

RECOMMENDATIONS

Drum concert

Drummers from Japan will perform two concerts entitled 'Yamato' at 7 p.m. on April 12 and 13 at the auditorium of Osmany Memorial Hall in the city. The two concerts are being held in observance of the 30th anniversary of Japan-Bangladesh diplomatic relations. The events are jointly organised by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Organisers have distributed free entry cards.

Video show

A video show on Shatchari forest by eminent dentist and bird specialist Dr. Ronald Halder will be held at the VIP lounge of National Press Club at 10:50 a.m. on April 9 (Tuesday). The show will be held as part of a seminar titled "Birds of Tanguar Haor and Shatchari forest". Renowned photographer and bird specialist Enam Ul Haq will deliver the key-note. The seminar will be organised by Bangladesh Bird Club and it will remain open to the general public. Proceedings will start from 10:30 a.m.

Pottery show

First solo show of hand painted pottery by Sadia Hasin is being held at the Haseen Gallery, 13/A/2, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Gulshan-2. Exhibition runs daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. till April 9.

Photography Exhibition

To commemorate September 11 tragedy and to pay tribute to the innocent victims, a photography show sponsored by The American Centre of the U.S Embassy, opens on April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the city's Drik Gallery, House # 58, Road # 15/A, Dhanmondi. The show will be showcasing 27 pieces taken by renowned photographer Foel Meyerowitz from World Trade Centre site. Exhibition will stay open from 3 to 8 p.m. till April 20.

Art show

An exhibition of recent paintings by Murtaza Baseer is now being held at the city's Gallery Shilparag, House # 15, Road # 16(NEW) at Dhanmondi. The show is open to all from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. everyday till April 10.

Recitation

An evening of poetic elegance

Fifteen poets of top order recite their favourite poems at a graceful ceremony at Bishwa Shahitya Kendra in the city



The evening of April 2 at Bishwa Shahitya Kendra observes a prestigious gathering of eminent poets, writers and literary connoisseurs

CULTURE DESK

UTTARPURUSH, a journal of poetry, arranged a recitation program that was participated by 15 leading poets of the country. The poets read out their favorite poems. The event was held on the evening of April 2 at the auditorium of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra at Bangla Motor in the city.

Poet Samudra Gupta conducted the proceeding of the evening that included discussions on the present situation of poetry in this country.

Poet Rabiul Hussain distributed award among several participants who were declared winners in the recitation contest.

Rabiul Hussain in his speech mentioned that the definition of poetry could still not be clearly proclaimed but it is certain that

this particular topic of literature is a very interesting one and not at all complicated.

'The most independent of all is a poet', said Imdadul Haq Milon, a top writer of the contemporary period. 'It is a grave error on one's part to ask a poet to cut short his or her lengthy recitation', Milon added.

Litterateur Zakaria Siraji commented on the adverse effect of electronic media upon poetry for which as he thought, mass community has started moving away from the arena of poetry.

Faruque Mahmood, a poet of the new generation, felt that there should be some proficiency in recitation along with good writing skill.

Among others, poet Salem Suleri, Hameed Raihan and Dr.

Mahbub Hasan expressed their feelings and opinions on the contemporary standard and style of poetry in Bangladesh.

Poet Salem Suleri stressed on introducing modern style and theme in modern-day poems. He said that the styles followed from those of Jibanananda Das are no longer capable of attracting the audience who, he felt, has moved ahead in attitude and concept with the passing of time.

Raihan Hameed, organiser of the event and editor of Uttarpurush, mentioned in his brief speech on the popularity of poem in our country. The epic journey of poetry will continue to move ahead even if the popularity goes down among the common mass', he said. Hameed sought cooperation and encour-

agement from all quarters of the society in fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the poet community of Bangladesh. He thanked all for attending the event.

Poets Makid Haider, Mujibul Haq Kabir, Jafrul Ahsan, Fazlul Kashem, Golam Kibria Pinu, Salem Suleri, Shahin Reza, Saimoom Raju, Majid Mahmood, Suman Sardar, Badal Ghosh, Debendra Malakar, Baitullah Kadri and Tapan Bagchi rendered recitation of their favourite poems.

The proceeding of the evening was witnessed by a large group of literary connoisseurs including poets, writers, artists and poetry lovers from across the city.

Music

Sheryl Crow's C'mon, C'mon

Crow's fourth studio album about to rock the world

ON her fourth studio album, Sheryl Crow is beginning to second-guess herself, underestimating the resilience of her hardy, well-crafted tunes. Perhaps wary of overwhelming or obscuring those songs with a good rocking out, she invites a studioful of illustrious classic rockers (Don Henley) and alternative types (Liz Phair) to add a social richness to an album that lacks a musical backbone. Despite the beach-radio-fun of the delightful first single, "Soak Up the Sun," *C'mon, C'mon* is devoid of the dreamy first-light coherence and good-time-gal oomph that Crow can pull off so effortlessly. Instead, it's heavy on billowy ballads and rife with unforgivably lazy lyrics ("Life is what happens while you're making plans"; "It's not having what you want, it's wanting what you've got").

That's not to say there's no commercial potential: the chorus of "You're an Original" (with Lenny Kravitz) is destined to be plucked and carefully framed for future car ads, and "It's So Easy" is an abysmal power-ballad duet with Henley that reeks of Diane Warren ("It's so easy, but it isn't right," indeed). "Safe and Sound" is another



oversize, echoey slow one for which Crow's breathy and weak soprano is inadequate. But her gutsy midrange is just right for the vroom-vroom opener, "Steve McQueen," the lovely, slow-plucking guitar accompaniment on "Weather Channel" (with Emmylou Harris) and for "Hole in My Pocket" with its

snaky bass. Still, it's frustrating to imagine how much more power Crow could amp up by tattering the edges of her best songs and avoiding the crowd-pleasing delicacy that makes her sound like a Sheryl Crow cover band. Led by Bob Seger.

Source : Internet

Theatre



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Chittagong Group Theatre Forum parade the streets of Chittagong in a colourful procession. 30th anniversary of group theatre was recently observed in the port city

Cinema

National Lampoon's Van Wilder released

IT'S sad that visual jokes about male bodily fluids no longer shock audiences. Now, for films to surprise us, they must include jokes about the fluids of *other animals*. *Van Wilder*, the latest installment in the never-ending *National Lampoon* series, doesn't stop with just a joke, however. It actually contains a scene wherein characters consume dog semen

Perhaps in a sick, twisted way, the concept of a person unknowingly consuming animal semen could be somewhat amusing. But actually watching a character manually stimulate a canine with oversized

too gross to qualify as humor.

Obviously, this film isn't targeting film scholars, or scholars of any kind... or even most mammals. But even horny, perverted college kids will be disappointed. Sure, there's plenty of humor involving sex with old ladies, alcohol, drugs, sex toys, and masturbation but we've seen it all before. Even the sex scenes feel tired and contrived. The nudity in so out of place, even the most immature adolescents will acknowledge their awkward gratuitous nature. It's no fun at all. None of the jokes work. They might have seemed interesting on paper, but the writing never



Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds) and his dog Hercules in Artisan's National Lampoon's Van Wilder 2002

ity from staff and students alike, he is having the time of his life. Why end it all by graduating? But his father eventually wakes up and stops paying his son's tuition. What should Van do now? Throw parties, of course. It's what he does best. People around campus pay him to put on big parties. He makes enough dough to continue blowing off his college experience.

Eventually, he becomes the target of a student journalist named Gwen Pearson (Tara Reid). At first, she hates Van's cocky attitude, but, as their bickering soon evolves into a blossoming relationship, every soul in the audience will spot the obvious outcome a mile away.

The story itself has no aim or direction. Even recent comedies like *Sorority Boys* contain a decent comic concept. This film doesn't even have a tag line. It wanders aimlessly from scene to scene. It has no idea where it's going or where it's

been. The film initially glorifies Van Wilder's dysfunctional behavior, then, as the character begins to understand his uneventful past, the movie grows a brain and a heart. Unfortunately, it eventually switches again and supports his irresponsible behavior. The film even concludes that Wilder "inspires the uninspired." Well, he did inspire me to keep checking my watch.

The film runs 95 minutes. Why waste precious time on something like this when there are so many better movies out right now. If you are looking for a decent sex comedy, go see *40 Days and 40 Nights*, a movie that deals with the comic sexual aspects of youth in a fun an interesting way. It's actually about something... that is more than I can say about *Van Wilder*.

Source: Internet

Bollywood casts eye on Asian market with Indian 'Oscars' in Malaysia

AFP, Malaysia

AFTER Europe and Africa, Bollywood is turning its attention to Asia with India's equivalent of the Oscars to be staged Saturday at a hill-top Malaysian casino resort.

Bombay's brightest stars will gather in Genting Highlands, some 50 kilometres (31 miles) from Kuala Lumpur, for the third International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards which will be seen by millions of television viewers worldwide.

The inaugural IIFA awards -- designed to promote Indian cinema worldwide -- were held at the Millennium Dome in London in 2000. Last year they were at Sun City in South Africa.

"When we went to London, for the first time we really exposed ourselves to a more international audience," Sabbas Joseph, director of event organiser Vizcraft Int., told AFP.

"In year two in South Africa, we penetrated an even larger market. This year having come to Malaysia, we are reaching out to Asia itself... there's a huge, huge following in Asia, in the tens of millions."

India annually produces about 800 films -- more than Hollywood -- and has established markets among large South Asian communities in the United States and Europe, with demand for mainstream Hindi films growing in Asia.

But Bollywood quantity is no guarantee of quality. There were only two Indian megahits -- "Lagaan" and "Gadar" -- last year, and around 100 flops.

"Hindi cinema and India cinema

has gone on a journey. It's on a highway communicating with people, mixing with people. It is connecting with the world," Joseph said.

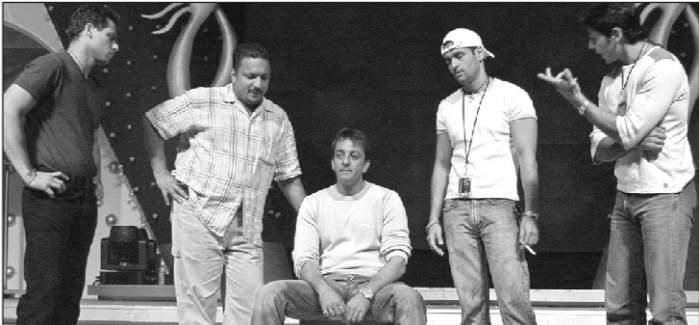
"Through IIFA, we've set up a platform to tell the world that we are here, we are special, we love you and we want you to be part of our Indian cinema."

The IIFA, which honors only Hindi films at the moment, hopes to incorporate "elements of regional Indian

level and home to Malaysia's only casino, are fully booked, Genting officials said.

The three-hour extravaganza, to be hosted by Miss Universe 2000 Lara Dutta, will be broadcast live to more than 20 million viewers in some 80 countries, organisers said.

Bachan, the only Indian film star to be honored with a wax likeness at the Madame Tussauds museum in London, will thrill the 4,000-strong audi-



Bollywood stars (L-R) actor Bikram Shaluja, director Sanjay Gupta, and actors Sanjay Dutt, Rohit Roy and Dino Morio take part in a rehearsal for the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in Genting Highlands, Malaysia

cinemas", such as Malayalam and Tamil movies, into the main event from next year, he added.

The creme de la creme of the Indian film industry from screen icon Amitabh Bachan to superstars Aamir Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Kajol and Aishwarya Rai will grace the glitzy affair in Genting.

Tickets have been sold out and all six hotels at the hill resort, which is 1,800 metres (6,000 feet) above sea

ence in Genting with a solo performance.

Miss Universe 1994-turned-actress Sushmita Sen will deliver a Nicole Kidman routine as she sings "Diamonds are a girl's best friend" from Oscar-winning "Moulin Rouge". Australian all-girl band Bardot will also perform.

Some Hollywood stars are expected to attend the festival but the

guest list remains a mystery, although local reports named Cameron Diaz.

The 2002 award spotlight falls on Aamir Khan as his film "Lagaan" -- nominated for best foreign-language film in last month's Oscars -- is up for 12 of 13 IIFA awards including for best picture, best director and best actor.

The 5.3-million-dollar epic tells the story of a group of villagers in the 1890s who have to play their British rulers at cricket to avoid paying a crippling "lagaan" or tax.

But "Lagaan" faces a tough fight from Bachan's 8.3-million-dollar production "Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham" ("Sometimes Joy, Sometimes Sorrow") -- popularly known as "K3G" -- which is also vying for 12 awards.

"K3G", the costliest movie ever churned out by Bollywood, revolves around two brothers separated by their no-nonsense aristocratic and auto-cratc father.

It has already clinched six of 14 IIFA technical awards -- including for sound recording, make-up, dialogue, art direction, background score and costume design -- announced recently in Mumbai.

The IIFA awards comprise three categories -- 13 for artistic excellence, 14 for technical excellence and special awards yet to be announced.

Shahrukh will have to contend with Aamir, Bachan and Sunny Deol to maintain his best actor crown. Kajol, Amisha Patel, Gracy Singh, Preity Zinta and Tabu will vie for best actress title.

New Bollywood action flick "Aankhen," another Bachan film, will make its world premier Friday in Genting as part of the festivities.



Tara Reid as Gwen in Artisan's National Lampoon's Van Wilder - 2002 Photo: Patty Arpaia

testicles is not funny. The scene continues with the character filling donuts with the ejaculation and then feeding the pastries to his peers. The sequence concludes as characters squirt the contents of the food into their mouths. This is a point when gross-out humor simply becomes

supports the comic momentum with adequate payoff.

The story, as it stands: Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds) is starting his seventh year at Coolidge College, but he's not planning on graduating any time soon. Armed with a personal assistant and loads of popular-



Casts of the Hollywood movie "Spider-man", Tobey Maguire (L) and Kirsten Dunst smile for photographers during a press conference for the promotion of their movie at Tokyo

GLOBAL blockbuster movie "The Lord of the Rings" opens at cinemas around China on Saturday, but some fear the world of hobbits, elves and orcs will prove a confusing one for the country's population.

Shanghai shop owner Wu Lei bought a copy of the film on a three-disc pirated video compact disc (VCD) set, put in one of the discs and sat down to watch.

"I sat through a full hour of the film before I realised that I was watching the last hour of the picture and not the first. You could watch the discs in any order and you still wouldn't have a clue what was happening," he said.

Wu's story highlights the two big-

gest problems the distributors face if the first installment of the film trilogy is to repeat its global success in China -- rampant piracy and, to many Chinese, a deeply confusing plot.

The fantasy flick peopled with hobbits, ringwraiths, elves and sorcerers is the stuff of childhood memories for many in the West, and Middle Earth a land they grew up with through J.R.R. Tolkien's original books.

Not so in China. Until recently, few people had heard of the published trilogy, which was retranslated into Chinese last year to pave the way for the film's release.

Western people in their 30s read it as children? Really. I thought it was a new thing that just came out last year," said Luo Mei, a 28-year office worker.

Luo said she also watched "The

Lord of the Rings" on pirated discs but had problems following a three-hour plot even Western critics admit is densely packed with narrative and characters.

"There were so many wizards and strange people and I kept losing track of who was who. And I thought the language was awkward," she said.

J.R.R. Tolkein's baroque fantasy incorporated two invented Elven languages and numerous lines of verse, not the easiest to translate.

Even the most famous lines of verse from the book: "One ring to rule them all. One ring to find them, and in the darkness bind them. In the land of Mordor where the shadows lie," come out sounding stilted and strange in Chinese.

And while Western audience have



A Chinese woman sweeps floor before a poster of "The lord of the rings" at a cinema in Shanghai

long been fed a diet of kung fu films, a foundation for the success of the Chinese-language blockbuster *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

overseas, few Chinese people would recognise an elf or orc if one stood behind them in the cinema queue.

Although the film is only being released this weekend, pirated copies of "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings", the film's full title, have been on sale for months at only 10 yuan (1.2 dollars), less than a cinema ticket.

In Beijing, distributors are giving away free "magic rings" with cinema tickets as a way of luring punters from their DVD machines and into the cinema.

However, there is still hope that Lord of the Rings could replicate the success of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone", which packed out cinemas during its release earlier this year.

A box office worker at the Shanghai

Film Art Center said the Lord of the Rings premiere on Saturday was already full.

"We've already sold out over 1,000 tickets, including many group tickets," she said, giving her name as Gong.

Meanwhile the translated book trilogy is also selling well, numbering on the Top Ten list of literature best sellers at the Shanghai Book Center, said the center's marketing director Jiang Li.

"We began stocking the Chinese version of The Lord of the Rings" over the Chinese Spring Festival (in February). At first it did not sell very well, but with the publicity of the movie, more and more people are buying it and we are selling about 30 sets a day," he said.