

theatre

God among the Fallen Angels

Natyajon's latest production Shudu Ekaki on stage

By Tawfique Ali

THEATRE plays an important role in any society of the world in bringing about social changes through reformation. It poignantly hints at social evils and incongruities prevalent and practised in different forms with the objective to bring forth unjust practices of all sorts and society's indifference towards injustice to humanity.

Society ought to be adequately compassionate for the sake of its equilibrium and integrity. A humanitarian approach helps the society to cure and eradicate its evils. What theatre does is an vibrant exposure of what society should do and should not more explicitly than any other genre of a culture. Theatre is a media that speaks unequivocally to any of its audience offering an easy access to the issue in question. Bangladeshi theatre has, of late, made a remarkable progression by

good many productions having high theatrical value and appeals, and have accordingly been acclaimed both at home and abroad.

Dramatic reverberation is an acknowledged phenomenon of Bangladeshi theatrical production. But we regret the fact that the country's theatre has suffered various set backs so far. The foremost ones being absence of social and governmental patronisation and financial constraint. At the same time it is a matters of pride and pleasure that with the dedication of some enterprising theatre personalities, country's theatre has progressed remarkably against all odds.

Shudu Ekaki, a production by Natyajon, is another mark of brilliance in country's theatre. It was premiered on January 21 at the Guide House Auditorium, Baily Road. The play has been written and directed by Aulok Bosu.

The forbidden world of sex workers and the invisible force behind them who compel them to

enter this murky world revealed by a university research student, is the central plot of the play around which the story of Shudu Ekaki evolves.

Ovranti, an Anthropology student conducts her thesis on sex workers and gradually begins to feel the pulse of the lives lived in abysmal darkness. Through her intimacy with the sex workers she discovers harrowing and nightmarish tales of repression, exploitation and deception.

The dwellers of the forbidden area respond to her queries and let her have a glimpse to the facts of their lives. Having learned about the shame, the rejection, the dishonour and painful reality of their lives Ovranti is so moved that her perception of our society changes altogether. She now considers the sex workers as just another human being like us and begins to think herself as one of those brothel dwellers. She desperately feels an urge to do something for the sake of



Sayedra Islam and Biswajit Pappu at a scene from drama Shudu Ekaki.

their rehabilitation and safety.

Eventually, one of the inmates of the brothel called Soheli, is murdered and Ovranti rushes to the spot. She is arrested from the spot in charge of supposed involvement with the murder. Though she is released from the police station with the help of her teacher, she is vehemently condemned and rejected by her family. She consequently loses her usual position in the society and above all in her family. She becomes an alien. Only her compassionate father understands her and remains beside her with fatherly support.

Meanwhile she undergoes a

mental breakdown in the face of police harassment in the name of investigation. This adds a different dimension to the play. Here the playwright evidently calls the audience's attention to police brutality in the legal garb. In this investigation episode a police officer's violent and aggressive and unbecoming conduct with the respondent clearly shows gross violation of order and etiquette by police.

Misconduct and unwanted interference in private matters suggests that the police personnel in this country act as if they are licensed to do whatever they please.

The playwright has made a point by taking one of the burning issues into consideration. This might help prevent illegal and unauthorized activities of the law enforcers.

Subsequently Ovranti receives the severest blow when the man, who is her confidant and friend, deceives her and declines to marry her. She loses all her grounds and is left lone to fight against all odds and evils.

Eventually her ex-lover was arrested for committing the murder at the brothel and is an agent of the underworld mechanism. Now

Ovranti discovers herself in a newer perspective and to have a different look at life.

Dramatic personae, among others, include Tabibul Islam (Father), Sayeda Islam (Mother) and Munira Usuf Memi (Ovranti).

City's theatre-goers may spend one evening with Shudu Ekaki to support Ovranti's cause.

Recommendations

Art Exhibition

Alka Mathur and Naresh Kapuria's joint shows being held at Bengal Gallery. Alka Mathur is a familiar name in the Dhaka art circle. The other is being introduced to the gallery-goers through this exhibition. The show is open till February 2.

Water Colour Show

A special water colour collection by country's seven celebrated water colour artists will start at the Shilpangan art gallery on January 26 at 4:00p.m. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will inaugurate the exhibition while Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir will be present as chief guest and the inaugural ceremony will be presided over by painter Aminul Islam.

The participating artists are Professor Abdur Razzaque, Mostafa Manwar, Professor Qayyum Chowdhury, Professor Hashem Khan, Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam (Spain) and Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan.

14th National Art Exhibition

Three-week long Fourteenth National Art Exhibition 2000, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, has opened on January 23, 2001 at the Academy auditorium at 4:00 afternoon. The exhibition will go on till 12th February daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday. The exhibits will be on display at Bangladesh Shilpa Academy and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Gallery.

The War We

Forgot

A photography exhibition on the history of country's Liberation War has opened at the Drik Gallery. The show displays historic images of the internationally renowned press and other photographers who were in Bangladesh during the War in 1971. The works of Abbas, Barbey, Henri Bureau, David Burnett, Horst Faas (Associated Press), Michel Laurent (Associated Press), Raghu Rai, Rashid Talukder, among others, have been kept on display. The exhibition is open for all from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily and will come to an end on February 2.



Tabibul Islam and Munira Usuf Memi appear in a sequence of Shudu Ekaki.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot Tonight on HBO at 10

Action hero Stallone is Joe Bomoowski, a Los Angeles police sergeant who gets upstaged by someone more dangerous than any other criminal he has ever busted - his mother played by Estelle Getty. The movie is a non-stop action comedy that will overturn every notion you have of Stallone as the gun-toting Rambo. The movie stars Sylvester Stallone, Estelle Getty and others.

Medical Detectives II 2:30 Health Showcase 3:30 Eyewitness II 4:00 ESPU 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I 5:30 Lonely Planet VI 6:30 Going Wild With Jeff Corwin 7:00 So You Want To Be? 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Paleoworld IV 9:00 New Sanctuaries 9:30 Discovery Weapons 10:00 Discovery News 10:30 Wings 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Paleoworld IV 2:00 New Sanctuaries 2:30 Decisive Weapons 3:00 Discovery News 3:30

Wings 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Health Showcase

HBO
7:00 Pee-Wee's Big Adventure 9:00 Top Secret! 10:45 Black Magic 12:45 Every Mother's Worst Fear 2:45 The Exportist 5:15 Terms of Endearment 8:00 The Perfect Nanny 10:00 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot 11:45 Kiss The Girls 2:00 Top Secret! 3:45 Terms of Endearment

AXN

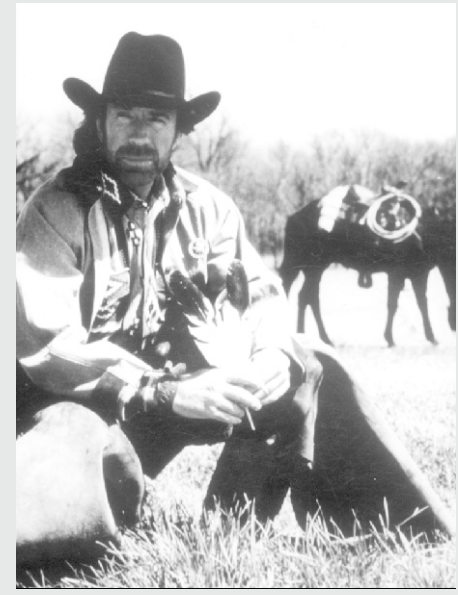


Friends on Star World at 9:00 tonight.

6:00 Dark Skies/The Warren Omission 7:00 I Dear You 8:00 Cyberteam in Akibaban/Flame of Recca 9:00 Slam Dunk /Samurai X 10:00 Charlie's Angels/I Will Be Remembered 11:00 I Dare You 12:00 VIP/Dr Strangeval 1:00 Who Dares Wins 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Cyberteam in Akibaban 4:00 Flame of Recca/Slam Dunk 5:00 Samurai X /Who Dares Wins 6:00 Action Heroes 7:00 Beastmaster II 8:00 Movie: The Fourth Floor 10:00 Charlie's Angels/I Will Be Remembered 11:00 Beastmaster II 12:00 Movie: The Fourth Floor 2:00 Dark Skies/The Warren Omission 3:00 Silk Stalkings IV /Divorce Palm Beach Style

Ally McBeal 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 The Practice 1:00 Grace Under Fire 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 Mork & Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 The Simpsons 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 STAR News Asia 5:30 Friends 6:00 World's Wildest Police Video 6:55 Star News Asia 7:00 Walker Texas Ranger 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 10:00 World's Wildest Police Video 11:00 Walker Texas Ranger 12:00 Martial Law 1:00 World's Wildest Police Video 2:00 Walker Texas Ranger 3:00 Crefo Dollar Daily 3:30 Kenneth

Ya Fit 8:00 Cine Jharokha 8:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Star Morning Show 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Small Wonder 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Shagun 3:30 Kabhi Kabhie Mere Ghar Mein Bhuchal Aata Hai 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 Kuchha Papad Pucca Papad 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids 7:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Ma Shakti 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Shagun 12:30 Talebrands 1:00 Kahaani



Walker Texas Ranger on Star World at 7:00 in the evening.

Action: Terminator 2 1:15 Thriller: Final Descent 3:00 Thriller: Guilty As Sin 5:00 Action: Rambo 3 7:00 Action: 6 Days 7 Nights 9:00 Action: President's Man 11:00 Action: Land of the Free 1:00 Action: Jack Of Hearts 3:00 Drama: Silent Justice 5:00 Drama: Simon Birch

XHalmark

6:30 Open Sesame 7:00 Heman & The Masters of the Universe/The Energy Beast 7:30 Wishbone/Sniffing The Gauntlet 8:00 Black Fox: Good Men and Bad 10:00 Come In Spinner 12:30 All Creatures Great and Small 2:00 Mopatop's Shop 3:00 Pappyland/Donkey Dan 3:00 Open Sesame 3:30 Open Sesame 4:00 Day Of The Machines 4:30 Whishbone/The Hunchdog of Notre Dame 5:00 Danger Bay 5:30 A Storm In Summer 7:30 Reasons of the Heart 9:30 Skylark 11:30 Come In Spinner 12:45 Come In Spinner 2:00 Danger Bay 3:00 A Storm In Summer 5:00 Mopatop's shop 5:30 Pappyland/Pappy Talks

ZMGM

6:30 Pay Back 9:00 A Breed Apart 11:30 Escape 2:00 Pink Nights 4:30 The Butterfly Revolution 7:00 Absolution (Richard Burton, Dai Bradley) 9:30 Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Michael Biehn)

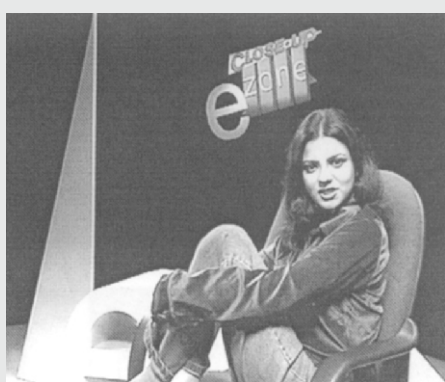
BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Cartoon: Bumy and Friends 4:30 Ta Ta Tho! Tho! Dancelesson for the children 5:00 School Debate competition 5:50 Dharma O' Jivan 6:00



Tele-film Chaya Prem on Ekushey television tonight at 8

Khabar 6:20 Shasthya Tathya: Health care programme for mother and children 6:35 Programme from Chittagong station 7:00 Rup Rupantar 7:25 Shandhya Maloti: Nazrul Saaneeet programme 8:00 News in Bengali 8:20 Drama Series: Pakhi Shob Kore Rob 9:00 Monihar: Musical Programme 9:30 Band Show 10:00 News at Ten 10:20 Shera Panch 10:50 Alok Chitra: Still Photography 11:30 Khabar/ The News 11:45 Close Down EKUSHEY TV



Close-up E-zone on Ekushey television today at 7 in the evening

12:00 Ekushey News Headlines 12:05 Ajker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Kalo Golap 2:40 Dristhi 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Series: Shodh 3:30 Bhalobasha Kare Koy 4:00 Mon Mon Re Amar 4:30

Dinguli 7:00 Drama: Taka 7:40 Chitti Pelam 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 I Street Show 9:00 Music Circle 9:50 I Focus 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 I Music 10:40 Addar Table 11:15 Musical Programme Dujone 11:50 Akattorer Dinguli 12:00 Drama: Taka 12:40 Chitti Pelam 1:15 I Street Show 2:00 Music Circle 2:50 I Focus 3:00 Bangla Cinema: Khamotaban Evening

6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Artho O Niti 6:40 Addar Table 7:15 Khola Chokhe... 7:50 Akattorer Dinguli 8:00 Drama: Taka 8:40 I Dream of Jennie 9:15 Sai Theke Suru... 10:00 Drama: Kalkharua 10:30 Money Talk 10:50 I Focus 11:00 Drama: Bhoru Saliker Ghare Row

BBC WORLD
6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 HARDtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Top Gear Waterworld 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Face to Face 1:00 BBC News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Simpson (even) Money Prog (odd) World Rev 3:00 BBC News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Holiday 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Simpson (even) Money Prog (odd) World Rev 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Face to Face 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Top Gear 8:00 BBC News 8:30 HARDtalk 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News

CHANNEL-i Moming
6:15 Musical Programme: Dujone 6:50 Akattorer

CNN

4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Mon-



Maggie Winters on Star World at 9:30

ing 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Moming 6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Moming 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Moming 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A (replay) 12:00 World News

12:30 World Report 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:00 World News 2:30 Insight 3:00 Larry King 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 Q & A Asia 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 Ebizasia 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 12:30 The Artclub 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News

2:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Mon-



Maggie Winters on Star World at 9:30

Europe 3:30 CNN Newsroom

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
6:30 Eyewitness II 7:00 ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet V 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 The Quest 10:30 Go For It! 11:30 Intimate Escapes 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30