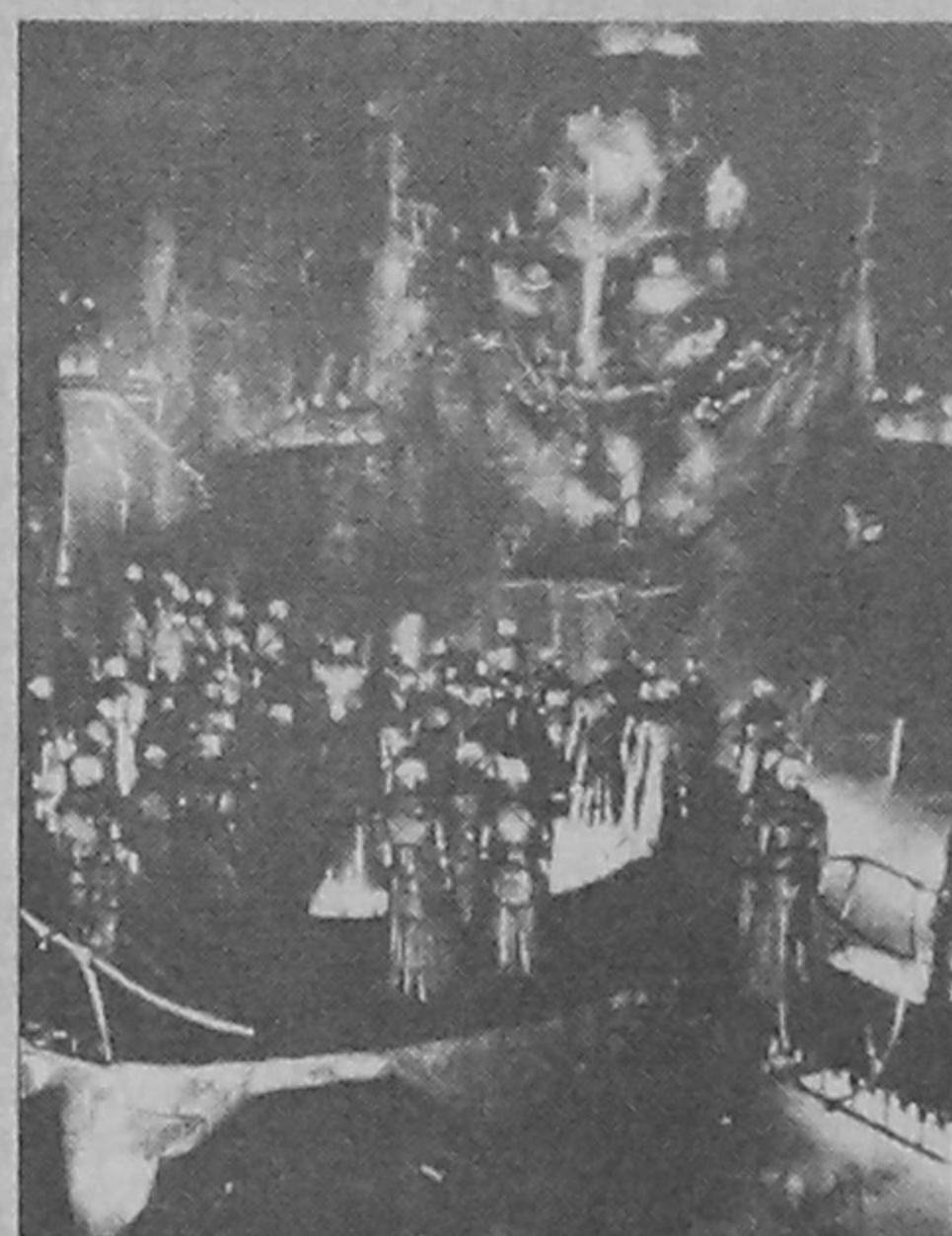
Programme schedule:
October 18:
5.30p.m. - Protyavartan written by Anisul Haq and directed by Sarwar Faruqi
7.00p.m. - Dichakrayan written by Masum Reza and directed by Salauddin Laviu
October 19:
5.30p.m. - Samantara written by Gasuddin Selim and directed by Pulak Gupta
7.00p.m. - Odita written by Masum Reza and directed by Saidul Anam Tutul.



Artists performing at the inaugural ceremony.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Dark City on HBO tonight at 10.00

Rufus Sewell plays John Murdoch who awakens alone in a strange hotel to find that he is wanted for a series of brutal murders. However, he can not remember whether he has committed the murders. Investigating this murder he finds something really horrifying. This is one of the exclusive science fiction movies ever made.

Dark City is directed by Alex Proyas and stars Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland, Jennifer Connelly and others.

STAR PLUS

6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 Good Morning
8:30 Cine Jharokha
9:00 Film Based Prog
9:30 Star Morning Film
11:00 BBC World News
11:35 World Business Report
11:45 World Sport
12:30 HARDtalk
1:30 World Living: Top Gear
2:00 BBC News
2:30 World Business Report
3:00 BBC World News
3:30 Simpsons World
4:30 Asia Business Report / Asia Today
5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours



A Life Less Ordinary on Star Movies at 7.30p.m.

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline
3:15 Patriotic Song
3:20 Open University Prog.
4:00 Bangla News
4:05 Sashtho Thattho (Health

Drishti

5:50 Akjer Potrikay
6:00 Ekushey News Headlines
6:02 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
6:30 Charidike
7:00 Ekushey News Headlines
7:02 Bolte Chai
7:30 Ekushey News
8:00 Shodh
8:30 Pother Psychali
9:00 Jatri

Century

4:00 Friday The 13th Part III
6:00 Higher Ground
8:00 The Truman Show
10:00 Body Heart
12:15 Twists of Terror
2:00 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts
2:30 Friday The 13th Part III
4:45 The Truman Show

ZEE TV

6:15 Yeardon Ki Pal (B/W Songs)
6:45 Old Is Gold
7:00 Bhakti Songs
7:30 Jagran
7:55 Fitness Plus
8:05 Breakfast Zee (News, Views & Chat)
9:00 Guldasta
9:30 Nicolodion Kid's show
10:30 Ek Nazar
11:30 Alvida Darling
12:00 Hukumat
12:00 Sound of Music
12:10 Zaika Ka Safar
1:10 Dear Women
1:40 Jhalak 1:45 Daily Soap-Hasratein
2:25 Kashti
3:00 Daily Soap- Kartavya
3:30 Daily Soap- Adhikar
4:00 Daily Soap- Chhann
4:30 Daily Soap- Banegi Apni Baat
5:00 Intermission
5:10 Tata Salt Khana Khazana
5:40 Aashiana
6:10 Ek Nazar (Trailer)
6:30 Nicolodion Kid's show
7:30 Ek Nazar (Trailer)
8:00 Daily

Duayeen Leti Ja

11:30 Thriller At 10
12:00 India Most Wanted
12:30 Zee Talkies
1:10 Ittefaq
1:40 Kashti
2:10 Sampat & Sampat
2:20 Naye Nazrane (Trailer Show)
3:10 Hindi Feature Film: Basant Bahar (*Bharat Bhushan)

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News
6:30 World Business Report
7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report
8:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report
9:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 World Living: Talking Movies
11:30 Reporters
12:00 BBC World News
12:30 Wheels
1:00 BBC World News
1:30 World Living
2:00 World Focus: Reporters
3:00 BBC World News
3:30 HARDtalk
4:00 BBC World News
4:30 World Living: Life-The Outdoors
5:00 BBC The World Today
5:30 World Focus: Reporters
6:30 Wheels
7:15 World Business Report
7:30 World Living: Click Online
8:30 HARDtalk
9:00 BBC World News
9:30 Asia Today
10:00 BBC World News
10:15 World Business Report
10:30 Made In India: Face To Face India
11:00 BBC World News
11:35 World Business Report
11:45 World Sport
12:30 HARDtalk
1:30 World Living: Top Gear
2:00 BBC News
2:30 World Business Report
3:00 BBC World News
3:30 Simpsons World
4:30 Asia Business Report / Asia Today
5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours

STAR GOLD

5:30 Ghar (Vinod Mehra, Rekha, Prema Narayan)
8:30 Bollywood News
9:00 Choti Bahu (Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore)
12:00 Geet Bahar
12:30 Chor Machaye Shor (Shashi Kapoor, Mumtaz)
3:30 Bollywood News
4:00 Preetam (Shammi Kapoor, Leena Chandavarkar)
7:00 Geet Bahar
9:30 Rang Birangi-Paigham (Dilip Kumar, Vyantimala)
10:30 Bollywood News
11:00 Hamlet (Kishore Sahu,



Bipasha in Ekathurur Dinguli on Channel i at 9.50 pm

Mala Sinha)
12:30 Hamlet (contd)
2:00 Geet Bahar
2:30 Paigham

Soap- Dastaan
8:30 Yeh Hain Mere Apne
9:00 Thief of Bagdad
9:45 Mehendi Tere Naam Ki
10:45 Daily Soap- Babul Ki



Bolte Chai, topic: Health Education will be aired on Ekushey television tonight at 7.02p.m.

Developing For

10:00 BTV News
10:20 Chitragueti
11:00 Ekushey Late Night
11:15 Nazrul Geeti
11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

CHANNEL-i

8:00 Din Protidin
8:50 Manohok
9:15 Anndhodhara
10:00 Bangla Cinema
12:00 Drama everyday-Joar Vhata
12:40 Rest of Bangla Cinema
1:35 Manohok
2:00 Anndhodhara
2:40 Bangla Cinema
Evening
6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran
6:10 Khochi Kachar Melar
Janmodine
6:40 Akre Vethore Pauch
7:15 Nilanjona
8:00 Alapone
8:40 Chitti Pelame
9:15 Samyoer Gane
10:00 Drama everyday-Joar Vhata
10:35 Asia Cup Football
11:00 vs Irq
12:35 Asia Cup Football
12:35 vs Tui
2:45 Bangla Cinema

HBO

7:00 Ms 45
8:45 Frantic
11:15 Nobody's Fool
1:30 Crime of the

EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Akjer Potrikay
2:10 Bhalobasha Kare
Koi 2:35 Alo Amar Alo
3:00 Ekushey News Headlines
3:02 Bangla Cinema: Shantona
5:30

Bahu Thi

11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
12:00 Tanha
12:30 Meri Saheli
2:30 Tanha
3:00 Tu Tu Main Main
3:30 Hit Ya Fit
4:00 Star Bestsellers-Kabaad
5:00 Kyonki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
5:30 Hit Ya Fit
6:00 Cine Jhrokha

STAR MOVIES

8:00 Adventure/Romance: Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken (*Gabrielle Anwar, Vliif Robertson, Michael Schoeffling, Dylan Kussman)
(12) 9:30 Action: Judgment Day
(15) 11:30 Thriller: Poison Ivy-3 The New Seduction (*Michael Ddes Barres)
1:30 Middy Movie: Paper Bullets (*James Russo, William McNamara, Jeff Wincott)
(15) 3:30 Action: Eternal Revenge (*Alexander



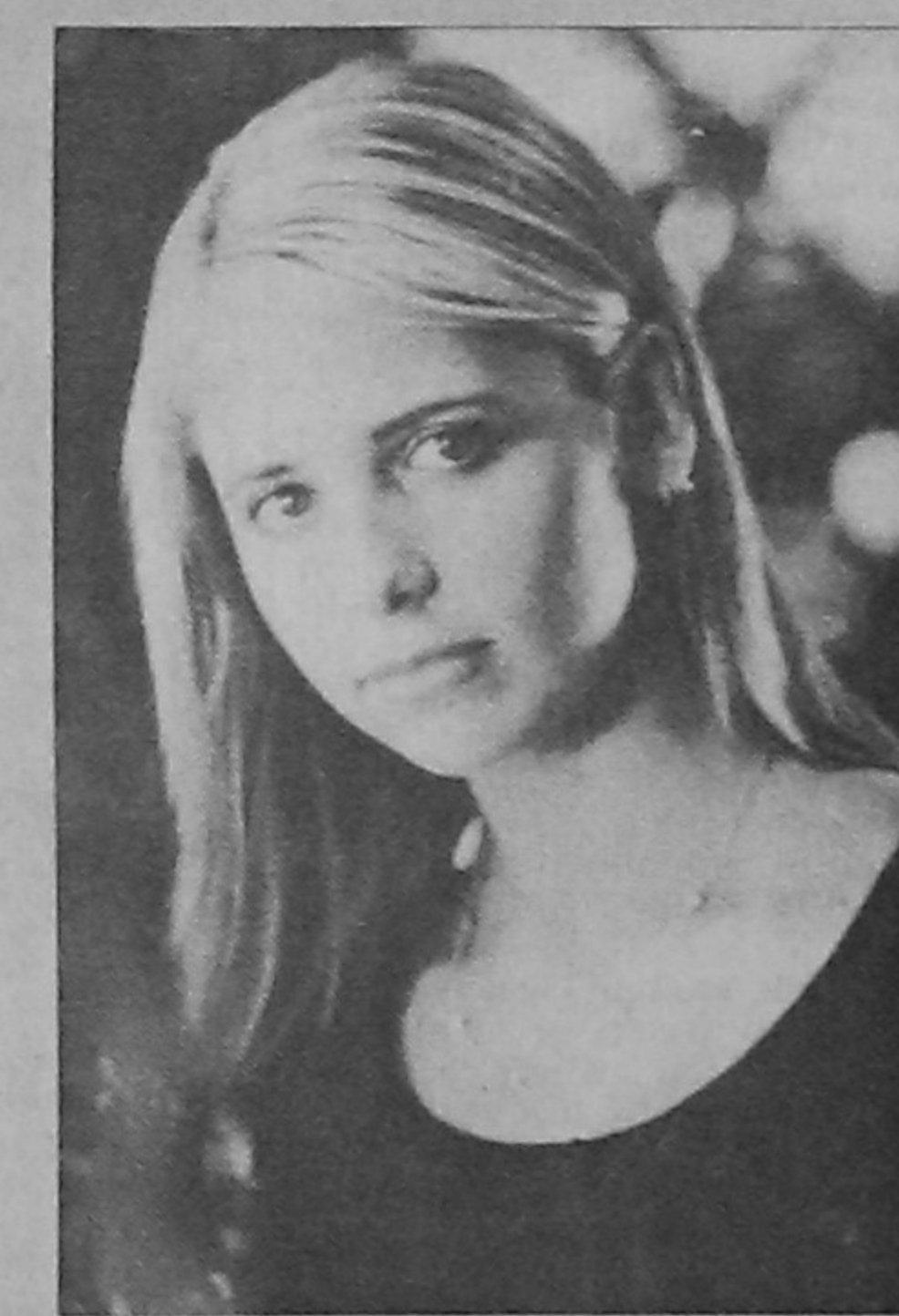
Thriller: Poison Ivy-3: The New Seduction on Star Movies tonight at 2:15a.m.

STAR WORLD

6:30 Jackie Collins Hollywood
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Home Improvement
8:30 Happy Days
9:00 Series: Jag
10:00 The Pretender
11:00 NYPD Blue
12:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
Ep- Unusual Etiquette
Questions
1:00 Media TV
1:30 The Bold and The Beautiful
2:00 Mork & Mindy
2:30 Happy Days
3:00 Baywatch
4:00 Hollywood Squares
4:30 Home Improvement
5:00 Star News Asia
5:05 Fox World Business Report
5:30 Daily Sope-Friends
6:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
6:45 Asian News Update
7:00 Ally Mcbeal
8:00 The Practice
9:00 Daily Sope-Friends
9:30 Star News 10:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
11:00 Ally Mcbeal
12:00 The Practice
1:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
2:00 Ally Mcbeal
3:00 Series: Creflo Dollar
3:30 Kenneth Copland

Sportsline Today

8:30 Spanish Football League
2000/01
10:3 Sports India
11:30 Thai Kick Boxing
12:0 Gillette World Sports Special
12:3 Sport News- Sportsline Today
1:00 Soccer/Futbol-Asian Cup Finals
2000 Lebanon, LEBANON- Qatar Vs Saudi Arabia
Match 12
8:00 Live-Sport News- Sportsline Tonight
8:30 Fm World Motorcycle Championship
2000
Motogp Twin Rink Motegi, JAPAN
Highlights
10:00 Asia Sport Show
10:30 Live-Sport News- Sportsline Tonight
11:00 Live- Cricket Talk Show- Boycott Live
12:00 Live-Sport News- Sportsline Tonight
12:30 Soccer/Futbol-Soccer The Match Of The Century: Carizzo
1:00 Auto Racing-Asian Festival Of Speed
Asian Touring Car Championships
Bira, THAILAND
Rounds Nine & Ten
ESPN
6:00 Live- Baseball- Mlb Championship Series
2000 American League Championship Series (If Nec)
Game #6
9:00 Auto Racing- Cart Grand Prix Of Australia
Surfers Paradise, AUSTRALIA
11:00 Billiards- Pool 2000 World Pool Masters
12:00 Live- Sportscenter Bristol, CT
USA
1:00 Espn World Snooker
2000 British Open Plymouth, UNITED KINGDOM
Quarterfinal



Buffy the Vampire Slayer on Star World tonight at 10.00p.m.

3:00 Ladies Pro

Bowling- Brunswick Women's World Open
Newman, GA
USA
4:00 Baseball- Mlb Championship Series
2000 National League Championship Series (If Nec)
Game #5
6:30 Football Focus
7:00 Uefa Champions League
2000/01 Rome, ITALY- Arsenal Fc Vs Lazio
Group Phase 1, Matchday 4
9:30 Uefa Champions League
2000/01 Glasgow, S C O T L A N D - Galatasaray Sc Vs Rangers
Group Phase 1, Matchday 4
11:30 Motorsport Asia
12:00 Live- Football Focus
12:30 Live-Uefa Champions League
2000/01 Manchester, ENG- L A N D - P s v Eindhoven Vs Manchester United
Group Phase 1, Matchday 4
3:00 Uefa Champions League
2000/01 Milan, ITALY- Barcelona Vs Ac Milan

Group Phase 1, Matchday 4

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
6:30 Go For It!
7:30 Ushuaia
8:30 Lonely Planet
9:30 Animal in Danger
10:30 Danger Zone
11:00 EOuter Bounds I & II
11:30 Shark Files, The II
12:30 Wild Discovery
1:30 Medical Detectives
1:00 Medical Detectives
1:30 Discover Magazine
3:30 Go For It!
4:30 Ushuaia
5:30 Lonely Planet
6:30 Pop Sci
7:00 Popular Mechanics for Kids II
7:30 Wild Discovery
8:30 Blue Reef Adventures
9:30 Aspects of Life
9:30 Ultrascience III
10:30 Popular Science
11:30 Lands of Legends
1:30 Wild Discovery
1:30 Blue Reef Adventures
2:00 Aspects of Life
2:30 Ultrascience III
3:00 Popular Science
3:30 Lands of Legends