

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

August 17-28
Shilpangan Gallery has arranged a 12-day-long solo etching and drawing exhibition of artist Monirul Islam. The show will be open for the visitors daily from 10 am to 9 pm.

August 18-28
An exhibition of artist Mostafa Kamal will start on 15th August at the Gallery of Alliance Francaise.

Poster Exhibition

August 17-28
Goethe Institut holds a poster exhibition at its Exhibition Hall featuring works by Pierre Mendell and Klaus Oberer. Entitled 'L'art pour l'art', this is the first part of a two-session poster exhibition on graphic design. The display is open for visitors from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. except weekends and holidays. The second part of the show will start on August 31.

Cultural Show

August 18
Salvation International School holds its annual cultural programme at the Public Library Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. Professor Muzaffer Ahmad will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

Musical Evening

August 21
A French musical evening will be held at the cafeteria of Alliance Francaise on 21st August.

Theatre

August 22
The BA (Hons) final-year students of the Department of Music and Dramatics will present an enacting of the classic 'absurd' play *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett at the Naat Mandal. The presentation is, however, a part of the students' practical test on direction and acting.

Drama Lane

Bangladesh Mahila Samity

4 Natok Soroni, New Bally Rd.

Group Plays Date
Nattayan Bhaboner 18
Ghat
Dhaka Sadak Tahader 19
Katha
Dhaka Drama Ami Gadha 20
Balchhi
LokoNattayan Mazrater 23
Manushera
Samay Bhager 24
Manush

Face to Face

Nasiruddin and Shimul- the dynamic duo in theatre

CULTURE DESK

THEATRE in Bangladesh has a century old tradition. But it leaped into animated activity on stage immediately after the independence. Also there began a brisk business, drama lovers queuing in at the bustling Bailey Road became a common sight. Youthful and passionate adherents of the

medium worked tirelessly to modernise the form and content of our local theatrical expression. Adaptations from exotic plays and a score of newly written and some experimental ones won the applause of a nascent urban audience. Playwrights were more successful in establishing a distinct theme and content than form in our local plays.



Shimul Yousuf and Nasiruddin Yousuf

Dhaka Theatre was founded on July 29, 1973 by some young and talented freedom fighters. Their aim was to establish Bangla drama form in the history of world drama. The founder members are Nasiruddin Yusuf, Selim-Al-Deen, M Hamid, Raisul Islam Asad, Apurbo Mojumder, Abdul Kader, Al-Monsur and others. Among them the fabulous four who rose into prominence are-Nasiruddin Yusuf, Shimul Yousuf, Selim-Al-Deen and Jamil Ahmed. They contributed largely to make this form of mass entertainment. While playwrights Selim-Al-Deen and Jamil Ahmed, the latter known more for his technical skill, sought to find out the root of the Bangla plays, Nasiruddin Yusuf continued trying to stage the plays by Selim-Al-Deen with perfect direction.

In its thirty years, the group has produced a good number of talented and renowned actor/actresses like Shimul Yusuf, Humayun Fariedi, Suborna Mustafa, Afzal Hossain, Raisul Islam Asad, Jahiruddin Piyar, and produced a total of 32 plays.

Shimul, known as 'Mancha

Kushum' rose into popularity because of her unique combination of powerful performance and vocal excellence. In late 60s Shimul Billah was a noted singer on children's programmes on the radio and later on TV as well.

Singing has always been like a hobby to her, so her career as a singer is an extra achievement for her. She considers herself more as an actress, a theatre worker and likes working on the stage. To bring fruition to her career she would like to teach young performers the art of acting and also compose music for her plays.

Nasiruddin's passion for directing is because through this form he can express his creativity more successfully than other branches of drama. His ultimate goal is to establish Bangla drama form in the history of drama as well as find out its root.

Some of the unique productions directed by him are *Kirton Khola*, *Keramotmongol*, *Bonopangshul*, *Prachch* and of course *Hathhdai*.

Shimul and Nasiruddin are known as the dynamic duo in the drama circle.

Filmdom

Costner opens up about failures and new film

BBC, Online

EN years ago, Kevin Costner seemed like the ultimate insider. There was an element of safe reliability to him, from his bland, Everyman good-looks to his propensity for bringing him on-camera during the making of *Truth or Dare*, Madonna—that icon of deliberate, obnoxious rebellion—had put her finger down her throat, branding him part of the hopelessly uncool Establishment with a single gesture.

Funny how things change. On a recent swing through San Francisco to promote his new film *Open Range*, which he directed, produced and stars in, it was the 48-year-old Costner who sounded like the deliberate rebel, albeit one far more tempered than the pop star.

He's made a thoughtful Western, which he knows is unfashionable. It features a post-Civil-War clash between open range cattlemen and landowners, a tale that unfolds naturally, which translates to slow-paced by current standards. It's long (2 hours, 15 minutes). The female lead, Annette Bening, looks her 45 years. Moreover, it's neither a sequel nor an adaptation of an old television series.

"I don't believe in the conventions of moviemaking for the commercial response," Costner said. "I would rather my movie be commercially successful on its own terms than be moulded into the norms of the hour-and-50-minute movie. *Open Range* could not absorb (elements of) conventional moviemaking. It would suffer; it would not be the same movie."

Against Costner's natural inclinations, Disney is releasing *Open Range* in the dog days of summer. Summer



Actors Robert Duvall (L) and Kevin Costner, stars of the new Western film *Open Range*.

movies are measured by their ability to make money in those first few weeks of release, something Costner swears he doesn't care about.

Costner has been accused of being egotistical and his career has had some seriously rough patches, starting in 1995 with the expensive critical bomb *Waterworld*, continuing with the post-apocalyptic *The Postman* in 1997, the stupidly gooey *Message in a Bottle* in 1999 and the hideous 3,000 *Miles to Graceland* in 2001. Critics responded well to *Thirteen Days*, but audiences ignored it. 1996's *Tin Cup* was his last clear hit. If he were defensive, it would not be a surprise.

But instead, Costner is convincingly easy and relaxed, whether he's talking about the failings of *Robin Hood* or discussing the 19-year age difference between him and his fiancee, Chris

tine Baumgartner. His blue eyes are still schoolboy earnest.

Costner invested a lot of his own money in *Open Range* (supposedly, he won't profit off the project until—or if—the movie makes money) and in return, he had creative control. He didn't make movies such as *Message in a Bottle*, which he regrets.

Though he prides himself on making movies for men, he wants women to respond as well. *Open Range* is a "date movie," he proclaims, with a love story grownups can respond to. "It's really about the words. I'm in love with words and I liked to see love portrayed with words and the sparks that fly back and forth between men and women. The dance that we do amuses me, it intrigues me, it thrills me, it angers me, it destroys me."

Exhibition

Ceramic art in NYC

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A ceramic art exhibition of Akhtarun Nahar Ivy is being held at the Bryant Shubert Library, New York, from 19 July through 26 August. Born in Chittagong, Akhtarun Nahar holds both an undergraduate degree and a master's degree from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka, where she secured the first position. She has had a number of art exhibitions in Bangladesh and had been awarded the Shahid Memorial Prize in 1976, Department First Prize, 1977-1980 and Special Prize for Experimental work 1981-1982.

Akhtarun Nahar uses clay as the medium for her art. In this exhibition, Akhtarun Nahar, with her three forms of ceramic pieces, terracotta compositions, potteries, and ceramic paintings demonstrate her artistry, and her success in her experiments using clay as medium.

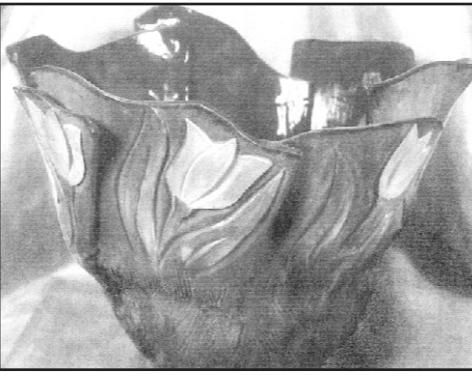


PHOTO: AFP

A Thai rock singer impersonates the late Elvis Presley during a memorial ceremony for the American king of rock and roll, in Bangkok, on 17 August in a local hotel, to commemorate his 26 death anniversary.



PHOTO: REUTERS
Academy Award winner actress Nicole Kidman will receive the 18th American Cinematheque Award during a November 14, 2003 benefit gala organised by the film preservation group.

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL-i

02:00 Bangla Feature Film: *Dipu Number Two*
05:20 Aporana Kotha
05:45 Chitra Mela
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Drama Serial: *Durer Akash*

07:15 Channel-i News
07:55 Drama Serial: *Ala Bholo*

08:25 Drama Serial: *Panitho Hey*

09:00 Channel-i News
09:35 Drama Serial: *Superman*

10:00 Drama: *Shetu*
10:30 Channel-i News
11:30 Late Night News of BTV

12:15 Channel-i News
13:00 News Headlines
13:30 News Headlines
14:00 News Headlines
14:30 News Headlines

14:45 *Amader Bidyalaya*

15:05 *Apnar Jigyasha*

15:30 *News Headlines*

15:45 *Putul Naach-Shapla*

15:55 *Hunni (Part-4)*

16:00 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

16:30 Evening News
17:00 Drama Serial: *Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

17:30 *Porey (Ep-5)*

17:45 *Aarshi Nagar*

18:15 *News Headlines*

18:45 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

19:00 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

19:30 *Evening News*

20:00 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

20:30 *Porey (Ep-5)*

20:45 *Aarshi Nagar*

21:00 *News Headlines*

21:30 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

22:00 *Evening News*

22:30 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

22:45 *Porey (Ep-5)*

23:00 *Aarshi Nagar*

23:30 *News Headlines*

23:45 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

24:00 *Evening News*

24:30 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

24:45 *Porey (Ep-5)*

25:00 *Aarshi Nagar*

25:30 *News Headlines*

25:45 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

26:00 *Evening News*

26:30 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

26:45 *Porey (Ep-5)*

27:00 *Aarshi Nagar*

27:30 *News Headlines*

27:45 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

28:00 *Evening News*

13:00 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

13:45 *Porey (Ep-5)*

14:00 *Aarshi Nagar*

14:30 *News Headlines*

15:00 *Itihaser Ei Diney*

15:30 *Evening News*

15:45 *Drama Serial: Shob Kichhu Bhengye*

16:00 *Porey (Ep-5)*

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