

RECOMMENDATIONS

Book Fair
Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ghazal evening
A Ghazal evening will be held on February 17 at the Best Western La Vinci Hotel at Kawan Bazar in the city with solo live performance of Ghazal exponent Mesbah. The show will start at 7 p.m.

Boutique exhibition
An exhibition of boutique items titled *Ghorowa Poshak Prodorshoni* is being held at Ali's Knitwear Bangladesh at Hse-49, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi. Rehana Ali is hosting the event that includes display of traditionally designed saree, punjabi, shalwar kameez, indigenous apparels and hand-made wax candle. The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday till February 22.

Group art exhibition
Nine contemporary artists are displaying their works in a group exhibition that is being held at the Zainul Art Gallery of Fine Arts Institute in the city. The show will continue till February 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Seventh Solo
The 7th solo art exhibition of artist Samiran Chowdhury is being held at Divine Art Gallery in Hotel Sonargaon. Samiran's 25 works in water colour, mixed media and acrylic are on display. The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. till tomorrow.

Drama Festival
Natty Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. A drama of a particular group is staged everyday at 6:30 p.m. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

Art Exhibition
A 12-day painting exhibition by renowned artist Maruf Ahmed started at the Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city from February 7, 2002. The show will remain open for all till February 18, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Theater

Raktakarabi earns audience's acclamation

As part of on going National Theatre Festival 2002, Nagorik Natya Sampraday stages Raktakarabi at natok para in the city

TAWFIQUE ALI

A theatrical production by Nagorik Natya Sampraday, Tagore's play Raktakarabi has been able to communicate its message and to prove its contemporary attitude among Dhaka's theatre lovers. After an arduous journey through eight or nine stage shows, director and performers of the play are somewhat confidently articulate of their progress in performance.

Co-organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bengal Foundation, "Natya Utsab 2002" is a three-week long event which is one of the series of theatre festivals through the month of January and February in Dhaka. Overflowing rush of theatre enthusiasts beyond capacity at Mahila Samiti auditorium on last Tuesday evening was an encouraging mark of success of the festival. To draw considerable number of audience is one of the foremost objectives of such theatre festival. Quite often theatre organisers and activists express there is appointment saying that a sustainable class of theatre admirers have not yet developed here in our country.

But during festival a remarkable rise in audience's interest



Kishore and Nandini played by Shamim Shahed and Aupi Karim

and enthusiasm for theatre disprove their despair. A significant aspect of 'Natya Utsab' is that, apart from the capital city, a number of theatre groups from across the country are taking part in it.

Shrouded with mystery and manifold interpretations, Tagore's play 'Raktakarabi' has a message to voice against imperialist authoritative establishment. Nandini, the central character, is a unique literary creation who is endowed with universal innocence and representative quali-

ties of an Oriental woman. An embodiment of womanhood of the East, Nandini has a multi faceted relations with the world around her. Nandini is playful, Spritely as a flowing fountain, compassionate, bold and beautiful. She is tamed by love but untamable by force. Both the ruler and the ruled seek redemption in her.

The king is another very important character who represents colonial authority. The self conceived king is tired of his imperial



Ataur Rahman, director of the play, in the role of the King

seclusion and bring Nandini to his kingdom. The king is allured by Nandini's simple but tempting beauty. He seeks a resort in her. Nandini sympathises him and calls him to come out of his palatial haughtiness. Nandini has manifold interactions with Kishore, Bishu, Audhyapok and other fellow men.

Director of the play, Ataur Rahman plays the King. His view of the production is, "So far it has been evident that our production of Raktakarabi has appealed to and stired the audience. It is one

of our successful productions. It has been one of most trying and challenging productions for us since we had to work with this play with some of its landmark productions before us." When asked to remark on the play, he says, "This is a very serious play by Tagore which is full of anti-establishment elements and shrouded with mystery of allegory. What I find encouraging is that our audience has come up to make out the play's basic message severing its web of mystery. This shows the play's relevance



Bishu and Nandini played by Khaled Khan and Aupi Karim

to our society and time." Bishu is played by Khaled Khan who views his character saying, "It's a very important character through whom the central theme of the play find expression. It's a psychologically intricate character which has an undefineable affinity for Nandini. Bishu's relationship with Nandini may be either friendship or love or something else that exactly cannot be explained." When asked whether he enjoys playing this character Khaled says, "very much". He finds notable differ-

ence of this play with other productions of Tagore's plays.

When asked how far she has progressed in perfect portrayal of Nandini's role, Aupi Karim says, "The whole production is, by now, in a convenient position. I have been learning in each show and above all my group cooperates me a lot. I believe, so far I have been able to scare pass mark at least."

When talking about interaction of her character with others, she says, "There are compassion and wonderment in Nandini in relation to the king. Kishore is her playmate. Her communication with Bishu is rather serious. Her exchange and interaction with Bishu is amorous, special and more intimate. She exchanges her emotional urges with him in absence of Ranjan whom she long for throughout the play."

Shamim Shahed, who plays Kishore, says, "Kishore is a character of my own choice. I have been trying sincerely to adapt myself with the character. I am very happy having been fortunate to play a character I like very much."

"Each show, different from other shows, teaches me something."



Sardar played by Khaled Khan/Gazi Rakaeyt



Nandini and Audhyapok played by Aupi and Hira



Ascene from Make-up room

Satellite TV

Cine-magazine to hit century

Television magazine creates unique record as it reaches the doorstep of its hundredth episode



Participants in an episode of Amar Chabi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

AMAR Chabi, a television magazine based on film-related issues and interviews, is reaching its hundredth episode that is to be transmitted on Channel-I on February 17. Completion of hundred episodes is a record for any weekly programme of a television channel in Bangladesh, which is about to be accomplished by the program of *Amar Chabi*.

Amar Chabi is transmitted on Channel-I at 10:00 p.m., every Sunday.

The TV magazine presents a particular cine-personality on each episode. The first episode of *Amar Chabi* was shown on January 2, 2000. Renowned director A.J. Mintu was the special guest. Since then 98 other famous film personalities including performers, producers

and directors attended the weekly affair. This magazine is one of the most popular television programs of the present time.

Filmmakers who have had the opportunity of becoming guests of the program included not only personalities from the regular cine-world, rather makers from the arena of short and alternative film, too.

The hundredth episode of *Amar Chabi* will have discussions and interviews about issues, personalities and events of the local film industry those have experienced celebration of hundred in their respective fields.

The producer of the magazine hopes that the forthcoming episode will be an attractive and memorable one. Shamim Alam Dipen and Shafiuzzaman Khan have designed the plots of the episodes. Ishika Banijjya has produced *Amar Chabi*.

Schedule of National Drama Festival			
Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium, Dhaka			
16 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Podokkheeb, Gaibandha	Bahe Nidhwa Pathar
17 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Bogra Theater, Bogra	
18 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Dhaka Theater, Dhaka	Na Noiramoni
19 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Drishwapat, Dhaka	Chop, Adalat Cholchey
20 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Monchomukut Natya Sham	Shingkranti

Movies

Oscar's best actresses

Sissy Spacek, Nicole Kidman win best actress nods for Oscars

AFP, Beverly Hills

ACADEMY award winner Sissy Spacek and Australian star Nicole Kidman on Tuesday won nominations as best actress for this year's Oscars, the most coveted prize in film acting.

The pair -- stars of "In the Bedroom" and "Moulin Rouge" respectively -- had been the frontrunners in the race for the nominations and are now favorites to win the best actress Oscar when the awards are bestowed on March 24.

They were joined in the category by Halle Berry for her role as the widow of an executed prisoner in "Monster Ball," Judi Dench as novelist Iris Murdoch in "Iris" and Renee Zellweger for the Brit comedy "Bridget Jones's Diary."

Australian Kidman, who is in Sweden filming Lars von Trier's film "Dogville," said she learned of the news on set when one of the crew held up a sign during a scene.

"I've never been nominated before and I am so, so thrilled!" she said in a statement issued here.

"I was blessed with two great roles this year (she also starred in spooky drama "The Others") but I have to say that "Moulin Rouge" was truly a hometown labor of love for us all," she said of the film which was shot in Australia.

Berry is one of three black actors -- including Will Smith and Denzel



Nicole Kidman as Satine in Moulin Rouge Washington -- to be named this year in the major acting categories, the most of African American nominees since 1972.

"Women of color are not often there, so to be there and to represent all of us -- all women of color -- feels great," said the soon-to-be Bond girl whose portrayal has won her praise from the critics.

Dench, who won an Oscar for her 1999 portrayal of Queen Elizabeth I in "Elizabeth", said her role as the brilliant novelist and philosopher was a tough one as there was no room for dramatic license.

"In a role like Elizabeth I, you can do your own thing to some extent," she said in an interview on the US ABC television network Tuesday.

"With Iris Murdoch, I had to be

very, very truthful to her and to her memory," she said. "I didn't want to feed in anything of my own and that was very difficult."

The nomination for Kidman, 34, follows her winning the Golden Globe award for best actress in the same role last month and after a turbulent year in her personal life following her divorce from superstar Tom Cruise.

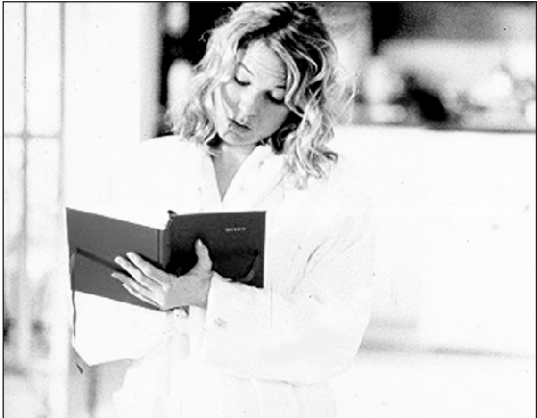
The Australian actress played a courtesan called Satine in "Moulin Rouge," who danced in the Parisian nightclub of the same name and fell in love with a character played by Scottish actor Ewan McGregor.

The role called for acting, singing and dancing and was intended as a revival of the classic Hollywood musical extravaganzas of the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

Spacek, 52, played a grief-stricken housewife whose son has been murdered in "In the Bedroom," a low budget picture that was discovered by the studios last year at the independent Sundance Film Festival.

The winner of the 1980 best actress Oscar for "The Coal Miner's Daughter" and star of the 70s horror flick "Carrie" won a best dramatic actress Golden Globe for "Bedroom" in January and is widely seen as the strongest contender for this year's Oscar.

Zellweger's role as challenged Londoner Bridget Jones was a smash hit at the box office last year.



Renee Zellweger in Miramax's Bridget Jones's Diary



Judi Dench in Miramax's Iris



Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton in Lions Gate's Monster's Ball



Nick Stahl and Sissy Spacek in Miramax's In The Bedroom

Jackson delighted by Oscar thrill but speech will have to wait

AFP, Wellington

"LORD of the Rings" director Peter Jackson is pretty chuffed to have scored 13 Oscar nominations -- but he is not about to start writing his acceptance speech.

Jackson, 40, was nominated for two awards -- best director and best adapted screenplay with his partner Fran Walsh and newcomer Philippa Boyens.

"I never put my mind there too much because everything is so fickle," he said Wednesday.



Peter Jackson



"In the past few months we've won awards and lost awards so you tend not to have expectations at all."

"The awards are a byproduct, they are not the reason you make a film. But I'm thrilled. I'm thrilled that so many Kiwis have been nominated."

Rings special-effects wizard, Weta Workshop director Richard Taylor, was up for three -- Costume design (with fellow New Zealand Ngila Dickson), make-up and visual effects.

It was a New Zealand record

for individual nominations in one year and Jackson believed it was an Oscar record for technical achievement.

Jackson described the project as a labour of love.

"There was a sense that people didn't want to spend so long on a film they weren't proud of. That still continues...I'm cutting the movies today, everyone's feeling pretty happy I can tell you."

Jackson said he wouldn't have an acceptance speech lined up.

"No. I don't think I will. I only think that will bring bad luck."

Films which garner the most nominations generally stand a very strong chance of winning the best picture Oscar but "Lord of the Rings" is not seen as an overwhelming favourite.

A fantasy film has never won the best film award and many Hollywood insiders believe Jackson's movie will be beaten to the top prize by Ron Howard's "A Beautiful Mind."