

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sayed Jahangir's solo

Featuring recent artworks the 10th solo art exhibition by Sayed Jahangir will start at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on April 18 at 6 in the evening. Minister M. Morshed Khan will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest.

The exhibition will continue everyday from 12- 8 p.m. till May 9.

Drum concert

Yamato, a drummers' troupe from Japan will perform two concerts 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. Yamato is touring South Asia. The events are jointly organised by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Organisers have distributed free entry cards.

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, opened on April 7 at the city's Drik Gallery, House # 58, Road # 15/A, Dhanmondi. The show is 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 19.

Children's Theater

Tonatuni stages mesmerizing performance

For the first time ever Dhaka savors unmixed pleasure, frolicsome children performers created a fairyland out of drab reality

SAIFUL ISLAM

LAST evening, in Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Tonatuni presented a preview of their show, which is going to be performed in some prestigious venues in Kolkata. Tonatuni, a popular organization to the children of Bangladesh for its excellent books and cassettes on powerfully lyrical rhymes and pleasing stories for children took a project to do some brilliant and colourful shows for the children of Bangladesh of the international standard that can remind our children of the extremely rich folk tradition and fairy tales of Bangladesh.

The enthralling performance of the children and the 2d-cartoon animation by Tonatuni took the viewers to a place, which is not quite unfamiliar. We are familiar to it, because it is a dream world. A world of pristine



Portrayal of animal and bird characters provide great amusement to the young audience at the event



Young performers do exceptionally well in characterisation of various imaginary roles

and crystal clear dreams that all of us had and some of us might even have it now in a nook of their heart. A kind of dreamy world where we can shun our care and dream our dream peace fully to the tune of the lullaby unforgettable. A lullaby that we used to hear lying leisurely on the lap of our grandparents or mother. Listening and dreaming all together of the marvelous world of Bhombol Das or the comic chamber of Safdar Dactar chewing water.

We cannot help a few drops of tear rolling down our cheek when we recite the immortal piece of poet Jatindramohon Bagchi, Kajla Didi. And think of a live show of a kid asking her mother of her elder lovely sister who has left the world forever. The mother finds it quite difficult to answer the cute girl when she playfully teases her mother about her leaving home too. The music accompanied by the touching tone of the singer was an excellent component to



From L to R Anisur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Mujibur Rahman Dilu

make the effect of the sadly serene story loveable.

In this present time of western influence on our children the effort of Tonatuni to take our little angels near to the adorable and immortal stories based upon our child literature and folk tradition true to our roots is remarkable. The lovely dances of the children and the sincere and enthusiastic work of the organizers behind the curtain made possible something our children had been waiting for long. A performance emanating bliss and mirth. Even the sad strains gave vent to performances soothing to heart, always devoid of the bitter and ugly. The lovely rhymes of Kaji Najrul Islam and pollikabi Jashimuddin were accompanied with the innovative and captivating choreography by Shamim Ara Nipa and the reputed group Nrityanchal. The brilliant sound effects and light were key component for the success of the programme.

The second part of the programme, the screening of the 2d-cartoon animation by cartoon genius Taskin Rahman Anjan, is going to be quite inspiring for the youngsters interested in animation. Some part of the cartoon was mirthful and some of it was quite thrilling.

Shomoloy, an organization

with cultural interest from Kolkata, was interested viewing the innovative galas of Tonatuni. Tonatuni is invited to participate in a one-hour show on 12 April in the Gorki Shadan of Kolkata. Tonatuni will be leaving Dhaka on the April 10 with a fine team of children performers. Moreover the organizers were also given the privilege of composing the theme music of Bangladesh Utsav 2002. The group will be performing in five prestigious venues and had composed excellent theme music harmonizing ten popular patriotic songs.

Mahbubur Rahman Joinal, Mojibur Rahaman Dilu and Anisur Rahman Tanu started their journey building up this group on the August 14 of 1985 with a vision to do something new for the children. Tonatuni for the first time came up with picturesque books and cassettes of lovely music and rhymes in Bangladesh. The superb work of literary merit won the first and the second position respectively in the Amar Ekushey Grontho Mela of the years 1987 and 1992.

Theater

Moby Dick lands on stage

Theater Triebwerk, a stage performers' group from Germany brings Moby Dick on stage

CULTURE DESK

MOBY Dick, a classic novel written by Herman Melville on the character of a legendary killer whale comes alive on stage as Theater Triebwerk acts out a plot based on the theme that is to be presented at the National Museum in the city on April 12 and 13, at 7 p.m.

To be presented in Co-operation with the Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute this award-winning production from Germany of Herman Melville's classic adventure story brims over with music, wit and imagination. Three brilliant actor-musicians recreate the perilous life of the sailors, taking us on a heart-stopping journey into the world of the whale.

The story is set during a period when seafarers caught whales to make a living. These ventures were deemed exceedingly dangerous and life threatening occupations, but whose profits warranted the exercise.

The plot revolves around Captain Ahab whose leg has been torn off by the legendary white whale Moby Dick. Captain Ahab pursues Moby Dick all over the world to seek his revenge...

Established in April 1995 in Kampnagel Hamburg, the Theater Triebwerk since then produces and plays theatre plays for children, youth and adults with live music. With its plays, the Theater Triebwerk was invited in and outside

the country to perform and was nominated in many cases. In this way the "Moby Dick" won the 'Bayarischer Theaterpreis 2000' as well as the 'Traumspiele Preis 2000' was awarded by the ZDF and was invited to the 'Scottish International Children's Festival 2001', to the northern 'Young at Art-Festival in Belfast 2001 and also to the 'European Children's Festival PANOPTIKUM' (2000) in Nuremberg.

The play "A Friend for the Lion Boltan" was awarded the 'Traumspielpreis' 1998; the TV-Nomination was broadcasted by the ZDF in the children's cable network 'arte' and in the theatre cable network of the ZDF. Besides, the play "A Friend for the Lion Boltan" was invited to the "German Festival in India" 2001, to the 'European Children's Festival PANOPTIKUM' (2000), "szene bunte wähe"; (1999), "Theaterspiel Zürich" (1999), to the 1st International Children and Youth Festival Baden-Württemberg (1998), as well as to the Children and Youth Festival "Starke Stücke" (1997).

The Theatre Triebwerk also played "Henry the Fifth" in the 4th Children and Youth Congress in Berlin 1997.

The organisers request the audience not to bring children under the age of 10. For tickets, interested persons are asked to contact at the reception of National Museum.



A scene from the play

Music

Hot, creamy and sweet music

Episode VIII of Nescafé Unplugged held

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

THREE in one' is what they called it. The combination of milk, sugar and coffee, which was the slogan for the Episode VIII of Nescafé Unplugged held on April 6 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel ballroom.

They should have called it 4 in 1, as the sweet melody of unplugged music joined the combination of coffee. World's No.1 coffee company Nescafé has always tried to fulfil people's thirst for music. Their innovative approach from the very beginning has successfully managed to change people's idea about concerts. Apart from the usual electric guitars, keyboards and different instruments, music lovers got the chance to experience pure acoustic music. A series of unplugged concerts by Nescafé have offered the audience with some Bengali and English classics by some popular and upcoming bands.

Minutes before 'Episode VIII' of Nescafé Unplugged started, the ballroom was almost filled with music lovers. There was a strike that day till 6 in the evening but that could not keep them away.



Feed Back performs superbly

The evening featured musical group Feed Back and Trio, a new name in the musical industry.

Trio, a band of three always performs with acoustic guitars. They first appeared in B & H Star

Search 2001 and earned the awards for best lyrics and best original composition. Trio is a Chittagong based band.

Trio came up with a new look at the Nescafé Unplugged. For adding more colour to their music they introduced a drummer and a bassist for the first time. After a short introduction the programme kicked off with a lively Bengali number 'Swapno Jorano Rate'. Trio then introduced themselves to the audience and performed two English numbers 'I am sorry' and 'Tequila Sunrise' by Eagles. Their performance was a bit shaky and it took a little while for them to get on the track. They had a very sure feel for the direction of the music. Their next number 'Nur Hossain' was one of their own lyrics with a Kenny Roger tune and it told the story of the great fighter Nur Hossain who sacrificed his life during the anti-autocratic movement of the 1990s. The crowd enjoyed this number. Two Beethoven numbers 'Yesterday' and 'Let it be' were next. But the band faced some difficulties in pronouncing this time. The audience enjoyed Trio's award winning numbers 'Chobi' and 'Piano'.

The second half started with the classic 'Moushumi' by Feed

Back. As one of the pioneer in band music in the country 'Feed Back' does not need any introduction. Although the band line up has changed several times but their music is ever green. After a Bengali number 'Emoni Rate' they performed the famous Dire Straits number 'Walk of Life'.

Guitarist Labu sang Feed Back's famous number 'Kano Khulecho Tomar Oi Janala' and Fuad Naser Babu playing the piano and the harmonium sang 'Ready for Love'.

Pink Floyd's 'The Wall' was the next number and the audience went crazy as they started performing. Clapton's 'Wonderful Tonight' and Bon Jovi's 'It's My Life' was similarly entertaining. Their superb performance came to an end with their super hit number 'Melay Jaire'.

Feed Back's performance was followed by a jamming sessions where members of Renaissance and other musicians participated and it was an appropriate desert for the show. There are many new and underground bands in our country just waiting for an opportunity to give the music lovers something new and pure. What best platform there can be except Nescafé who is relentless in scouting new talents.

Old is gold

A CD featuring popular old Bengali songs released to celebrate Bangla New Year's day

TAWFIQUE ALI

A solo CD album entitled "Jhora Shomoyer Gan" containing 14 pieces of old day popular Bengali songs, by Nirupoma Chowdhury, gets launched marking imminent Bangla New Year's day (Pahela Baisakh).

The success of the debut album inspired Nirupoma to complete the recording of her second solo album "Jhora Shomoyer Gan" (Old Melodies) within a month. The album is expected to be released on the coming Bengali New Year. These lyric-based all-time hit songs with superb music composition have got a new dimension in Nirupoma's enchanting and melodious voice. She is very much hopeful that her second album will get a similar positive response from the audience and will give the music lovers something to think about the future of Bengali songs. Both of the albums were recorded at Kolkata under the supervision of her musical guru Smt. Dipali Nag and produced by G-series.

Nirupoma has a strong classical musical background. She got her first music lessons from Swapna Roy. Then she received lessons from Krishna Kanta Acharya. She had been a disciple of Pandit Barin Mujumdar (Founding Principal of Dhaka Music College) from 1983 to 1995. Later since 1995, when she went to Kolkata for higher studies, she has been taking lessons from Smt Dipali Nag -- the legendary musician of the sub-continent who is currently the director of the Esteemed Sangeet Research Academy, India.

Nirupoma loves to perform classical music, Nazrul Songs, Tagore Songs and melodies from the past. She is an enlisted artist of Bangladesh Television (BTV) in Nazrul Songs (since 1999) and Tagore Songs (since 1997). She also had the opportunity to perform with her Guru in Doordarshan (DD7) of India. She had done numerous stage shows since her childhood both in Bangladesh and India. She earned a number of national and important awards in music competitions.

Nirupoma's first solo album "Eto Jol O Kajol Chokhe" (Nazrul Songs) was released on January 2002. The success of her debut album was more than expected. The combination of Nirupoma's matured and melodious voice was widely acclaimed by the music lovers. She was successful to achieve her goal



Nirupoma Chowdhury

to create an audience of good music reflecting our culture and heritage among the new generation.

National and other Important Awards that have so far gone to Nirupoma include "Natun Kuli" National TV Children Artists Award, National Children Award-Bangladesh Shishu Academy. She won National Children Awards given by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy:

1st in Classical Music in 1989  
1st in Classical Music in 1984  
Champion (Senior Group) in 1989  
Champion (Senior Group) in 1992  
Champion (Senior Group) 1994

Important stage programmes that she took part in are:

Classical Music organised by Meghdut Shanskritik Goshthy, Dhaka in 1981, National Classical Music Conference held in Rajshahi in 1985, Classical Music held by Uchchhyanga Sangeet Prachar Parishad, Dhaka in 1990, Solo Program Nandan Chakra of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Dhaka in 1993, Old Melodies arranged by Shannoy Shanskritik Goshthy in 1994, Nazrul Song organised by Jadavpur University Cultural Festival, Kolkata in 1996, Classical Music held by Uchchhyanga Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Dhaka in 1997.

Nirupoma's musical career had been long dreamt of by her parents. When she started learning music at the age of three she used to have a small carpet, which her parents had bought even before she was born, to sit on while singing. She has successfully made her parents' dream come true. In Bangladesh probably Nirupoma is the first artist, whose second solo album is being released within two months of the first one's release.



Trio performs at the Nescafé Unplugged episode VIII