

stage Caste, Thy Name is Inhumanity

'Chondalika' at National Museum tonight

By Cultural Correspondent

In their bid to impart that message, Utsa Bangladesh will stage 'Chondalika' at the National Museum this evening 7. It is directed and choreographed by Sharmila Bndhapadhaya and Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya has worked as the music director.

Adapted from a Buddhist legend, 'Chondalika', is one of Tagore's later works. The drama begins with the conflicts of caste and untouchability, within the Hindu society, and continues with the resolution of these same conflicts through the teachings of Buddha. However, the apparent theme of social dichotomy ends here and the genius of Tagore transforms this parable into a narration of Prokriti, a young girl from the untouchable class, and Buddha's disciple Anondo's struggle to overcome worldly

needs of love and desire. Where the Buddhist legend heralds the triumph of Buddha's teachings, Tagore proclaims victory for his heroine. In Tagore's drama, it is Prokriti's boundless love which

blesses her. Prokriti dances in joy. She feels redeemed from the shame of her birth. The villagers celebrate the harvest festival and this time



gives her the strength to turn aside an entranced Anondo, bewitched by Prokriti's beauty through her mother's witchcraft, as her own sacrifice and offering in the temple of love.

Prokriti is a young and beautiful girl from the Chondal, or untouchable caste. Like all the young of this world, she too is eager for company. She longs to join the village maidens in their activities, but she is constantly spurned by all. Whether it is the girls, or the curd seller or the man selling bangles. Her mother tries to interest her in house work but in vain. Prokriti is in despair because of her rejection by the people of the upper caste.

At this point of the life Anondo, a Buddhist monk, comes to quench his thirst at the well where Prokriti is drawing water, and requests Prokriti for a drink of water. Prokriti is aghast and begs to be pardoned: 'I am a Chondal's daughter, the water of my well is unholy'. Anondo replies: 'You are as much a human being as I am. The water that satisfies the thirsty is ever the holy water' Anondo also tells her that in the eyes of the Creator all beings are one. He drinks and

Prokriti no longer feels alone and unwanted. Anondo's words have given her the dignity of a human being. Buddhist women, going to the temples with offerings, pass by. Maya, her mother, notices the girl's rapt look and wants to know the object of her worship. 'Is it the beckoning of some underworld spirit?' She asks.

If so, the mother pledges to undo this illusion with her powers of black magic. Prokriti murmurs.

'He has played a tune in my heart-he asked to drink from my hands'. She sings. 'This is a new birth for me. I was given the honour of quenching a man's thirst' Maya insists 'My child, someone has cast a spell on you.'

The king's messenger, then appears and commands Prokriti's mother to use her supernatural powers of witchcraft to entice the Queen's fawn pet bird back to its cage. Prokriti rushes to the idea of magic, but Maya shudders at the thought of playing with fire. Prokriti is not afraid.

Again the Buddhist monks pass by in their saffron robes, but Anondo does not even notice once the creation of his own hands. Prokriti is frustrated and her



despair breaks the mother's heart. Ultimately, for the sake of her child, Maya moves into the path of guilt. Maya hesitates

initially but finally concedes to Prokriti's adamant whims and conjures up the powers of darkness to bring Anondo. She beck-

ons her disciples to join in the spell. She then commands Prokriti to begin her 'dance of seduction' before her magic mirror and asks Prokriti to watch the saint crumbling under her spells.

Prokriti watches the gradual influence of the black magic on the saint, in her mother's mirror. She cannot bear to look at the awful storm or whirling and suffering - as though a great tree is toppling to dust, its soaring glory broken. Her mother gasps in the struggle of her magic - her spells are at an end. But Prokriti urges her mother on with the magic. Her mother calls her heartless, but hungry love knows no mercy, no fear no shame.

The mother invokes her most powerful spell and the tense drama of magic and desire reaches a climax. Maya finds the strain unbearable. Prokriti turns her eyes from the terrible image in the mirror. She is aghast at the picture of Anondo's defeat at her own hands. Her boundless love for Anondo ultimately urges her the strength to undo the spell, so that Anondo may return to his life of renunciation.

This indeed is the all-encompassing insight of Tagore.



Recommendations

Poetry Reading

A poetry reading session by Sudeep Sen and the country's emerging poets will be held at the British Council Auditorium on January 31 at 6:00p.m.

Sudeep Sen's Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems (Harper Collins) was awarded the Hawthorned Fellowship (UK) and nominated for a Pushcart Prize (US).

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 has started at the Shilpangan art gallery on January 26 at 4:00p.m.

The participating artists are Professor Abdur Razaque, Mostafa Marwar, Professor Gayum Chowdhury, Professor Hashem Khan, Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam (Spain) and Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan.

Exhibition

The 1st solo exhibition of studio pottery and glaze painting by Nurul Amin will start at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka on January 28 at 3:30p.m.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10a.m to 8p.m. till February 3.



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



The Age of Innocence

Tonight on HBO at 9:30

Golden Globe Award winner for Best Film and based on the novel by Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence takes a look at high society New York. A young lawyer, Newland Archer (Day-Lewis) falls in love with Countess Olenska (Pfeiffer) but he is already engaged to ideal society woman, May Welland (Ryder). Archer is forced to choose between what society expects of him and what he wants out of his own life.

The Age of Innocence is directed by Martin Scorsese and stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder, Michelle Pfeiffer and others.

BTV

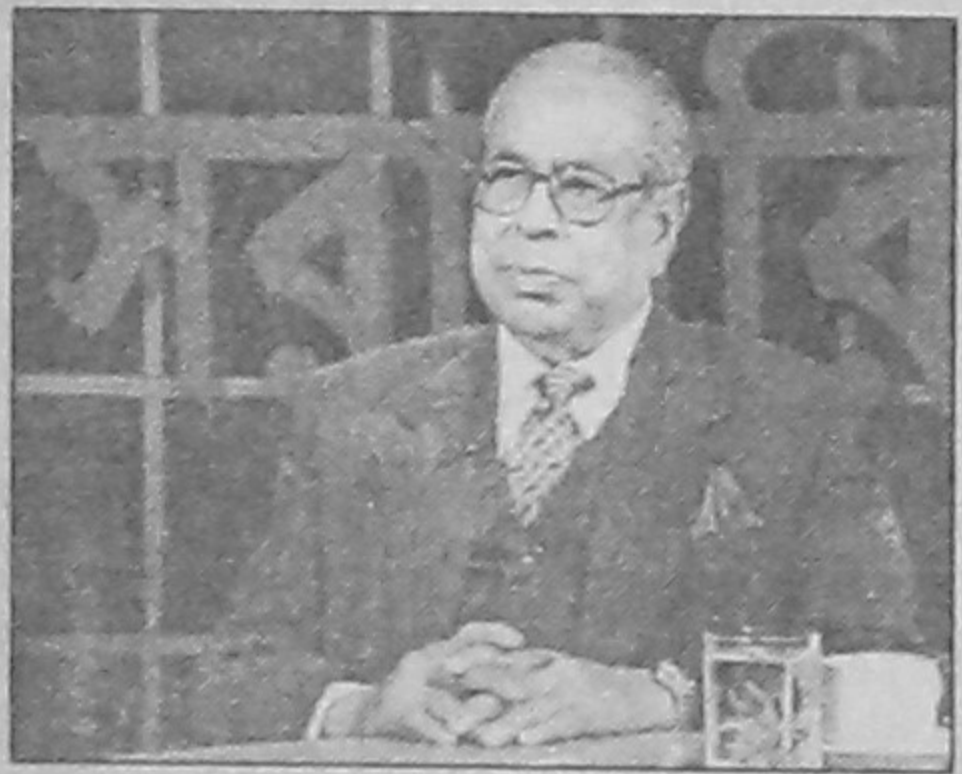
Morning Session 9:45 Opening Announcement 10:00 Live telecast of the 7th National Parliament Evening Session 3:00 Opening Announcement 3:20

Agricultural development programme 7:00 Special programme 7:25 Shataker Shatasmriti: Documentary 8:00 News in Bengali 8:20 A programme by the cultural group of Bangladesh Police 8:50 Geeti Bichitra 9:15

Tara 4:00 Chironomi 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus Circus 5:30 Drishtti 5:50 Aker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Charidike 7:00 White Plus Jana Ojana 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Protibedan 8:30 Noorjahan 9:30 E Ki Khela 10:00 BTV News 10:25 Shorashori 11:15 Ekushey Late Night News 11:30 Protibedan 11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

CHANNEL-i

Morning 6:15 Silpolok 6:50 Akattorer Dinguli 7:00 Drama : Taka 7:40 Music Next Generation... 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Drama : Sukher Nissan 9:45



Sharashari, guest: Finance Minister - Shah A M S Kibria on Ekushey television tonight at 10:25

Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Animation Film: Animal Show 4:30 Pushtitathya 4:45 Notun Jager Bhole: Programme with brilliant children 5:30 Shashatathya: Healthcare programme for mother and children 5:25 National Television Debate Competition: Participated by college and university students 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Taruchaya: Folk song programme 6:35 Mati O' Manush:

Drama serial: Road No 9, Bari No 6 9:40 Film Show: Team Night Rider 10:00 News at Ten 10:20 Chayachanda 10:45 Ujjiban: Islamic programme 11:30 Khabar/ The News 11:45 Close Down

EKUSHEY TV

12:00 Ekushey News Headlines 12:05 Aker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Prayoshchitto 2:30 Drishtti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Na 3:30 Shofel Jara Kemon



Protibedan on Ekushey television tonight at 8 and 11:30



3rd episode of the drama series A Ki Khela will be aired on Ekushey television tonight at 9:30

Special programme 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 Fotoya Asole Ki 10:40 Addar Table 11:15 Silpolok 11:50 Akattorer Dinguli 12:00 Drama : Taka 12:40 Music Next Generation... 1:15 Drama: Sukher Nissan 2:45 Special programme 3:00 Bangla Cinema : Santona Evening 6:00 Reciting from

Holy Quran 6:10 Frames of Changes 6:40 Addar Table 7:15 Ami Se O Sangit 7:50 Akattorer Dinguli 8:00 Drama : Taka 8:40 Sai Sur Sai Gane 9:15 Job Line 10:00 Amar Chobbi 10:50 I Focus 11:20 Bangla Cinema: A Sadharan

HBO

7:30 Top Secret! 8:45 The Enemy Within 10:45 Metrorites! 12:30 Cinema Secret Ep 8: Cinema Super Spies 1:00 The Long Island Incident 3:00 The Glimmer Man 5:00 The Concierge 7:00 Batman Returns 9:30 The Age of Innocence 12:15 Stormcatcher 2:15 Rear Window 4:30 Batman Returns

STAR GOLD

8:30 Rahein Na Rahein Hum 9:00 Navrang 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Sunday Noon Show : 27 Down 3:30 Geet Bahar 4:00 Teen Batti Char Raasta 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Sunday Blockbusters: Anhoni 10:30 Beete Hue Din 11:00 Chalta Purza 12:30 Chalta Purza (Cont) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Teen Batti Char Raasta 5:30 Chalta Purza

STAR WORLD

6:00 JAG 7:00 Nash Bridges 8:00 The Pretender 9:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World 10:00 Ally McBeal 10:00 The Practice 12:00 Martial Law 1:00 World Championship Wrestling Thunder 3:00 Crown and Country 3:30 Travel Asia 4:00 Baywatch 5:00 The Simpsons 5:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 6:00 Star News Focus Asia 7:00 The X Files 8:00 Star Trek The Next Generation 9:00 TV Com 9:30 Star News Sunday 10:00 Star News Sunday Cont'd 10:30 The X Files 11:30 Star Trek The Next Generation 12:30 Cops 1:00 Star News Focus Asia 2:00 The X Files 3:00 Creflo 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 & Mandy

STAR MOVIES

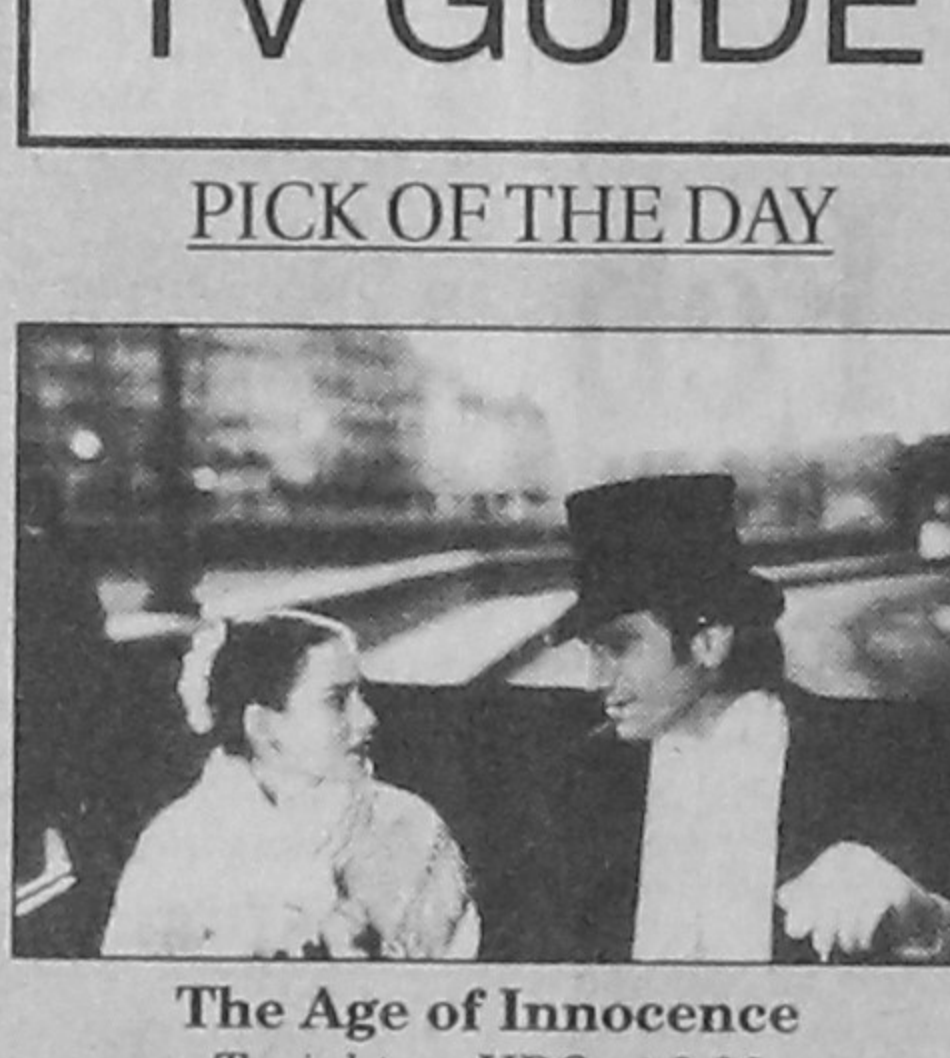
7:00 Thriller: Where The Truth Lies 9:00 Action: Raw Deal 10:45 Thriller: Dad Savage 12:30 Action: Amageddon 3:00 Star Kids Club: Summer of The Monkeys 5:00 Action: The Puppet Masters 7:00 Sunday

BBC WORLD

Action Megamovie: Ronin 9:00 Action : Apocalypse Now 145 11:30 Thriller: Where The Truth Lies 1:15 Action: Terminator 2 3:15 Action: Intent to Kill 5:00 Celebrity Profile: Tracey Gold



White Plus: Jana Ojana on Ekushey television today at 7 in the evening



The Age of Innocence

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Golden Globe Award winner for Best Film and based on the novel by Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence takes a look at high society New York. A young lawyer, Newland Archer (Day-Lewis) falls in love with Countess Olenska (Pfeiffer) but he is already engaged to ideal society woman, May Welland (Ryder). Archer is forced to choose between what society expects of him and what he wants out of his own life.

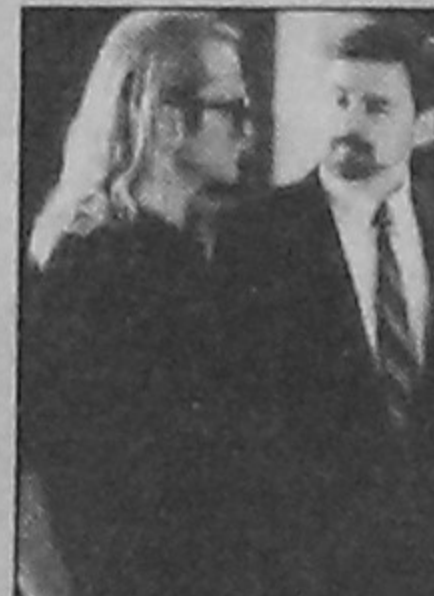
The Age of Innocence is directed by Martin Scorsese and stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder, Michelle Pfeiffer and others.

6:00 BBC News 6:30 This Week 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Holiday 8:00 BBC News 8:30 USA Direct 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Correspondent ex World Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 India Tomorrow 11:00 BBC News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Mastemind India 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Face To Face India 2:00 BBC News 2:30 This Week 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Global Sunrise 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Click on Line 5:00 BBC News 5:30 USA Dir 6:00 BBC News 6:10 Bubble Trouble/Shock Royal Global Sunrise 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Date-line London 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Top Gear 9:00 BBC News 9:10 Inside/Moral Combat

Global Sunrise 10:00 BBC News 10:30 India Business Report 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Holiday 12:00 BBC News 12:10 TBA/Royal Collart 1:00 BBC News 1:30 USA Direct 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Tate Mod/Rhock Royal Global Sunrise 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Top Gear 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report/Reporters 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today

STAR PLUS

6:00 Kuccha Papad Pucca Papad 6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan 9:30 Fox Kids Sunday 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Chupa Rustom 11:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri 12:30 Family Fortunes 1:00 Musafir Hoon



The X Files on Star World tonight at 10:30

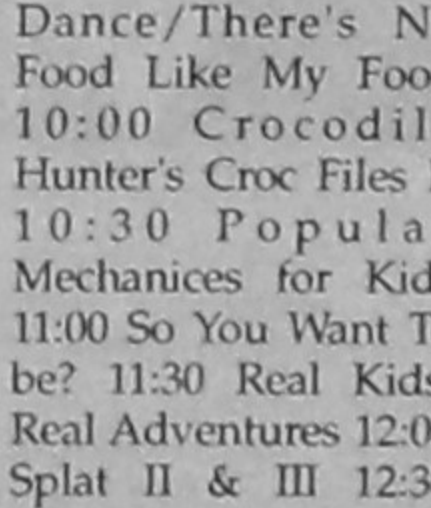
Yaroon 1:30 Mirch Masala 2:30 Mail Milap 2:40 Star Sunday Matinee: 6:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Khti Hai 6:30 Jubilee Plus 7:00 Star Bestsellers: 8:00 Star Film Utsav: Pyaasa 11:30 Jubilee Plus 12:00 Janata Ki Adalat 12:30 Kalash 1:00 Hasna Mat 1:30 Star Movie Show 4:30 I Love My India 5:00 Saans 5:30 Meri Saheli

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Eyewitness II 7:00 ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds I & II 8:00 Without Warning 18:30 Wings 9:30 Let's

AMAR CHOBHI

Amara Chobi on Channel i tonight at 10



Dance/There's No Food Like My Food 10:00 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files II 10:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids 11:00 So You Want To Be: 11:30 Real Kids, Real Adventures 12:00 Splat II & III 12:30

Lonely Planet V 1:30 Discovery Profile Series 7:30 Vital Breakthroughs 8:30 Lifeline 9:30 Science Frontiers 10:30 Discovery Showcase 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 21st Century Medicine

CNN

World View 5:30 Inside Asia 6:00 World News 6:30 The Artclub 7:00 CNN World View 7:30 World Beat 8:00 Larry

King Weekend

9:00 CNN World View 9:30 Style with Elsa Klensch 10:00 World Report 11:00 World News 11:30 Inside Asia 12:00 Your Health 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:30 Diplomatic License 3:00 Larry King Weekend 4:00 World News 4:30 Ebizasia 5:00 World News 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:30 CNN Hotspots 7:00 World News 7:30 Business Unusual 8:00 World News 8:30 CNNdotCOM 9:00 World News 9:30 World Beat 10:00 World News 10:30 CNN IndiadotCOM 11:00 Style South Asia 11:30 Ebizasia 12:00 World News 12:30 Style with Elsa Klensch 1:00 CNN IndiadotCOM 1:30 CNNdotCOM 2:00 World News 2:30 The Artclub 3:00 World News 3:30 Diplomatic License

World News 5:30 Inside Asia 6:00 World News 6:30 The Artclub 7:00 CNN World View 7:30 World Beat 8:00 Larry

AXN 6:00 I Dear You 7:00 Action Heroes 8:00 Steam Detective 9:00 Highlander the Raven/Love & Death 10:00 Farscape

BULLET PROOF

11/Crackers Don't Matter 11:01 Dear You 12:00 VIP II/Dr Strangeval 1:00 Movie: Flainers 3:00 Highlander the Raven/Manipulator 4:00 Steam Detective 5:00 Action Heroes 6:00 I Dare You 7:00 Farscape II/ Crackers Don't Matter 8:00 Movie: The Replacement Killers 10:00 Walker's World 11:00 Highlander the Raven/Manipulator 12:00 Movie: The Replacement Killers 2:00 18 Wheels of Justice 3:00 Silk Stalking V/Loyalty

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Janta Hawaldar (Mahmood) 10:30 Raani Aur Laal Pari (Firoz Khan, Reena) 2:00 Bulandi (Anil K. Paveena, Rajnikant, Rekha) 6:00 Terrorist (Aayesha Dharker, Vishnu) 10:30 Surya (Raj Kumar, Vinod Khanna) 2:30 Main Wohi Hoon (Firoz Khan, KumKum)

ZMGM 6:30 Salsa 9:00 Sharks Treasure 11:00 Terror Spot 2:00 Return of the Musketeers 4:30 Bring on the Night 7:00 Aria 9:30 Article 99 11:30

STAR TREK

The Next Generation on Star World tonight at 11:30

65) Episode # 308 Turtle Lou 6:30 Open Sesame (EP-1-104) Episode #587:00 Open Sesame (EP-1-104) Episode #59 7:30 Episode 71 Rarest Gift of All 8:00 Episode 72 Great Books Mystery 8:30 Bravestarr (EP-65) Episode 26 the Worn Hands 9:00 Episode 17 Achie and Sabrina Surprise Package 9:30 Construction site II (EP 14-26) Episode 25 silencers Are Golden 9:40 The Construction Site II (EP 14-26) Episode 26 Space Invaders 10:00 Episode 26 Make yourself at Home 10:30 Secret World of Alex Mack The II (EP 14-26) Episode 12 (26) Pressure 11:15 Children of the Dust (2 parts) Part # 1:00 The Adventures of William Tell 3:00 The Right of Remain Silent 5:00 Danger Bay (EP-36-79) Episode #72:30 Face to Face 7:30 River Kings, The (4 Parts) 1 Hr Part #1 8:30 River Kings, The (4 Parts) 1 Hr Part #1 9:30 In A Class of His Own The Adventure of William Tell 11:15 Pm Sarah, Plain and Tall. 1:15 The Right of Remain Silent 3:00 Face to Face

Bullet Proof 1:30 California Dreaming 4:00 Messenger

XHALMARK 6:00 Pappylad (EP 1-5:30 a.m Pappylad (EP 1065) Episode #309 Elise & Elmer

STAR TREK

The Next Generation on Star World tonight at 11:30