

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

October 17-November 12
Gallery Dhuprat holds a group art exhibition titled 'Rhythm in nature' of sixty renowned artists of Bangladesh at the gallery premises. The show will remain open from 10 am to 9 pm daily.

Art Exhibition

November 7-17

The 4th art exhibition by Charu Pancham is being held at Alliance Francaise. The display will be open for all from 5pm to 8pm.

Film show

November 8

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Point Break' at 21/C Jigatola at 7pm.

Drama Lane

Bangladesh Mahila Samity
4 Natok Sonori, New Baily Rd.
(Evening show at 7:00 pm
Morning show at 11:00 am)

Group	Plays	Date
Udichi	Bou Bashanti	8
Natyachakra	Janak	9, 10
Drishipat	Founding	11
Natyashangshad	Anniversary	
Aronyak	Shangkranti	12
Natyadal		
Dhaka Theatre	Banapangshul	13
Natyadhar	Atashi Shapori	15
Dhaka Theatre	Birasha Munda	16
Mancha		
Prachyanat	Gondar	17
Theatre	Balad	18
(Arambag)		
Muktamancha	Shurjomukho	19
Theatre		
Theatre	Meraj	20
(Baily Road)	Fakir Ma	
Natyadal	Bakkal	21
	(Morning)	
Drishyapot	Narak Gular	21
	(Evening)	
Abayab	Karnakatha	22
Natyadal		
Bangali	Manabra	23
Natyasham-	Bhul Korchhen	
prodoy		
Theatre Dwip	Tandar	24
Granthik Natya	Girgiti	25
Goshthi		

Around the world



Musician Stevie Wonder poses next to a poster at the premiere of the new documentary film 'Tupac Resurrection' on November 4 in Hollywood. The film is about the late top selling hip-hop singer Tupac Shakur, who died from complications after being gunned down in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas in September 1996.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Performing art

Of Manipuri dance

SHARMILA BANDYOPADHYAY

THE first impression that one gets after viewing a Manipuri performance is the personification of power contained. Underlying the inherent fluidity and excruciating grace of the performance is the impression of control and restraint exercised by the performer. This characteristic of ease and fluidity contrasts distinctively from the precision and terse clarity of the South Indian style but in no way negates a high degree of technicality.

Manipuri is a living force in this land of verdant hills and flowing landscapes. Every occasion worth celebrating merits a Manipuri performance be it a birth, a marriage, or any such festivity. In Manipur it is rare to see anyone without the knowledge of dance and music. Royalty, too, have been known to mingle with the commoners on the 'mandapa' or stage as a mark of their proficiency in the aesthetic arts.

Origins

From history we learn that the 'Meities', early inhabitants of Manipur, performed certain ritualistic dances characterized by repetitive but disciplined movements to invoke the deity. The 'maibas', 'lai haroba' and 'khambha thoib' were a part of their repertoire. However, during the 17th century the advent of Hinduism, specifically Vaishnavism, brought about an evolution of a distinct dance form which shows mutual interaction between the earlier ritualistic dances and the Vaishnava 'bhakti' cult. The present form of the Manipuri dance is said to have evolved during the reign of Maharaja Bhagyachandra during 1964-1789.

Influence of Bengal

Remarkable is the fact the Maharaja Bhagyachandra adopted 'Gaudhi Vaishnavism' under the influence of Paramananda Thakur, a great devotee of Krishna. As a result some Vaishnavite missionaries from Bengal were brought to Manipur. In consequence, Bengali script and literature spread here and replaced the Meithie language. Furthermore musical instruments from Bengal were also adopted and incorporated and helped to make the music of Manipur richer. One example is that of the 'mridanga', from Bengal, which evolved into the popularly used 'poong' of Manipur.

The Repertoire

The 'cholams', one of the three aspects of tandava dance, comprise a major portion of a Manipuri repertoire. Sri Chaitanya, a leading exponent of the Bhakti cult, popularised the 'kirtanas' or devotional songs performed on masse, as a mark or spiritual devotion. 'Cholams' are an extension of this ritual of 'Sankirtan' where the devotee in an excess of emotion embarks on dance. The 'cholams' are performed in groups and instruments like the 'karatal' and 'poong', used as accompaniments during 'kirtana', are incorporated within the dance. The ritual dances of the Shaivite period have, also, survived and are very much a part of the repertoire.

There are three main varieties of 'Raas Lila' prevalent today in Manipur. 'Basanta Raas' performed on



Manipuri danseuse Sharmila Bandyopadhyay

Strictly speaking these dances are on the margin of classical and folk dances. They are invariably performed in groups and are known to the community at large.

Raas-Lila

It is only when we come to the 'Raas' that we encounter the richness and classicism of both 'nritya' and 'abhinaya' in the Manipuri style. As per the 'Natashastra', the 'Raas' is a drama performed on a circular stage. Maharaja Bhagyachandra is also, recognized to be the founder of the 'Raas Lila', wherein dances are performed night-long under the full-moon depicting various episodes from the legends of Lord Krishna, Sri Radha and the Gopis. The 'raasa-mandali' or stage of the 'Raas Lila' is circular and decorated with floral paper cut-outs, flowers and greenery. A 'ghata' or vessel, depicting offerings to the deities, is placed in the centre around which the dances are performed. The audience sit all around the 'mandapa' very much like in Jatra performances.

There are three main varieties of 'Raas Lila' prevalent today in Manipur. 'Basanta Raas' performed on

the full moon day of Chaitra represents the amorous scenes of the romance of Krishna and Radha. 'Kunja Raas' performed during Dasara depicts the dance in an arbour made of leaves where the daily meetings of the divine lovers Radha and Krishna are enacted. 'Maha Raas' performed on the full moon day of Kartik is the very romantic story Krishna a lover-be it with the Gopis or with Radha.

The Structure of the dance

The three fold aspect of the dance 'nritya', 'nritya' and 'natya', as set down by the 'Natashastra', are all present in this rich style of dance. However, most certainly there is a predominance of 'nritya'. The 'cholams' are of the pure 'nritya' variety, while the 'lai Haroba' and 'Khambha Thoib' have elements of 'abhinaya' besides pure 'nritya'. The very essence of Manipuri is an understatement of emotions and facial expressions. However, inspite of traces of various 'vyaahicharibhavas', transient emotions, throughout the performance, the predominant mood or 'sthayibhava' is 'karuna' which shrouds an aura of 'shringara rasa'.

As per Bharata Muni, the compiler of the 'Natashastra', dance may be either 'lasya' characterized by gliding and soft movements or 'tandava' being more vigorous and forceful. The Manipuri Dance form is distinct from other classical dance forms by the belief that all dances performed by the female dancer should necessarily be in the 'lasya' style and that of the male dancers in the 'tandava' style.

The dress

It is believed that the costume for the Manipuri Dance was visualised by Maharaja Bhagyachandra, inspired by visions of Lord Krishna, himself, seen in his dreams.

The Rabindra Nritya Dhaka & Manipur

Deeply moved by the Raas Lila during his visit to Manipur in 1917, Rabindranath Tagore is credited with introducing this enchanting style of dance to the other parts of the world. Renowned teachers were invited to teach this dance form in tagore's idyllic institute in Shantiniketan. Furthermore, Tagore borrowed elements liberally from this dance to mould his own dance-dramas like 'Chitrangada', 'Chandalika' and 'Shapmochan'. The softness and grace that form a characteristic feature of Tagore's own style and rightly attributed to the Manipuri elements incorporated in the dramas.

Film

Another portrayal of Indian struggle

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

BOLLYWOOD heartthrob Aamir Khan and parallel cinema director Ketan Mehta are back in action with yet another period feature film.

Khan, whose performance in lead role in the mega film 'Lagaan', is back in yet another epic movie 'The Rising' directed by Mehta in the backdrop of the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny that sowed the seeds of Indian freedom movement against the British Raj. Interestingly, 'Lagaan', which was a film about the struggle against the British colonial rule, had created tremendous hype across India.

Mehta, one of the acclaimed directors in parallel movie category, had made his previous film 'Sardar' on the life of India's first Home Minister and 'iron man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, two years back, starring accomplished actor Paresh Rawal in lead role.

Besides Aamir Khan, the multi-starrer 'The Rising' also features Aishwarya Rai, Rani Mukherjee and British actor Toby Stevens who recently played in the latest James Bond film 'Die Another Day' with Pierce Brosnan.

In 'The Rising', whose 'muhurat' was given ironically by Prince Charles, the symbol of British Royalty, Khan plays the role of legendary historic figure Mangal Pandey who revolted against the East India Company, the precursor of British imperial rule in India.

The film, however, is also about the friendship between Mangal Pandey and a British army officer, a role played by Stevens, says director Mehta.

Asked if 'The Rising', an Indo-British joint production, is anti-British, Mehta replies, 'it's pro-human.' The film, produced by Bobby Bedi, will show



how the friendship between Mangal Pandey and the British army officer comes under stress.

Stevens, who was present on the occasion of the 'muhurat' shot in Bombay recently, said his is a character in the film who is torn between his sense of duty towards East Company and sympathy for the Indians.'

Aamir Khan says he had to do a lot of research into the character of Mangal Pandey as available in documented history as well as the oral literature about his activities before readying himself for the role. The star actor is also reported to be on a steady vegetarian diet to facilitate his portrayal of the role.

A season star, Khan said he felt a little shaky before appearing in the 'muhurat' shot of 'The Rising' in the presence of Prince Charles, but was

happy that the Prince of Wales made it to the occasion.

The shooting of the film, already delayed by a surgery on Ketan Mehta, is likely to begin in January and is expected to be over by May next year. It will also fulfill the director's project for which he had been reportedly waiting for the last half a decade.

'The Rising' will also put Aamir Khan's acting prowess to test. The 'muhurat' shot of the film ended with his dialogue 'India's rising and nobody and nothing can stop it.' One hopes Khan too rises to the challenge of essaying the role.

It is not yet clear if Khan's is a conscious decision to act in a parallel film. But it is certainly in keeping with the emerging trend among Bollywood stars steeped in commercial movies.

Music

MTV awards rock Edinburgh

BBC ONLINE

Pop music's biggest stars have been in Edinburgh for the 10th annual MTV Europe Music Awards. A massive big top in the Leith area of the city was the centre of the music universe for the night with a galaxy of top stars attracted to the Scottish capital. An estimated one billion people in 28 countries watched the show, featuring



performances by Beyoncé Knowles, Pink and Black Eyed Peas.

The night's big winner was Justin Timberlake who scooped three awards. He was best pop, best male and also won best album for 'Justified'. Justin paid tribute to the Scots audience, saying, "This is my first time in Scotland and I just want to say thank you. You don't get nicer than you people."

Christina Aguilera, who hosted the event in front of thousands of screaming music fans, took the best female honour, seeing off tough competition from Beyoncé, Kylie Minogue, Pink and Madonna. However, Destiny's Child singer Beyoncé beat Christina in the hotly-contested best song category. Her song 'Crazy in Love' featuring rapper Jay-Z came out on top against Aguilera's 'Beautiful' and 'Cry Me A River' by Timberlake. British band Coldplay took the best group award, but did not attend the ceremony due to work commitments. The Panjabi MC took

home the award for best dance.

The best R&B act went to Beyoncé, whose rivals had included Jennifer Lopez and Craig David. Eminem won the best hip-hop act award for the fifth year running. The rapper sent his acceptance via video as he was one of the few stars not to attend the glittering event. Reggae artist Sean Paul took the best new act award and best video was won by Sigue Ros.

The world's biggest musical artists competed in 12 categories covering pop, rock, dance, hip-hop and R&B. MTV viewers voted online to choose their favourite acts in most of the categories.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTB
News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am.
12:10 pm, 2:00 pm 3:10 pm.
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News(Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm.
5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm 10:00 pm.
Late Night News(Bangla and English)
11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-I
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00 am.
News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTB news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News(Bangla) at 09 am,10:00 am, 11:00 am,1:00 pm, 2:00 pm,3:00 pm.
4:00pm,6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm.
7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of ATN BANGLA news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Lates News(Bangla) at 09 am,10:00 am, 11:00 am,1:00 pm, 2:00 pm,3:00 pm.
4:00pm,6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:45 pm.
7:30 pm,11:00 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News-headline(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm.

11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh(Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC World
Every hour on the hour

Obituary

Singer Bobby Hatfield of Righteous Brothers Dead

REUTERS, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Bobby Hatfield, half the team known as the Righteous Brothers of 'You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' fame, died Wednesday, police said. Hatfield's body was taken to the Kalamazoo County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy and a statement was to be issued later, police reported.

Medley met in Orange County, California and performed together for 41 years. According to the group's Web site, 'You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin', recorded in 1964, stands as the most played song on radio.

Hatfield and Medley were performing in a