

Cinema

# Andrzej Wajda retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society screens eight films by the Polish film maestro at the Alliance Française of Dhaka

SABBIR CHOWDHURY

ANDRZEJ Wajda is considered not only the greatest filmmaker of Poland but also the best filmmaker of the post-War East Europe. After the Second World War, especially in the 1950s, there was an influx of talented filmmakers from different countries in the world who made their presence felt with some of the very best films in the history of world cinema. This long list includes Akira Kurosawa from Japan, Ingmar Bergman from Sweden, Satyajit Ray from India and the Neo-Realist filmmakers from Italy who were making impressive films in the 1940s - Luchino Visconti, Roberto Rossellini and Vittorio de Sica. Wajda is definitely one of the best filmmakers of the post-War period (1950s).

Andrzej Wajda was born on March 6, 1926 in Suwalki, Poland. Wajda's father, a cavalry officer, was killed in the Second World War. At the age of 16, he became a resistance fighter. After the Liberation of Poland, he studied painting at the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts. But eventually he decided on taking up a filmmaking career by enrolling at the famous Lodz film school in 1950. He started as filmmaker Alexander Ford's assistant on *Five Boys From Barska Street* immediately after his graduation in 1952.

Wajda's first feature film *A Generation* was released in 1954 and announced the arrival of a strong voice in filmmaking. He established himself as the key figure in the new Polish

cinema in no time. The film *A Generation* is a penetrating study of the effects of war on the psychology of a nation's disillusioned youth. The film and two subsequent films *Kanal* (1957) and *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958) form a powerful trilogy in which Wajda examines with intense sensitivity the predicament of individuals caught in events beyond their control and bitterly questions the traditional glorification of heroism in battle. He would periodically return to the themes relating to his WW II experiences. *Ashes* (1965) and *Landscape After the Battle* (1970), both dealing with wars of the historic past, still echo Wajda's obsession with the futility of heroism and the bitter aftermath of war. Wajda's anti-war stand is clearly visible in these films.

In the late 1970s, Wajda made films known for their reflection of his country's growing political unrest. *Man of Marble* (1977) and *Without Anaesthesia* (1979) study Poland's turmoil from the viewpoint of individuals ruined by the country's widespread oppression, a bricklayer in *Man of Marble*, a journalist in *Without Anaesthesia*. His 1981 film *Man of Iron* (1981), a sequel to *Man of Marble*, chronicled the development of the Solidarity movement. Released just as the Solidarity strikes were taking place, it became a timely marker of Solidarity for the world, generating through its international acclaim awareness and support for the movement. Shortly after the strikes, the government

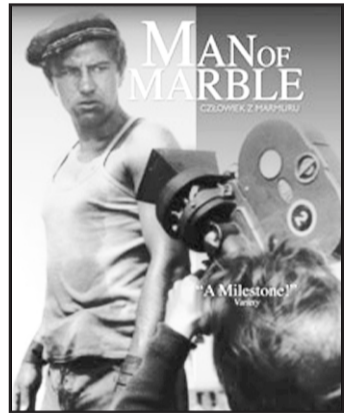
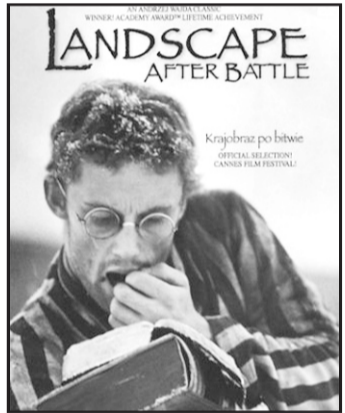
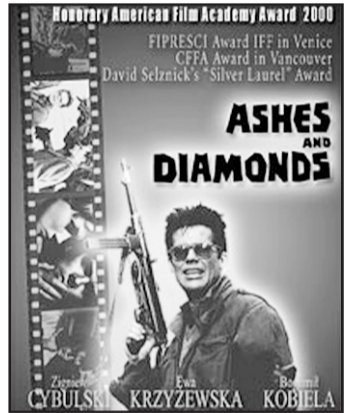
of the Polish Filmmakers' Association. Then he moved to France. *Danton* (1982), his first filmmaking effort there, is an allegory about Solidarity and revolution. He returned to Poland in 1989, when the political atmosphere had become more liberalised. He was appointed as the artistic director of 'Teatr Powszechny', the official Warsaw Theatre and was elected to political office as a senator. Throughout his filmmaking career, Wajda has proved himself to be a very versatile filmmaker by making different kinds of films: war, political and romantic films as well as comedies, epics, and dramas. In a career spanning over 50 years, he made 48 films. He has won numerous national and international prizes for his films. He received an Honorary Academy Award in 2000 for his lifelong



Filmmaker Andrzej Wajda receiving the Honorary Academy Award 2000 from actress Jane Fonda

screening (on April 11-13,15) eight films in a retrospective to this world-renowned exponent of cinema. This special retrospective has been organised in association with the Alliance Française of Dhaka. These eight world famous films made by Wajda are: *Ashes and Diamonds*, *Landscape After the Battle*, *The Birch Wood*, *Man of Marble*, *The Young Ladies of Wilko*, *Man of Iron*, *Danton* and *Pan Tadeusz*. They are being screened at the auditorium of the Alliance Française at Road No. 3, Dhanmondi.

Sabbir Chowdhury, a film critic and film activist,



noted the arrival of a strong voice in filmmaking. He established himself as the key figure in the new Polish

forced Wajda out of his 'Studio X' production studio and made him resign from his position as the head

contribution to and achievement in cinematic art. Zahir Raihan Film Society is

teaches in the department of English at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Celebration

# BGTF celebrates Chaitrashonkranti today

ERSHAD KAMOL

TODAY is the last day of the Bangla Year, which is known as Chaitrashonkranti. Though it is not usually celebrated through colourful events like *Pohela Baishakh* in Dhaka or other cities, it is a very popular cultural trend in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Melas and social gatherings are arranged like *Halkhata*, which are related to the economy and culture as well. This evening, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) is holding programmes at the Mahila Samiti Mancha to observe Chaitrashonkranti.

The convener of the arrangement Keramat Meola, the Vice President of BGTF, says, 'It is a very popular cultural event of the Bangladeshi community. The city dwellers have been observing this festival for the last 31 years. It is a matter of regret that we are not keeping in touch with our own culture. BGTF strives to connect people with their heritage. Next year, we plan to observe this day through nationwide programmes.'

Today not only the theatre activists but also other artists such as singers, reciters and dancers will



gather at the Mahila Samiti. Syed Abdul Hadi, Subir Nandi, Mita Haq, Aditi Mohsin and others will present songs while dance troupes like Nrittanchal, Nrittadhara, Aakrity and Spondan will perform programme at the evening session. In a *sitar* and *sarod* recital Shahadat Hossain Khan and Shomir Bondopadhyay will take part respectively. The final event of the classical instrument session is flute played by Abdul Hakim.

Several theatre groups of the country like Aranyak, Nagorik Natyasampradaya, Dhaka Theatre, Loko Natyadal, Podatik Natyashogshod, Theatre Art, Udichi (theatre branch) and Dhrubatan will present their popular drama songs. Renowned reciters Asadzaman Nur, Jayanto

Chatyapadhyay, Kazi Arif, Pragna Laboni and Shimul Mostafa will present poems.

Elenen renowned cultural personalities of the country, Montajuddin Ahmed, Abdul Latif, Emdad Hossain, Abhullah Al Mamun, Ferdousi Majumdar, Kamal Lohani, Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Ataur Rahman, Asaduzzaman Nur and Nirmolendo Goon will light candles to bid good bye to 1410 and welcome 1411 at the final countdown of the year.

Liakat Ali Lucky, the General Secretary of BGTF, says, 'We are observing the day through some classical events. And at the same time, we hope to achieve greater heights in the coming year.'

Screen venture

# National television goes satellite-way

BTV World launched

HARUR UR RASHID

APRIL 11, 2004 will remain a eventful day in the country's history of television transmission. The national television channel of the country, Bangladesh Television (BTV) transcended its limitation of terrestrial transmission on the day and went beyond the border of the country by starting transmitting via satellite. In a grand inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia officially switched on the milestone journey of the channel under the name of BTV World.

Information Minister M Tariqul Islam, Secretary for the Ministry of Information Nazmul Alam Siddiqi and DG of BTV Mustafizur Rahman were also present on the occasion. BTVW started its test transmission from February 24 this year.

The programmes of BTV World (BTVW) are transmitted through the satellite Asiasat-3S whose orbital position is 105.5° East and polarisation is vertical. The large and powerful footprint of the C-Band of Asiasat-3S will bring under the coverage of BTVW regions from Japan Sea in the east to Cyprus and Egypt in the west, and from New Zealand and Australia in the south to Russia in the north. About a hundred countries in this vast region are able to watch BTVW by using TVRO of any kind.

In the first transmission session BTVW telecasts programmes from 7 am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to 11.59 pm BST. Some select programmes are telecast in the second transmission hour from 12 am BST to 6.59 am BST.

Nazmul Alam Siddiqi, Secretary for the Ministry of Information, said in his speech that in near future the transmission of BTVW would be



Prominent artistes Shahnaz Rahmatullah and Sabina Yasmin performed at the show

made available in the Northern Hemisphere also. 'And this will enable us to counter the present one-way southward flow of information', he said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reminded the concerned authority of their additional responsibility to uphold the positive image of the country to the world. She lay emphasis on making programmes that suit this time of technological advancement. 'But let it not be technological enhanced alone; let the artistic brilliance also be reflected in the programmes of the new channel', she said.

After the inauguration ceremony, a brilliant cultural show was presented by prominent singers, dancers and actors. A dance piece welcoming the new satellite channel started the session. Another dance piece by dancers Mou, Ria, Tarin, Sohel and others presented a blended composition with a Rabintra Sangeet and a Nazrul Sangeet. Dancers from the ethnic groups of Sylhet and Chittagong Hill

Tracts performed their traditional dance pieces.

Popular singers Sabina Yasmin and Shahnaz Rahmatullah sang two of their famous numbers *Ami rajanigondha phuler moto* and *Ektara tui desher kotha*. Two very popular pop performers Ferdous Wahid and Piliu Mantaz coupled with the folk duo Abdul Kuddus Boyati and Baby Boyati. They rendered the well-known folk song *Mon amar deho ghori* in a mix of pop and folk styles.

Internationally acclaimed magician Jewel Aich presented a magic item with his wife and partner Bipasha.

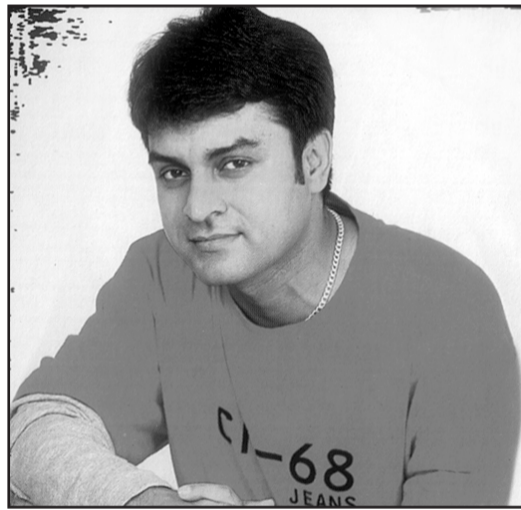
Dolly Zahur, Faruk Ahmed and Ejaj Ahmed took part in the small skit, written by famous dramatist Humayun Ahmed. The skit showed the end of need to record BTV programmes and send them to the expatriate Bangladeshis; for, they can now watch these programmes on BTVW. The programme ended with renowned artist Runa Laila's song *Jokhon thambe kolahol*.

Channel click

# Shuvro Dev in a new role

SHAKAL AHMED

Shuvro Dev has acted in the Tele film *Karimunnessa* as a Zamindar. Directed and written by Shakur Majid, the tele film has been shot in Sylheti dialect. Previously Dev has acted in a few dramas on TV such as *Patalpurir Golpo*, *Shuktara* and *Shatpadri*. But there is no similarity between those characters and the one in *Karimunnessa*. The whole story revolves around him as he plays the central character.



Probash Mela, a magazine programme about the expatriates, will be telecast today on BTV and BTV WORLD at 5:05pm. The programme is planned and hosted by Mamun Imtiaz and produced by Zoynal Abedin Sharker.

# TV GUIDE

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Triloyo Matra*  
12:00 *Chitthi Pelam*  
12:30 Drama Serial: *Shunya Theke Shamudra*  
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Sangbadpatrey* Bangladesh and public reaction  
02:00 Film show: *Nayoner Alo* (Riaz, Shabnur)  
05:00 *Sa Re Ma Ga Ma*  
05:45 *i Sports*  
06:10 *Music Plus*  
06:45 Magazine show: *Prajyukti Nijukti*  
07:50 Close up Juke box  
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tala*  
09:35 Drama Serial: *Anekey Eka*  
10:00 Special Programme on Pehela Baishakh

ntv

08:00 *Aajker shokal Nazrul songs*  
08:30 Crime watch  
09:00 *Ei Shomoy*  
10:02 Hello Music  
10:30 *Ekhane amar desh*  
11:00 Drama Serial: *Kichu choto boro dirghoshash*  
11:30 *Priyo mukh*  
12:02 Drama: *Parta Jhore Bikhhya Morena*  
02:30 Mega Serial: *Teen purush*  
03:05 Band Music  
04:15 Drama Serial: *Obosheshe Propath*  
05:10 Game Show: *Ke Korbe Bajimat*  
05:40 *Apar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:50 Fashion Talkies  
08:10 Drama Serial: *Chanpa*

08:50 *Tarai Tarai* Drama: *Shongshoy Dindarpan*  
10:15 Talk Show: *Annodistee*  
10:50 Mega Serial: *Lal Neel Baguni*  
11:25 Drama Serial: *Swapno Copoth*  
12:40 Bangla Feature Film: *Premar Ahonkar Uro Cola Saat Rang*  
13:45 Talk Show: *Samosamoyik Amar Computer*  
06:25 *Arnyodisti*  
8:00 Drama Serial: *Nei Kono Thikana*  
8:30 Drama Serial: *Chirukumar Shabha*  
9:00 Musical Programme *Ek Dui Teen*  
09:30 Talk Show: *Mukta Shinglap*  
12:20 Bangla Feature Film: *Dui Jibon*  
8:30 Undercover Brother  
10:15 Storytelling  
12:00 The Ring  
2:00 The Russian Job  
3:45 Alvin and : The Chipmunks Meet Wolfman  
5:15 Mean Machine  
7:15 Eraser  
9:30 The Patriot  
12:45 *Striptease*

STAR MOVIES

10:15 *Beautiful Creatures*  
11:45 *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*  
1:45 *Winning London*  
3:30 *84 Charing Cross*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

STAR Movies : 7:00 pm: *The Others*. Genre: Drama / Thriller / Horror. **Nichole Kidman, Fionnula Flanagan, Christopher Eccleston**. A woman named Grace retires with her two children to a mansion on Jersey, towards the end of the Second World War, where she's waiting for her husband to come back from battle. The children have a disease which means they cannot be touched by direct sunlight without being hurt in some way. They will live alone there with oppressive, strange and almost religious rules until she needs to hire a group of servants for them. Their arrival will accidentally begin to break the rules with unexpected consequences.

HBO: 12:45 pm: *Striptease*. Comedy / Drama / Crime / Thriller. **Demi Moore, Burt Reynolds, Armand Assante**. Erin Grant loses care and custody of her daughter when she's divorced from her husband Darrell, a small-time thief. Struggling for money, she is a dancer at a nightclub, where one night Congressman Dilbeck (in disguise) attacks another member of the audience. A spectator, who recognizes Dilbeck and is of Erin, offers to get back her daughter by blackmailing Dilbeck. Things do not work out as planned, though.

5:15 Road Home Alone  
7:00 The Others  
8:45 Narrow Margin  
10:30 Beautiful Creatures  
12:00 Strike Force  
1:00 Swapner Rang Nil  
2:00 Taka Na Sona  
2:30 Live Aaj Sudhu Prem  
5:00 Stump Cant  
6:00 Nonte Fonte  
6:30 Taka Na Sona  
7:00 Sree Ramkrishna  
7:30 Antakshari  
8:00 Serial-Jug  
8:30 Tarpor Chand Uthio

PICK OF THE DAY



**The Patriot**  
On HBO at 9:30 pm  
Genre: Action / Drama / War.  
Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Joely Richardson.  
The movie takes place in South Carolina in 1776. Benjamin Martin, a French-Indian war hero who is a patriot and wants no part in a war with Britain. Meanwhile, his two eldest sons, Gabriel and Thomas, can't wait to go out and kill some Redcoats. When South Carolina decides to go to war with Britain, Gabriel immediately signs up to fight. But soon, Colonel Tavington, captures Gabriel and sentences him to be hanged. Seeking revenge for his son's death, Benjamin leaves behind his 5 other children to bring independence to the 13 colonies.

9:00 Serial Swapner Rang Nil  
10:30 Election Spl. Live  
11:30 Doshitai  
12:00 Hoi Hullod  
STAR WORLD  
1:00 Frasier  
1:30 Mac Gyver  
2:30 Oprah Winfrey  
3:30 Bold And Beautiful  
4:30 Hollywood Squares  
5:00 Who's Line Is It Anyway  
5:30 Miami Vice  
6:30 The Simpsons  
7:30 Friends  
8:00 Just Shoot Me

5:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz Series  
5:25 Hum Saath Aath Hain  
6:00 Fox Kids  
7:25 Series  
7:30 Kunkum-Pyara Sa Bandhan  
7:55 Series  
8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom  
8:30 Khichdi  
9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Kehta Hai Dil  
9:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:00 Kahiin To Hoga  
12:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz  
ANIMAL PLANET  
10:30 First Primates  
11:30 The Great Bears  
12:30 Caught In The Act  
2:30 In Search of Maneaters  
3:30 Pet Nation  
7:30 Wild Encounters Dads  
8:30 Pet Star \$25,000 Championship  
10:30 50Outrageous Animal Facts  
11:30 Young And Wild Home Truths  
12:00 Cats Pet or Pest?

STAR GOLD  
9:00 Juari  
12:30 Star  
4:30 Sultaan  
8:00 Without Ticket  
8:30 Khlona  
STAR PLUS  
3:00 Shagun  
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
4:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Kahiin To Hoga  
4:30 American Idol Baywatch

8:30 Strangest Animal Science Frontiers  
Beating the Odds  
9:30 Space Universe Unfolding Universe  
10:30 Junkyard Wars Battleships  
11:30 Spy Fi Betrayal  
8:30 Hitz (R)  
9:00 Biathlon World Cup 2003/04 Event  
10:00 Football Asia (R)  
10:30 World Cup Swimming 2003/04 Moscow Russia (R)  
12:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Aston Villa Vs Chelsea  
3:00 Cricket Gold (T)  
3:30 English Premier League Highlights (T)  
6:30 Hitz (R)  
8:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04 Fulham Vs Blackburn Rovers  
10:30 Sportsline (R)  
11:00 Classic's Big Fights Boxing Hour Cassius Clay: The Early Years (T)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL  
12:30 Savage Sister  
1:30 Health Showcase  
2:30 Closing in on Cancer  
3:30 New Detectives  
4:30 Coroners' Casebook  
5:30 Wild Discovery Bush  
6:30 Demon : The Secret Mongoose  
7:30 Ultimate Guide To The Awesome Dogs  
8:30 Globe Trekker Arctic Canada  
9:30 Speed Daring Aviators  
10:30 Playtup : World's

League 2003/04 Chelsea Vs Middlesbrough  
5:30 Espn School Quiz 2004 (T)  
6:00 English Premier League Archive Programming Ten Seasons - A Decade Of Great Matches Highlights(R)  
6:30 Football Focus (L)  
7:30 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (R)  
8:00 Samsung Cricket Show (R)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)  
9:00 Football Focus (R)  
10:00 English Premier League Archive Programming Highlights(R)  
10:30 Harsha Online Jeff Thomson(T)  
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)  
12:00 Espn School Quiz 2004 (R)  
TEN SPORTS  
10:00 Straight Drive (L)  
11:00 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd Test,Day 1(1st Session) (L)  
11:00 Straight Drive(L)  
01:40 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd Test,Day 1(2nd Session) (L)  
06:00 Straight Drive(L)  
07:00 Indias Tour of Pak: 3rd Test,Day 1 H/Ls  
08:00 WI v Eng 4th Test, Day 4 (1st Session) (L)  
11:00 WI v Eng 4th Test, Day 4 (Interval) (L)  
11:30 WI v Eng 4th Test, Day 4 (2nd Session) (L)

News Bulletin

BTW  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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 7:15 am, 9:00 am  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
ATN BANGLA  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
TARA BANGLA  
News/Headlines(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