

Theatre

Upholding national spirit

Curtain falls on Natraz's week-long theatre festival at the Guide House auditorium

TAWFIQUE ALI

WITH a fervent slogan calling upon everyone to become a true Bangali, Natraz organised a theatre festival from December 25 to 30 to mark the completion of eleven years of its journey into the country's theatre world.

Natraz has been holding theatre festivals since last year. This year Natraz's focus was to glorify and highlight theatre as an art form and as a creative medium of social interaction.

On the occasion of its eleventh founding anniversary, Natraz drew an elaborate inaugural programme including a rally, theatre activists' assemblage and open discussion. Country's noted theatre personalities such as Sara Zaker, Aly Zaker, Ataur Rahman, Laila Hasan, Golam Kuddus, Liakat Ali Lucky and Ramendu Majumdar were among the discussants on the occasion.

Seven theatre groups took



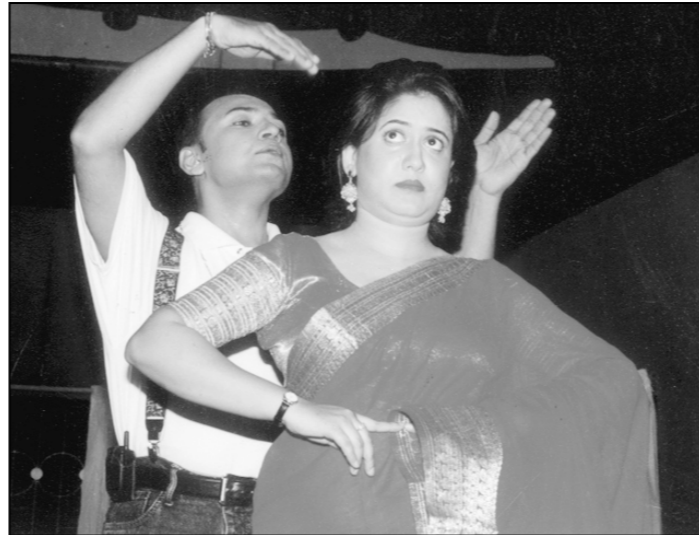
Prof. Kabir Chowdhury receives a bouquet from a Natraz performer while Ramendu Majumdar claps his hands

part and presented their productions in the festival. On the opening day Aranyak staged Sangkranti, directed by Mamunur Rashid. Theatre performed Chhay Beharar Paiki on the second day, script by Zaglul Alam and adapted by

Abdullah Al Mamun. On December 27, Nagarik Natya Sampraday presented Nitya Pura and Alal Dulaler Pala respectively on December 29 and 30. Rakta Karabi unfolds around its central character Nandini who epitomises an oriental woman with her enticing beauty, enigma and vitality. A defiant and confident Nandini invokes the spirit of regeneration. Even the king, who represents haughtiness of the western ruling class, is charmed by Nandini's beauty. A calm unearthliness of her beauty overshadows the king's vanity. Auddyapok, Fagu Lal, Bishu and Kishore are in love with Nandini seeking in her emancipation from their individual agony. Finally the king comes out of his royal world and joins the world of common people.



Natraz brings out a colourful merriment procession on the inaugural day of its 2nd Group Theatre Festival



Afroza Sultana Shilpi and Naim Hasan Suja play a scene from Sandhya Tara

morning while Natraz staged Sandhya Tara in the evening. Desh Natak and Dhaka Padatik presented Nitya Pura and Alal Dulaler Pala respectively on December 29 and 30.

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Natraz's production Sandhya Tara, portrays a familiar drama of our society. Honest and educated, Mr Sharif is a progressive man whose wife Asha too is progressive in her thoughts. They are proud parents of a son and a daughter. At their old age

this couple build a beautiful house in the out-skirt of the city hoping their children would take care of them and reverberate their house with joy and merriment. But to their utter disappointment, their children pay no attention to them.

Out of grief Mr Sharif decides to dispose off his house and disburse the money among them.

Natraz came into being as a result of concerted endeavour made by a number of young theatre activists back in the year 1990. It has so far put particular focus on sound practice of dance and drama with a view to further strengthen theatre movement in the country. It is committed to produce experimental and life oriented plays for its audience. Since its inception, Natraz has had a firm belief in the ideals of group theatre movement. It also believes that theatre is an effective tool to bring about social changes by arousing the conscience of the people. Natraz puts equal importance on both drama and dance to serve voice its concern. Staging creative dance drama is a regu-

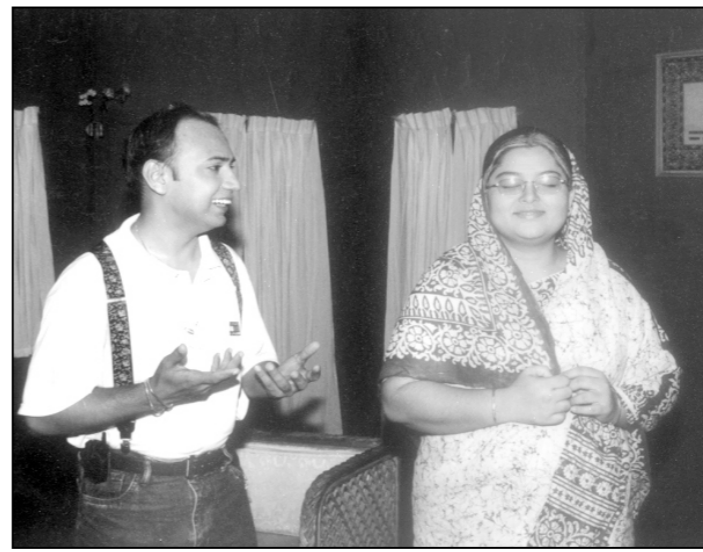


A scene from Nitya Pura

lar feature which marks Natraz's activities.

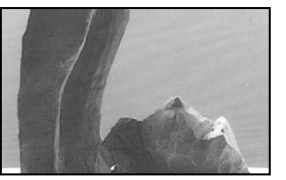
"The intrusion of foreign culture through satellite channels, the prevailing sense of insecurity in the city life, traffic congestion and other discouraging factors are responsible for poor attendance in theatre halls. Such festivals will create a very conducive environment to draw

more and more theatre audience. Festival also create opportunity for interaction and to share experience among various theatre groups," stated Naim Hasan Suja of Natraz when asked about the objectives of the theatre festivals.



Sangeeta Imam and Naim Hasan Suja appear in another scene from Sandhya Tara

RECOMMENDATIONS



Sculpture show

A group sculpture show is now being held at the gallery of National Museum at Shahbagh. The show showcases recent work by Hamiduzzaman, Ivy Zaman and Rowan Aziz. Open to all, the show runs till January 15.

Musical Evening

Swami Zubayeer presents 'SAFAR', a musical evening of Ghazal, Geet and Thumri at the National Museum auditorium on January 4, 2002 at 6:00 pm.

Opening ceremony of musical albums

Bengal Foundation presents an opening ceremony of 14 CD & cassette albums by both prominent and new artists on January 4 and 5 at House # 275/F, Road # 27, Dhanmondi R/A. Eminent music master Azad Rahman releases a Nazrul song album by Masuda Nargis Anam on January 4 and eminent journalist Mahfuz Anam releases a Nazrul song album by Khairul Anam Shakil on January 5.

Dhaka Art Circle

Dhaka Art Circle, an informal group of artists, holds its latest art show at Gallery Chitrak (house # 21, Road # 4, Dhanmondi) now. The exhibition open to all from 10 am to 8 pm everyday will run until January 6, 2002.



Nriyanchal Festival 2002

Nriyanchal, a front ranking organisation in the country to institutionalise dance as a popular form of art, is organising a five-day long dance festival from January 10 to 14 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium.

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV

- 2:00 Ekushey Headlines
2:05 Ajker Potrikay
2:15 Bangla Film : Sheash Shongreem
3:00 Ekushey Headlines
3:05 Bangla Film: Sheash Songreem
5:00 Circus Circus
5:30 E Shoptaher Bishsho
6:00 Ekushey Headlines
6:05 WWF Smackdown
6:55 Ekushey Headlines
7:00 Mukto Khobor
7:30 Ekushey News
7:58 Ek Minute
8:00 Anondo
8:30 Murchona
9:00 Ekushey News
9:05 Shukrobarer Natok: Opekha
10:00 News : Simulcast from BTV
11:00 Ekushey Late Night News
11:30 Ei Shoptaho
12:00 Ekushey Headlines

ATN

- 5:30 Islamic prog.
7:00 Islamic prog: Sundor Jeebaner Jannee
7:35 Musical prog. : Ruposhi
8:00 ATN Bangla News
8:25 Musical prog: Gan Sudu Gan
9:00 Drama Serial: Bondon
9:35 Musical prog: Surer Choa
10:10 Reporting prog: Prekha Pot
11:30 Islamic prog.
3:00 Bengali feature film: Pream Beroh
12:00 ATN Bangla News
6:07 Child's prog. : Cholo Gan Gai
6:45 Viewers Opening Prog: Motamot
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:35 Musical prog.
8:10 Musical prog: Merial Tumar Janne Gan
8:45 Musical prog. : Protibha
9:20 Drama Serial: Goena Kaheni
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:45 Pakistani featur film : Ahsas
11:30 ATN Bangla News

BBC WORLD

- 6:00 BBC News
6:30 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

BBC News

- 10:00 BBC News
10:30 Hardtalk
11:00 BBC News
11:30 World Business Report
12:00 BBC News
12:30 World Business Report
1:00 BBC News
1:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
2:00 BBC News
2:30 Talking Movies
3:00 BBC News
3:30 Money Prog.
4:00 BBC News
4:30 East Asia Today/Sport Today
5:00 BBC News
5:30 Hardtalk
6:00 BBC News
6:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
7:00 BBC News
7:30 Talking Movies
8:00 BBC News
8:30 Moneyd prog.
9:00 BBC News
9:30 Asia Today
10:00 BBC News
10:30 Question Time
11:15 World Business Report
11:30 The Car's The Star ex Top Gear
12:00 BBC News
12:30 Hardtalk
1:00 BBC News
2:30 Rough Science
3:00 BBC News
3:30 World Business Report
4:00 BBC News
4:30 Correspondent
5:00 BBC News
5:30 Asia Today

HBO

- 7:00 The Seventh Sign
9:00 Against All Odds

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 9:05 pm. Friday drama Apeksa. In absence of her father Nira decides to shoulder the responsibility of her family and goes to Kheppara to take up her new job at a school run by an NGO. There she meets a young man called Zahid.



STAR WORLD: 8:00 & 11:30 pm. Bugs. In a secure Medical Institute, a nurse is introducing a new physiotherapist to Roland Blatty. The former Head of the Bureau of Weapons has been in a persistent vegetative state since his brain was infected with the Cyberrax Virus over a year previously.

PICK OF THE DAY



Apt Pupil On HBO at 10:00 pm Sixteen-year-old Todd Bowden is quite the model student. He has a natural curiosity that serves him well in school. He develops a fascination with the Holocaust when it becomes a topic of study in his history class. But his interest takes a strange turn when he discovers that a Nazi war criminal is living right in his very hometown.

- 11:30 Kramer vs Kramer
1:45 The Out-of-Towners
3:30 Hard Target
5:30 Donnie Brasco
8:15 Night of the Creeps
10:00 APT Pupil
12:15 Escape From LA
2:15 Hard Target
4:15 Kramer vs Kramer

STAR GOLD

- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
11:00 Geet Bahar
11:30 Dall Me Kala (Kishore Kumar, Nimmi)
3:00 Amul Bollywood News
3:30 Shriman Satyawadi
7:00 Geet Bahar

STAR MOVIES

- 6:30 Spree
8:30 For The Love of Olivia
10:15 Matthew Blackheart
12:00 Spring Forward
1:45 Muppet Christmas Carol
3:15 Volunteers
5:00 Red Dawn
7:00 Empire Strikes Back
9:00 Possessed
10:45 For the Love of Olivia
12:15 World is not Enough, the
2:30 First Blood
4:30 Spree

- 7:30 Saturday Shukrawar Kati Patang (Rajesh Khanna, Asha Parekh)
11:00 Amul Bollywood News
11:30 Vardi (Sunny Deol, Jackie Shroff)
12:30 Vardi (contd)
3:00 Geet Bahar
3:30 Shriman Satyawadi (Raj Kapoor, Shakila)

STAR WORLD

- 6:00 Happy Days
6:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

SPORTS

- 6:30 Nba Basketball New York, NY USA Dallas Mavericks @ New York Knicks
9:00 Nba Action World Cup Mix
9:30 National Hockey Night Detroit, MI USA Anaheim Mighty Ducks @ Detroit Red Wings
1:00 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA
2:00 Pool World Pool League 2001
3:00 Soccer The Match of the Century : Nilton Santos Asian Bowling Tour Cgu Asian Bowling Tour Hong Kong Semifinals & Finals
6:30 Nba Action Pro Billiards 2001 Trick Shot Magic Baltimore, MD USA
8:00 Western Union World Football
8:30 Sportscenter Hindi Nba Basketball New York, NY USA Dallas Mavericks @ New York Knicks
11:30 Sportscenter Hindi Boxing Series Friday Night Fights Bristol, CT USA
1:30 Pool World Pool League 2001
2:30 Sportscenter Hindi Conference USA Basketball Memphis, TN USA Arkansas @ Memphis
5:00 Asian Bowling Tour Cgu Asian Bowling Tour Hong Kong Women's Highlights
8:00 Sportsline Today Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, Australia South Africa @ Australia 3rd Test, Day 3, 2nd & 3rd Session
1:00 English Premier Football League 2001/02 Manchester, England Newcastle United @ Manchester United
3:30 Rally Racing Total Dakar 2002 Day 6 Highlights Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, Australia South Africa @ Australia 3rd Test, Day 3, 1st Session
5:30 Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, Australia South Africa @ Australia 3rd Test, Day 3, 2nd & 3rd Session
8:00 Sportsline Tonight Inside The Pga Tour Football Asia Australia Cricket Orange Test Series Sydney, Australia South Africa @ Australia 3rd Test, Day 3, Highlights

- 8:00 Water Rats
9:00 Roswell
10:00 Temptation Island
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00 Matial Law
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 3rd Rock From The Sun
5:00 Star News Asia
5:30 Friends
6:00 Worlds Wildest Police Videos
6:55 Star News Asia
7:00 Nash Bridges
8:00 Bugs
9:00 Friends
9:30 Worlds Wildest Police Videos
10:30 Nash Bridges
11:30 Bugs
12:30 Worlds Wildest Police

- Videos
1:30 Nash Bridges
2:30 It's Supernatural
3:00 Morris Cerullo
3:30 Exalted Word
4:00 Creflo Dollar, Changing Your World
4:30 World News
5:00 Mission Impossible
STAR PLUS
6:00 Sanskruti
6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:00 Aatma
9:00 Hit Filme Hit Sangeet
9:30 Fox Kids Daily
10:30 Small Wonder
11:00 Pal Chhin
11:30 Saahil
12:00 Shanti
12:30 Hit Filme Hit Sangeet
1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
1:30 Jannat
2:30 Star Bestseller- The Ring
3:30 Kashmirakash
4:00 Kabhi Sauten Kabhi Saheli
4:30 Kalash
5:00 Meri Saheli
5:30 Hit Filme Hit Sangeet
6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Fox Kids
7:10 Aaj Ki Baat
7:30 Gharwali Uparwali
8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:30 Kya Masti Kya Khuum
9:30 Khullja Sim Sim
10:30 Sshhh... Koi Hai
11:30 Kahani Jurm Ki
12:00 Aaj Ki Baat
12:30 Gharwali Uparwali
1:00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri
2:00 Chhupa Rustam
2:30 Amul Best of Surabhi

- 3:00 Family Fortunes
3:30 Kalash
4:00 Tu Tu Main Main
4:30 Kahani Jurm Ki
5:00 Sonpari
5:30 Star Bestsellers
STAR NEWS
07:00 Breakfast News
6:00 Star Khel
6:30 Bollywood News
7:00 Star Bazaar
8:00 Hotline
8:30 Tonight at 8
9:00 Star Samachar
9:30 Star News English
10:00 Star Business News
10:30 Star Newshour
11:30 Star News English
12:00 Star News Hindi
12:30 Sports Tonight
AXN
6:30 Movie: Daylight
8:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II
9:30 When Fun Turns to Fest
10:30 Amazon
11:30 Sheena
12:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II
1:30 Survivor : Africa
2:30 Movie: Single White Female
4:30 Movie : Daylight
6:30 AXN Speed India
7:30 Pacific Blue I
8:30 When Fun Turns to Fest
9:30 The Right Stuff
10:30 Survivor : Africa
12:30 Silk Stalkings VII
1:30 Pacific Blue I
2:30 Amazon
3:30 Planet Ex II