

Reviving Rashid Choudhury's art

Shilpakala Academy holds exhibition and brings out book on the artist

HARUN UR RASHID

AFTER long 18 years since his death, an opulent display of colourful tapestries and paintings at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has once again upheld the uniqueness of artist Rashid Choudhury's talent and his unsurpassed contribution to the modern art movement in the country. Inaugurated on September 23, this twelve-day exhibition is one of the very few ones that have taken place after the artist's untimely demise.

The display contains a total of 133 art works including 48 tapestries. Besides, a book, titled *Rashid Choudhury* and written by Professor Abul Mansur, was brought out on this occasion. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman inaugurated the exhibition and the book.

Rashid Choudhury was among the second generation artists, the first having been led by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, who helped establish the practice of art as well as the first art institutions of the country. While Zainul Abedin pioneered in practising art—considered an act of sin at that time, the following generations of artists gave it an impetus and made it popular among general people. Rashid also contributed a lot in spreading the practice of art outside Dhaka. He was the first teacher of Oriental Art department at the Art Institute founded by Zainul Abedin. Later he joined the newly established Department of Fine Arts at Chittagong University. He also initiated the



(Above) Shonar Tori (Golden Boat), tapestry; (left) Radha-Krishna 2, oil



Chittagong Charukala College and an art gallery named Kalabhaban.

Rashid Choudhury completed his graduation from the Government Institute of Arts (the present Institute of Fine Arts) in 1954. He spent two years (1956-'57) in Spain on a postgraduate scholarship to study sculpture at Central Escuela Des Bellias Artes de San Fernando in Madrid. However, Rashid was destined for something else yet: he spent four years (1960-'64) in France and studied fresco and tapestry at the Academy of Julian and Beaux Arts. And this made him the pioneer in the art of tapestry in Bangladesh; and he has remained the greatest in the subcontinent.

Rashid Choudhury was a great teacher. 'Like the European instructors, Rashid never used to correct his students' faults; he would rather mark them and let the students correct them in their own ways,' reminisced artist Murtaza Bashir, a friend of Rashid. 'He was also a constructive critic,' Murtaza said.

Inclination for the abstract art, which was a remarkable feature of Rashid's contemporary artists, can also be found in Rashid's art works. 'But he was not a blind follower of abstract art: he just took the form of the style and used it to portray subjects from his own cultural background,' said Abul Mansur. Indeed, the tapestries of Rashid Choudhury depict subjects that are richly connected to the cultural heritage of the country. Tapestry works like *Ruposhi Bangla*, *Nabanno*, *Utshob*, *Shonar Tori* etc. project the epic grandeur of the rural Bangalee traditions. Western subjects like Adam and Eve also were his subjects for tapestry, but these characters too appeared in a background that is Bangalee in nature.

Besides tapestry and oil, Rashid has worked in rarely used mediums like gouache and tempera.

The exhibition will run till October 4.

CULTURAL FEAS

Exhibition
Artist: Rashid Choudhury
Venue: National art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shahbag
Time: September 23-October 04, From 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Fridays

Exhibition
Organiser: Art Collector
Venue: Art Collector Gallery, BNS Centre Shop: A 7-8, Sector 7, Uttara; Tel: 8915586, 8915297
Time: September 17-October 16

Exhibition
Artist: S Rafi
Venue: Alliance Francaise, House 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: September 23-October 10, from 9:00 am to 12 am and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, on Saturdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
The display features Ebru (marbling) work of the Turkish artist

Duratta: An example of sound movie



ERSHAD KAMOL

From the mid-1980s, the middle class viewers lost their interest to go to cinema halls to watch Bangladeshi films. One major reason behind this has been the lukewarm expressions of poor movies as well as vulgarity. In the last few years, Impress Telefilm has presented some enjoyable movies, which have drawn the middle class audience to the theatre halls. In line of that endeavour, Impress Telefilm premiered its latest production *Duratta* on September 23.

Based on popular writer Humayun Ahmed's story, the film marks an important change: generally, Humayun himself gives direction to his films, but this time the audience have got renowned Morshedul Islam behind the camera.

In *Duratta*, through the story of three children—one from the elite society and the two other from slum areas—Morshedul Islam's screenplay depicts the loneliness of a child in a disciplined fashionable elite family. At the end of the movie, when the rich boy says good bye to his slum dwelling friends, Morshed's

symbolic use of a sweater is really superb.

However, the pace of the movie seems a little bit slower than expected. The train journey sequences could be a little less smaller. Morshed also could not manage well the last scene when the rich boy returns to his parents: performers lacked proper expression.

Subarna Mustafa and Humaun Farid as the rich couple were very impressive. As a slum dweller child actor Amol also played well.



BIRTH CENTENARY OF PABLO NERUDA

Remembering a poet of love and people

PABLO Neruda was once referred as the 'Picasso of poetry' and treated the greatest poet of the twentieth century in any language. On the occasion of this Chilean poet's birth centenary (observed on July 12), Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies organised a discussion programme and screened a film titled *Il Postino* (The Postman) on September 23 at the auditorium of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra.

Neruda wrote his poems in Spanish and love and politics were his most favourite subjects. He is among the most translated poets of the world. 'But translation is just like the other side of a carpet which is never the same, and to have the real flavour of Neruda one must go through his poems in Spanish', opined Salimullah Khan, one of the speakers at the programme. 'He was a bourgeois modern poet in his early life and later transformed into a communist. He craved for communism but at the same time he longed for luxurious life too,' Salimullah said.

From the 1940s on, Neruda's poems reflected the political struggle of the leftists and the socio-historical developments in South



A scene from the movie Il Postino

America. He also wrote love poems. His love poem collections, such as, the youthful *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924), are tender, melancholy, sensuous, and passionate. In 'material' poetry, loneliness and depression immerse the author in a subterranean world of dark, demonic forces. And finally there is Neruda's poetry of common, everyday objects, animals, and plants, as in *Odas Elementales*. 'These trends correspond to various aspects of Neruda's personality: his passionate love-life, the nightmares and depression he experienced, his commitment to a political cause, and his ever-present attention to details of daily life,' Salimullah Khan elaborated.

After the discussion, Muhammad Habibur Rahman recited his own translation of Neruda's poem *Obligations of a Poet*, which he entitled *Kobir Daay*.

The film *Il Postino* is a moving story of a postman seeking courage to express his love as well as a greater purpose of life through the help and influence of an unlikely figure, the world-renowned poet Neruda looking for political exile in the postman's small village. Directed by

Michael Radford, in this Italian movie with English subtitle, Massimo Troisi plays the shy postman who strikes up an unlikely friendship with the exiled Chilean poet played by Philippe Noiret. Through Neruda's example and tutelage, the hero learns to think of his Italian fishing village in lyrical terms, as well as how to talk to women and even find the strength to take his political stands.

By the end of the movie, through the postman's humility, honesty, kindness, courage, and spiritual rebirth and ascension, everyone, like the famous poet, witnesses the emergence of a greater heart and inspiration.

Despite the brilliance of the film, the programme marked some noticeable drawbacks. It started by an hour late with some of the discussants mentioned on the card still absent. Even the spelling mistakes of *Jonmo* and *Udjaapon* on the backstage screen were eyesores to many. Organisers should not arrange programmes that lack proper respect to the great personalities.

By Afsar Ahmed

Shawshank Redemption earns best loser tag

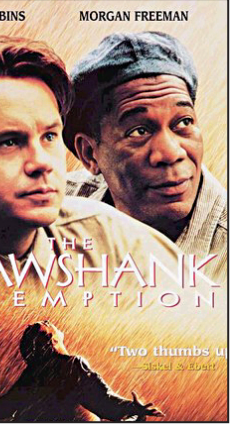
John Lennon musical set for Broadway

Powerful prison drama *The Shawshank Redemption* has been voted the best film *never* to land the top Oscars award. The 1994 film starred Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins and was nominated in seven Oscars categories—but failed to win any.

Tearjerker classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring James Stewart, was second in the list. Barry Norman paid tribute to all the movies which failed to win the Best Picture Academy Award. The film critic said the names in the list highlighted the 'major voting mistakes' Oscars judges had made down the years. The top 10, compiled for the Radio Times, contains some of the most memorable films. Third is Steven Spielberg's sci-fi hit *ET*, sixth is the *Wizard of Oz* and eighth the *Colour Purple*.

Ten best films never to have won a Best Picture, Director, Actor or Actress Academy Award: *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), *It's*

a Wonderful Life (1946), *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), *The Great Escape* (1963), *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Some Like It Hot* (1959), *The Colour Purple* (1985), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *Psycho* (1960)

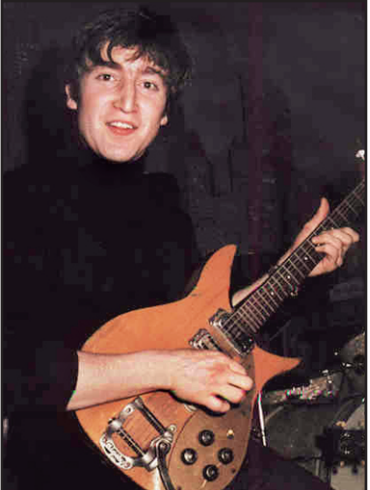


Imagine a John Lennon musical on Broadway. It's easy if you try.

Lennon, a musical about the former Beatle's life, is set to open on New York's Great White Way next summer, in time for the 25th anniversary of his murder at the hands of a crazed fan.

The project will include such post-Beatle songs as *Imagine*, *Instant Karma*, *Give Peace a Chance*, *(Just Like) Starting Over* and *Whatever Gets You Through the Night*. The play was written and will be directed by TV veteran Don Scardino.

Lennon, who was shot outside his New York apartment in December 1980, will not be the only rock icon finding a new life on Broadway. *Good Vibrations*, a musical based on the songs of the Beach Boys, will begin performances in early December, while *All Shook Up*, based on the songs of Elvis Presley, is scheduled to open next year.



Source: Internet

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

* 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. 9:00am. 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am.10:00am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m.,10:00 a.m, 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 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.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News-Headlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm.

BTV
07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Hote
09:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shangbadpotter Pata Theke
01:05 Weekly Drama
02:05 Online
02:30 Ta Ta Thai Thai: Dance Programme
03:00 Live Cricket Match
06:00 Desh Janopad
10:25 Taknaf Thake Tatulia
12:05 Satellite programmes
01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:25 Public reaction
01:30 Bangla Film: Abhiman (Shabana, Razzak)
04:00 Banglar gaan
04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:45 Sharif Melamine Sangeetmala
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Drama Serial: Kalo Meye
07:50 Drama Serial: Dr. Mahataber Swapno
08:25 Drama Serial: Boyosh Jakhon Ekush
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Amader Chhobi

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Annodrishtee
11:15 Drama Serial: Deteoyo Bakte
11:50 Mega Serial: Mohona
12:30 Musical Programme
01:05 Dekhe Noyon Melia
01:35 Chaloman Desh Business Show
02:30 School Bela
03:10 Drama Serial: Shirsho Bindu
03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang
05:10 Shurer Madhuri
06:20 Tom and Jerry
08:00 Drama Serial: Kajlar Ghathe Agni Utshab
08:30 Drama Serial: Kalo Phor o Annano
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
09:30 Drama Serial: Baba Chanchalokar Mamla
10:30 Drama Film: Zeed
12:20
08:00 Aajiker Shakal
08:30 Monihar Shaptaher Khabor
09:00 Expedition To Animal Kingdom
09:30 Natoker Gaan
10:05 Dhakar Cinema
11:00 Ronger Manush
03:15 Pepsi Music Express
03:40 Drama: Shei Lokti Shei Meyeti Ar Shei Machhitr Golpo Gallery
04:25 Iltihasher Ei Diney
05:15 Apnar jiggesha
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:20 Shangshkriti ei Shoptahar
06:55
08:15 Drama Serial: Tin Purush

ntv
08:00 Citizen X
8:30 Sudden Death
10:30 Sheena
12:45 Sherlock
3:00 Gremlins
5:00 The Devil's Own
7:15 The Master of Disguise
9:30 The Truman Show
1:15 Sheena
11:25
HBO
3:15 About A Boy
4:55 The Jackal
7:00 Liberty Stands Still
8:35 Behind Enemy Lines
10:30 Night Of The Living Dead
12:00 All The Queeni's Men
1:45 Afis 100 Years...100 Movies
11:15
STAR MOVIES
8:00 Clifford
9:30 Van Wilder: Party Liaison
11:00 Good Girl The

PICK OF THE DAY
On Channel i at 7:50 pm
Drama Serial
08:50 Astrelia Bangladesh Cultural Friendship Show
11:25 Dindarpan
12:30 The Ticket
1:00 Mister Johnson
2:45 Hollywood One On One
3:15 About A Boy
4:55 The Jackal
7:00 Liberty Stands Still
8:35 Behind Enemy Lines
10:30 Night Of The Living Dead
12:00 All The Queeni's Men
1:45 Afis 100 Years...100 Movies
11:15
STAR MOVIES
8:00 Clifford
9:30 Van Wilder: Party Liaison
11:00 Good Girl The

Liberty Stands Still
On Star Movies at 7:00 pm
Genre: Thriller / Drama
Cast: Tanya Allen, Ed Anders, Brett Armstrong
6:30 The Amazing Race
7:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
8:30 Clear And Present Danger
11:30 Mile High
12:30 Vip
1:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
2:30 Mile High
3:30 Rescue 911
STAR GOLD
9:00 Asoka - The Movie
1:00 Dil Vil Pyar Vyar
4:30 Startoons Countdown
5:00 Dilwale
8:30 Game Of Death - Hindi Dubbed
11:00 Deewana Mujhsa Nahin
STAR PLUS
2:30 Mirch Masala
3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
3:30 Saath Saath
6:30 Meri Mrs Chanchala
7:00 Yatra
7:30 Piya Bina
8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey
8:30 Mehndi
11:30 Chupa Rustam
12:00 Yatra
STAR WORLD
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
1:00 Travel Asia
1:30 The Kids From Room 402
2:00 Roboroach
2:30 Monster Farm
3:00 Inspector Gadget
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42

ANIMAL PLANET
11:30 Little Brother of the Elephant
12:00 Water Vole: Life on the Edge
12:30 The Blue Planet
1:30 Around The World with Tippi And The Lions
2:00 Living With Elephants
2:30 Greatest Wildlife Show on Earth
3:30 TV With Teeth
8:30 Spiders From Mars
9:00 Gelada Baboons : The Battles of Braveheart
9:30 The Blue Planet, The Frozen Seas
10:30 Around The World With Tippi
11:30 The Life of Birds, The Insatiable Appetite
DISCOVERY
11:30 Truth or Scare
12:00 Wolfman : The Myth and The Science
12:00 Real Kids Real Adventures
12:30 Great Hotels
1:30 True Gladiators
2:30 Gldiatrux : Savage Sister
3:30 Quest for the True Cross
4:30 Frontiers of Flight Last Great World Record

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
11:30 Dogs With Jobs
12:00 Hayden Turners Wildlife Challenge
12:30 Reflections On Elephants
1:30 Elephant Soul Of Sri Lank
2:30 Foxes And Vultures
3:00 On Assignment
3:30 Wildlife Detectives
4:00 Hayden Turners Wildlife Challenge
4:30 National Geographic Special
5:30 Feast Of The Giant Sharks
6:00 Tomorrow's World
6:30 Planet Wild
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife
7:30 Earth Report
8:00 Earth Pulse
8:30 National Geographic Special

ESPN
10:30 Sportscenter Week-In-Review (R)
11:00 Cricket Gold (T)
2:00 Wnba Playoffs 2004 Playoffs First Round Game 1(S)
4:00 Extreme Programming (R)
5:00 Sportscenter Weekend (T)
5:05 Premiership Saturday (L)
5:40 English Premier Football League 2004/05
7:45 Chelsea (L)
7:55 Premiership Saturday (L)
English Premier Football League 2004/05
Manchester City Vs Arsenal
10:00 Final Score (L)
10:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05
Liverpool Vs Norwich City
STAR SPORTS
10:55 Formula One Qualifying 2004
Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying (L)
1:00 Football Locker Room (T)
1:30 Pga Tour Golf 84
Lumber Classic Usa Second Round(S)
3:30 Nba Inside Stuff (R)