

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chhaya'naat

June 21
A musical soiree will be held at 7 p.m. at the Naatmandal venue of Dhaka University campus to be organised by Chhaya'naat.

Young Artists' art exhibition 2002

June 20-July 4
A fortnight long young artists' art exhibition, organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the plaza of the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Bird fair, painting, quiz competion

June 29
A bird fair will be held at Aga Thakurpara in Barguna district on June 29 that is to be organised by Dalchut, a little magazine club with cooperation from Enam-Ul-Haque, President of Bangladesh Bird Club.

Music Festival

June 20-21
On the auspicious occasion of the two-day 'Music festival 2002' at the premises and gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, a piano concert will be held on the first day at 4 p.m. and performers will comprise of students from ecole de musique a La Galerie.

Cinema

Tribute to Mrinal Sen

Zahir Raihan Film Society screens five films in the first part of Mrinal Sen Retrospective

CULTURE DESK

MRINAL Sen is one of the three great Bengali filmmakers who took Bengali cinema to the stage of world cinema.

Ritwik Ghatak, Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen all started their filmmaking career in the first half of the 1950s. Though Satyajit Ray's international fame came almost immediately after releasing his first feature "Pathar Panchali" ("Song of the Little Road," 1955), Ghatak and Sen had to wait for another decade and a half for that.

Zahir Raihan Film Society has come up this time with the retrospective of films made by one of the "Trio" Mrinal Sen. In the first part of the series the film club is screening five films at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre at 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. The session started on Friday, June 14 and will be over on Tuesday, June 18. A film will be screened everyday at 6:30 PM. Mrinal Sen was born in 1923 in Faridpur in the then British India (now Bangladesh). He was sent to Kolkata to do his graduation in Physics in 1940. While studying



Still from Genesis

physics in Kolkata in the early 1940s, he was influenced by Marxist ideology. In 1943, he joined the Indian People's Theatre Association, a communist-sponsored group that dispatched stage troupes into the countryside. He earned a meagre living as a

teacher, journalist, proof-reader, and salesman of patent medicines before embarking on his filmmaking career in 1956.

An "accident," as Mrinal Sen calls it, happened when he was in college. A voracious reader, he would regularly frequent the



The filmmaker: Mrinal Sen

Imperial Library, now called the National Library, in Kolkata. He read everything from Marx to Nietzsche, from Shakespeare to the "Shahnama." One day, as he relaxed with cards in the catalogue room of the library, he chanced upon Rudolf Arnheim's historic

book "film as Art". He found the book riveting and even charismatic, leading him on to read everything and anything on cinema.

Along the same time, he wearied of the crop of Indian and American films he began to see. The love for books on cinema which inspired in him the love for good cinema, juxtaposed against the real-life experience of watching films he did not quite care for, egged Mrinal Sen on to write on the subject, and then involve himself more directly by making of film himself. The films was called "Raat Bhor" ("Night's End," 1956).

His second film "Neel Akasher Nichey" ("Under the Blue Sky," 1959) was banned for two months by the government, but didn't break through until "Akash Kushum" ("Up in the clouds," 1965), which generated a passionate with Satyajit Ray. His "Bhuvan Shome" (1969), made in Hindi, was a commercial success in Mumbai and is said to have pioneered the New Wave in Indian cinema, generating the 1970s debates about low-budget alterna-



Still from Khandahar

tives to commercial cinema. In his films, Sen has consistently and unambiguously downgraded notions of artistic "Originality" and deployed a wide array of influences from Glauber Rocha's early work to Francois Truffaut ("Akash Kusum") and from Augusto Boal's "Theatre of the Oppressed" to Fernando Solanas and Octavio Getino (the Kolkata trilogy: "Interview," "Calcutta '71" and "Padatik"). Federico Fellini ("Akaler Sandhaney") and Bresson ("Khandahar").

Best-known 1970s work evoked the radical currents of Bengali theatre and folk forms, achieving a freewheeling style Sen later described as "playing around with tools as often as I could, as a child plays with building blocks. Partly out of sheer playfulness, partly out of necessity, also partly to shock a section of our audiences (to violate the outrageously conformist mainstream of our cinema." His political films, drawing also from IPTA and Utpal Dutt's 1960s theatre group, culminated in the Kolkata trilogy made in the wake of dismantling of

the United Front Ministry in West Bengal, with massive anti-Left reprisals, especially, against Naxalite factions. The films became a "cause celebre". This period was later commemorated by Reinhard Hauff in his documentary "Ten Days in Calcutta: A Portrait of Mrinal Sen" (1984). 1980s work, introduced by "Ek Din Pratidin" ("And Quiet Rolls the dawn," 1979), returns to a storytelling style he presents as a more contemplative way of advocating "a greater awareness of reality." In addition to scripting his own films, he also wrote screen plays for a few filmmakers. He wrote several books on cinema.

"Antareen" ("The confined", 1993) is his last film to date. Since then he made no new films. In answer to why he isn't making any films, Sen answered that he lost the inspiration to make films. Sen is now leading a retired life in Kolkata. His films won many awards at home and abroad. This is the first part of the Mrinal Sen Retrospective. Other parts will follow this one.



Still from Bhuvan shome



Still from Kharij

TV GUIDE

Table listing TV programs for EKUSHEY, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL-i. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for HBO and STAR MOVIES. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for STAR PLUS, STAR NEWS, and STAR WORLD. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for CHANNEL [V]. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for ZEE TV. Includes show titles and times.

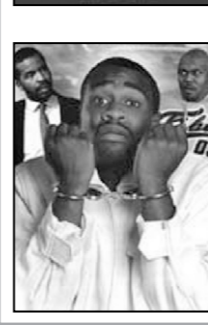
Table listing TV programs for ZEE CINEMA. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for ZEE MUSIC and HALL MARK. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for ZEE DISCOVERY. Includes show titles and times.

Table listing TV programs for ZEE VIJAY. Includes show titles and times.

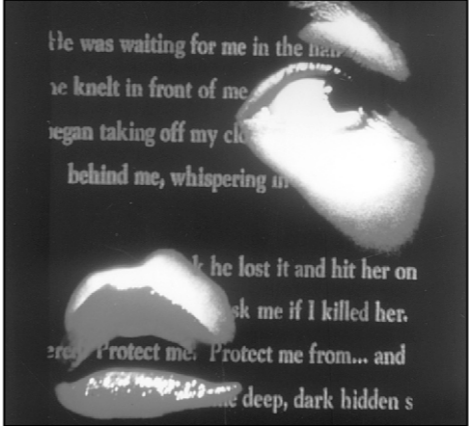
TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR MOVIES: 7:00 p.m. Hide and seek. Ann (Hannah) and Jack (Greenwood) are a successful, happily married couple who seemingly have it all. However, their story book life is abruptly rewritten when a deranged couple (Tilly and Gallo) who are unable to have children kidnaps Ann as part of a debased, evil scheme to steal her unborn child.

STAR MOVIES: 8:45 p.m. 3 strikes. This action-packed comedy follows a two time criminal (Hooks) who is already in trouble with the law. Threatened with serving life sentence if he's convicted a third time, he commits to going straight and narrow. It isn't long before trouble finds him once again when an acquaintance of his shoots at a police officer.

PICK OF THE DAY



Whispers in the Dark

On HBO at 10:00 p.m. Dr Ann Hecker is a New York City psychiatrist haunted by a recurring sexual dream. If only the rest of us are that lucky. At the same time, Dr Hecker meets Dough McDowell and starts to have a passionate affair with him.

ALPHA TV

Table listing programs for ALPHA TV, ZEE CINEMA, and ZEE MUSIC.

ANIMAL PLANET

Table listing programs for ANIMAL PLANET, ZEE DISCOVERY, and ZEE VIJAY.

SONY

Table listing programs for SONY, ZEE DISCOVERY, and ZEE VIJAY.

ZEE CINEMA

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ZEE MUSIC

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HALL MARK

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DISCOVERY

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VIJAY

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