

theatre

God among the Fallen Angels

Natyajon's latest production *Shudu Ekaki* onstage

By Tawfique Ali

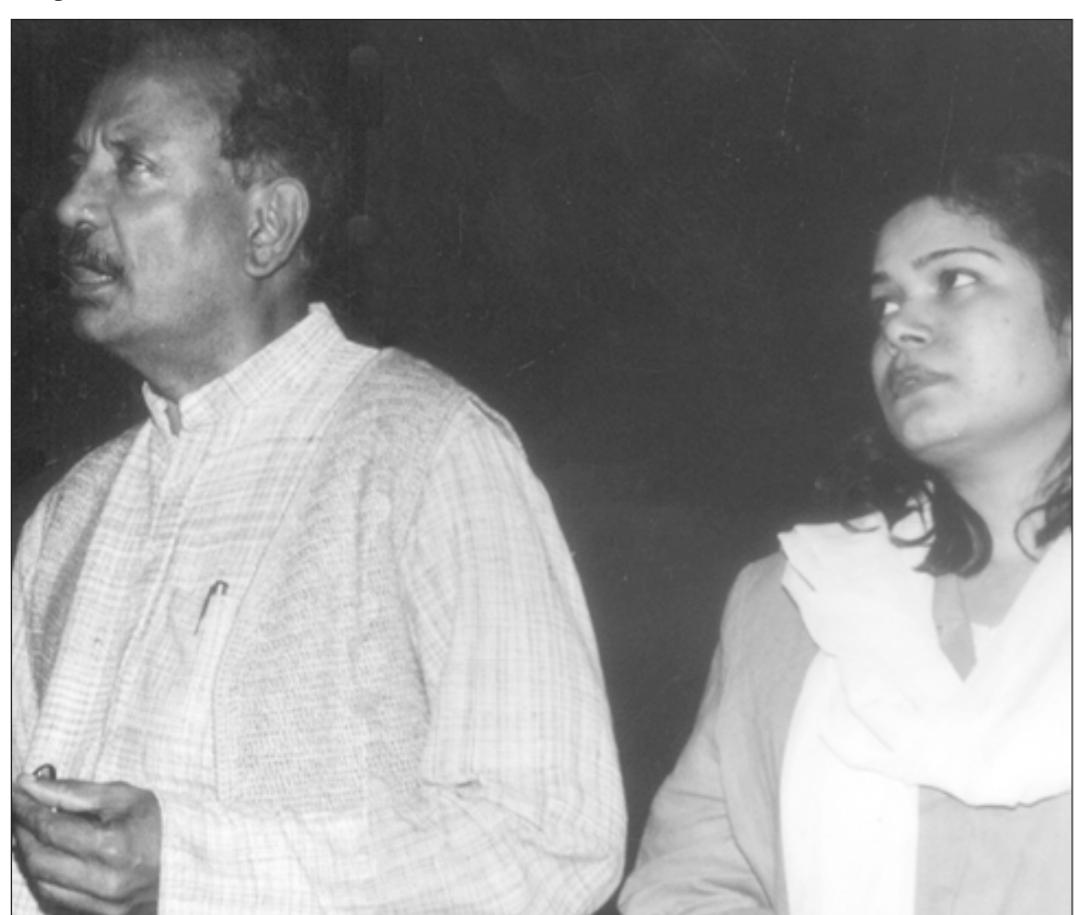
THEATRE plays an important role in any society of the world in bringing about social changes through reformation. It poignantly hints at social evils and incongruities prevalent and practised in different forms with the objective to bring forth unjust practices of all sorts and society's indifference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

Sayed Islam and Biswajit Pappu at a scene from drama *Shudu Ekaki*.Tabibul Islam and Munira Usuf Memi appear in a sequence of *Shudu Ekaki*.

those brothel dwellers. She desperately feels an urge to do something for the sake of 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 their cause.

Recommendations

Art Exhibition
Alka mathur and Naresh Kapuria's joint show is 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 Shilpangam art gallery on January 26 at 4:00 p.m. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will inaugurate the exhibition while Professor Bohanuddin 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 Qayum Chowdhury, Professor Hashem Khan, Professor Rafiqul 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 shishu 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, Barbe, 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.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot

Tonight on HBO at 10

Action hero Stallone is Joe Bormowski, 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.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Eyewitness II 7:00 ESPN 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

11:45 Kiss The Girls

12:00 Top Secret! 3:45 Terms of Endearment

5:15 Terms of Endearment 8:00 The Perfect

Nanny 10:00 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot

12:45 Kiss The Girls

1:00 Top Secret! 3:45 Terms of Endearment

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/I

Will be Remembered 11:00 I Dear You 12:00 VIP II/Dr Strange 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/I will be Remembered 11:00

4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 STAR News

Bollywood News 11:00 Ek Mutthi

World's Wildest

Police Video 6:55 Star

Arora, Radha Saluja

News Asia 7:00

Walker Texas Ranger

8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Geet Bahar 2:30

Friends 9:30 Star

News 10:00 World's

Khanna, Shabana Sadique) 5:30 Ek Mutthi Aasmaan (Vijay Arora, Radha Saluja)

STAR WORLD

6:00 Murder Call 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 2

Guys A Girl, And A Place 9:30 Maggie Winters 10:00 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



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

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 Cretflop Dollar Daily 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 Grace Under Fire 5:30 Mork & Mindy

6:00 Tu Tu Main Main 6:30 STAR Geetmal 7:30 Hit 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

Shakti 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahaani Ghar 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 12:00 Shagun 12:30 Taleban 1:00 1:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 1:30 Star Movie Show 4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 1:30 Saans 5:30 Meri Saheli

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