

theatre

The Saga of a Nation

Peer Chan, CAT's palaagan adaptation of Ibsen's Peer Gynt, staged.

By Fayza Haq

CENTRE for Asian Theatre presented Peer Chan at the Public Library auditorium recently. In it, Kamaluddin Nilu, the director dealt with a young man's journey from dream to reality in a universal perspective. Peer Chan remains young throughout the production because the director wishes to convey a vision of hope for the future.

The play is based on Henrik Ibsen's Peer Gynt and originally it was presented as a stage play 135 years ago. Its theme, characters, metaphors and lore were originally Norwegian. When Syed Shamsul Huq made the adaptation he had to find parallel grounds for Peer Gynt in Bangladesh. It is not a literal translation but his own adaptation which took up a lot of his time.

Says Syed Shamsul Huq: "In the Bangladesh context I have transposed the whole metaphysical quest into a socio-political one. I have tried to create a historiographic of the people of Bengal and their struggle over the centuries for liberation from hunger, oppression, and injustice encapsulating those into one figure, that of Peer Chan, a personification of a common Bangla man. As it goes with the people of Bangladesh, the land as motherland is seen as the mother figure, perhaps never so strongly by any other people that I know of anywhere in the world, both vivid and

overpowering and in all its splendour".

"The dreaming of Peer Gynt becomes Peer Chan in the play, who is shocked into realisation of the cruel reality of Bangladesh by his mother's plight, her being poor, homeless and denied of

charged with new life. I have tried to work out a form which would be traditional on the surface but fresh and contemporary in spirit. After all, the theatre is a communication handed down to us from the dim past but is renewed vigorously and creatively every time we



Rokeya Rafique plays the helpless mother

basic human rights".

"Inspired by Ibsen's Peer Gynt in writing Peer Chan, I have adopted the structure, mode and tonality of our palaagan, a form of Bangladeshi folk play. The construction, diction, and style, though traditional have been

take it up."

Kamaluddin Nilu adds, "I have attempted to create encounters between East and West mainly by blending oriental acting styles with movements which, to a large extent, are inspired by western ballet movements. The acting style is theatrical, as for instance found in Bangladesh mainly in the traditional jatra. Other aspects of the acting style used in the production are inspired by traditional theatrical forms found mainly in India, China and Japan."

The plot of the play is Peer Chan's journey from a dream world into reality. He lives a life of poverty with his mother Asiya. He escapes into an imaginary world of hunting golden deer and building golden palaces and these dreams never come true. He is so lost in his imaginary world that he fails to take care of his love for Shohagi. After his mother's death Peer Chan realises his false hopes and understands that he must confront reality. Gradually he moves to the real world where he meets his old love Shohagi again.



Rokeya Rafique as the mother and Munir Ahmed as son performing CAT's Peer Chan

sky entertainment

HBO November Highlights

See blockbusters like Jerry Maguire, Batman & Robin and Steel Magnolia

By Cultural Correspondent

THE new satellite channel in the block, HBO presents some outstanding movies for the viewers this November. Here are some highlights.

Shakespeare in Love

Starring: Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Affleck
Airdate: November 18th at 22:00

An Academy Award winner for Best Picture and Best Actress (Gwyneth Paltrow), this picture has also been honored in the Golden Globes and on many critics' top ten lists the year it was released. And it is easy to see why -- an incisive screenplay by Marc Norman and playwright Tom Stoppard as well as a stellar cast: besides Fiennes, Paltrow and Affleck, there is Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush and renowned British actress Judi Dench, who steals every scene she is in as Queen Elizabeth. Set in 1590, Fiennes is a rising young star in London theatre by the name of William Shakespeare. At the moment we find him, he is undergoing one of the greatest crises of his career -- writer's block. Somehow or other, he just can't seem to get going on his latest play, "Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter." Enter Lady Viola (Gwyneth Paltrow), a bud-



Batman & Robin (Air Date November 10th at 5:30p.m.)

ding young actress at a time when girls were forbidden from acting. Suddenly the words start to flow from young Will's quill, and it looks like the play will have a happy ending, at least in real life. Alas, Lady Viola is already committed to Lord Wessex. What's an ordinary playwright to do?

The Mirror has Two Faces

Starring: Barbra Streisand, Jeff Bridges

Airdate: November 25th at 22:00

Can friendship replace sex? What's more important, beauty or brains? Oscar-winning actor, producer, director Barbra Streisand asks herself these

decides to become a go-go dancer and son Rusty turns into a high roller who draws the attention of the Mob.

Batman & Robin



Steel Magnolias (Air Date November 14 at 10:00p.m.)

questions in this tender romantic comedy. She plays a Columbia professor who enters into a unique marital agreement with her colleague Jeff Bridges. The terms being -- intellect and camaraderie supplant passion. But Barbra complicates life by undergoing a makeover that transplants her into a raving beauty. Poor Bridges is now attracted physically to her. A high-powered supporting cast, including Pierce Brosnan, Lauren Bacall, Mimi Rogers and Elli Macpherson, charge the proceedings. And yes, Barbra sings!

National Lampoon's Vegas Vacation

Starring: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid
Airdate: November 9th at 22:00

Chevy Chase and Clark Griswold are back in another installment of the outrageously funny 'National Lampoon' series. This time, Clark and Ellen and their teenage children are headed for Las Vegas for what Clark bills as a chance to bond and an opportunity to renew Mom and Dad's wedding vows. Neither, of course, works out -- at least not in the way the perpetually bewildered Griswolds had imagined because Clark blows all their money. Ellen reveals a passion for Wayne Newton, daughter Audrey

Starring: George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Uma Thurman
Airdate: November 10th at 17:30

Join the fearless capped crusaders, Batman & Robin, as the battle to save Gotham City from the coolest -- and cruelest -- villain yet, Mr. Freeze. Batman (George Clooney) and Robin (Chris O'Donnell) must stop the evil Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger) from putting the ice on Gotham City. But when Mr. Freeze teams up with the toxic Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman) to carry out his plan, the end



National Lampoon's Vegas Vacation (Air Date November 9 at 10:00p.m.)

appears near for the city and the dynamic duo. But with the arrival of Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone) the dynamic duo becomes a transcendent trio who might just stand a chance against the cold and calculating Freeze. This fourth episode of the blockbuster theatrical series contains spectacular action-packed adventure and super-cool effects. Will the capped trio be able to stop Mr. Freeze and Poison Ivy? Tune into your favorite 'Bat Channel', HBO, to find out.

Heaven's Burning

Starring: Russel Crowe, Youki Kudoh
Airdate: November 10th at 20:00

What else is there to say? It's Hollywood's Man-Of-The-Moment Mr. Gladiator himself, Russell Crowe. That alone should be enough reason to watch this movie about a cross cultural romance that starts off in the most unromantic setting of a bank robbery. Midori is an unhappy Japanese bride honeymooning in Australia. Desperate to escape, she stages her own kidnapping only to be kidnapped in real life when she witnesses a bank robbery. Colin, the getaway driver senses that her life is in danger and decides to save her from an untimely death. This offer of aid leads to a quest for freedom and a discovery of love.

Jury Duty

Starring: Pauly Shore, Tia Carrere
Airdate: November 13th at 22:00

Pauly Shore plays an unemployed loser who gets the freebie of a lifetime -- jury duty. As an unlikely juror he tries to prolong the court deliberations so that he can wallow in the comforts of the luxury hotel in which the jurors are sequestered. Soon, his fellow jurors tire of the case and have a new agenda -- to kill Pauly.

Recommendations

Indian Classical Music And Dance

Indian High Commission in Dhaka will present Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar and Priti Patel, who will bring some eternal entertainment to the city at the Dance and Music Festival beginning on the 14 of November. Priti Patel will give her Manipuri treat on November 14 followed by a solo recital by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar on the 15th at the National Museum auditorium.

Workshop

Bishwashahittya Kendra Chalachitra Chakra started a workshop on Russian filmmaker Andre Tarkovsky's films and thoughts on November 3 at the Bishwashahittya Kendra premises.

The course will come to an end today.



1st Solo

Photography

The inaugural ceremony of the eleven daylong 1st photography exhibition by Mustafa Farooque Wahid was held at the ARIAL Centre. Eminent photographer Dr Nozesh Ahmed was present as chief guest. Artist Mustafa Manwar and Shamsuzzaman Khan director general, Bangladesh National Museum were also present as special guests.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 2-8p.m.

Film Screening

In commemoration of the 75th birth anniversary of renowned Bengali film maker Ritwik Ghatak Chalachitra Film Society in collaboration with the High Commission of India, Dhaka has been screening some of his films at the Indian High Commission auditorium from November 4.

Today at 6 the film titled Komal Gandhar 1961 will be screened. A seminar titled Ritwik Ghatak Agni Rather Sarathi will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Out of Africa on HBO

at 10:00pm today.

This stunning love story, set in a lush, lost paradise, won seven Academy Awards including Best Picture. Merril Streep stars as Karen Blixen, who comes to Kenya in 1913 from Denmark for a marriage of convenience. She eventually meets the love of her life - a charming independent adventure Denys Finch-Hatton played by Robert Redford.

Trinity is Still my Medical Name 7:30 Action Termination Man 9:30 Extreme X 10:00 Hollywood Action Night: Recol 12:00 Movies with Style: Out for Blood 2:00 Thriller Tracks of a Killer 5:40 Comedy: Memories of Me 5:30 Sci-Fi Death Watch

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Go For It 7:30 Ushuaia 8:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Survivors 10:00 Eyewitness II 10:30 Danger Zone 11:00 Outer Bounds I&II 11:30 Shark Files 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detec-

SONY ENT. TV

7:30 Amrit Varsha 8:00 Sant Asaram

Wani 8:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 9:00 Good Morning Disney 10:00 Mere Angane Mein 10:30 CATS 11:00 Tulpe Dil Qurban 11:30 Daily Soap- Imtihaan (*Renuka Shani, Ferdous Dadi) 12:00 Daily Soap- Ithaas 12:30 Movies And Shekhars 1:00 Charibusters (Trailer Show) 1:30 The Poppadum Show 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Daily Soap- Imtihaan (*Renuka Shani, Ferdous Dadi) 3:00 Aurat (Daily Soap) 3:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 4:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 4:30 Daily Soap- Ithaas 5:00 Daily Soap- Junoon 5:30 Charibusters (Trailer Show) 6:00 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Boogi Woogi 8:00 Haal Kaise Hai Janab Ka 8:30 Dil Hai Manta Nehin (*Vishal, Rupali, Shruti Ulla) 9:10 Kanyadaan (*Kiran Kher, Poonam Nerula) 9:50 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka (Daily Soap) 10:30 Thodi Si Bewafai (*Suraj) Thapar, Diva, Beenal 11:10 Movies And Shekhars 12:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 12:30 Aahat 1:00 Milam 1:30 Shashreen 2:00 Hum Sub Ek Hain 2:30 Movies And Shekhars 3:00 The Poppadum Show 3:30 Cine Night Show- Hindi Film: Nazrana

11:30 Muskaan 12:00 Sound of Music 12:10 Naye Nazrane 12:40 Khubsoorat 1:10 Sare Jahan Se Achha 1:40 Jhalak 1:45 Daily Soap- Hasratein #62 2:25 Lakeren 3:00 Daily Soap- Kartavya 3:30 Daily Soap- Ithaas 4:00 Sop: Adhikar 4:00 Daily Soap- Chattan (*Shammi Kapoor, Anang Deshay) 4:30 Daily Soap- Baneg Apni Baat 5:00 Intermission 5:10 Chingari 5:40 Dayre 6:10 Ek Nazar (Trailer On Film) 6:30 Nicolodion Kid's Show 7:30 Ek Nazar (Trailer On Film) 8:00 Daily Soap- Dastan 8:30 Samay (*Sanjeev Shetty, Harsha Chhaya, Anang Desai, Katki, Alka) 9:00 Mega Game Show- Sawal Dus Crore Ka (*Presenter- Anupom Kher) 10:00 Basera (*Papiya Sen Gupta, Kanchan, Rohit Kumar, Bydhey, Ronjit, Rohit Segal) 10:45 Daily Soap- Babul Ki Duayen Let Ja 11:30 Thriller At 10 12:00 Apna Apna Style 12:30 Ashirwad (*Nasir, Poonam Narula, Navin Nischal) 1:10 Daily Soap- Adhikar 1:40 Lakeren 2:10 Tum Pukar Lo (*Suman Singh, Harsha Chhaya) 2:40 Naye Nazrane 3:10 Feature Film (B/W):

day 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Made In India: Mas-terminid India 1:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 2:00 World News 2:30 World Focus: Earth 3:00 BBC World News 3:30

Today 8:00 Sportsline Today 8:30 PGA Tour Golf- The Tour Champion- 10:30 Spanish Football League- 2000/01 12:30 Sportsline Today 1:00 Asian Football 1:30 2000 Cycling- Road World Champi-

Title Flights of The 30's 5:00 LPGA Golf: Cisco World Ladies Challenge 7:00 Asian Bowling Tour 2000: Korea Masters Cup 10:00 English Premier Football League Aston Villa vs. Everton 12:00 Pro Billiards: 2000 Int'l Challenge of Champions

CHANNEL V

10:00 V Hit Machine 10:30 Video Preview 11:00 V Hit Machine 12:30 V Jungli Jukebox 1:00 V FDFS 1:30 V Hit Machine 2:30 V 3:00 Hit Machine 4:30 Tea With 5:00 Virtual V 5:30 Tea With V 8:00 V Hit Machine 8:30 V Face off 9:00 V Jungli Jukebox 9:30 V FDFS 10:00 V Hit Machine 10:30 Late Night V 12:30 V Hit Machine

ZEE CINEMA

10:30 Bazaar (Smita Patil, Farooq Shaikh) 2:00 Mawall (Shakti Kapoor, Jitendra) 6:30 Satwan Aasmann (Vivek Mushran, Puja Bhatt) 10:30 Daag the fire (Sanjay Dutt, Mahima) 2:30 Ankh Ka Tara (Sachin, Bindya Goswami) 6:30 R a m k a l i (Saltrughan, Hema Malini)



Jag on Star World at 10:00pm. In today's episode, Wedding Bell Blues, three days before Bud's and Harriet's wedding turn into a nightmare for all concerned.

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 Pusti Thathto 4:20 Sports Programme 5:10 Gharay Bayray (Programme On Woman) 5:40



New serial: Nei Kono Thikana on Ekushey Television at 8:00pm from tonight. Starring: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Bijri Barkatullah.

Sashtho Thaththo (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 6:00 Bangla News 6:05 Sabar Janno Shikkha 6:30 Trans-mission From Chittagong Centre 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Sangla (Adhunik Song) 7:25 Tookhor (TV Quiz) 8:00 Bangla News At 8 8:20 Drama Series: Sattyajit Gappo #18 (*Tapos Pall, Soumitro, Anjon Dutt, Ranjit Malik, Sonali Chockrobari) 8:50 Serial: Birohe Basanto #7 (*Bulbul Ahmed, Shams Suman, Mita Noor, Tapos Sarkar, Chhanda, Shamsuzzaman Banu, Zeenat Barkatullah) 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Chhaya Chhanda 10:50 Sur Lahori 11:35 English News 1:40 (B) Programme Outline For Wednesday B) National Song 11:45

Closing

12:00 Ekushey News Headlines 12:05 Aker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Masum 2:40 Drishtu 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Children Drama Series: Hakarbin 3:30 Amader Kotha 4:00 Chhironi 4:30 Circus Circus 5:00 Expedition to the

Drama Everyday: Joar Vhata 12:40 Ekush Satak 1:15 Business Show 1:50 Akattorer Dinguli 2:00 Rithym 3:00 Bengla Cinema: Dhoshi 6:00 Reciting from the Holy 6:10 I Music 6:40 Mancholoke 7:15 Annododhara 7:45 Amar Channel 8:00 Drama Everyday: Joar Vhata 8:40 Sanglap 9:15 Short Film: Janmantore 9:50 Akattorer Dinguli 10:00 Business Show 10:50 I Focus 11:00 Bangla Cinema

HBO 6:30 Executive Decision 9:15 Murphy's Romance 11:30 Why Do Fools Fall in Love 1:45 The Ripper 3:45 Fathers Day 5:45 In Country 8:15 Into Thin Air: Death on Everest 10:00 Out of Africa 1:15 Executive Decision 4:00 In Country

STAR GOLD 6:30 Ek Mutthi Asmaan 8:30 Bollywood News 9:00

CHANNEL-i

6:15 Star Line 6:45 Amar Channel 7:00 Joar Vhata 7:40 Ekush Satak 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Business Show 9:00 Akattorer Dinguli 9:10 Drama: Rithym 10:00 Reciting from the Holy Quran 10:10 Begum Protikar 50 Year 10:40 Aker Vithore Pauch 11:15 Star Line 11:45 Amar Channel 1 12:00

Devi 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Saavan Ki Ghat 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Choroni Ki Barat 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Mangal Masti Lakshon Mein Ek 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Hum Tum Aur Who 12:30 Annododhara 7:45 Amar Channel 8:00 Drama Everyday: Joar Vhata 8:40 Sanglap 9:15 Short Film: Janmantore 9:50 Akattorer Dinguli 10:00 Business Show 10:50 I Focus 11:00 Bangla Cinema

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STAR PLUS

6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Cine Jharokha 9:00 Hit Ya Fit 9:30 Star Morning Show: Saboot 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Tanha 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Pal Chhin 3:30 Small Wonders 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 I Love My India 6:00 Small Wonders 6:30 Fox Kids 7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Kabhi Kabhi Mere Ghar Mein



STAR MOVIES

7:30 Animation: Anastasia 9:30 Thriller: Criminal Passion 11:30 Comedy: Twin Town 1:15 Midday Movie: National Lampoons Golf Punks 3:15 Thriller Tracks of a Killer 5:30 Thriller

Bhichaal Ata Hai 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:30 Tanha 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 Small Wonder 1:30 Saans 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Tanha 3:00 Tu Tu Main Main 3:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 4:00 Star Bestsellers 5:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:30 Hit Ya Fit 6:00 Cine Jharokha

CINE WORLD 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 That 70's Show 9:30 Dharma & Greg 10:00 Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Everybody Loves Raymond 12:30 Frasier 1:00 The Things People Do 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 5:30 Friends 6:00 JAG 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 NYPD Blue 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 10:00 JAG 10:30 The Pretender 12:00 NYPD Blue 1:00 JAG 2:00 The Pretender 3:00 Credo Dollar Daily 3:30 Kennedy Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life in the Word with Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 Media TV 5:30 Mork & Mindy 6:00 Hollywood Squares 6:30 The New WKRP in Cincinnati 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

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Out for Blood on Star Movies at 12:00 midnight. Jhon Decker is an attorney living the American dream until his family brutally murdered by vicious drug dealers.