

Flashback

The movies of the good old days

Fiesta of films in the city

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

September 19-October 3
A fifteen-day-long art exhibition by artist Prof. Abdur Razzaque is on from 19 September at Gallery Chitrak, House #21, Road # 4, Dharmonti. The exhibition will be open for all from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

September 20-25
A painting exhibition titled 'Intra University Painting Exhibition 2003' is going on from 20 September in room 100 at BTA Tower, North South University. The show will be open from 11 am to 8 pm everyday.

September 19-27
Shilpangan holds a 9-day-long art exhibition of six young artists at House #15, Road #16, Dharmonti. The exhibition is open for all from 11 am to 8 pm everyday.

Print Exhibition

September 26-October 5
Shilpangan arranged a 10-day-long print exhibition of contemporary print makers of Bangladesh titled 'Ei Shomoyer Chhaphchitra' from 26 September at 5.30 pm at the Shilpangan Gallery. The show will be open for all from 10 am to 9 pm everyday.

Nakshi-kantha

exhibition
September 17-24
An exhibition of Nakshi Kantha by Neelanjana Ghose, organised by Essentials, is being held at House-30, Road-42, Gulshan-2. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm daily.

Documentary Film Festival

September 23-25
Palash Visual Communication holds a festival of documentary films at the Goethe Institut. Ahmad Nazir, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy will inaugurate the festival at 3:30 p.m. After the inauguration, Shahiduzzaman Badals Camera of Footpath will be screened as the opening film of the event. A total of 25 documentary films by Bangladeshi filmmakers will be screened during the festival. The festival will also award films in four categories—Best Documentary Film, Best Documentary Filmmaker, PVC Best Documentary Film, and Audience Best Documentary Film. A seminar titled 'Crises and Possibilities of Documentary Films in Bangladesh' will take place at 4 p.m. on September 24.

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

WHILE passing by a few film festival venues in Dhaka the mad rush only spoke of the craze of the spectators to watch movies of famous makers of both home and abroad. A festive mood is on.

It was not often, that we as youngsters, had a chance to frequent the movie houses. Neither were there too many cinema halls in Dhaka then. Gulistan, Naaz, Balaka and



Amjad Khan and Victor Bannerjee in Satyajit Ray's film Shatranj Ke Khilari (The Chess Players).

Modhumita and later Anando, Ovishar and a few other halls started to attract a select audience. Shabistan, Nishat, Moon and other halls located in the old town were popular haunts too.

Cinema as an entertainment gained an unique status in the society at that time. Today it's the exact opposite.

It was sometime in the late sixties that Walt Disney's Swiss family Robinson was being screened at Gulistan. Disney's masterful creation filled the spectators with amazement. It was about a ship wrecked family left stranded in an unknown island and the hilarious activities which followed in the jungle. How the castaway's dealt with the untamed animals and unknown surroundings created an impression on the young and old alike.

Branner in The King and I, every one in town repeated after him "etcetera, etcetera and etcetera."

As a treat for my 13' birthday we watched One Million Year B.C. at Naaz with a few of my friends. Starring the ravishing Raquel Welch, the movie was a great hit.

Like all other young couples my parents were ardent movie goers too. I watched movies of reputed directors Subhash Dutt, Khan Ataur Rahman and Zahir Ralhan with them. Filled with pure entertainment and family drama were the movies Mala starring Sultana Zaman, Shujata and Azim, Shuchinda and Razzak in Arwara, Shabnam and Rahman in Chanda, Sutorang and a comedy Kaa Bou starring Subhash Dutt and Nasima Khan. The

Trap at Modhumita, starring stunning Rita Tushingham, played the magnificent role of a deaf and dumb girl while Oliver Reed played the macho hunter of the hills. The boys and men preferred the cowboy movies, The Magnificent Seven, The Bridge on the River Kwai, The Guns of Navarone and so on.

Waheed Muraad, Zeba and Mohammad Ali were the great hits of Urdu movies. Akeley Na Jana was a super hit number of the cinema Armaan. Then there were movies like The Fall of the Roman Empire, Cleopatra, Ben Hur, Spartacus, Doctor Zhivago, The Birds, The Cranes Are Flying, The Sound of Music, Roman Holiday, and the Bangla comedy Tero Nomor Feku Ostagaar Lane, Rupban a folk tale, Nawab Sirajuddowla and Jibon Thekey Neya, "a film that played a role that no other film in the history of the cinema played in depicting the destiny of a nation" was rightly said by film director Alamgir Kabir.

After independence Shundori, Golapi Ekhon Train Ey, Abaar Tora Manush Ho, Shung Dighol Baree, Shurjo Konnya, Shimana Periye, Sareng Bou, Boshundhorada, Palonko, Padma Nadir Majhi etc attracted a large audience to the cinema halls. Possibly Satyajit Ray's Satrangi Ke Khilari, Ashani Sangket and Hirok Rajar Deshey we watched at the Film Festival held some

fifteen years back.

It seems like ages since the practice of visiting the halls and enjoying movies with loved ones have died down. It is like a nightmare to even imagine going to cinema halls or to let our children go to movies. The shady atmosphere, screening of sub standard, vulgar and obscene films and the absence of security are the

reasons behind the gradual detachment from such fun.

A few years back Shonko Neel Karagaar, Padma Nadir Majhi and more recently Matir Moina drew the spectators back. Humayun Ahmed and Amjad Hossain movies are once again beginning to attract a large number of jubilant spectators too. Watching the home videos can never replace the entertainment of big screens, otherwise western countries would by now be totally devoid of cinema halls.

Everyone involved with entertainment business should give it a major shakeup and decide if they want to cash in on a multi million dollar business providing neat entertainment, or just let it pass through their fingers to fulfill the lust of a handful of unscrupulous perverts.

Films are not only mere entertainment, it is also the voice of a nation. It is one of the most important medium of communication with the mass. For lack of pure entertainment the hapless citizens are gradually turning into a nation with little hope for a disciplined future. A H Mofazzal Karim, Chairman, festival committee, aptly said so in his inaugural speech at the International Film Festival at Osmani Auditorium that 'Entertainment is for human's, not for beasts.' Manober Jonney, Danober Jonney Noi.

Eminent film maker Mrinal Sen seen chatting with ravishing Babita at the inaugural ceremony of the International Film Festival of Bangladesh.

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Craft

Nakshi Kantha

Neelanjana Ghosh, all the way from Kolkata

ELITA KARIM

A story, woven on Kantha and saris, speak of women drawing water from the well, fisherman ready with their fish boats at dawn, a young girl making a necklace out of jasmines and many more. Surprisingly, stories were not only written on paper by the scholars of the subcontinent for all to read, but were also woven by weavers and Nakshi Kantha makers, creating a platform for the traditional ways of the country to be recognized and appreciated.

Essentials for Home, along with Samalay, Kolkata, are currently holding a Nakshi Kantha exhibition in Gulshan. Neelanjana Ghosh has brought her Kantha creations all the way from Kolkata. Costume designer by profession, Ghosh has kept up the tradition of modernization of the craft of Kantha along with

her mother's mission to support needy women to become economically independent and help their own families. She not only works with traditional Indian motifs but also infuses international designs, which lend her creations a wider appeal round the world, she actually wishes to bring the world culturally closer in her craft.

The Nakshi Kantha exhibition was inaugurated by Michel Lummaux, the Ambassador of France to Bangladesh and celebrated actress Madhabi Mukherjee graced the occasion as the guest of honour. The exhibition, which will run till September 24, has designs woven on saris, cushion covers, quilt covers, bed sheets, scarves, handkerchiefs and many more. Ghosh has successfully brought her traditional thoughts and feelings through the medium of Nakshi Kantha to the people of Dhaka.

Music musing

Folkie firepower

When rural Pakistani folksinger Zarsanga sings in public, fans routinely mark the choruses of her most popular Peshto-language songs with mass shotgun-firing.



Source: The Virgin Directory of World Music, Henry Holt, 1991.

Film for the People

BITTER HARVEST



BITTER HARVEST

Sri Lanka
Director: Tikiri Ratnayake

The inhabitants of a remote poverty stricken dry zone village desperately try to eke out a living from the parched soil. Gunawathie and her daughter Yasa are fast losing the battle against the drought and the wild elephants who rampage through the cultivated fields destroying everything in their path. The village 'mafia' boss, Wilmon and his band of thugs are involved in the lucrative business of growing marijuana and brewing 'kassipu', the local illicit liquor. Gunawathie's husband Andiris is serving time in prison for selling kassipu.

CHITRA NADIR PARE

Bangladesh
Director: Tanvir Mokammel
Cast: Montajuddin Ahmed, Afsana Mini, Rowshan Jamil, Towkri.

After the partition of India in 1947, Shashikanta's family, like millions of other Hindu families of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), faced the dilemma whether to migrate from the land in which they have been living for centuries. But Shashikanta Sengupta, an eccentric lawyer, refuses stubbornly to leave his motherland. Widower Shashikanta has two children Minoti and Bidyut. Anuprava Devi is an affectionate old aunt who lives with the family. The family has a house on the bank of the Chitra River.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

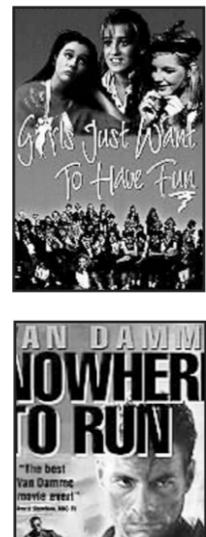
BANGLADESH

18-25 SEPTEMBER 2003

BITTER HARVEST

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



MGM: 11:30 p.m. Girls Just Want to Have Fun. Comedy; Sarah Jessica Parker, Lee Montgomery, Helen Hunt. Janey is new in town, and soon meets Lynne, who shares her passion for dancing in general, and "Dance TV" in particular. When a competition is announced to find a new Dance TV regular couple, Janey and Lynne are determined to audition. The only problem is that Janey's father doesn't approve of that kind of thing.



HBO: 9:30 p.m. Nowhere to Run. Action; Jean-Claude Van Damme. A bus convoy of prisoners is in a highway accident, deliberately caused by the partner of one of the prisoners. The partner is shot fatally. And the escaped convict Sam Gillen ends up on the property of a beautiful young lady named Clyde, a widow with two young children, who's being threatened into selling her land by a vicious wealthy developer. Sam single handedly takes on the ruthless developers determined to evict Clyde. But nobody knows who Sam is.



ABBA

6:45 Finding Forrester

7:00 15 Minutes

9:30 Nowhere to Run

11:30 Frequency

STAR MOVIES

9:15 First Knight

12:00 Stephen King's Rose Red-Part II

1:00 Deter

2:00 Novacaine

2:00 The Assassination

2:00 File

4:45 Finding Destination

3:15 Gorillas In The Mist

PICK OF THE DAY



Moonlight and Valentino
On MGM at 9:30 p.m.
Genre: Drama/Romance/Comedy; Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow
College professor Rebecca Lott has just lost her husband in a tragic car accident. Helping her cope with her feelings of emptiness are three women: Silvie, her best friend; Lucy, her virgin, tormented younger sister; and her domineering ex-stepmom, Alberta.

STAR WORLD

8:00 Business report
12:30 BBC News
1:00 BBC News
1:30 Top Gear
2:30 Hardtalk
3:30 Extra Time
4:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
5:30 HardTalk
6:15 World Business Report/Sport Today
7:30 Sci Shock/Wild Moves/Virt World
8:15 Asia Today
9:30 HardTalk
10:30 World Business Report/Click Online BBC News
12:00 BBC News

STAR CINEMA

7:30 Main Wohi Hoon (Feroz Khan, Kum Kum)
10:30 Baaz (Govinda, Sonam)
1:30 Tamanna (Pareesh Rawal, Pooja Bhatt, Sharad Kapoor)
5:30 Aashiq (Bobby Deol, Karisma Kapoor)
9:30 Aakrosh (Sunil Shetty, Shilpa Shetty)
1:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay Kum Kum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
2:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04
1:30 Wolverhampton Wanderers Vs Chelsea (T)
2:30 Football Mundial (R)
4:30 The Golf Club 2003 (R)

STAR SPORTS

8:00 International Motorsports News 2003 (T)
9:00 Irl Racing California Indy 400 Fontana Ca Usa (S)
12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04
1:30 Wolverhampton Wanderers Vs Chelsea (T)
2:30 Football Mundial (R)
4:30 The Golf Club 2003 (R)
5:00 Champions Tour Golf Jeld-Wen Tradition Aloha Or Usa Final Round(T)
8:00 Sportsline Tonight (L)
11:30 Formula One Highlights 2003

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC