

RECOMMENDATIONS

Glimpses of Life:
Japan &
Bangladesh

A 7-day group exhibition titled Glimpses of Life: Japan & Bangladesh by two young Japanese photographers Machiko Honma & Kaori Yoshihara opens today at Drik Gallery at 5 p.m. The show, which displays 60 colour and black and white photographs, has been designed to complement on going Japan Week in the city.

Kite Exhibition

A Japanese Spinning top and Kite exhibition will be held at the premises of Bangladesh Shishu Academy at 4:00 p.m. on March 06, 2002.

Art Exhibition

Japan and Bangladesh will hold a joint art exhibition at the National Museum art gallery in the city from March 7 till March 20. The exhibition will feature works of renowned Bangladeshi artist Mohammad Kibria, those of Noriko Yanagisawa, a Japanese contemporary artist and works of Kazi Ghiyasuddin, a Bangladeshi artist who is presently based in Japan.

Ikebana

A Japanese Ikebana workshop and demonstration will be held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy on March 7. The workshop will begin at 10:15 a.m. and will remain open for the invited guests only. The demonstration event will allow free admission that will be held at 3:15 p.m.

Film Festival

A Japanese film festival will begin at the Institute of Modern Languages in the city on March 8 and will continue till March 11. Four films will be screened during the period with two shows, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., every day. The films are Tsuru, Faraway Sunset, Wild Daisy, Hearts and flowers for Tora. Detailed fixtures of the shows will be announced soon. Admission will remain free for all.

Fashion

Dhaka welcomes Parisian haute couture
Fashion heavyweights to hit the ramp on March 14

ZIAUL KARIM AND AZIZ AMIRUL

BIG names from the fashion capital of the world will present their gorgeous eveningwear, highlighting the theme New Romanticism, at the Paris Spring / Summer 2002 Fashion Collection, on March 14, 2002 at The Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the city.

The news about the upcoming high-profile fashion extravaganza, a first in Bangladesh, was officially disclosed in November 2001 at a press conference held by the Trade Commission of the Embassy of France in Dhaka. On the 3rd of March, 2002 the trade commission again invited the media to a press briefing about the final preparations for the mega-event.

Elisabeth Yearbury, the Commercial Attaché of the Embassy of France in Dhaka and the catalyst in bringing the Parisian fashion splendour to the city, told the media about the different aspects of next week's fashion spectacular.

Feminine beauty and glamour will no doubt take centre stage as the evening matures into night and the romanticism spells its own

mystic charm. Top names in world fashion such as Asturo Tayama, Balanciaga, Dice Kayec, Dominique Sirop, Emmanuel Ungaro, Eymeric Francois, Gilles Rosier, Gres, Jean-Louis Scherrer, John Galiano, Kenzo and Pierre Balmain will present their unique collection for the first time on Dhaka's ramp showcasing their splendid eveningwear. A total of 11 models, Yearbury said, from around the world would take part in the impressive catwalk. They would be joined by Bangladeshi model Shaon.

With this fashion show Paris will come to the city featuring its chic and style in a 'défilé de mode' and will display designer garments from leading French fashion houses. It would be satiating to watch the designs of star 'couturiers' and watch up-and-coming 'createurs' in the world fashion circuit.

There will be, Elizabeth Yearbury informed, a total of 91 designer wear from the 12 fashion houses each featuring six of its latest evening collections.

Split into two well-laid out sec-



Glamorous Spring / Summer collection of John Galiano

tions, the show will feature fusion fashion by Bangladeshi designers

such as Aneela, Bibi Russell, Kuhu, Maheen Khan, Nasrine Karim and Roxana. The later part will present the much-awaited European chic outfit with special focus on wedding gowns highlighting French tradition.

The forthcoming fashion display to be held in Dhaka is a big challenge for all of us, those who are associated with the project, directly or indirectly', said Yearbury, adding that 'The main objective of the organisers is to create a bridge where the East meet the West and exchange fashion dialogues.'

The press briefing was told that a lot of work was still to be done including the selection of background music and the synchronisation of the entire choreography. A 500-kilogram collection, carefully packed into 15 trunks, will arrive by the official carrier, Emirates, at Dhaka airport on March 9. This luggage will be accompanied by a group of French coordinators: two directors, a choreographer and a sound/light technician. All the logistic equip-



PHOTO: INTERNET

Inclusion of wedding gown in French fashion show is a traditional practice

ment will arrive from India.

The twelve models have

received specialised training from the choreographer in order to help



PHOTO: INTERNET

Latest Spring collections of Kenzo

Concert

Musical globalisation

A multi-cultural chamber group presents a wide selection of Western classical favourites

EMILE CHABAL

THE positive effects of globalisation could not have been made more apparent at Sunday's classical music recital in Dhaka. Italy, Russia, Germany, Thailand, and France were all represented in some form or another at the recital. The fact that the concert took place in Bangladesh is further confirmation of Western classical music's small, but growing, appeal on the subcontinent.

The music group 'Ibicus' was originally formed by Sophie Tanapura a soprano singer from Thailand and Simon Stadlmeir a German violinist in 1990. Sophie had been a member of a chamber orchestra since 1985 but when that closed down she wanted to continue playing and performing and hence decided to form her own group. She promptly got in touch with Simon who had been a member of the original chamber orchestra and 'Ibicus' was born.

The combination of voice and violin being an unusual one, they then invited Simon's wife, Elvira Galioullina, to complete the group on piano. All the three of them had their musical education in the West: Simon in Germany, Sophie in Paris and Elvira in Russia. They now teach enthusiastic students in Bangkok courtesy of the government's music financing scheme.

Based in the Thai capital, the trio

has toured in the Czech Republic, Spain, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia and Vietnam, often taking this type of music to countries with little or no experience of it. They have also regularly asked other Japanese or American instrumentalists to join them since 1995, performing with cellists, flautists, oboists and clarinetists.

This, however, is their first visit to Bangladesh. Co-ordinated by the German Embassy and sponsored by Siemens and the Bangladesh-German Business Forum, the tickets were priced at an extremely reasonable Tk. 70. The Osmani Memorial Hall was the perfect venue for such a concert, offering quiet, air-conditioned surroundings for the musicians to perform.

Unfortunately, the medium-sized audience was largely composed of expatriates, demonstrating the still limited appeal of this kind of music here in Bangladesh. Furthermore, despite a specific request that mobile phones be switched off at the start, several went off during the concert, a distraction for musicians and listeners alike. Otherwise, the concert started promptly at around 7:00.

After a short introduction by the German ambassador in Dhaka, the programme kicked off with a lively Mozart violin sonata. Constructed using the standard three-movement (fast-slow-fast) form typical of the time, it allows ample opportunity for interaction between the piano and



The German Ambassador is seen with the performers

the violin. Elvira showed some sound phrasing and singing lines during her solo passages though Simon on violin took a little time to warm up. As a result, the third movement was the most satisfying.

The violin sonata was followed by a selection of Mozart songs and arias that saw the first appearance for the vocalist. Her voice is not particularly rich and it took a little getting used to, but she had a very sure feel for the direction of the music. Again, she was treated to a sensitive accompaniment from Elvira on piano.

The first half closed with a 'L'amerò, sarò costante', an aria from Mozart's opera Il Re Pastoro. Arranged for soprano, violin and piano, it was nice to see all the performers together on the stage. The interplay between the three was good showing that their many years together have paid off although the vocalist struggled a little with Mozart's delicate high passages.

The second half started with an original composition by King Bhumibol Abulyadej entitled Lom Nao (Winter Breeze). The inoffensive piece was soundly executed by the trio, the dulcet tones providing ample space for some expressive violin playing and Sophie sounding at ease in her native language.

Altogether more substantial were the Fauré songs that followed. This was the vocal highpoint of the performance and she gave the songs a pleasing, lilting feel and did

a fine job in pronouncing the French. After a Handel largo for piano and violin, the audience were offered three more *lieder* by Schubert and Mendelssohn which passed by without much incident.

The instrumental peak was attained during the Rachmaninov Vocalise. The long, romantic lines were ideal for the violinist and, for the first time that evening, one felt that he had a sure musical command of the piece. The pianist, predictably, provided an excellent musical backdrop and the whole combined very well.

The performance ended with two Verdi arias and a bouncing Katchaturyan violin piece. The Verdi sounded too demanding for the singer though, and she had some trouble sustaining the solo sections. The Katchaturyan, on the other hand, was judiciously performed. The pianist deserves overall praise for providing the most consistently musical interpretation of her parts. The encore a French song where the violin played off the stage was an amusing and light-hearted finale and deservedly earned the applause of the audience.

All in all, it was a very pleasant evening. The musical standard was not that of a professional European classical concert but it gave much-needed exposure to this type of music in Bangladesh.

Movies

'Soldiers' conquer North American box office

AFP, Los Angeles

WAR drama "We Were Soldiers" conquered the North American box office this weekend, according to preliminary industry figures released Sunday.

The Vietnam War drama -- based on the best-selling true story "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young" by reporter Joseph Galloway and retired Lieutenant General Harold Moore -- is expected to reel in 20.2 million dollars in its debut weekend in Canada and the United States, according to Los Angeles-based Exhibitor Relations.

In second place was the comedy "40 Days and 40 Nights," with an

expected take of 12.5 million dollars, followed by "John Q.," starring Denzel Washington, with 8.4 million dollars; Kevin Costner's latest effort, "Dragonfly," with 6.8 million; and Peter Pan's animated adventure "Return to Never Land," with 6.5 million.

Last week's number-one film, vampire flick "Queen of the Damned," lost much of its bite, sliding to sixth this weekend with an expected take of about 5.8 million dollars, followed by "Big Fat Liar" (4.8 million), "A Beautiful Mind" (4.4 million), "Crossroads" (four million) and "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (3.1 million).

Final figures are due out Monday.



Mel Gibson as Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore in Paramount's We Were Soldiers - 2002. Photo: Stephen Vaughan

The best of France's Cesars movie awards

AFP, Paris

FEEL-GOOD movie "Amelie" won the award for best film at the Cesars -- France's answers to the Oscars -- in a glitzy ceremony in Paris late Saturday.

Director Jean-Pierre Jeunet was also honoured with a Cesar for best director for the film, which has been a hit around the world. Two other Cesars, for best music and best decor, were also picked up.

"Amelie" star Audrey Tautou, however, lost out in the best actress category to Emmanuelle Devos, who played a deaf woman in the critically acclaimed "Sur Mes

Cesars with 13 nominations.

David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive" won the best foreign film category in France's prestigious Cesars movie awards, held in a ceremony in Paris late Saturday.

The film, a schizophrenic view of Hollywood told through the eyes of a naive actress hoping for her big break and a mysterious brunette trying to piece together her fractured memory, won against strong competition.

The other nominees in the category were: "The Man Who Wasn't There" by the Coen brothers from



Audrey Tautou in Miramax Zoe's Amelie - 2001

receive the Cesar, has been nominated for best director for "No Man's Land", a film that

The picture, by first-time Bosnian director and writer Danis Tanovic, relates the story of the war through two enemy soldiers who find themselves at the centre of an international dilemma after becoming trapped in a trench together.

The Cesar honour adds to a basket of trophies the film has already picked up, including best screenplay at last year's Cannes Film Festival. The movie is also nominated for an Oscar as best foreign language film.

The Cesars ceremony -- France's answer to the Oscars -- was held in a 19th century theatre in the centre of Paris.

"Mulholland Drive" are to be awarded in the Oscars. "Amelie" is also competing in the best foreign film category of the Oscars, which is to be held in the United States on March 24.



Branko Djuric and Rene Bitorajac in No Man's Land

Levres" (Watch My Lips).

The story, about a young girl living in Paris (Tautou) who brings happiness to the lives of people around her, had walked into the



Laura Harring as Rita in Mulholland Drive - 2001

he United States, Italy's "The Son's Room", Australian/US production "Moulin Rouge", and "Traffic" by US director Steven Soderbergh.

Lynch, who was not present to

takes a satirical look at the absurdities of the Bosnian war, won the prize for best first work of fiction at France's Cesars movie awards late Saturday.



The concert is in progress