

Interview

Something fresh in memory of lost lives in 1971

Kanakchampa Chakma and Khalid Md. Mithu talk about their work environment sitting at Saju's Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

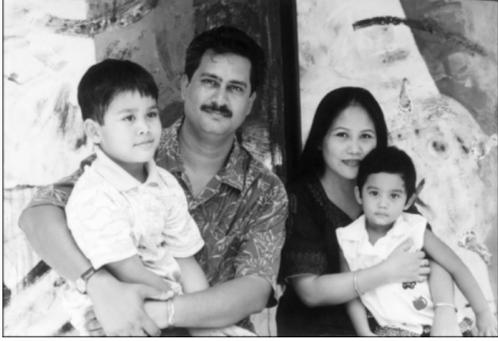
In order to help the Liberation War Museum, Kanakchampa Chakma and her husband, Khalid Md. Mithu, recently held a joint exhibit at Saju's Gallery at Gulshan. The proceeds of the sale were to help the *Muktijuddha Jadughar*.

Kanak says, "We do not influence each other's works as we have completely different styles. I deal with the figurative Chakma life in the Hill Tracts, while Mithu goes in for abstraction. However, as regards the use of colours we might be having some effect on each other as we sometimes sit and talk about our work together in the evenings, after work, and definitely encourage each other's efforts and experiments. In this way we support each other even if we are criticizing each other in order to improve the paintings."

Asked if there was anything new in her technique and style in the present exhibition, Kanak says, "Apart from one or two paintings, the rest are all new. I have tried to add some new elements such as some drawings whose backgrounds have rough textured paper, on which I have added free lines and collage like paper which have sometimes been worked upon. The light paper added is to soften the tones. I believe this has added a new dimension to my collection. While working, I have used very bright colours while the lines are bolder and sometimes more impressionistic than before at times they border on semi-abstract in parts so that this brings a new perspective to the delineation of tribal life. Two of the pieces, in fact, are entirely semi-abstract."

"I believe that my paintings attract the viewers considerably. I think the use of unusual colours attracts the viewer. The source of my inspiration for hues and shades is from the yellow, red, blue and green of the weaving in Rangamati. We use the basic colours, wear bright flowers in our hair and there is the glamour of the scintillating silver in our jewellery which all go into my work to make it something completely different and fresh."

Talking about how she went



Mithu and Kanak with their children Arjo Shreshtho and Shiropa Purna

about her paintings, Kanak says, "When I paint, I listen to music, which vary from classical songs, *Rabindra sangeet* to folk songs, modern songs, and piano compositions. My favourite is the piano as I find it most stimulating. It is difficult for me to manage six hours which I put in regularly, dividing my time. I feed my youngest child and take my son Arjo Shreshtho to school, look after the youngest, Shiropa Purna, next and go about my painting. After I have to taught my son and put the little daughter to sleep, I work again in the afternoon. Having attended to my husband and guests in the evening, when the children are resting, I work again. It is certainly not easy for a woman to combine her household chores with her career as an artist, and many women have to abandon painting when they are married as they do not get enough inspiration or encouragement from their family. Sometimes women have to divert to commercial art in order to maintain their family, and have no time for serious painting, which they could develop into a presentable solo or a joint exhibition. I am not complaining as I have got used to my routine and am glad that I can fit in my painting work which expresses my hopes, aspirations and feelings and memories. My household chores are not boring for me either as it gives me great joy too to be able to do something for my family along with my

painting, which has always given me so much of pleasure and relaxation." Dwelling on her subjects, Kanak says, "This time my subjects include Moru festivals, the mother and child theme, Spring in the hills and the presentation of forests in two or three different ways sometimes with a lonely young woman and at times two friends working and chatting together peacefully. This time there is more of the sketchy element rather than solid figures."

Discussing how she went into fine arts from the outset, Kanak says, "I used to paint as a child and I would draw before I could read and write, my parents tell me. Painting for me is a talent that I believe is a gift from God. I also inherited my abilities and sensitivities from my mother, Sarat Mala Chakma, who has won national awards for her weaving. Thus my creativity is a genetic inheritance. My parents and then my headmistress at Rangamati inspired me from the beginning. Without their support I could not have come to study at the Institute of Fine Arts. My teachers encouraged my creativity as a child, specially Nilima Chowdhury, who supplied me with paints and brushes and informed me about national exhibitions. My childhood guides were a great boon for me. Also, my friends at Rangamati give me a lot of encouragement. Mithu too is a great help. It has been seen that even artist husbands don't always sup-

port the wife in her own career but fortunately this is not the case with me. Among my teachers individuals like Mahbulul Amin inspired and egged me on. My basic knowledge at the Fine Arts Institute is due to him. Others like Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Mohammed Kibria, and Jamal Ahmed have also encouraged me with the necessary appreciation."

Talking about why they are donating the sale gains to the Liberation War Museum, Kanak says, "The sale proceeds of our 25 paintings will go for the uplift of the museum. For thirty years we have enjoyed freedom after about 30 lakh people had given their lives and countless women lost honour. We have suffered culturally, socially and economically. We are gradually forgetting about this war. It is essential that we should collect and preserve the remnants of the war for the next generation to learn and benefit from. The Liberation War Museum is trying its best to collect and preserve the relics of the 1971 war, which Mithu and I appreciate greatly. We felt that if we could contribute our bit



Mithu's semi-abstract paintings for the cause

to the preservation of their efforts we would be doing ourselves a favour as we love our country and want to do our bit for it."

Asked if the opening of new galleries have helped her sale, Kanak says, "My patrons are both

foreigners and Bangladeshi and the new galleries are eager to hold my exhibitions. Last year, at 'Shilpangan' I had a successful exhibition with 101 pieces of work. I have held exhibitions at 'Divine Gallery' and numerous ones at 'Tone'. I've been to Europe, and to USA to hold joint shows and to collect my awards. I had also got a fellowship for six months at Pennsylvania, USA."

Dwelling on what made a good painting, Kanak said, "It must be a sincere work in which the composition and colours should express deep feelings and thoughts. Whether figure work or abstraction, it must move the viewer."

Talking about why he went into the fine arts field rather than anything else, Mithu says, "I painted as a little child, and when I was a teenager I used to read about people like Leonardo da Vinci, Madame Curie or Maxim Gorky, which made me feel that I too should make a mark in the world with my work. My family supported me in going to the Fine Arts Institute. You ask me how I manage this with my camera work



Mithu's semi-abstract paintings for the cause

and I will tell you that a poet can write short stories too. Similarly, an oil painting artist can handle graphics with ease. In this same way, I paint with my camera. When I direct a drama or a musical video, I feel that I'm painting with the elec-

tronic media. I've been drawn to music as a child and when I work I like to listen to the flute, Tagore and Nazrul songs and other gentle and meditative genres. I also like listening to 'cool' contemporary music but not bands. As for the timings of my painting, I'm used to doing this at night, after my photographic work by



Kanakchampa's figurative works of the Hill Tracts

day, and I'm used to this. I begin a 10 pm and finish at 3 am."

Speaking about his paintings, Mithu says, "Since feelings are an abstract element, my work is semi-abstract. I want to rise above realistic depiction. I believe that people can read into my symbols. Going into a forest, I don't want to draw the tree but I want to bring in the silence, the light and shadow of the atmosphere and to evoke the poetry of Jibananda Das. I wouldn't paint a rose but present the effect of its fragrance. The subjects are contemporary ones such as three pale faces of pushcart labourers on a 'harta' day. Without work your faces are bound to be long and your life without bright colours. I've used swift strokes and scratches in the texture to portray their struggle and disturbed mind. Similarly there is the city scene with the rickshaw along with depiction of musical instruments and notations which presents my fascination for our folk and western musical instruments. In the

butterfly composition with the floating image on top is a piece that represents happy dreams and nostalgia of youth."

Asked if he felt that Bangladeshi artists were on par with those in the rest of the subcontinent, Mithu says, "If you compare with India or Pakistan, I believe that we are better than



our neighbours as our conceptions are close to our roots and yet progressive."

"This exhibition is aimed at the helping of freedom fighters of Bangladesh. Since the country has given us so much of independence to work, we too should do something for our country," he adds.

Kanak has won numerous awards like the first prize from the Latin American Museum of Art, USA, the 2nd prize in the International Miniature Art Competition, Florida, USA, and the Mid-American fellowship award, USA. Mithu too has obtained awards from USA such as the 2nd prize in mixed media, at International Miniature Art Competition, Montana, USA. He also won prizes from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU in 1981, 1982 and 1988.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dance Evening

Nreelyanchal presents a dance evening (Monipuri and Kathak) at the Natmondal, Dhaka University Campus (adjacent to the central mosque) on June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Cultural Programme

Nazrul Institute, in celebration of 102nd birth anniversary of National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, has chalked out a two-day long elaborate cultural and discussion programme on June 2&3 at Kabi Bhaban, House# 330/B, Rd.# 28, Dhanmondi R/A. Programme opens at 10:00 a.m. everyday.

Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends

Organised by the High Commission of India, a ten daylong exhibition titled 'Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends' is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. till June 2.



Bonsai Exhibition

The 4th solo exhibition of Bonsai by Arham-ul-Huq Chowdhury is being held at the Bengal Gallery (Bengal Shilpalaya, 275/F, Road 27 old, Dhanmondi).

The exhibition will remain open to all from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday till June 1.

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV

- 2:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 2:05 Ajker Potrikay
- 2:14 Ekatturer Ei Dine
- 2:15 Classic Cartoons
- 2:40 E Shoptaher Bishsho
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Bangla Film: Shober Upore
- 5:30 Gillette World Sports Special
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 WWF Smackdown
- 7:00 Mukto Khobor
- 7:30 Ekushey New
- 8:00 Virgin Takdum Takdum
- 8:30 Serial: Thief of Baghdad
- 9:00 Shukrobarer Natok: Surdir
- 10:00 Music Hour: Heart & Soul
- 10:30 BTV News
- 11:15 Ekushey Late Night News
- 11:30 Ei Shoptaho
- 11:45 Ekushey Headlines
- ATN**
- 5:30 "Islamic Prog.
- 7:00 Sundor Jeebaner, jannee
- 7:35 Film Prog: A Shapther Chobhi
- 8:05 Drama serial : Obinatree
- 9:15 Galaxy I T Amsument
- 9:50 Reporting prog: Prekha Pot
- 10:25 Musical prog: Band Show
- 11:30 Islamic Prog
- 3:30 Bengali Film: Jeler Maye Roshni
- 6:32 Children Prog: Cholo Gan Gai
- 7:10 Viewers Request prog: Matamat
- 7:50 Drama: Uttaran
- 8:25 Musical prog: Artist "Kumar Bissajit
- 9:00 Reporting prog: Ghotona Probbah
- 9:35 Drama erial: Shat Nombor Bari
- 10:10 L D C Seminar
- 10:45 Bengali Film/Fokir Monju Shah

CHANNEL I

- Morning
- 6:00 Magazine programme: Dandi Look 2000.
- 6:40 I Dream of Jinie
- 7:15 Ebong Syed Shamsul Haque
- 8:00 Din Pratinid
- 8:40 Cine programme: House Full
- 9:00 Magazine programme: Chaya
- 10:40 Drama: Eeti Tomar Ami
- 12:00 Magazine programme : Dandi Look 2000
- 12:40 I Dream of Jinie
- 1:15 Ebong Syed Shamsul Haque
- 1:40 House Fuul
- 2:00 Chaya
- 3:00 Special Tele-film Guddu on the occasion of International Mother Day
- Evening
- 6:10 Magazine programme: Shuva Shandha
- 6:40 Discussion on Budget
- 7:15 Kathy Kathy
- 8:00 Magazine programme: Look at I
- 8:30 Ispahani I Tele Quiz
- 8:40 Magazine programme: Your Choice Oley Oley
- 9:15 Pepsi Live Concert
- 9:30 I Tele Quiz (Result)
- 10:00 drama serial Tomar Basanta Dine
- 11:00 Saj Prio Chobi: Ananda Asru
- STAR GOLD**
- 10:30 Woodland Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Zindagi (Rajendra Kumar, Vijayantimala)
- 3:00 Woodland Bollywood News
- 3:30 Ditruba (Dev Anand Rehana)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Shaandaar
- Shukrawaar Albel (Bhagwan, Geeta Bai)
- 11:00 Woodland Bollywood News
- 11:30 Bahut Din Huwe (Madhubala, Rattan Kumar)

- 12:30 Bahut Din Huwe (Contd)
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Guru (Mithun Charaborty, Sridevi)
- 7:00 Honeymoon (Rishi Kapoor, Ashwini Bhawe)
- STAR WORLD**
- 6:00 Murder Call
- 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 8:00 Home Improvement
- 8:30 Happy Days
- 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- 10:00 Angel
- 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 12:00 Millennium
- 1:00 Media TV
- 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 Wildest Police Videos
- 6:55 STAR News Asia
- 7:00 Nash Bridges
- 8:00 Murder Call
- 9:00 Friends
- 9:30 Nash Bridges
- 11:00 Murder Most Horrid
- 11:30 Blackadder
- 12:00 3rd Rock From the Sun
- 12:30 French and Saunders
- 1:30 Murder Call
- 2:00 Nash Bridges
- 3:00 Morris Cerullo
- 3:30 Exalted Dollar
- 4:00 Creflo Dollar, Changing Your World
- 4:30 World News
- 5:00 Outback Adventure
- 6:00 The Adventures of Sinbad
- STAR PLUS**
- 6:00 Sanskruti
- 6:30 STAR Geetmala
- 7:30 Kuccha Papad Pucca
- 8:00 Hit Ya Fit

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



Ekushey : 9:30 p.m. Friday drama *Suradip*. Sohini and Taher are a happy musical artist couple. They taken taalim from the same Guru. Shini is bed ridden due to a cancerous disease. This causes a disruption in their happy conjugal life.



Ekushey : 8:30 p.m. *Thief of Bagdad*. A very popular Hindi serial at present, Thief of Bagdad has been made in imitation of Tale of Arabian Nights. It features a tale of a mysterious warrior.



Ekushey : 3:05 noon. Old day popular Bangla movie *Sabar Upare*. The film features Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Chhobi Biswas, Pahari Sanyal.



Star World : 10:00 p.m. *Nash Bridges*. Nash and Joe have a task of escaping a secret key witness from the Witness Protection Programme to San Francisco to testify in an important SIU-related case. They fall under gunfire. Nash realizes there's a leak somewhere on the prosecution's team.

PICK OF THE DAY



Black Rain on HBO at 10:00 tonight. Michael Douglas is the hair trigger detective with one last chance to make good when the Japanese gangster he is escorting escapes into the Osaka underworld. Stranded in a culture he barely understands, Douglas must rely on a straight-arrow Japanese cop, a shift night-club siren and his own rule-breaking tactics to bring the bad guys in. Starring: Michael Douglas, Andy Garcia, Kate Capshaw.

- 8:30 Good Morning India
- 9:30 Fox Kids Daily
- 10:30 Small Wonder
- 11:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
- 11:30 Hera Pheri
- 12:00 Cincinnati Blubaboo
- 12:30 Hit Ya Fit
- 1:00 Tu Tu Main Main
- 1:30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi
- 2:00 Jubilee Plus
- 2:30 Star Bestseller-Kaagaz Ka Rishta
- 3:30 Shanti
- 4:00 Meri Saheli
- 4:30 Kalash
- 5:00 Kuccha Papad Pucca Papad
- 5:30 Hit Ya Fit
- 6:00 Small Wonder
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:30 Chhupa Rustam
- 8:00 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu
- 8:30 Tu Tu Main Main
- 9:00 Star Superhits-International Khladi (Akshay Kumar, Twinkle Khanna)
- 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
- 11:45 International Khladi (Contd.)
- 12:30 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu
- 1:00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri
- 2:00 Gharwali Uparwali
- 2:30 Chhupa Rustam
- 3:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi
- 3:30 Kalash

- Palace 97
- 3:30 Family: The Last Great Warrior 98
- 5:15 Thriller: Pi 85
- 7:00 You-Pick-the-Flick: TBA
- 9:00 Comedy: The Parent Trap 123
- 11:15 Drama: Family In Crisis 89
- 12:45 Action: Final Impact 94
- 2:30 Comedy: Just One Night 89
- 4:15 Drama: One Good Cop
- HBO**
- 6:30 The River Wild
- 8:45 Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment
- 10:45 Out of Africa
- 2:00 Melanie Darrow
- 3:45 Always Outnumbered 37th Birthday
- 5:45 Always Outnumbered
- 8:00 Above the Law
- 10:00 Black Rain
- 12:30 The \$Treet 6: The
- SPORTS**
- 4:00 NHL Playoffs-Stanley Cup Finals Game
- 7:00 Motorsport Asia
- 7:30 X-Files X- Games Classic 2000 Moto X
- 8:30 Sportscenter Hindi
- 9:00 ATP Tennis Show
- 9:30 Italian Serie A Football
- 11:30 Sportscenter Hindi
- 12:00 NBA Anthology '89
- 12:30 Detroit Pistons Motor City Madness
- 12:30 Sportscenter Hindi
- 1:00 US Women's Open Golf
- 5:00 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England Pakistan @ England 2nd Test-Day 1 Highlights
- 2:00 Sportscenter
- 3:00 Bowling World Tenpin Masters 2001
- 4:00 Pakistan @ England 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights
- 7:30 PGA Tour Highlights
- 8:30 Kemper Insurance Open Potomac, MD USA
- 9:30 SBK World Superbikes Championship SBK
- 11:00 Formula Nippon Formula Nippon 2001 Twin Rink Motegi, Japan Round 2
- 12:00 Asian Badminton Championships The Asia Cup 2001 Singapore, Singapore Semifinals
- 3:00 NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Game Necessary
- 6:30 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England
- 7:30 Inside The PGA Tour
- 8:30 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England Test, Day 2, 2nd & 3rd Session
- 11:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 11:30 NBA Inside Stuff 2000/01
- 12:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 12:30 PGA Tour Golf Memorial Tournament Dublin, OH USA First Round
- 2:30 Max Power
- 3:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 4:00 Cycling Tour Of Flanders
- 5:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 5:30 Asian Football Show
- 6:00 Inside The PGA Tour
- 6:30 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England Test, Day 2, 2nd & 3rd Session
- 11:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 11:30 NBA Inside Stuff 2000/01
- 12:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 12:30 PGA Tour Golf Memorial Tournament Dublin, OH USA First Round
- 2:30 Max Power
- 3:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 4:00 Cycling Tour Of Flanders
- 5:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 5:30 Asian Football Show

- Ultimatum
- 1:30 Psycho III
- 3:35 Out of Africa
- BBC WORLD**
- 6:30 World Business Report
- 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
- 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
- 10:30 Click Online
- 11:30 Pani
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:30 Rep
- 2:30 Life
- 3:30 Hardtalk
- 4:30 Talking Movies
- 5:30 Life
- 6:30 IT: India Tomorrow
- 7:15 World Business Report
- 7:30 Talking Movies
- 8:30 Life
- 9:30 Asia Today
- 10:15 World Business Report
- 10:30 Question Time India
- 11:30 World Business Report/World Sport
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:30 Predictions
- 2:30 World Business Report
- 3:30 Correspondent
- 4:30 World Business
- Report/Asia Today
- 5:30 Hardtalk
- Channel [V]**
- 1:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 6:30 [V] So Long Gone
- 7:30 [V] Jumpstart
- 9:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 12:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 1:00 [V] FDFS
- 1:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 2:30 [V] Jammin
- 3:00 [V] Hit Machine
- 4:30 [V] Hotline
- 5:30 Very [V]
- 7:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 9:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 9:30 [V] FDFS
- 10:00 [V] Hit machine
- 10:30 Club [V]
- 11:30 Late Night [V]
- 12:30 [V] So Long Gone
- SONY TV**
- 7:30 Amrit Varsha
- 8:00 Sant Asaram Wani
- 8:30 Chartbusters
- 9:00 Good Morning Disney
- 10:00 Music Mantra
- 10:30 Your Honour
- 11:00 Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin
- 11:30 Chamatkar
- 12:00 Family No. 1
- 12:30 Dekh Bhai Dekh
- 1:30 The Poppadam Show
- 1:30 Boogie Woogi
- 2:00 Boogie Woogi
- 2:30 Alpavram
- 3:00 Aurat
- 3:30 Ghar Ek Mandir
- 4:00 Making of Your Honour
- 4:30 Ithaas
- 5:00 Ajnabi
- 5:30 Chartbusters
- 6:00 Music Mantra
- 6:30 Disney Hour
- 7:30 Boogie Woogie
- 8:00 Dekh Bhai Dekh
- 8:30 Jeeto Chhappar Phaadh Ke
- 9:30 Boogie Woogi
- 10:00 Heena
- 10:30 CID
- HALMARK TV**
- 1:00 Sea Change
- 2:00 Danger Bay
- 3:00 Broken Promises: Taking Emily Back

- 5:30 Sesame Street
- 6:00 Frame Up
- 8:00 Dixie: Changing Habits
- 10:00 Sea Change
- 11:00 Dangerous Evidence: The Lori Jackson Story
- 1:00 Danger Bay
- 2:00 Sesame Street
- 3:00 Scholastic Clifford
- 3:30 Sounds All Around
- 4:00 Road To Avonlea
- 5:00 Blue River
- 7:00 The Inspector Pitt
- Mysteries: The Cater Street Hangman
- 9:00 Bonds of Love
- 11:00 Pack of Lies
- ANIMAL PLANET**
- 6:30 Animal Doctor II
- 7:00 The Aquanauts
- 7:30 Wildlife Emergency
- 8:00 Really Wild Show
- 8:30 Animals A-Z
- 9:00 Pet Connection
- 9:30 Zoo Life with Jack Hanna
- 10:00 Extreme Contact
- 10:30 Madison's Adventures I
- 11:00 Lassie
- 11:30 Petsburgh USA
- 12:00 Horse Tales II
- 12:30 Animal Planet Safari
- 1:30 Wildlife Series III & IV
- 2:30 Croc Files 2
- 3:00 Judge Wapner's Animal Court
- 3:30 Vets in Practice-Season II
- 4:00 Emergency Vets II
- 4:30 Rolf's Amazing World of Animals II
- 5:00 Animal Doctor II
- 5:30 Animals A-Z
- 6:00 World of Horses
- 6:30 Really Wild Show
- 7:00 The Aquanauts
- 7:30 Monkey Business III
- 8:00 Wet N Wild Friday
- 9:30 Animal X
- 10:00 Extreme Contact
- 10:30 Animal Planet Safari
- 11:30 Natural World
- 12:30 Monkey Business IIII
- 1:00 Wet N Wild Friday
- 2:30 Animal X
- 3:00 Extreme Contact
- 3:30 Animal Planet Safari
- 5:30 Wildlife Series III & IV
- 4:30 Natural World