

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE KALIMA TAYEBA

November 01-15
Entitled, 'The Kalima Tayeba', a painting exhibition of eminent artist Murtaza Baseer begins at the gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city and remains open every day from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and during Ramadan till 4:00 p.m.

Solo art exhibition

October 29 November 07
Painter Javed Jalil hosts a 10-day solo exhibition titled, 'BLACK LINE', at Shilpanga gallery (R # 5, Hse # 25, Dhanmondi RA) in the city that has been inaugurated by Andre Raynaud, Cultural Counsellor of French Embassy in Bangladesh.

Japanese Doll exhibition

October 29 November 9
A Japanese doll show takes place at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in observance of the ongoing Japan month in Bangladesh. The exhibition remains open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day while during the Ramadan till 4:00 p.m.

Group painting show

October 25 November 03
A group art exhibition of 18 young female artists of Nandan continues at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city.

Boutique show

Oct. 30 Nov. 02
Kaniz, a boutique outlet holds a promotional exhibition of its apparel items for women, girls and children at WVA auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city.

Interview

Of illicit trade in human flesh
Kamaluddin Nilu, who directed "Nishodo Jatra" which was screened recently at Goethe Institut, speaks about his film to Daily Star's Fayza Haq

The Daily Star (DS): What is the film about?
Kamaluddin Nilu (KN): The film is based on one of the burning issues of our contemporary society - that is, women trafficking. The film was also intended to explore the simple causes for why people fall in prey to the traffickers.

DS: How does the story of the film run?

KN: "Nishodo Jatra" has the story of a poor schoolteacher's daughter, Zarina, who has poverty as her daily experience. Zarina loved Kamal but was unable to marry him. Once again poverty was the cause. Her dream was broken by Ramzan, an ex-pupil of her father, who put on the mask of a well-meaning man. He took advantage of her dire needs and sold her to a brothel. Here too she did not give up her dreams of a simple married life with a man she cared for. She made the mistake of loving and trusting another man. She began a new life with a new man that she met at the brothel as she hoped to make a home like most other women. Thus she stepped into a new life, once again failing to get her dreams. Zarina was then sold to another country and so due to dearth of financial backing went astray, never gaining her aspirations. After being exchanged by human hands many times her only resort is suicide.

DS: What inspired you to make it?
KN: As you know that Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) launched programmes on child rights issues which were addressed through stage as well as street plays under a component of Theatre for Children. The main inspiration behind this programme was to create and raise awareness of people about various social issues. While working for children, I was shocked to see the plight of the poor and always felt an urge to do something for the ill-fated poor girls who are largely vulnerable to abominable works. And it was then when actionaid-Bangladesh came forward with a part of funding.

DS: Did you enjoy it as much as directing plays?
KN: I enjoyed directing the film very much. It was at the same time challenging to me, because we took shots for the film in some real spots for trafficking and sex works, i.e. in border areas as well as in brothels. And I merged the actors and actresses with the true characters of the film.

DS: How different is film direction from stage directions-- Which come easier to you?
KN: I am basically a man of theatre, and directing a film is completely different from stage directions. It was totally a new experience to me for so many reasons. For a stage play, I can work with actors, with much time to suggest their movements and to decide other designs. But for a film like this a docu-fiction film - I had to do many pre-works and designs in mind and then I went out for shooting. But I would say that both are interesting and enjoyable.

DS: Who are the main characters and can you give some background about them?
KN: The main characters of this docu-fiction film are the eminent performers of our film and theatre arena and they have long experi-

ences in this line. The artists are: Rokeya Prachy, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Manash Bandyopadhyaya, Golam Sarwar, Manjurul Islam Nantu, Rokhana Ferdousi, Queen Rahman, Kamal Sarkar, Bimal Roy, Shirin Alam, and Mosharraf Hossain Tutul. However, I have used some true characters in the film-like the sex workers in the brothel are acting their part as 'sex workers'.

DS: What were the problems that you faced while making this film?
KN: As I said earlier that it was really a challenging task for the whole team. As because we faced the mafia around the brothel and the border areas, and had to proceed very carefully. In some cases we had to meet with them and convince them in other way. But when they knew it was a film to focus on trafficking, they opposed us and forced to stop the shooting. We had to pack up the last shootings and manage with the shots that we already took.

DS: Do you think it will be popular and why?
KN: I can't say that about this work of my own. But I hope that it will get warm reception by the target people whom the film is intended for. I also hope that the target groups will be benefited, because the film upholds why trafficking takes place and whom they should believe in and whom they shouldn't. As for the life of the sex workers in the brothel, I have not presented the inner beauty a brothel can have, but only the negative sides and ugly pictures. This has

intentionally been done so as to create negative impressions about brothels. I therefore hope that the target people will understand all this and will be aware of the issue.

DS: How many films have you made so far? What have been your stage experience?
KN: This is my first film. But I also made a TV play but that is yet to be on air. Talking about theatre? I would say this is my place - and I did always believe in experiment and most of my productions are comprehensively experimental. Therefore I am discussed as a director and an actor both in home and abroad.

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Dazed and lost in a brothel

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Kamaluddin Nilu

Exhibition

Psychic expressions through lines and strokes

Javed Jalil's solo exhibition 'Black Line' continues at Shilpanga gallery in the city

AZIZ AMIRUL

AS one visits the display rooms of Shilpanga gallery at Dhanmondi in the city, where currently continues a solo art exhibit of a young painter, Javed Jalil, the viewer's mind opens up and seems to reach the periphery of a fresh dimension within the self, only to rediscover one's own individuality and existence in this complex universe. Entitled 'Black Line', the exhibition displays over 40 works though the artist presents through various methods of drawing and painting, those in oil, charcoal, ink, pencil, pastel and other mixed mediums.



Javed is a lover of the human figure

"What we perform, express or experience in the real world is only a revelation of the inner human psyche", says Javed while elaborating on his works. Pain, pleasure, joy, eroticism, ecstasy, fear, wisdom and meditation all find equal significance under the bristle of Javed Jalil's Chinese brush and as the artist believes, there flourishes hardly any other painter in the country who uses the medium to create forms and figures full of strokes and lines.

Javed Jalil's works contain themes of deep psychological perception in majority, with involvement of the human figure, with those of the suppressed and suffering male and female characters. The artist depicts a complex cosmos where any and every subject, starting from a molecular unit up to a dog or a human, receives strictly equal. All follow a common path and constantly search within themselves as some frail and indifferent beings of the Supreme Authority, those may, at any moment, perish into oblivion at the will of destiny.

A great ability of the artist lies in the fact that he, in an intricate way, projects his subjects on canvases through a mixed feature of abstrac-

tion and realism. 'I permeate deep into my subjects' psychic environment, hence explore and reign upon the ritualistic vehemence and emotional perception', reveals Javed.

To a first-time viewer, the minute and intricate, dark 'rings' and 'clouds' in the works would create a strong impact in mind able to make the observer 'feel' the emotional expressions of the painted subjects. 'Through such dark, tiny 'rings' and 'clouds' upon composition of my subjects, I make an attempt to create a kind of appropriate atmosphere for proper revelation of the deep emotional gestures of the various forms and figures', explains the artist.

Works like 'Torment and the dog', 'Motherhood' and 'Scream' depict quite a similar condition where the human subject, while crossing through life's hurdles and obstacles, reaches a peak point being able to justify and evaluate the social values and vices with close interaction with the barking creature, as close as one's soul mate. 'A professional painter should possess as much sensitivity to distinguish and successfully bring out, through his choice of subjects, core elements from the most difficult and minute entity'.

Incidentally, the dog theme of Javed rules among his works chiefly because of his close association with two stray dogs he once adopted in his home. A month back, one of the two, that he fondly called, 'Charlie's wife' was ruthlessly killed by a mob of street children, apparently without any reason. Javed dedicates the current exhibition in name of his beloved pet, 'Charlie's wife', also the lead character of his work, 'Motherhood'. 'When I recollect sweet memories of my dog and at the same time watch the lonely male dog, Charlie roaming in despair due to the unlimely demise of its female partner, my heart breaks into million pieces', says Javed, who tells again and again of the intense love affair between the two canines. A self-portrait of the artist, titled 'Portrait of an identity' is a one drawn hours after the death of 'Charlie's wife'.

I found an exceptionally close bond between the two dogs those often acted very much like human beings and exhibited sincere, loving characteristics towards me, which I am certain, is completely absent among human beings of the present times'.

All the 45-plus captioned works including 'Conflict', 'Scream', 'Whisper', 'Longing with pain', 'Why?', 'Inner Man', 'Blue and yellow Passion', 'Anger', 'Desire', 'Woman showing her back', 'Woman and her memory', 'Acceptance and her shadow', 'Prayer', 'City of Ruin', 'Isolation', 'Suppressed' (the largest work of all), 'Man with fear', 'Submission', 'Listen to me', 'Yearning' and 'Sensuality and pain' represent stories and happenings in the life of Javed as well, portray a psychological scenario of the human world - a cosmic arena that engulfs and enriches the humble character of the young artist only to transform Javed into a perfect devotee of universal humanity.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channels and programs: BT, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL-I, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: World Business, Islamic Pro, etc.

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Table with TV channels and programs: ESPN, STAR MOVIES, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: ENGLAND, PICK OF THE DAY, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: STAR WORLD, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, etc.

Table with TV channels and programs: STAR GOLD, CHANNEL [V], etc.