

Theatre

Saying no to wars

Natyoutsav 2002 concludes with Urubhangam focusing on the horrors of war

AZIZ AMIRUL

THE last of the five dramas of the Natyoutsav 2002 was staged in front of a capacity crowd at the Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum in the city on January 16. 'Urubhangam', a musical theatre production by the members of Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) was staged on the concluding evening of the drama festival that depicted a plot containing scenes and developments of the final war fought between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, two warrior sects originating in the mythological manuscript of Mahabharata, a revered epic of the Hindu religion.

As the synopsis got unfolded, Pandavas returned from a long exile, led by their warrior king Bhima Sen, to demand their paternal legacy back. The

Kauravas rejected the claim and as a result war broke out. It turned out to be a disaster for the Kauravas as Bhima's men managed to kill all hundred sons of the old, blind King Dhritarashtra except for one, Duryodhana, who had now become desperate to take revenge of his brothers' deaths. The war began with the blowing of the conch-shells while the chorus sang lyrical composition in a bid to introduce the two chivalrous heroes. Duryodhana arrived at the battlefield on back of a mighty elephant, as did Bhima Sen with his troops. A club fight (*Gada Judho*) broke out between the two and lastly Bhima prostrated Duryodhana through a fatal hit of Gada, only to permanently dislocate and crush Duryodhana's thigh-bones.

The 60-minute drama that consisted of a single act brought

in front of the audience a narrator, who went on describing various aspects of the battle, the situations and scenes of the bloodshed, personal encounters and skills of Bhima and Duryodhana.

Several scenes of interaction between characters took effect as the fatal wounds of Duryodhana worsened only to draw pathetic attention of the parents the elderly father Dhritarashtra and Queen Gandhari, mother of Duryodhana. Blind king Dhritarashtra appeared in the battlefield in search of his son accompanied by Gandhari. They lamented the plight of their son and became highly upset to find that their only surviving son would leave them forever by reason of a, useless, deceitful club fight with the sly Bhima.

Surrounded by torch lights that appeared like forest fire,



A scene of Urubhangam shows Duryodhana encircled by his warrior men

through the narration, Duryodhana saw not torch lights rather the seven seas, oceans

and the rivers of Ganges and Jamuna those had sent the Vayu (air) as a chariot to transport the dying Prince to the everlasting world of death. Finally, the Kaurava Prince bid farewell to the mortal world for his destination to eternity. A painful end relieved Duryodhana of all mortal feelings.

The epilogue of the play observed that war can bring no good to anyone and that it destroys the entire civilisation. The chorus sang with the following words of Bharata, a famous Indian Saint, "From our world, let all unhappiness be removed. And let there be the advent of peace as the benign sun reaches the earth, and let the universe smile like a swelling ocean, full of joyous froth and blissful wave".

Urubhangam, the one-act play received compilation of stage drama form by the CAT mem-



The role of the narrator is important in the play

bers in a shorter synopsis than that of the original one of the Mahabharata content. However, the non-realistic approach featuring Sanskrit style has been maintained all through and carried further. In order to bring a modern style for the present-day audience, the contents of the original play has been changed and several orthodox rules of the Sanskrit theatre have been modified with the aid of technological support. Modern techniques of theatrical movement have made the CAT production of Urubhangam a refined artistic creation, tried to enhance the spirit of the audience with aid of modern lighting and sound system.

As done in the original play, the CAT production also dealt with three basic human emotions sorrow, wrath and vigour of the machoistic male character. As mentioned by the Director

of the stage production, Kamaluddin Nilu, 'I wanted to create an understanding among the audience that war is in every respect, destructive and can only increase human sufferings and pain, ultimately leading to death'. 'Urubhangam, performed by the performers of CAT, tried to transform the tragic events of the battle into an explicit form of notion that could be interpreted as a play of anti-war theme', added Kamal, a noted actor and dramatist of Bangladeshi drama circle.

The 'Natyoutsav 2002', an initiation of some of the major drama activists and promoter of the subcontinent, would remain in the memories of the local enthusiasts for long and would further boost the ongoing movement of advanced theatrical exposition in the region.

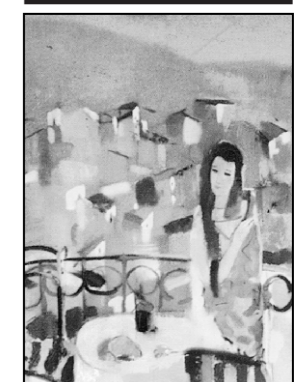


The young Ashwatthama rages in fury seeing the plight of Duryodhana



Members of the Center for Asian Theater maintain a high standard of performance

RECOMMENDATIONS



Exhibition by Russian artists

The Russian Cultural Centre, Dhaka organises a show of contemporary art by Russian artists Poliakov Vasily and Persidskiy Konstantin which opens on January 20 at Exhibition Hall of the Russian Cultural Centre, House # 510, Road # 7, Dhanmondi R/A. This exhibition is dedicated to mark the 30th Anniversary of diplomatic tie between Bangladesh and Russia.

Art show of three Bengali pioneers

An exhibition showcasing works of pioneer artists Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and S.M. Sultan--of Bangladeshi art movement is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi. This show is the second of a series presented from the collection of Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation.

Group Art Show

The 45th Grand Group Art Exhibition of leading Bangladeshi artists organised by Sajju Art Gallery is now being held at its gallery space at Gulshan, North Super Market 2nd circle. The month-long show, open to all, will run until February 7 from 10 am to 8:30 pm barring Fridays.

2nd solo exhibition

The 2nd solo art exhibition by artist Rezaul Hoque Liton is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi). The exhibition will remain open for all from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday, till January 24.

Satranji Exhibition

A Satranji exhibition is being held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will continue everyday from 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m (Except Saturday) and 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. till January 23.

TV GUIDE

BTV

- 9:30 Opening Announcement
- 9:45 Live Cricket! The first test match between Bangladesh and Pakistan from the Chittagong stadium
- 3:10 News Headlines
- 4:00 Khabar
- 5:00 News Headlines
- 5:05 Computer
- 5:30 Shukhi Poribar
- 6:00 Khabar
- 6:10 Nibedan
- 6:35 Programme from Chittagong station
- 7:00 News Headlines (English)
- 7:05 Special on the 66th Birth Anniversary of Late President Ziaur Rahman Geetmalia
- 7:25 Geetmalia
- 8:00 News in Bengali
- 8:30 Drama of the week: Pora Matir Ghor
- 9:00 News Headlines
- 10:00 News at Ten
- 10:25 Bazaar Shomachar
- 10:30 Sensitive Samurai 2
- 11:30 Khabar / The News
- EKUSHEY TV**
- 9:30 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 12:00 Ekushey Middy
- 12:30 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 5:00 Circus Circus
- 5:30 Shoptaho Ghura Deshjure
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 Serial: Alif Laila
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Kena Kata
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 7:58 Ek Minute
- 8:40 Bangla Film: Shudhu Tumi
- 9:00 Ekushey News (English)
- 9:05 Bangla Film: Shudhu Tumi
- 10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Bangla Film: Shudhu Tumi
- 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News

ATN

- 5:30 Islamic prog.
- 7:00 Children Cholo Gan Gai
- 7:35 Motamot
- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 Musical prog.
- 9:00 Film Songs Prog
- 9:35 Manazine prog Muktokatha
- 10:10 Drama Serial Goenda Kaheni
- 10:50 Bengali feature film: Chondro Lekha
- 12:00pm ATN Bangla News
- 6:07 Children Magazine Prog Shapla Saluk
- 6:45 Musica Prog
- 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:35 Musical prog. Amar Kechu gan
- 8:45 A Special prog: Zia Amader Ahangker
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 A Special prog: Zia Amader Ahangker
- 11:05 Bolivooder Khobor
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Bengali feature film: Kalmilata
- BBC WORLD**
- 6:00 BBC News
- 6:30 World Business Report
- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:30 Talking Movies
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 Hospital
- 12:00 BBC News

Click Online

- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Correspondent
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 Road to Riches
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 People's Century
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 Holiday
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 This Week

HBO

- 7:00 The Remains of the Day
- 9:45 Good Burger
- 11:45 Breakfast at Tiffany's
- 2:00 Urban Legend
- 4:00 The Out-of-Towners
- 5:45 Apt Pupil
- 8:00 Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold
- 11:30 Master of the Universe
- 1:45 Rumpelstiltskin
- 3:30 The Out-of-Towners
- 5:15 Prehysteria! 3

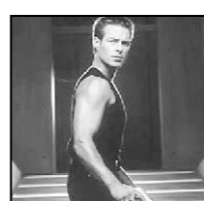
STAR GOLD

- 7:00 Raampur Ka Lakshman (Randhir Kapoor, Rekha)
- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Phir Subha Hogi (Raj Kapoor, Mala Sinha)
- 3:00 Amul Bollywood News
- 3:30 Angarakshak (Sunny Deol, Pooja Bhat)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Saturday Special Khuddar (Amitabh, Parvin Bobby)
- 11:00 Rahein Na Rahein Hum
- 11:30 New Wave Cinema Tarpan (Om Puri, Revathy)
- 12:30 Tarpan (contd)
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Angarakshak (Sunny Deol, Pooja Bhat)

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 7:00 p.m. *Kena Kata*. In this week's ultimate shopping guide famous singer Shakila Zafar will talk about her shopping tips on Star Shopping. Apart from this the programme will also have its usual menu: Kothay Pabo, Damta Kamon, Time Table, Shodai Pati etc.



STAR WORLD: 7:00 & 10:30 p.m. *First Wave*. In 1564, Nostradamus - the man who saw tomorrow - foretold an apocalyptic invasion coming in three terrifying waves: the first wave - an elite infiltrative and saboteur force, the second wave - invasion from above, and the third wave - Armageddon. The First Wave is here...



AXN: 9:30 p.m. *Sudden Death*. It's the Stanley Cup Finals, but 17,000 fans in the Pittsburgh Civic Arena will soon become hostages in a deadly game of terrorism where their only saviour may be a lone fireman with a tragic past.

PICK OF THE DAY



Dudley Do-Right
On HBO at 10:00 p.m.
Somewhere along the Canadian Rockies, dastardly Villain S. Whiplash and his band of outlaws seize the property of the townfolk of Semi-Happy Valley and organize a fake gold rush. With thousands of prospectors storming into the area, only dedicated but dimwitted Mountie, Dudley Do-Right stands in Whiplash's way.

STAR PLUS

- 6:30 Star Geetmala
- 7:30 Jubilee Plus
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
- 9:30 Fox Kids
- 10:30 Family Fortunes
- 11:00 Amul Best of Surabhi
- 11:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshairi
- 12:30 Eena Meena Deeka
- 1:00 Tu Tu Main Main
- 1:30 Gharwali Uparwali
- 2:00 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
- 2:30 Bol Baby Bol
- 3:00 Yeh Hai Right Price
- 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: Bahu Rani (Guru Dutt, Mala Sinha, Feroz Khan)
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:30 Jannat
- 8:30 Star Superhit Joru Ka Ghulam (Govinda, Twinkle Khanna)
- 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
- 12:00 Joru Ka Ghulam

(contd.)

- 12:30 Kundali
- 1:00 Kalash
- 1:30 Kahani Jurm Ki
- 2:00 Gharwali Uparwali
- 2:30 Tu Tu Main Main
- 3:00 Kashmakash
- 3:30 Jannat

STAR NEWS

- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Star News Hindi
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi
- 7:30 Saat Baje

Musafir Hoon Yaroon

- 5:00 Sshhhh... Koi Hai
- 8:00 Limerlight Hindi
- 8:30 The Big Fight
- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Reality Bites
- 10:30 Star Business Week
- 11:00 Limerlight (Eng)
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi

The Big Fight

- AXN**
- 6:30 The Price of Fame
- 7:30 Grandeur Musashi RV
- 8:30 Curious Play
- 9:30 Rollerjam
- 10:30 The Right Stuff
- 11:30 The Amazing Race
- 12:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not!
- 1:30 The Price of Fame
- 2:30 Movie: Sneakers
- 4:30 Walker's World
- 5:30 The Amazing Race
- 6:30 Who Dares Wins II
- 7:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not!
- 8:30 The Price of Fame
- 9:30 Premiere Movie : Sudden Death
- 11:30 Movie : Streetfighter
- 1:30 World's Most Amazing
- 2:30 Rollerjam

ZEE MUSIC

- 7:00 Aalaap
- 7:30 Tara Rum
- 8:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 10:30 Hit Mix
- 11:00 Fillers
- 11:30 Music Box

Best of the Best

- 1:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 2:00 Jharokha (Exposure)
- 2:35 Compact Disc
- 3:05 Tara Rum
- 4:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 5:00 Music Box
- 5:30 Hit Mix
- 6:00 Just Jammin
- 6:30 Dial M
- 7:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 8:30 Music.Com
- 9:30 Music Box
- 10:00 Sizzlers
- 10:30 Jharokha (Exposure)
- 11:05 Music Asia Live
- 12:00 Phoren Maal

ZEE CINEMA

- 7:30 Sant Gyaneshwar - Feature Film
- 10:15 Movie Fare
- 10:30 Maa Ke Ansoo- Feature Film
- 1:15 Madhyantar
- 1:30 Saraswati Chandra - Feature Film
- 5:00 Darpan
- 5:15 Dadamoni (A Tribute To The Legend (Ashok Kumar)
- 5:45 Film Time
- 6:00 Benaam: Feature Film
- 9:15 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
- 9:30 Weekend Cinema
- 10:00 Baazigar : Feature Film
- HALLMARK**
- 6:00am The Yearling
- 8:00 Ghostwriter
- 8:30 Wishbone
- 9:00 Sesame Street
- 10:00 The Women of Windsor
- 2:00 The Yearling
- 4:00 Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows
- 6:00 Brpooklyn South
- 7:00 The Yearling
- 4:00 Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows

Cadfael: The Rose Rent

- 11:00 Murder So Sweet
- DISCOVERY**
- 7:30am Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Lonely Planet IV
- 9:30 Discovery Sunday
- 12:30 Ultimate Guide
- 1:30 Crime Night
- 2:30 Wild Discovery
- 3:30 Discovery Kids
- 4:30 Wings
- 5:30 Lonely Planet VI
- 6:30 Understanding
- 7:30 Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Science Frontiers
- 9:30 Terra X
- 10:30 Deadline Discovery
- 11:30 Wings
- ANIMAL PLANET**
- 7:00am The Living Planet
- 8:00 Battersea Dogs Home
- 8:30 Zoo
- 9:00 Wild Rescue III
- 9:30 Saturday Action
- 11:00 Animal Planet Safari
- 12:00 Animal Doctor III
- 12:30 Vets on the Wild Side
- 1:00 K-9 to 5
- 1:30 Wild on the Set II
- 2:00 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files
- 2:30 O'Shea's Big Adventure II
- 3:00 Animal A-Z
- 3:30 Cats
- 4:00 Planet's Funniest Animals
- 4:30 Monkey Business
- 5:00 Horse Tales
- 5:30 Saturday Action Specials
- 7:00 The Aquanauts
- 7:30 Twisted Tales
- 8:00 Emergency Vets
- 9:00 Wildlife Emergency II
- 10:00 Animal Planet Safari
- 10:30 Monkey Business
- 11:00 Horse Tales
- 11:30 Saturday Action Specials