

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cinema

Meghla Aakash, a full length feature film on awareness against HIV/AIDS has been released in different cinema halls of the city. With casts of two renowned Bollywood superstars Shabana Azmi and Ayub Khan, the film also features local stars like Moushumi, Purnima, Shakil Khan, Amit Hasan, Ferdousi Majumdar, Shahidul Alam Sachchu and many other well known faces. It is an experimental production done by the organisation of FemCom, a N.G.O. The film is recommended for adults only.

Group Art Show

A weeklong painting exhibition entitled 'From Across the Border' by three Indian painters Deba Prasad Roy, Ugene Dutt and Habibur Rahman is being held at the city's Dry gallery. The show runs every day from 3 to 6 pm till March 29.

Solo exhibition

A solo art exhibition of Abdus Shakoor is being held at Bengal Art Gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition features recent works of the artist who is inclined to pause and look back, to lift the fraying mantle and engerise a willing legacy. The exhibition will remain open for all from 12 p.m. to 8p.m. till March 29, 2002.

Sculpture exhibition

A weeklong sculpture and art exhibition by artist Nisar Hossain which began on March 25, is going on at the city's Gallery 21.

Solo art

A solo exhibition of Ronni Ahmed started at the Alliance Francaise de dhaka art gallery in the city. The exhibition remains open for all till April 5.

Tagore song evening

Geetasudha will hold a Tagore song evening at the Indian Cultural Centre, 754, Stamasjid Road, Dhanmondi today at 7:00 p.m.

Basanta Utsav

Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parisad organises a Basanta Utsav today at the Dhanmondi Ampitheatre at 5:30 p.m.

Art Exhibition

Green Gems International School holds its Annual Art Exhibition today at its Administrative Building, House #33A, Road #9A, Dhanmondi.

Fashion

A grand fashion gala

12th BATEXPO fashion show held

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

It was no ordinary fashion show: The 12th BATEXPO (Bangladesh Apparel & Textile Exposition) fashion show at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel's poolside on last Sunday was a carousel ride where country's leading textile and apparel industries showcased their latest collections.

Organised by BATEXPO and DHL Worldwide Express the fashion show was a part of the three daylong textile extravaganza Bangladesh Apparel & Textile Exposition, which started on March 23.

The poolside was overflowing with fashion lovers of the city long before the show started. Then with flash of lights and roar of music the awaiting show started. The first queue was with the products of Onus group. One by one the models catwalked wearing long printed skirts mostly in dark colours and single light coloured shirts. Females wearing sleeveless shirts and dark trousers and males wearing jeans and cotton shirts by Aziz group were next.

Proskikha's printed collection in silk was a feast of pretty colours like red and black. It was the next



Star of the show: Femina Miss India Reshmi Mitra

queue and the audience loved it. Agni, a dance group from India performed an aerobic dance



Models present latest products by countries leading textile and apparel industries

number next. Choiti group presented something little different next. With Aqua's famous number 'Barbie Girl' more than a dozen little children wearing children wear walked down the ramp with a balloon in their hand. The crowd loved it. Next they presented their synthetic t-shirts and trousers. After this the summer and fall collection part of the show came to an end.

The winter collection started off with pullovers in red, brown, white and black trousers by Creator. After that models walked down the ramp wearing striped full sleeve t-shirts by Azim group.

The first Salwar Kameez collection of the show by Proshikha fabrics was really impressive. Most of them were in black having silvery and glittering works. Another dance performance of the famous Indian film soundtrack 'Kambakhth Ishq' was next.

NIFD (National Institute of Fashion Design) presented their

collection of tied and block printed tops and after that a range of Salwar Kameez. "I believe there should be no distinction as the east and the west in fashion designing. Whatever you can carry on yourself is best for you," said Mini Sharma, a choreographer and fashion designer from NIFD (Delhi) while talking to The Daily Star. She also said, "I think the people of Bangladesh should be more fashion conscious and the fashion industry should have more international exposure."

Women wearing exclusive evening gowns in light brown and men wearing western hats and

fancy shirts by Azim group were appreciated by the audience. Another dance performance by Indian dance group Agni bought the show to an end. Some Indian models and exclusive appearance by Femina Miss India Selina Jetti added more colour to the show.

Overall it was a great evening and an opportunity to experience country's textile and apparel sector's recent trends. Shows like this should be organised internationally so that our developing fashion industry is known and appreciated throughout the world.

Theatre Festival

Prachyanatya, to mark its fifth founding anniversary, organises five-day long theatre festival featuring theatrical shows and seminar at the city's Shawkat Osman auditorium of the Public Library. Detailed schedule of the shows is given below:

March 28: Kainya at 7:00 p.m.

March 29: Kainya at 7:00 p.m.

Oscars

Golden Oscars for black actors

74th Annual Academy Awards held

REUTERS, Los Angeles

OSCAR glory bathed black stars as never before on Sunday, as African-American performers claimed the top acting awards for the first time, and Sidney Poitier was saluted as the first leading man to cross Hollywood's colour barrier.

"This moment is so much bigger than me," a shivering Halle Berry exclaimed through tears as she accepted the first best-actress statuette ever presented to a black performer.

She won the prize for her role in the racially charged film "Monster's Ball."

"And it's for every nameless, faceless woman of colour that now has a chance because this door, tonight, has been opened," Berry, 33, said.

"I am so honoured, and I thank the academy for choosing me to be the vessel for which this blessing might flow."

Moments later, Denzel Washington, 47, claimed the second Oscar of his career, and his first as a lead actor, for playing a corrupt cop in the gritty drama "Training Day."



Australian actress Nicole Kidman with her sister

He became only the second African American to win the best-actor prize, nearly four decades after Poitier became the first to do so for "Lilies of the Field" in 1964.

"Two birds in one night, huh?" Washington said as he emerged smiling on stage. "Forty years I've been chasing Sidney. They finally



British actress Kate Winslet (L) and British director Sam Mendes

give it to me. What do they do? They give it to him the same night. I'll always be chasing you.

"Sidney, I'll always be following in your footsteps. There's nothing I would rather do."

The nomination of Washington, Berry and Will Smith, for his biographical boxing portrait in "Ali,"



Actress Halle Berry won Best Actress for her role in 'Monsters Ball'

marked the first time since 1973 that three black performers were nominated in lead acting categories in the same year.

And the Oscar victories of Washington and Berry -- only the seventh and eighth statuettes ever taken home by African Americans, was an added triumph.



British musician Sting (R) and his wife Trudie Styler

The theme of racial diversity in Hollywood even figured prominently in the evening's humour from Oscar host Whoopi Goldberg, herself one of only eight blacks ever to win an Oscar for acting.

Dressing in a maid's costume to introduce best-picture nominee "Gosford Park," Robert Altman's ensemble satire on the British class system, Goldberg said the film was "a movie about 15 maids, butlers and clerks, and not one of them is black."

And she joked that in "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," an epic film about dwarfs, elves, fairies and hobbits, there were no black characters, "not even black hobbits ... also called bobbits."

Introducing the special tribute to Poitier earlier in the evening, Washington said the 75-year-old acting legend earned a special place as "the first solo, above-the-title African American movie star."

"Before Sidney, African-American actors had to take supporting roles in major studio films that were easy to cut out in certain parts of the country," Washington said. "But you couldn't cut Sidney Poitier out of a Sidney Poitier picture. He was the reason a movie got made."

Following a pre-taped segment featuring leading African American stars -- Berry and Smith to Spike Lee and Laurence Fishburne -- saluting Poitier, the actor walked onto stage to a prolonged, rousing standing ovation.

"I arrived in Hollywood at the age



Australian actress Naomi Watts arrives

of 22 in a time different than today's - a time in which the odds against my standing here tonight...would not have fallen in my favour," he said.

"Back then, no roots had been established where I was hoping to go... No custom for me to follow. Yet here I am this evening."

Hollywood has a mixed history of portraying blacks on screen -- often depicting them in past decades as servants or singing and dancing adjuncts to white stars.

But Sunday's Oscars highlighted strides made by black performers since Hattie McDaniel broke the Oscar colour barrier by winning the award for best supporting actress in 1939's "Gone with the Wind."

African-American stars assumed a high profile rare for the Academy Awards after Washington, Berry and Smith all were nominated this year.

The last time three blacks were nominated in lead roles was in 1973, when the lineup was two actresses and one actor -- Diana Ross for "Lady Sings the Blues" and Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield for "Sounder." None won.

In 74 years of Oscar history, only 26 African Americans have been nominated for acting, and only seven, including Washington and Berry, have won.

Washington became the first to win two Oscars. He took home his first in 1990 for his supporting role as a Civil War soldier in "Glory."

Backstage at the Oscars, Berry said Sunday marked a turning point. "Today, this means, I hope, that the glass ceiling has been broken," she said.

Art

Yasuda Sunflowers "authentic"

Martin Bailey writes from Amsterdam about a 25 million pound worth famous work of art that was probably painted on jute sacking

THE Van Gogh "Sunflowers" which sold for a record £25 million was probably painted on jute sacking made for transporting sugar. Although it was knocked down in 1987 as the world's most expensive picture, it had humble origins.

The Van Gogh Museum identified the type of jute during the most detailed examination ever undertaken on the controversial work, which critics have dubbed a fake by artist Emile Schuffenecker.

The study by museum curator Louis van Tilborgh and conservator Ella Hendriks, published in the museum's annual Journal, concludes that although the artist had problems with the painting, the Yasuda "Sunflowers" is nevertheless authentic. "Van Gogh wrestled with this picture, and ironically it is the results of this struggle that have given the critics reason to regard the work as a forgery." The museum cites six main reasons for its authenticity.

Although it was previously assumed that there was no early documentary evidence of the Yasuda picture, a reference to "Sunflowers" in a list compiled by Jo Bongervan Gogh on 8 October 1901 appears to refer to the Yasuda work.

The "Sunflowers" is on jute, an unusual canvas which was used by Van Gogh and Gauguin while working in the Yellow House.

The picture was slightly enlarged with an extension added by Schuffenecker in 1901. It would have been "illogical" for him to have forged the main part of the painting and then added an extension in a slightly different style.

The "Sunflowers" now in the National Gallery in London was painted in August 1888 and provided the main basis for the Yasuda picture, with a later version at the Van Gogh Museum having been done in February 1889. "While the subject in the Tokyo version has certainly been copied from the London painting, in terms of its main colors and schematization the still-life displays more similarities to the Amsterdam work. This observation nullifies the forgery theory once and for all: Schuffenecker could only have taken one of the two versions as his model [since in 1901 he had only the London picture]."

Two details in the botany, which have worried critics, are explainable: the broken stem of one flower is "a deliberate stylization" and another crudely painted leaf is the

result of sloppy copying from the original version.

Rather than being a mere repetition of the London picture, Van Gogh saw the Yasuda work as an exercise in painting "light-on-light"-sunflowers against a yellow background.

The Van Gogh Museum authors admit that the Yasuda "Sunflowers" had to be studied recently in Chicago and Amsterdam under glass and they were unfortunately not able to make a detailed examination of its ground. A simple visual inspection suggested that the ground could either be the barium sulphate that Van Gogh began to use in November 1888 or the white oil ground which he used the following month-the answer would help to determine the moment when it was painted.

Last month, at a symposium held in Amsterdam, critic Benoit Landais argued that the Yasuda painting is a fake. He says the use of jute was a clever ploy, which would only have occurred to "a copyist who knew that Vincent had worked with this kind of support". Schuffenecker was one of the few people who realised that Van Gogh and Gauguin used jute in The Yellow House: in December 1888 Schuffenecker had written a letter which mentioned the problems of Gauguin's "grosse toile" (thick canvas) and in 1901 he had at least two of Van Gogh's works which were painted on this unusual support.

Landais also argues there is considerable evidence that Schuffenecker was a faker. He claims that he made about two dozen "second versions" and "adaptations" of works by Van Gogh - including two in the current "Van Gogh and Gauguin" exhibition in Amsterdam, "Madame Roulin with her baby" (Philadelphia Museum of Art) and "L'Arlésienne with books" (Metropolitan, New York). Another critic, Antonio de Robertis, made the astonishing suggestion at the Amsterdam symposium that Gauguin had painted the Yasuda "Sunflowers".

Although the overwhelming feeling at the symposium was that the Yasuda "Sunflowers" is authentic, one further question looms on the horizon - its name. In July Yasuda is due to merge with Nissan Fire Insurance, under the new name Sompō. Will the most controversial of all Van Goghs then become the "Sompō Sunflowers"?

Courtesy: Internet

List of the winners at the 74th Annual Academy Awards

BEST PICTURE
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
Brian Grazer And Ron Howard

ACTOR - LEADING
Denzel Washington
TRAINING DAY

ACTOR - SUPPORTING
Jim Broadbent
IRIS

ACTRESS - LEADING
Halle Berry
MONSTERS BALL

ACTRESS - SUPPORTING
Jennifer Connelly
A BEAUTIFUL MIND

DIRECTING
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
Ron Howard

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
SHREK
Aron Warner

ART DIRECTION
MOULIN ROUGE
Catherine Martin (Art Direction) And Brigitte Broch (Set Decoration)

CINEMATOGRAPHY
LORD OF THE RINGS
Andrew Lesnie

COSTUME DESIGN
MOULIN ROUGE
Catherine Martin and Angus Strathie

VISUAL EFFECTS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
Jim Rygiel, Randall William Cook, Richard Taylor and Mark Stetson

FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
NO MAN'S LAND
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Directed by Danis Tanovic

MUSIC (SONG)
MONSTERS, INC.
"If I Didn't Have You"
Music and Lyric by Randy Newman



US actor Denzel Washington and his wife Pauletta Pearson arrive for the 74th Annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, CA. Washington won best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in "Training Day"



Australian actor Russell Crowe (R) arrives with his friend Danielle Spencer for the 74th Annual Academy Awards. Crowe was nominated for Best Actor for his role in "A Beautiful Mind."

PHOTOS: AFP