

SHORT-TAKES

Eminem to star in boxing movie?

Eminem is rumoured to be following up his acting debut in *8 Mile* with a starring role in a boxing movie.

He's said to be playing the part of undefeated, 22-year-old Ukrainian-born



Jewish boxing phenomenon Dmitry Salita. The rapper has reportedly recruited Lennox Lewis' old trainer Emanuel Steward to prepare him for the role. Steward said: 'He's improved enormously. He's aggressive, a real slugger. He moves a lot like Muhammad Ali.'

'I needed to think about my life': Manisha

Manisha Koirala has been travelling a bit and has decided to turn student. But fans need not worry - she will very much be in touch with cinema.

She is going half way across the globe to the US to learn direction and also has plans to act and produce in Bollywood.



The actress almost disappeared from the Bollywood scene for a few months. 'I got the idea from Kamal Hasan, who's always a student of cinema in spite of knowing so much.'

Source: Internet

THEATRE FESTIVAL SCHEDULES (JULY 16-JULY 17)

July 16
Play: *Golapjan*
Playwright: SM Solaiman
Director: SM Solaiman
Group: Theatre Art Unit

July 17
Play: *Nitipuran*
Playwright: Masum Reza
Director: Masum Reza
Group: Desh Natak

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.

A passion for the stage

A steaming cup of tea with sizzling 'shingara'

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

AFTER the curtains come down, have you ever wondered about what goes on behind the scenes to stage a successful drama? To be honest, I was at a loss for answers once I came out from the Experimental Theatre Hall that was staging the Drama Festival recently. The young enthusiasts I had taken along with me were simply too full of questions: How do the actors remember their lines for a three-hour drama with no cue cards? How could anyone but locals develop such a flawless dialect? Does it pay to be a stage actor?

The more I talked to experts, the more awed I became at how untouched this industry was since the British era when drama groups were built around passionate groups of actors and writers. During that time, different drama teams flourished under the patronage of the wealthy individuals. Ticket sales, even for the same plays, depended upon which group was staging it. And drama groups still are driven more by 'passion' than by 'lucrative contracts'.

The stage actors like to call themselves 'professional amateurs'. Most commonly, stalwarts who attract the talents around them form groups. Even though they belong to groups and are the lifeblood of the team, founders and new entrants alike become members on an honorary basis.

Every production needs a rigorous six-to-nine months of preparation. The actors are informed well ahead about rehearsal dates through a notice, put on the walls of the rented rehearsal rooms. Over a cup of tea and favourite snacks of *shingara*, the actors take part in rigorous rehearsals and script reading day in day out for three months in a row. As an actor smilingly pointed out, '...it's not true that we are

unpaid professionals.....we simply accept snacks in place of money.'

Then the director, designers and the technicians step in to outline the stage settings. Allocating the characters to actors requires a lot of neutrality (and diplomacy) on the part of the director. 'Like the old days, it is often subject to bias,' says a theatre activist. Then begins the rehearsal-forblocking.

Typically it takes about three



Eminent artistes are the lifeblood of the team

months for the team to memorize the script. But sometimes it takes significantly longer. After the successful staging of *Hath Hodai*, Shahiduzzaman Selim mentioned how it took their team nearly nine months to master the Noakhali dialect before they could finally stage the play.

During the long months of rehearsals, beginners have a time-bound traditional role to play. During the first 2 years, they are in

charge of the kitchen, making sure the tea and *shingaras* keep flowing and keeping up the spirits of the team! Not unlike an internship, the beginners learn the many arts of acting through these informal interactions with the senior actors. During this entire period, neither intern nor actors are paid.

What struck me was how the drama groups keep up with their passion despite the odds stacked

In contrast, in West Bengal the Ministry allots Rupees 3,000 per head for the theatre activists, which translates to Rupees 60,000 per month to theatre groups of 20 actors each. Since there are several theatre houses, the groups can perform 'call shows' year round and also see acting as a livelihood.

Secondly, despite its popularity, there is an incredible shortage of theatre space. Before the Experimental Theatre Stage was inaugurated, there was only one theatre stage, The Mahila Samity Mancha; the Guide House auditorium was closed years before. Since there are altogether 35-40 groups in the city alone, including the top ten groups, each group is allowed to perform at most once a month at the auditorium. According to Liaquat Ali Lucky, General Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTf), the City Corporation can rent the community centres in different localities to overcome this bottleneck.

Thirdly, there is an unexplained lack of recognition for the stage actors. Every year, we are bombarded with so many glamorous 'award giving ceremonies' to reward silver screen actors, models, singers, TV-productions, but rarely one for stage actors.

When you take away livelihood, opportunity to perform and recognition there doesn't seem to be much left for the actors except an undying passion for their art. How we can expect to develop and nurture talent under such conditions is a complete puzzle to me. As a critic pointed out sarcastically, 'the most imminent danger to our theatre culture is, if the price of tea and *shingara* were to increase...' Sadly, he probably didn't realise there was more than passing humour that he intended.

The quality of dance is much better than before--Kajol Ibrahim

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

EMINENT danseuse and dance director Kajol Ibrahim is a well-known name in the cultural world. Some of her notable works in the stage and TV media are *Chitrangada*, *Nokshi Kather Math*, *Hajar Tarer Bina*, *Badol Borishana*,



Kajol Ibrahim

Rajpath Janopath and Albamer Patay.

Currently, Kajol works as a dance director only. Her opinion about today's dance: 'As many performers are equipped with foreign degree, the quality of dance these days is much better than before.'

Born into a family with a rich cultural background, Kajol pursued her hobby and passion from her early years. As she recalls, 'I used to sing when I was a child. As I grew older my commitment to dancing grew.'

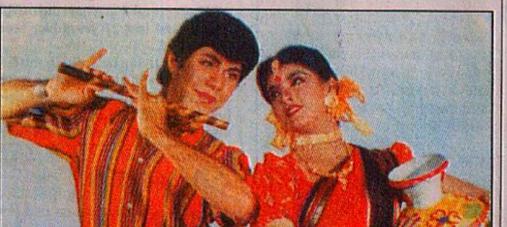
She started her dance lessons with GA Mannan. She graduated with a diploma in classical dance (Kathak) from the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Her teacher was Samar Battacharjee. Later in her career, she learned Bharatnatyam and Manipuri for four years from the well-known dancer Baburam Singh. She said, 'I was interested in all the branches of classical dance. During my learning period, Atikul Islam, an exponent of Tagore songs and music teacher of BAFA, inspired me greatly,' she added.

Although she started her career as a classical dancer, later in her career Kajol chose the contemporary dance form. Regarding the switch she said, 'In each of my stage shows, I performed classical dance first and then performed the contemporary form of dance.'

Kajol's horizons have expanded over the years. She has visited Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, China, Pakistan and India to perform at various cul-

tural meets. In 1975, she won a national award for her outstanding performance. Looking into the future, she says she would like to concentrate on her work as a dance director.

Kajol believes that the government ought to promote dance. As she points out, 'The Government should try to offer more foreign scholarships to our dancers so that they can widen their knowledge of this medium.'

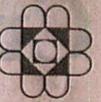


Ratan and Mou present a folk dance choreographed by Kajol



Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
(June 17-July 23)



REVIEW

Kalshondhya: A classic by Nagarik Natyasampradaya

Deft adaptation of an epic

Every superpower in this world falls in the end. If we review world history, we see that the ancient superpowers like Egypt, Greece, Rome ultimately fell to destruction. The fall of the legendary characters in Dwaraka city, 36 years after the end of the Kurukshetra war, is well depicted in the play *Kalshondhya*.

The play was staged by Nagarik Natyasampradaya on July 14 at the Experimental Theatre Stage as part of the drama festival arranged by BGTf.

Buddhadev Basu had adapted *Kalshondhya* from 'Maushol' part of the epic *Mahabharata*. The legends of the play like Krishna, Arjun and others are not mere mythological characters rather they are portrayed as warlords.

Through the legends, the playwright has successfully portrayed a realistic picture of the chaotic world. *Kalshondhya* is the natural-realistic play in which he has shown the inherent oppressive tendency of human beings and the fall of the warlords as well.

Buddhadev's play has poetic quality. He has used flowery language for the dialogue of the characters to portray the richness of the legend.

Director Khaled Khan has handled the theme of the play deftly. He has successfully presented the



Zeroing into the inherent oppressive tendency of human beings

vulgarity, war and the prophecy of the gods and goddesses. His composition of war scenes and the comic scenes were artistic and enjoyable. He has used artificial smoke on the stage to indicate the arrival of Krishna. Moreover, his handling of the flashback scene when Gandhari curses Krishna and Arjun for killing the Kaurav heroes, violating the law of war, was enjoyable.

Romney Rahim's set is simple but can symbolically represent the theme of the play. The ash colour of the set successfully conveys the chaotic as well as the sad environment of the post war condition of a place. He has used thrust in the

proscenium stage. Nasirul Haque Khokon has once again proved his credentials as a contemporary light designer. His design could maintain all the requirements for a quality light design. Moreover, his colour effects on the cyclorama were excellent.

The teamwork of the performers was up to the mark. Rajib Dey as Krishna out performed the others. However, during the soliloquy at the final scene, Gazi Rakayat's over-acting was a major flaw.

Ultimately, this show was more polished than the earlier shows of *Kalshondhya*.

Masum Reza: 'I have tried to give a universal effect to my adaptation of the epic Mahabharata'

Famous playwright Masum Reza has earned popularity as a TV as well as stage dramatist. The regular member of Desh Natak, Masum said, 'In the festival my group is going to stage my play *Nitipuran* based on the Indian epic *Mahabharata*. During adaptation of the play, I have tried to give it a universal effect.'

On his adaptation process Masum said, 'In the *Mahabharata*, I think, only Eklavya has a heroic



quality. In the epic, Draupadi never meets Eklavya. To create a new crisis I have adapted the play to focus on the love and class conflict between low cast Eklavya and high cast Draupadi.'

Masum is appreciative of drama festivals. In the ongoing Dhaka Drama Festival 2004 arranged by BGTf Masum Reza says he enjoyed the plays *Hat Hadai*, a Dhaka Theatre production and Nagarik's production *Kalshondhya*.

ERSHAD KAMOL

More instinct for Stone

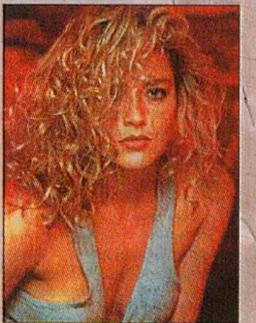
After struggling without noteworthy success for most of the last 12 years, Sharon Stone, made a star by a leg-crossing scene in the 1992 film, *Basic Instinct*, is set to reprise her only noteworthy role.

The long-legged Stone, now 46, will star in a sequel to *Basic Instinct*, in which she will again play the part of novelist and serial killer Catherine Tramell.

The producers are coy but have slip hints that she may again reveal herself, according to Chinese state media outlet *Xinhua*. Michael Douglas is not scheduled for the cast in part two and Stone says she'll take a younger lover in the new release.

Stone has reportedly reached a settlement with *Basic Instinct's* producers, whom she had been suing for \$US19 million.

Ms Stone most recently played an aging Laurel Hedare against the stunning Halle Berry in *Catwoman* and said development was in early days and the sequel's production schedule was not yet set.



Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shesh Akkhar
On ATN Bangla at 5:10 pm
Musical Programme
Hosted by Shajal and Irin



Wild Wild West
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Action/Western/Comedy/Sci-Fi
Will Smith, Kevin Kline, Salma Hayek

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

News Bulletin

BTV
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

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Teletext 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

BTV

07:30 *Bangladesh Hridoy Holey*
09:05 *Drama Serial: Swapner Deshey Natun Kuri 2004*
12:15 *Bangla Kawali*
12:30 *Satellite Programme: Shongbadpolsar Patay Thekey*
03:25 *Bangla Feature Film: Khabor, Desh Janapad*
06:10 *Share Market and Weather Forecast: Maloncho*
07:05 *Film Show: Alif Laila*
08:30 *Dekha Adekha Shada Kalo*
09:00 *Tekna! thekey Tetulia Lal Golap*
10:30 *Satellite Programme*
12:05 *Satellite Programme*

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Trilijo Matra Live Show, Tele Showoy*
11:30 *Islam Ki Boley Talk Show: Koru Alap*
12:30 *Drama Serial: Sharay Teen Tala*
01:00 *Banglar Gaan Shengbadpaltrey Bangladesh and Public opinion*
02:00 *Trilijo Matray Apni Showar, Shandhaney Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan*
03:30 *Sa Re Ga Ma Shamoyiki Music Plus*
06:45 *Kathay Kathay Weekly Drama: Lal Passport*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay*

10:00 Drama: Ilish

ATN BANGLA

10:25 *Annodishtee*
11:05 *Islamic Programme: Binodon Jummar Shesh Akkhar*
06:20 *Amra Korbo Joy Rup Madhuri*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Khwab*
09:00 *Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni*
09:30 *Drama Serial: Baba Magazine Show: Smitir Monihoi*
12:20 *Tele film: Khay*

HBO

8:15 *Curse of the Forty Niner*
10:00 *The Nude Bomb Vertical Limit*
12:00 *28 Days*
4:30 *Cinema Secrets III: This Means War*
5:00 *Backdraft*
7:45 *Blind Fury*
9:30 *Wild Wild West*
11:45 *Tales From The Crypt: Undertaking Palor*
12:30 *Ju-On: The Grudge*

HALLMARK

9:30 *The Great Outdoors*
11:30 *Sue Thomas: F B Eye*
12:30 *Bewitched*
1:00 *Mad About You*
1:30 *Verdict in Blood*
3:30 *Play With Me Sesame*
4:00 *Sesame Street*
5:00 *Bewitched*
5:30 *The Guardian-Season II*
6:30 *Sue Thomas: F B Eye*
9:05 *Agency Season II*
9:55 *The Guardian-Season II*
12:30 *Bewitched*

STAR MOVIES

9:00 *Down Periscope*
10:30 *The Touch*
12:30 *Rocketman*
2:00 *Gone Fishin'*
3:45 *Conan The Destroyer*
5:25 *Long Life Happiness & Prosperity*
7:00 *Joy Luck Club*
9:15 *Hot Chick*
11:00 *The Touch*
1:45 *The Hitcher*

STAR GOLD

8:30 *Startoons Countdown*
9:00 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet*
9:30 *Walan Ke Rakhwale*
1:00 *Mr. Natwarlal*
4:30 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet*
5:00 *Yeh Dil Aashiana Hai*

STAR PLUS

11:30 *Life Nahin Hai Ladoo*
12:00 *Tanha*
12:30 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet*
1:00 *Kabhi Kabhi Mehenga*
1:30 *Chali Ka Naam: Antakshri*
2:30 *Gharwal Uparwali Aur Surmy*
3:35 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet*
4:00 *Ek Mulaqat*
4:30 *Smiti*
5:30 *Parday Ke Pechey*
6:00 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet*
6:30 *Life Nahin Hai Ladoo*
7:30 *Fox Kids*
8:00 *Sonpari*
8:00 *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi*

STAR WORLD

10:30 *Race To The Alter*
11:30 *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*
12:30 *Angel*
1:30 *Mac Gyver*
2:28 *Star Asia Travel*
2:30 *Oprah Winfrey*
3:30 *Bold And Beautiful*
4:30 *Hollywood Squares*
5:00 *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*
5:30 *Miami Vice*
6:30 *The Simpsons*
7:00 *Home Improvement*
7:30 *Friends*

8:00 Just Shoot Me

8:30 *Tru Wrestling*
9:30 *What Were You Thinking?*
10:30 *Nash Bridges*
11:28 *Star Asia Travel*
11:30 *Baywatch*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

11:30 *Dogs With Jobs: S3*
12:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*
12:30 *The Leopard Seal: Lords Of The Ice*
1:30 *Built For Destruction*
2:30 *Frontlines Of Construction*
3:30 *Who's Aping Who*
4:30 *Shape Of Life*
5:30 *Africa From The Ground Up*
6:00 *Sea Stories*
6:30 *Dogs With Jobs*
7:30 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*

7:30 Animal Cannibals

8:30 *Built For Destruction*
9:30 *Frontlines Of Construction*
10:30 *Who's Aping Who*
11:30 *Shape Of Life*
12:30 *For Women Only*
1:00 *Berman & Berman*
1:30 *House to Home From*
1:30 *Celebrity Doubles Year 2003*
2:00 *Healthy Living We are What We Eat*
2:30 *Detective Stories: The New Detectives - Case Studies in Forensic Science Fatal Compulsion*
3:30 *Wild Discovery: Elephants Empire: The World of Memories*
4:30 *Real Kids, Real Adventures Stuck in a Swamp*
5:00 *Endurance Till*
5:30 *Travelers Marrakech*
6:30 *Global Treks treks in a Wild World Trekking in the Amazon*
7:00 *Journeys to the Ends of the World Keepers of the Lost Ark*
7:30 *Wild Discovery Reptiles: Snakes: Deadly Companions*
8:30 *Friday Spotlight: Junkyard Wars: Magzwar*
10:30 *Prosecutors Young Love*
11:30 *World's Best kept Secrets Best kept Secrets of... Mysterious Societies*

DISCOVERY

12:30 *The Protectors Labrador Lifesavers*
1:30 *Nightmares of Nature*
2:00 *Animal X: Marsupial Lion*
2:30 *Wild Encounters: Elephant*
5:00 *Pet Nation Border Terrier*
6:00 *Pet Nation French Bulldog*
7:30 *Chimpanzee Diary*
8:00 *Around the world with Tippi*
8:30 *The Protectors K9 The Specialists*
9:30 *The Protectors Gator Sabolage*
10:30 *Wild Encounters Great Indian Rhino*
11:30 *Chimpanzee Diary*
12:00 *Around the world with Tippi*

ANIMAL PLANET

11:30 *The Protectors K9 Detection Partners for life*

12:30 The Protectors Labrador

1:30 *Nightmares of Nature*
2:00 *Animal X: Marsupial Lion*
2:30 *Wild Encounters: Elephant*
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STAR SPORTS

8:30 *Olympic Related Road To Athens (R)*
9:00 *Olympic Related Road To Athens (R)*
9:30 *World Pool Championships 2004 Day 6 2nd Session (R)*
11:30 *Euro Racing Superfund Auto 3000 Jerez Spain Highlights (R) 12:30 Return To Athens (R)*
1:00 *World Superbike Championships 2004 Mid-Season Review (R)*
1:30 *Nba Inside Stuff (T)*
2:00 *Asia Cup 2004*
2:00 *Dambulla Sri Lanka India Vs Uae 2nd Odi Preview (L)*
11:30 *Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka Bangladesh Vs Hong Kong 1st Odi Highlights (T)*

ESPN

1:00 *Espn Presents Samsung Cricket Show (R)*

1:30 Sportscenter Asia (S)

2:00 *Pro Wakeboard Series Fort Worth Tx Usa (R)*
2:30 *Sportscenter India (R)*
4:00 *The Open Championship 2004 Preview (R)*
4:30 *The Open Championship 2004 Ayrshire Scotland First Round (R)*
7:30 *Football Focus Extra Roy Evans Special Part 1 (R)*
8:00 *Motorsport Asia (T)*
8:30 *Pro Wakeboard Series Orlando Fl Us (R)*
8:50 *Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #11 (S)*
8:25 *Espn Presents Samsung Cricket Show (R)*
10:10 *Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka Bangladesh Vs Hong Kong 1st Odi 1st Session*
1:30 *Super Centuries (R)*
2:00 *Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka Bangladesh Vs Hong Kong 1st Odi 2nd Session*