

## Interview

## Bringing in the swinging jazz mood

Jazz evenings at Alliance Francaise café

FAYZA HAQ

ANDRE Raynouard, the director of Alliance Francaise, when asked to explain why he had introduced jazz music to the café at his cultural centre, says, "The first reaction

movement. A number of jazz clubs were visited by Jean Paul Sartre, Simone de Bouvoire and all the people around them such as Boris Vian, and Juliette Greco. The main example of these centres is 'Le Tabou' where all the famous existentialists would come at night to listen to the

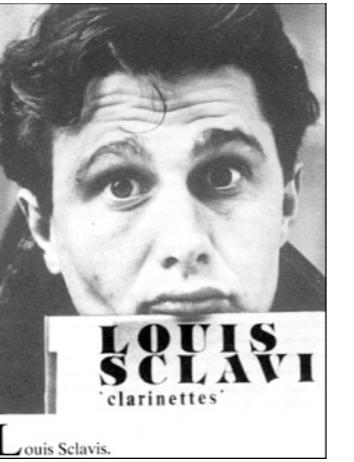
temporary classical music and jazz composers could be considered as classical musicians too if we consider contemporary music as classical music. It has become a very elaborate form of music and is not the simple music of New Orleans in the beginnings of jazz, where the music was being played on ordinary instruments like trumpets and drums."

Asked to speak about the beginnings of jazz, Raynouard says, "Jazz was born with the African Americans. It originated in the cotton plantations where the black slaves that were brought to the States worked in the southern part of America. They sang in the evenings, after their work, as they felt miserable and their lives were hard. They sang spirituals which were Christian inspired songs about the Bible, which helped them express their hardships and regain confidence. They were suffering but they knew that God was there and that they would have a better life in the future. If you take Louis Armstrong, who is the main expo-

nent of the New Orleans style, he wrote 'The Good Book' with the Bible being the theme of all the compositions. This is where the blues originated. They had very few instruments so that they were mainly vocal. In some cases, a guitar or banjo was included."

"Another source of jazz was the Civil War where many African Americans were involved in the war, and at the end of the war the musical instruments which were used during the battle, being mainly drums, horns and trumpets, were kept back. All the first jazz bands were marching bands which were typical of New Orleans jazz. This type of music was also played at funerals. After that, over the years, the music became more and more complex and change. There is still the main current of the blues up to today."

Explaining the different types of jazz, Raynouard says "When it comes to the best known jazz is the New Orleans jazz which is fairly simple. There is the period of 'hot' jazz 'cool' jazz and modern jazz. In the



Louis Sclavis.

case of 'cool' jazz the sounds are different and not as bright as the 'hot' jazz which has fast rhythm whereas 'cool' jazz is more on the slow side and melancholic. 'New thing' in the 80s with people like Pharaoh Sanders made a sort of music that was extremely cerebral and not very attractive to the common listener. It was also political as those musicians were very much involved in political movements, criticizing society. This was in America. In France you find the same evolutions with various styles. Coming to France they integrated with French culture and some of the great jazz players of the last 15 years have been Europeans, and more particularly French. These include Michel Portal, a saxophone player, Louis Sclavis who played the clarinet and the saxophone, Michel Petrucciani who is a pianist, Richard Galliano, who is an accordion player. In their playing is a very specific French dimension in their composition. We also have a considerable trend that is foreign based, specially African inspired. These are linked with the composition of the present French society."

He continues to say, "One of the trends in the last ten years is that of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. There is also the influence of the Vietnamese music which has come to us through the presence of the Vietnamese population in France and some Vietnamese born musicians who have integrated their dimension into a form of jazz and which is actually a fusion. What French music has emerged as today is what you could call world

music with the fusion of tendencies of trends from various musical forms from all over the world. This is expressed in jazz but you also find it in the modern forms as in the French rock'n'roll and in contemporary classical music and in French songs. These are the expressions of a new French society which is cosmopolitan and which does not remain separated into different groups. They bring together, in one artistic expression the musical forms of the various streams."

Raynouard adds, "If you ask me to name some of my favourite jazz players they are Didier Lockwood, a disciple of Stephan Graffel, and who came to Dhaka in 1991; Miles Davis; Cannonball Adderley (who plays the trumpet and saxophone), Ahmed Jamal (who plays the piano) and Paul Desmond (who plays the saxophone)."

He concludes "What I want to do in the café in the evenings is to give a flavour of what a jazz club could be in France and present a sort of music that people would like to listen to. It is mainly jazz and I'm not going to play rock, pop or country music unless there is a connection with some of the numbers such as those of Ray Charles, who is both a blues and rock singer. In the same way, I would like to play variations by various musicians on various themes. In the second half of the 20th century there was music by Kosma based on the poems of Jacques Prevert

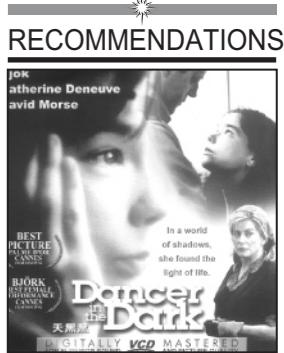


Michel Portal

called 'Les feuilles mortes' (Autumn leaves) and many people like Miles Davis have based their work on this. One of the hit songs of Yves Montand, also based on 'Autumn leaves', is something I would like to revive".

The jazz evenings were held on May 3 and last evening. These moments were immensely enjoyed by all at the Alliance Francaise café.

They exuded many a measure of joie de vivre after the day's hard work and the normally blasé existence in the city.



## Contemporary European Film Festival

On the occasion of their 15th founding anniversary (16 May, 1986-16 May, 2001) Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised a Contemporary European Film Festival, which is being held at the German Cultural Centre, Road # 9, Dhamondi.

## Contemporary Indian Bengali Films

Arganta Film Society in association with the High Commission of India has arranged a 8 daylong film session on 'Contemporary Indian Bengali Films' in connection with the celebration of Arganta Film Society's 25th anniversary, being held at the Indian High Commission Auditorium.

**Comics**  
A comics exhibition titled *La bande dessinée contemporaine en France* (Contemporary comic strip in France) is being held at the La Galerie of the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will be open to the public till May 27.

## Satyajit Ray Retrospective

Satyajit Ray Retrospective organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society is now being held at the auditorium of the High Commission of India Road No. 2, Dhamondi. Screening schedule: Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne(The adventures of Goopy and Bagha) and Hirak Rajar Deshe (The Kingdom of Diamonds) on May 18 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Sonar Kele (The Golden Fortress) and Joi Baba Felunath(The Elephant God) on May 19 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Shatranj Ke Khilari(The Chess Players) and Ganashatru (An Enmy of the People) on May 25 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively.



The quintette of the Hot Club de France in 1934-35, including Django Reinhardt

would be to say that jazz music is not French and that it is mainly associated with the American society and culture. However, at the same time, I had a very good reason to introduce jazz here and the reason is that jazz for the generation before me and for my generation was our music in France after World War II. Jazz became the music of the young and educated people in France. Paris became the capital of jazz, not just in Europe, but the world over. Jazz was introduced to the French by the American troops that came to France with well known names like Glen Miller and his band. Jazz is in fact associated with the liberation of France. Some of the very famous jazz musicians of the time recorded with American military jazz bands such as that of Django Reinhardt, who was famous guitar player of gypsy origin. He made a number of CDs with the American transport command band. Just after the war, jazz was the main feature in the life of Paris.

"Jazz threw some very unusual and intellectual personalities in association with the existentialism

new music. This place is particularly associated with a writer and a jazz trumpet player i.e. Boris Vian. In the mid fifties and the early sixties there was a time when American jazz musicians were no longer being appreciated or recognized by the American audience and they all came to Paris to gain world recognition as musicians. These included Chet Baker, Miles Davies and Sidney Bechet, a famous clarinet player (once connected with a main festival of jazz at Antibes, and had composed 'Antibes Blues' and 'Antibes March') came to places like 'Caveau de la Huchette', 'Le Petit Opportunit', 'Le Petit Journal', 'Le Slow Club' and 'La Villa'. These jazz musicians were consequently lapped up by the French audience.

Raynouard, in stressing the need for jazz being heard at the Alliance Francaise, says, "If you consider the present period, jazz has become again a main feature of the musical creation in France. In Paris itself there has been the flowering of jazz clubs in the last ten years. The reason is more than a revival of the genre. Jazz today is close to con-



Coleman Hawkins and Jean Claude Fohrenbach at Club Saint-Germain

## STAR GOLD

10:30 Woodland Bollywood News  
11:00 Geet Bahar  
11:30 Preet Na Jane Reet (Shammi Kapoor, B Saroj Devi)  
12:30 Hit Ya Fit

1:00 TSN  
1:30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi  
2:00 Jubilee Plus  
2:30 Star Bestseller-Shuruvaat  
3:30 Shanti  
4:00 Meri Saheli  
4:30 Kalash  
5:00 Hit Ya Fit  
5:30 Chhupa Rustom  
6:00 Small Wonder  
6:30 Fox Kids  
7:30 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu  
8:00 Siski  
8:30 Tu Tu Main Main  
9:00 Star Superhits- Hellow Brother (Salman Khan, Rani Mukerji, Arbaaz Khan)  
10:30 Choroni Ki Baaraat (Shatrughan Sinha, Neetu Singh)  
12:30 Choroni Ki Baaraat (Contd.)  
3:00 Geet Bahar  
3:30 Babar (Jagirdar, Azra, Mumtaz)  
7:00 Night Club (Ashok Kumar, Kamini Kaushal)

7:30 Talking Movies  
8:00 Life ex Panorama  
2:00 Gharwali Upawali  
2:30 Chhupa Rustam  
3:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi  
3:30 Kalash  
4:00 I Love My India  
4:30 Janata Ki Adalat  
5:00 Siski  
5:30 STAR Bestsellers

1:00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri

2:00 Gharwali Upawali

2:30 Chhupa Rustam

3:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi

3:30 Kalash

4:00 I Love My India

4:30 Janata Ki Adalat

5:00 Siski

5:30 STAR Bestsellers

1:00 Born Free

9:00 Going Under

10:45 Close Encounters of the Third Kind

1:30 Almost Heroes

2:30 Robbie Williams: Live From Manchester Arena (2000)

5:15 A Few Good Men

8:00 Fortress 2

10:00 Addams Family Values

12:00 The Sreet 04: Closet Cases

1:00 E1 Hazard : the Alternative World/ Curious Play

11:30 Amazon/The End of the World

1:30 Core Culture

2:30 Beamsister/Stanship Troopers

3:30 Movie: Trance

5:30 Who Dares Wins/Grandeur Musashi

6:30 Starship Troopers/El Hazard: the Alternative World

7:30 Curious Play /Who Dares Wins

8:30 Planet 11

9:30 18 Wheels of Justice /Legacy of Blood

10:30 Premiere Movie: The Highwayman

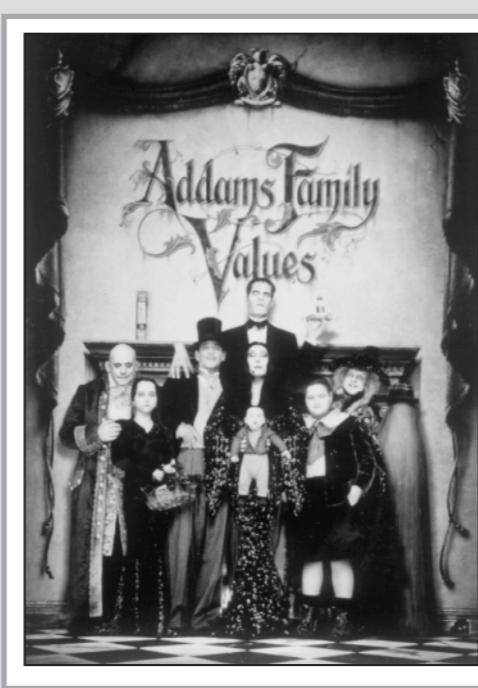
12:30 Profiler III /Perfect Helen

3:00 Ecb International Cricket the Npower Test Series London, England Paki-

6:30 Talking Movies

7:30 Kuccha Papad Pucca Papad

8:00 Hit Ya Fit



Addams Family Values

On HBO at 10 tonight

The family that you do not want to be in your next-door neighbour is back. This is a sequel to the eccentric black comedy inspired by the classic TV series.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

**EKUSHEY TV**  
9:00 *Eshechilo Tobu Ashe Nai*. The story of this weeks Friday drama tells us about a happy couple Keya and Rafi. They are married for twenty years and had no problems until Monika came into their life.

**STAR WORLD**: 10:00 p.m. *Nash Bridge*. Promised Land: A people smuggling ring brings Nash and Joe to the aid of a young man searching for his parents.

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