

RECOMMENDATIONS

Painting Exhibition

Title: Six Young Artists Exhibition

Artists: Adnan Sufian, Rashed Kamal, Ahkmul Haque, Sadek Ahmed, Zakir-Us-Salam and Ittakh Khan

Organiser: Art Collector

Venue: Art Collector, BNS Center, Shop-A-7, Plot: 87, Sector-7, Uttara

Time: June 25 to July 16, 10am to 8pm

Ornaments Exhibition

Title: Solo terra-cotta ornaments art exhibition

Artist: Shohidul Hasan

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka

Time: June 25-30, 2pm to 8pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Mountain Photography-1

Photographer: M Shamsul Alam Babu

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka

Time: June 24-30, 3pm to 8pm

Jazz by night

Blast livens up Fete de la Musique

FAYZA HAQ

THE French Jazz quartet Blast delighted the packed audience at Alliance Francaise recently. The group consisted of Vladimir Feldzer on drums, Sylvain Collet on bass, Yanu Yankielevitz on the saxophone and Julien Sinal on the guitar. The performance, spread over two nights, was held to celebrate the Fete de la Musique, which began in France on June 21, 1982. This celebration --the date was chosen by the French Minister of Culture Jack Lange--allows music lovers to perform anywhere and everywhere, in the streets, cafes and bars, and it does not have to be restricted to professionals. Today the day is celebrated in more than 100 countries, in Europe, Asia, Africa and America and called the World Music Day. In Bangladesh, this time, the occasion was celebrated for three days as there were many people interested in it and the programme had to be stretched out. It is the first time that a group haad come to celebrate this day, free of cost.

Vladimir, the percussionist, speaking at a press conference, said that they were happy to present jazz in Bangladesh. He explained how jazz began in France after World War II, when the Americans came to France and made it popular there. He said, 'Jazz developed with the setting up of jazz schools in France and today it is taught along with classical music in the conservatories. After 1945 jazz took up French and other European notes, and what emerged was European jazz which was different from American jazz.

On the evenings of June 22 and 23, Blast presented jazz from the 1950s to 2004 so that the people had an overview of European jazz.'

Vladimir added, 'An interesting feature about jazz is that jazz musicians can understand each other very well. Their bands are not

He said that Blast was born 10 years ago with aim of bringing together a large group of musicians who could play according to the different given opportunities. Sometimes jamming is found in bars and cafes, playing together and improvising on the same

along with jazz courses at the academy. Julien said that jazz was at present quite popular in Europe, perhaps more than even in America, the place where it originated. Jazz, he insisted was for special listeners, who know something of the intricacies of this form if music. 'It is not popular music and in France it represents only 2 percent of the sales. It is music that is aimed more at adults than teenagers, and one knows it is teenagers who buy most of the CDs and records.'

Dwelling on their trips overseas, Julien said that some of them were married and had children so that it required organisation before they ventured out. As jazz is not very commercial music, it is not easy to make a living out of it and many of them have teaching as their second job next to playing in public, getting their students from music schools or through ads. If they had gone in for rock or pop they may have had a better living, but they are committed to jazz and are ready to make the necessary sacrifices. For the members of Blast their music is their passion. As for listening to pop and rock music, they do that sometimes, and at times play those numbers too but the music that they prefer remains non-commercial music specially Jazz.

The group said that they had been exposed to Indian music, such as the sitar and the tabla, and that they would like to play fusion music along with eastern instruments, given the chance.

Their trip to Bangladesh had been sponsored by Alliance Francaise and Qatar Airways.



French jazz quartet Blast putting up a brilliant show

like rock bands; they can play in each other's bands and move around to discover new styles of performance. The pieces will differ, according to the musicians. The drummers, guitarist and saxophonists will add their own turn of music. Sometimes there is one leader and others follow and at times all the musicians have equally important roles.'

It was during such a session that the members of Blast met to form a group.

Talking about what made them take up jazz rather than any other genre of music, Julien, speaking on behalf of his group said that he chose this type of music as he found it spontaneous and dynamic. Like his counterparts, he had studied conventional music

Listener's delight

A melodious concert holds the audience in its sway

ELITA KARIM

THE three-day programme held at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka finally came to an end recently. A series of programmes, sponsored by Qatar Airways, were held consisting of a variety of musical presentations, reflecting cultures of both home and abroad.

Kamol Khalid, known for his soothing compositions, heard in several tele-films, theatre productions and television dramas, presented a number of his compositions. The audience appreciated his patriotic numbers, love compositions and his musical reflections of nature, which were found in *Aami tomar abod chele, Neel akasher neechey prithibi, Aaj gaaner taale ridoy Megh thom thom kore, Aami ek fairee wala bhai, Aamar chokher paani, Kaare dekhabo moner dukho* and the theme song , *Ke amaaay akul kore*, from the drama serial *Aarshinagar* Famous flutist Gazi Abdul Hakim accompanied

him, along with Pinu Sen Das on tabla and Rajan on keyboards.

This was followed by an evening filled with heart-warming Tagore compositions rendered by Shama Rahman. She began with *Aamar hiyar majhe*, attracting listeners and Rabindra Sangeet lovers inside the hall. As the evening passed by, Shama Rahman, with her deep baritone, soothed the crowd with soft Tagore numbers like *Aamar bhanga pothe, Shei bhalo shei bhalo, Durey kothay dure dure and Dhire dhire prane*. Her selected Tagore songs were presented in such a way, that they transported the listeners to greater heights and urged them to linger on in the Café Gallery and silently demand for more. Popular violinist Sunil Chandra Das accompanied the singer, along with Md Omar on tabla, Dawlatur Rahman on guitar, with Md Shahjahan on the mandira.

Tagore's Shasti goes on celluloid

Chashi makes another movie based on literary piece

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the long 50-year history of cinema in Bangladesh, a feature film is going to be made based on a story of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. Impress Telefilm has come up with this project of filming Tagore's short story *Shasti* (punishment). The *Shubho Muharat* of the film, to be directed by renowned filmmaker Chashi Nazrul Islam, took place at the Ball Room of Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Minister for Information M Shamsul Islam clicked an electronic claspstick to mark the beginning of the film of the same name. He was present there as the chief guest. Among others present at the event were Information Secretary AMM Nasir Uddin, Faridur Reza Sagar of Impress Telefilm, President of Film Directors and Producers Association KMR Manjur and director of *Shasti* Chashi Nazrul Islam, and Head of Corporate Banking, HSBC, Adil Islam.

Speakers expressed their surprise that in its long span Bangladeshi cinema has not yet seen any film based on the literary work of Rabindranath Tagore. Nazrul Islam said that although he has made several movies based on literary pieces of a few great literateurs including Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Prafulla Roy, M Mohiuddin, Rabeya Khatun and Selina Hossain, he had never ventured into the realm of Rabindranath Tagore. 'The reason is that Rabindranath is so vast and so extraordinary that I wasn't felt courageous enough to make a film on his works,' he said.



Chashi Nazrul Islam (C) and his two heroines Champa (L) and Purnima who will play two lead roles in his film *Shasti*

The information secretary, also the chairperson of the Film Censor Board, said that in his short tenure of two months since April he has noticed that the current trend of commercial films aims at a particular sect of audience which is devoid of sophisticated people and especially women. Ventures like the filming of Tagore's *Shasti* 'would surely bring those audience back to the halls,' he expected.

Sponsored by HSBC bank, the shooting of the film will begin soon. The director has already selected actors for the three principal characters: popular actresses Purnima and Champa will portray the roles of Chandara and Radha, while Riaz is to play the role of Chhedam, one of the two male protagonists.

A website, www.shastithefilm.ocm, was also launched on this occasion.

ঢাকা নাট্য ফেস্টিভাল ২০০৪

Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation

(June 17-July 23)

REVIEW

Hat Hadai: a sketch of the char people

HARUN UR RASHID

ON the ninth day of the ongoing theatre festival at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Dhaka Theatre staged one of its early and most popular productions, *Hat Hadai*. Written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, the play deals with the eventful life of people of the *chars* in the Noakhali region.

Portrayal of different characters of these alluvial lands is ultimately synthesised in the life of protagonist Anar Bhandari. An ex-porter on ships, having spent years at sea and numerous foreign ports and cities, Bhandari portrays all the emotions and life experiences seen individually in the other characters.

He not only can attune himself with Modhu's reminiscences of his life at sea as one of his companions, his emotions and experiences can also coalesce with those of others living on the island. Extremely frightened of death, he makes confessions to religious priests several times only to return to his normal rhythm of life that involves music, dance, playing cards as well as fishing for daily living. He forsakes his confessions and resolution to live piously also because he discovers the priests to be more hypocritical than the ordinary people.

And this ordinary way of life makes Chhukkuni, another



Raisul Islam Asad (C) as Anar Bhandari takes delight in traditional arm wrestling in the play *Hat Hadai*

character, travel from place to place because she does not find the peace she seeks. It makes Modhu abandon the life of the island and go on voyages again in spite of his passionate love for Hasna. And it makes the tortoise hunter marry a widow, violating all religious restrictions.

Enacting the roles, Raisul Islam Asad (Anar Bhandari), Shahiduzzaman Selim (Modhu) and Shubhashish Bhowmik (the tortoise hunter) were appreciable. Except in the phase after her return, Shimul Yusuf did not suit well the role of Chhukkuni; it's time the noted *Mancha Kishum* went for roles that match her age.

Shubhashish Bhowmik's mime

of hunting a tortoise is perhaps the most brilliant part of the play. The blue light projecting from the wings creates an artistic ambience of the water. With Rafique Mahmud's light design, Bhowmik's choreography gives an aesthetic quality to the skilful act of hunting tortoise.

The set symbolises the gradual development of the life of Anar Bhandari. Designer Afzal Hossain's use of very few props to indicate the atmosphere and lifestyle of these people is noteworthy. However, the red colour of the set does not represent the soil of these alluvial islands. The designer could give it a second thought.

'The ongoing Drama Festival is the symbol of BGTF's success' --Sara Zaker

ERSHAD KAMOL

Sara Zaker, the ex-President of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) and the honorary member of the current committee of the organisation, appreciates the accomplishments of the BGTF. She is optimistic about the future of theatre in Bangladesh. To quote her, 'From the beginning we have tried to strengthen BGTF as a powerful cultural organisation. However, we did not get the much needed support from governmental



institutions. As a result we became a little bit pessimistic. But we never lost hope. We are continuously struggling to reach our goal. Drama Festival-2004 is the symbol of BGTF's success.'

'As the ex president of the organisation, I think, BGTF should maintain its uniqueness. They should remain neutral and not allow any organisation or person to influence their decisions,' Sara added.

Sara thinks the festival will have a positive effect on the viewers.

Schedules (June 27-July 02)

June 27 Play: <i>Karnakatha</i> Playwright: Tanvir Ahmed Director: Mohammed Jasimuddin Group: Abayab Natyadal	June 30 Play: <i>Bou Basanti</i> Playwright: Ratan Siddiqui Director: Azad Abul Kalam Group: Udichi
June 28 Play: <i>Tahader Kotha</i> Playwright: Rezanur Rahman Director: Farhad Zaman Palash Group: Dhaka Sarak	July 01 Play: <i>Kanjush</i> Playwright: Moliere Adapted by Tariq Anam Khan Director: Liakat Ali Lucky Group: Loko Natya Dal
June 29 Play: <i>Good Bye Dhaka</i>	July 02 Play: <i>Shat Ghatir Kanakari</i>
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy; Time: 7 pm Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Baily Road and at the venue before shows. Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100. Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.	

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

Adibashi Janopad

On ATN Bangla at 10:30pm

Documentary Programme

Based on Tribal Heritage of Bangladesh

HBO

8:30 Changing Lanes

10:30 Born Free

12:30 Curse of the Talisman

2:30 Spy Kids 3-D : Game Over

4:15 Beethoven's 4th

6:15 Fright Night

8:30 Batman Returns

11:00 The Matrix

1:45 The Score

8:15 Purush

8:50 Right Click

10:30 Medhabi

11:25 Dindarpan

09:45 Aajker Shakal

08:30 Chena Sur

09:00 Special Programme on AIDS Day

09:30 Images of Lights

10:02 Alankar

10:30 Gallery

11:00 Drama Serial: Andhokarer Phul

11:30 Magazine Sequence

12:02 Millennium

12:35 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush

03:05 Shukhpakhi

05:20 Apnar Jigyasha

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Khabor Deshey Deshey

08:15 Drama Serial: Teen Purush

08:50 Right Click

10:30 Medhabi

11:25 Dindarpan

09:45 Anindrishti

11:15 Drama Serial: Kar Chhaya Chhilo

04:20 Magazine Show

12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Ghreena

03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang

04:20 Anirban

06:20 Three Stooges

08:00 Danish Pothey Pothey

08:30 Bajpakhi

09:00 The Adventures of Sinbad

09:30 Mohona

10:30 Adibashi Janopad

12:20 Bangla Feature Film: Sohail Rana

STAR GOLD

9:00 Itihaas

12:30 Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Carega

4:00 Abhay

8:00 Startoons Countdown

8:30 Iron Monkey - Hindi Dubbed

11:00 Hero No 1

STAR PLUS

1:00 Star Bestsellers

2:00 Taaza Hits

2:05 Hit Filmlein Hit

3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron

3:30 Tea Time Cine

6:30 Kya Baat Hail

7:30 Yatra

8:30 Khichdi

9:30 Pardey Ke Peechey

8:30 Starsuperhit

12:00 Yatra

STAR WORLD

10:00 Top Drive Getaway

10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful

12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal

1:00 Travel Asia

1:30 The Kids From Room 402

2:00 Roboroch

2:30 Monster Farm

3:00 X Men

3:30 The Kumars At No.42

4:00 Cops

4:30 Criss Angel Supernatural

5:30 Britannia India's Child Genius

6:30 The X Files

7:30 Xena:Warrior Princess

8:30 Tna Wrestling

9:30 Thunderdome

10:30 Enterprise

11:30 Baywatch Hawaii

DISCOVERY

8:30 Past is Wild/Future is Wild

9:30 Discover India

10:30 Physical Science in Action

11:00 Spliat

11:30 Real Kids Real

Adventures Tapped in a Glacier

12:00 Popular Mechanics for Kids Desert

12:30 From house to home

1:00 Madhur Jeffrey's: Flavours of India Punjab

1:30 Weather Extreme New York

3:30 Colour of War Triumph and Despair

4:30 Lost Temple to the Gods

5:30 Gladiator Games: The Roman Bloodsport

6:30 Ultimate Guide : Volcanoes

ANIMAL PLANET

8:30 Wild Encounters: Oddities

9:30 Dingoes : Outlaws of the Outback

10:00 Giraffe : The impossible animal

10:30 Tiri Perfect Predators : Mantids & Dragonflies

11:30 Escape The Elephants

12:00 The gathers from the sky

12:30 Claws The life of crabs

1:30 Hippo Beach

2:30 Arms Race

3:30 Croc Files

4:00 The Zoo

4:30 Flesh Eaters

5:00 Return of the Reptiles

5:30 Golden Lion Tamarins

6:00 Champions of the Wild: Elk

6:30 Wild Island: Trying Times

7:00 Crocodile Hunter: Outlaws of the Outback

8:00 Crocodile Hunter

Diaries: Mary

8:30 Check Monkey

9:30 Tough Ducks

10:30 Innovation

11:30 Predators: The ultimate predators

12:00 Secret World of Gardens: Plant Warfare

12:00 Geowatch Asia

12:30 Avalanche Angels

1:30 Whale Rescue

2:30 National Geographic Special

3:30 Mission Wild

4:00 Return To The Wild

4:30 Rain Forest

5:30 On Assignment

6:00 Tomorrow's World

6:30 Dogs With Jobs

7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife

7:30 Earth Report

8:00 Geowatch Asia

8:30 Lost Treasure Of Tibet

9:30 Rwanda's Forgotten Tribe

10:30 Dangerous Jobs

11:30 Tba 93

12:00 Croc Chronicles

STAR SPORTS

7:00 The Golf Club 2004 (T)

7:30 Uefa Euro 2004 Week 2 Highlights(S)

8:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Day #6 Highlights(R)

9:30 World Of Rugby (T)

10:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Third Round(R)

2:00 Uefa Euro 2004 Preshow (R)

2:45 NBA Euro 2004 Faro-Loule Portugal Quarterfinal Match #3(R)

3:00 NBA Inside Stuff (R)

5:30 Gillette World Sport 2004 (T)

6:00 Motogp World Championship 2004 Assen Netherlands 250cc(L); 500 Cc(L); 125cc(S)(S)

8:30 Uefa Euro 2004 Week 2 Highlights(R)

9:30 Hitz (T)

10:00 Formula One Highlights 2004 Usa Grand Prix(T)

11:00 Uefa Euro 2004 Week 2 Highlights(R)

12:00 Uefa Euro 2004 Preshow (L)

ESP

7:00 The Natwest Series New Zealand Vs West Indies 2nd Odi Highlights(S)

8:30 Espn School Quiz 2004 Review Show (T)

9:30 Uefa Euro 2004 Week 2 Highlights(S)

10:30 Samsung Cricket Show (R)

11:00 Uefa Euro 2004 Week 2 Highlights(R)

12:00 Cricket Gold (T)

2:00 Hitz (R)

3:30 The Natwest Series New Zealand Vs West Indies 2nd Odi Highlights(R)

3:43 The Natwest Series England Vs West Indies 3rd Odi 1st Session(L)

7:15 Hitz (R)

7:45 The Natwest Series England Vs West Indies 3rd Odi 2nd Session(L)

11:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T)

11:35 Espn School Quiz 2004 Review Show (R)

TEN SPORTS

7:30 Heat (2): Ep 306

8:00 Gamer TV

10:00 Amsterdam Hockey : Pakistan Vs Germany

11:00 ITTF Pro Tour - Singapore Open

2:00 WWE Specials: Bad Blood

3:00 Speedway Grand Prix : Cardiff, Great Britain

5:00 Amsterdam Hockey : Pakistan Vs Germany

5:30 Gillette World Sports

6:30 WWE : Experience

7:30 Uber Cup

9:30 Amsterdam Hockey :