

Theatre

A story retold

Subachana Natya Sangsad stages *Teerthankar*, an adaptation of Sohrab-Rustam episode from Shahnamah

TAWFIQUE ALI

SHAHNAMAH, an enduring Persian epic, has survived for over a thousand years as one of the greatest classics of world literature.

Subachana Natya Sangsad has brought an episode from this great masterpiece on the stage with a thought-provoking message in context of the present day world situation. Titled *Teerthankar* (meaning a monk or pilgrim), this adaptation of the Sohrab-Rustam episode, is Subachana's 24th production. *Teerthankar* was staged on Monday evening at the Guide House.

The drama *Teerthankar* depicts a complete panorama of life in which there are greed of power, war, heroism, love, marriage, filial bondage, human tragedy and so forth. A viewer's interpretation tell us that *Teerthankar* hints at the dirty race of power mongers to gain power at the cost of others. It also emphasises on the peace-

ful and prosperous human bondage to glorify human cause.

Justification of the title *Teerthankar* partly lies in the fact that the story unfolds with the supervision of a band of pilgrims, who are spiritually imbued, and keep a keen watch on each and every development of the drama. They also highlight the different aspects of the story and provide brilliant commentary of the situation. They become the narrators of the story, keeping alive the message in the play. They also voice the audience's anxiety as the story reaches its climax.

The play highlights the fact that it itself is an old tale retold. It's a story that depicts the loss of human values in face of a ruler's greed, conceit and arrogance. It also points out the universal truth that the reality of triumph and worldly enjoyment at times turn to be meaningless because of other factors.

The script by Samina Lutfa Nitra and direction by Foyez

Zahir, makes *Teerthankar* revolve around the arrogance of a war hero and the conceited emperors of Iran and Turan. A persisting rivalry between Iran and Turan results in frequent attacks against each other; war, bloodshed and loss of lives and wealth. This aspect of the play corresponds very easily to the present day world situation where of war-torn Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Afghanistan and many more.

Rustam is the valorous Iranian war hero on whose might and success rests the throne of Iranian emperor. Out in search of his favorite horse, Rustam reaches the palace of king Shahriar where princess Tahmina wins his heart. Overwhelmed by the beauty of the Princess, Rustam agrees to marry her. This new found bliss doesn't last for long and the restless soul of the soldier, thought implored by his wife to stay home, soon leaves frantically for Iran being. Rustam chooses to heed to the passion for war and patriotism.

Tahmina gives birth to a son in his absence who later becomes Sohrab—the saviour of Turan from foreign attacks. He emerges as a befitting match for unbeaten Iranian war hero. With an intense desire to encounter his noted father in the battlefield, Sohrab leads a fight launched against Iran. In the battle field, son and father get locked in a deadly duel, unaware of each other's identity. The two emperors of Iran and Turan conceal the identity of Rustam from Sohrab to serve their respective evil ends of staying in power at any cost. Thus the father kills the son in the battlefield, a result caused

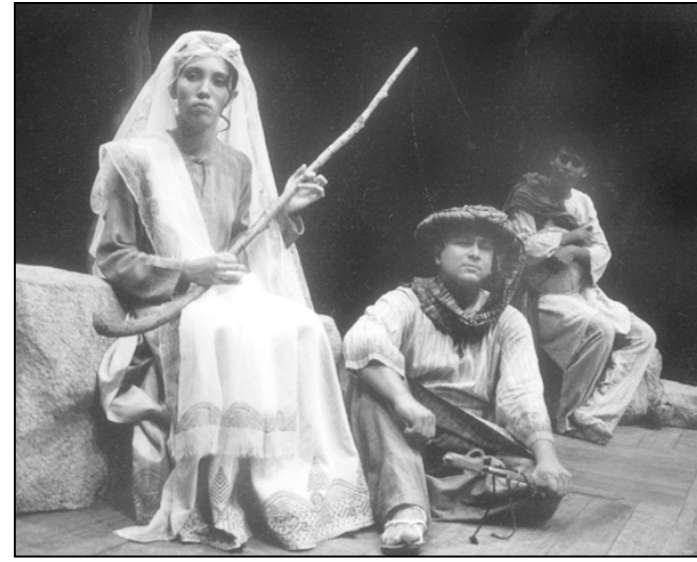


Emperor Afrosia, prior to a battle against Iran, briefs Sohrab who is a war hero of Turan

by the greedy and the frantically arrogant ones.

The band of pilgrims, who bear and cherish an indigenous tradition and affinity for origin, objectively observe a backslide course of civilisation in the

name of progress. They conclude that, in the face of denial of human values, human civilisation will be stained time and again throughout the ages and no true progression will take place.



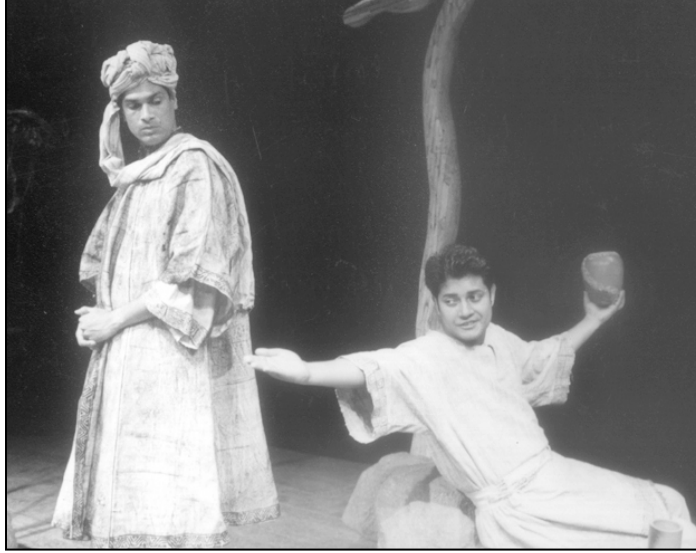
Tahmina and Sohrab played by Samina Lutfa and Ali Haidar respectively

The script writer of the play believes that through the aesthetic group of monks, *Teerthankar* may reflect an analogy to the present day world system and scenario marked with socio-political

greed and frenzy. In course of their journey these pilgrims of life try to remain faithful to this cause of humanity.



Rustam and emperor Kaykows at a light moment when they mutually agree upon a point



Rustam, played by Ahsan Habib Nasim, disregards conceit of Iranian emperor played by Mizanur Rahman



Catastrophic final scene shows Rustam appalled by death of his son Sohrab at his own hand

RECOMMENDATIONS



Nishkanda

'Nishkanda is a mythical folk deity. He is being worshiped to drive away evil spirits, long for offspring and get rid of fear and diseases.' A photography exhibition by Shamim Hassan is being held at the exhibition hall of the German Cultural Centre (Goethe Institut). The exhibition will continue till December 4.

Pictures, that narrate stories

Conducted by Christoph Mukherjee and David Steets in collaboration with Drk Gallery and Pathshala, a photography workshop titled 'Pictures, that narrate stories' will start today at the German Cultural Centre (Goethe Institut). The workshop will continue till December 2.

Art show

A group art exhibition by Zahid, Shamim, Kakoli and Safin has opened at The High Commission of India cultural centre, 754, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. The show runs everyday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. till November 29.

Crafts and fashion works show

A Crafts and Fashion Works Exhibition is now being held at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The show will run till November 30.

Alfred Hitchcock Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in collaboration with Indian High Commission in Dhaka, has organised a fortnight long Alfred Hitchcock Retrospective. Stagefright, starring Marlene Dietrich, Jane Wyman and Sybil Thomdike, will be screened today at the Indian High Commission Auditorium at 6 in the evening.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

STAR WORLD : 6:00 & 9:30 p.m. *Roswell.* The gang escapes from Atherton's house with a pendant that leads them to an Indian reservation and answers about the mysterious fourth alien.

EKUSHEY: 10:30 p.m. *Pratidin Ekti Golap.* 7th episode of the serial features Banya who agrees to marry Alam. She dose so in exchange Nantu's life.

EKUSHEY: 8:00 p.m. *Bhalobasha Mrita.* Kajal elopes with Sagar and takes refuge at a Bungalow. Though Sagar's brother offer them all out help Kajal faces trouble there caused by her suitor who is mentally sick.

PICK OF THE DAY

Fatal Attraction
On HBO at 10:00 PM
Nominated for Best Picture in 1987, this psychological thriller follows a lone psychotic Alex (Glenn Close, who received an Academy Award nomination for her chilling portrayal of Alex) who will stop at nothing until she gets her man -- Michael -- a family man with a beautiful wife and daughter.

EKUSHEY TV

- 12:00 Ekushey Midday
- 12:30 Charidike
- 1:00 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
- 1:30 Documentary Programmed : Japan Video Tropic
- 1:50 Classic Cartoons
- 2:10 Surer Prodeep
- 2:40 Driшти
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Gras
- 3:30 Kena Kata
- 4:00 Surer Prodeep
- 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
- 5:00 Islamic Program : Oishee
- 5:30 Driшти
- 5:50 Aikjer Potrikay
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 Classic Cartoons
- 6:30 Deshjure
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Adventure Bangladesh
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 7:58 Ek Minute
- 8:00 Drama : Bhalobasha Mirtto
- 9:00 Ekushey News (English)
- 9:05 Serial: Ailf Laila
- 10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Drama: Protidin Ekte Golap
- 11:00 Ekushey Nightly News
- 12:00 E Shoptaher Bishsho
- 12:30 Ekushey News Headlines
- ATN**
- 4:30 Sheri Prog: Mobarak Ho Mahey Ramdan
- 5:30 Islamic Prog
- 7:00 Health care prog: Sustha Thakun
- 7:35 Film songs prog: Surchobi
- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 Drama serial: Rang Beronger Din
- 9:00 Film magazine: Dalwood Bichitra
- 9:35 Cook prog: Ranna Banna
- 10:10 Drama serial: Brettyer Bhalobasha
- 10:50 Drama Serial: Bondon
- 11:20 Bengali feature film: Dip Nevae Nay
- 12:00 ATN Bangla News
- 4:30 Iftar Prog: Mobarak Ho Mahey Ramdan
- 6:07 Islamic prog
- 6:45 Film prog: Goto Saptaher Chobi
- 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:35 Drama serial: Samoy Periya
- 8:10 Drama serial: Asojjo Sukh
- 8:45 Drama serial: Bekar Nibash
- 9:20 Reporting prog: Prekha Pot
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Musical prog: Sara Bela
- 11:15 Bengali feature film: Raja Mistre
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News

CHANNEL-i

- 6:25 Bha Ki Darun Drisha
- 7:00 Chitti Pelam
- 7:35 Anonoddhara
- 8:00 Din Protidin
- 8:30 Music Circle
- 9:40 Music Plus
- 10:45 Bha Ki Darun Drisha
- 11:00 Chitti Pelam
- 12:00 Anonoddhara
- 1:00 Music Circle
- 2:00 Bangla Cinema: Nikha
- 4:50 Mahe Ramadan
- 5:25 Hamd Nat
- 5:35 Monohor Iftar
- 5:45 Islam & Biggan
- 6:10 Music Plus
- 7:15 Channel I Sangbad
- 7:25 Rang Berang
- 8:00 Joto Padh Tato Mot
- 8:30 I Tele Quise
- 8:35 Face to Face
- 9:00 Channel I Sangbad
- 9:20 Sangbad Patra Banglades
- 9:30 I Tele Quise
- 10:30 Channel I Sangbad
- 11:00 Bangla cinema: Samapti

BBC WORLD

- 6:00 BBC News
- 10:30 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 Click Online
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 EUR DIR
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Top Gear
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 Life
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Hardtalk
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 Talking Movies
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Life
- 6:00 BBC News
- 6:30 IT: India Tomorrow Mastermind India
- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:15 World Business Report
- 7:30 Talking Movies
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Life
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:15 World Business Report
- 10:30 Hardtalk India
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 World Business

- Report/World Sport
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Future Fantasi, QED, Clarkson
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 World Business Report
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Correspondent ex supporting Roles
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 World Business Report/Asia Today
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Hardtalk

HBO

- 6:30 Clockers
- 8:45 Sheena
- 11:00 Ordinary People
- 1:30 Parenthood
- 4:00 3 Ninjas Knuckle Up
- 5:45 A Civil Action
- 8:00 It Could Happen To You
- 10:00 Fatal Attraction
- 12:30 Raising Can
- 2:30 Nowhere To Hide
- 4:30 It Could Happen To You
- STAR GOLD**
- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Dadi Maa (Ashok Kumar, Bina Rai)
- 9:30 Rosewell
- 10:00 Cont'd
- 10:30 Temptation Island
- 11:30 Martial Law
- 12:30 Roswell
- 1:30 Temptation Island
- 2:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
- 3:00 Creflo Dollar Daily
- 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
- 4:00 Life In The Word with Joyce Meyer
- 4:30 World News
- 5:00 Media TV
- 5:30 Mork & Mindy
- STAR PLUS**
- 6:00 Sanskruti
- 6:30 Star Geetmala
- 7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmehin Hit Sangeet
- 9:30 Fox Kids Daily
- 10:30 Small Wonder
- 11:00 Pal Chhin
- 12:00 Shanti
- 12:30 Hit Filmehin Hit Sangeet
- 1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 2:00 Sanskruti
- 2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 3:00 Shagun
- 3:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay

