

CULTURAL FEAST

Cultural event in aid of tsunami victims
Organiser: Chhayanat

Venue: National Theatre Stage at Shilpakala
Date: February 3 and 4

Exhibition

Title: *Les Jours de Jean-Jacques Rousseau*
Artist: Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka
Time: January 27-February 10

Space Exhibition

Title: Exploring the Solar System
Organiser: British Council
Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road, Dhaka-1000
Time: January 16-February 15, from 10am to 6pm

Art Exhibition

Title: *Exposition*
Artist: Ronni Ahmed
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka
Time: February 18-26

Film Screening

Title: New German Feature Films
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut (German Cultural Centre), House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: February 01-03

Schedule

4:30pm Good Bye, Lenin
6:40pm Do Fish do It?

February 03

4:00pm Punktchen und Anton
6:00pm Das fliegende Klassenzimmer
8:00pm Emil und die Detektive

CD Launch

Title: *Atithi Raat*
Artist: Nazrul Islam
Venue: Training Centre of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: January 27, at 4:00pm

Play

Title: Dhwani Mestani Moron
Group: Manipuri Theatre, Sylhet
Director: Shubhashis Shamir
Venue: Mahila Shramit Auditorium, Baily Road
Time: January 28, at 7:00pm

Tête-à-tête

Jeetu Ahsan: Juggling books with acting scripts

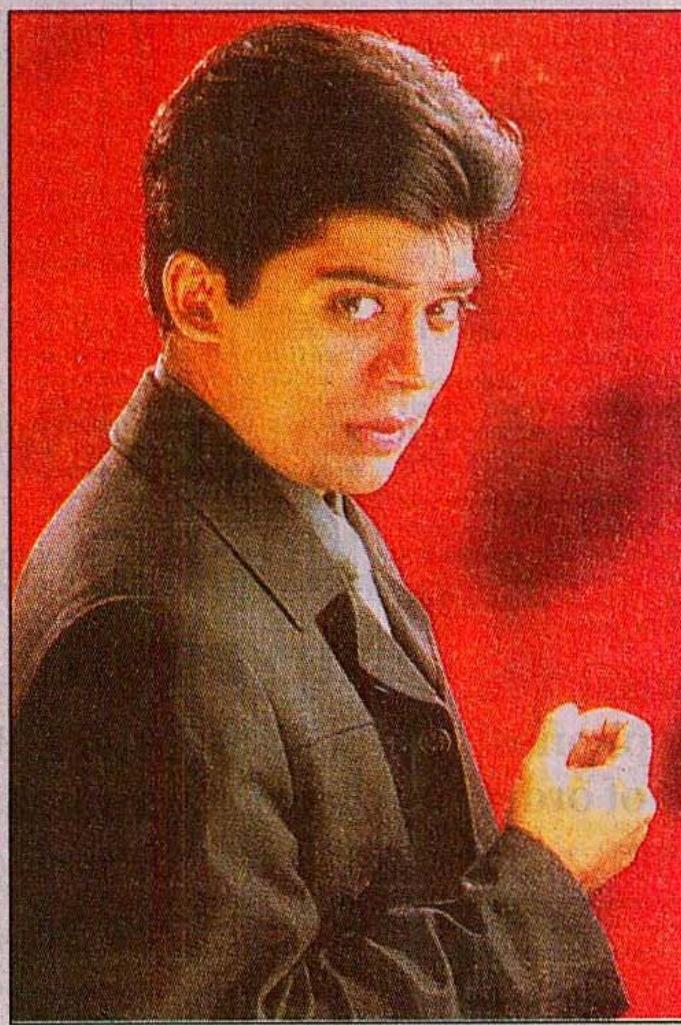
FAYZA HAQ

DIFFICULT to imagine a mere five-year-old boy acting? Well, one early starter was Jeetu Ahsan who from this tender age used to follow his father, Syed Ahsan Ali Sydne, to the studios. He made a niche for himself as a child artiste in BTV plays such as *Jonaki joley*, *Ekti shetur golpo* and *Shajon jatri*. Later he studied at St Joseph's School where he was part of a cultural club that presented Mamunur Rashid's play, directed by Azad Abdul Kalam.

When he stepped into his university days at North South University, as a member of the drama club, he did plays such as *Payer awaz pawa jae* and *Danda*, directed by Khan Ataur Rahman. He also took part in *Tasher Desh*. In 2000, when he was 23, he was introduced to the small screen by Abdullah al Mamun in *Joar Bhata*.

Talking about his sources of inspiration, Jeetu says, "I was greatly encouraged to act by Raisul Islam Asad, Abdullah al Mamun, Humayun Faridi, Ferdousi Majumdar and Shubarna Mustafa. Of course, my father remains my favourite. From India, I admire Armitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar. Today I am busy with a number of megalas."

It has been a tight rope walk for Jeetu to combine his acting with his university studies. As he asserts, "Combining my MBA with acting schedules is not at all easy. Both the Master's and acting career require mental agility. Somehow I have managed so far."



Jeetu: An early starter

Talking about his favourite roles, Jeetu points to *Joar Bhata*, where he played an anti-hero character who turned heroic at the last point. He

also enjoyed his role in Humayun Faridi's *Tobu o protikha* for ntv. A recent interesting role is in *Ekti shundorshokal*.

Going back down memory lane, he recalls the days when he aspired to follow the footstep of his father as an actor. He also did not have the liberty to choose a role but had to be content with the parts dished out to him by well-known directors.

Things have changed radically since then. Today, after five years of professional acting, he is allowed to read the script and make up his mind about the role and not accept every role that comes his way. The other problem is combining studies with acting. At times, he was expected to go overseas, or at least up to Cox's Bazaar for shooting but his studies did not permit that. At times, his schedules were very tight, as he rushed to his acting from his studies, and returned home to go back to his books. Often he had to turn down the offers. Sometimes the remuneration was unsatisfactory.

It has often been a hard grind for Jeetu. He doesn't have much time for hobbies, except reading books and has had to give up pastimes such as hunting, fishing and cricket. He is not a great one for glamour, and his wardrobe is simple, except for festive occasions such as Eid, weddings and other special days. He is lucky to enjoy the close friendships of other artistes such as Tarin, Ishita, Sabbir, Joy, Shahid and Srabonti.

Jeetu has his hands full: he has acted in more than seven mega serials, 30 single episode TV plays and 15 tele films. Currently he is acting in six mega-serials, including *Ghun poka*, *Sporsher baier*, *Shaola*, *Jhut jhamela* and *Ek jomoye*.

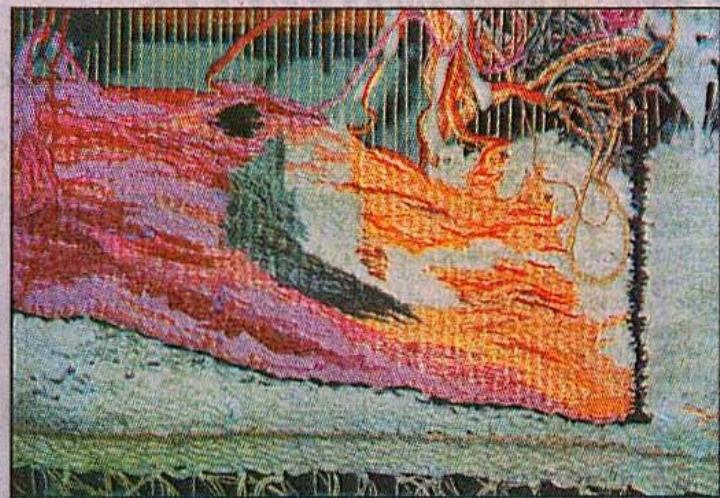
Introducing Benedicte Giersing

A life interwoven in tapestry

KAVITA CHARANJI

Hues of purple, red, white and green and a host of other colours go into Norwegian Benedicte Giersing's exquisite tapestry works. And that's not all. Many works reuse and recycle old clothes of her children, algae, coral and even cassette tape, metal, stones and shells she found in her travels around the world.

"My life has been a tapestry both personally and in my work," says the low profile Benedicte. This sentiment is easily understandable. Each work captures her emotions of sadness and happiness and tells the story of her numerous voyages. For instance, one of her



A wall hanging by Benedicte

such as red, black and cream. As Benedicte says, "This work, *Soul Searching*, describes my feelings at that point of my life. The red symbolises happiness. Then there is a bleak colour (cream) and then is the sad part in black and grey and earthy colours. If you look at it from afar, it looks like an abstract work of art. If you look carefully enough, you will see a face in the tapestry."

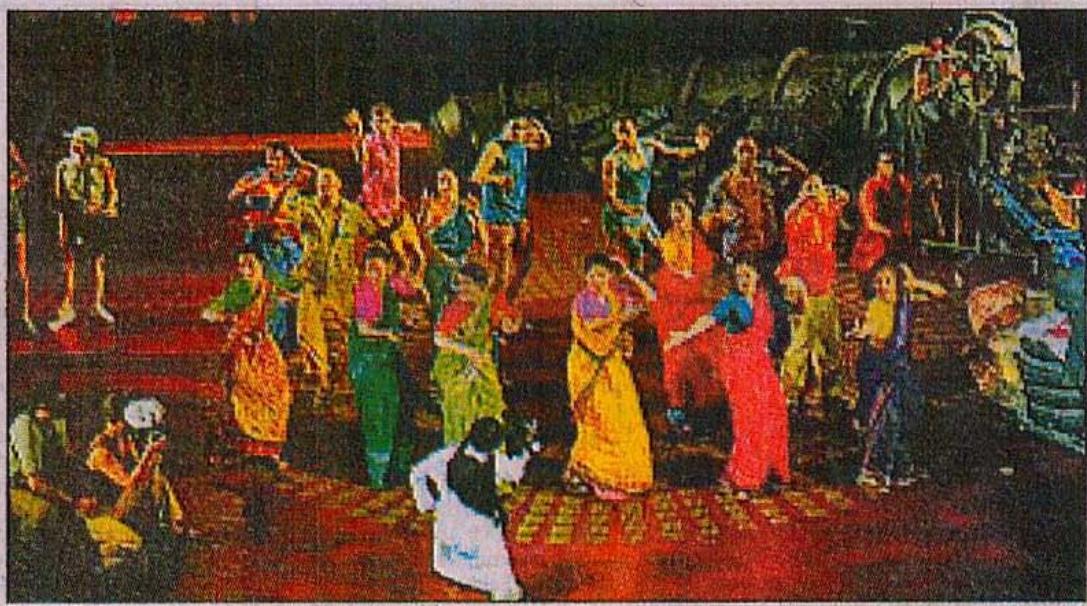
There is another work with blues, whites and a few other colours. The period: her time in Kathmandu. This work is inspired by the mighty Himalayas and is embellished with what looks like a tree (actually a coral Benedicte found in Yucatan peninsula in Mexico). There's also a shrimp-like piece that is actually, in all probability, algae found on the Hua Hin beach in Thailand. Says Benedicte, "There is a lot of white, which could depict the snow, which

I greatly miss." There are also what look like little houses--made from synthetic yarn.

Benedicte is nostalgic about her work. She has done around 12 pieces and estimates that it could take from three months to three years to complete a tapestry piece. However, one of her prized tapestries is based on an old painting of her then three-year-old daughter. This childlike work in mixed media (wool, cotton and old T-shirts) she says, depicts a bathtub.

Enriching her work are her frequent travels with her husband, who currently works with Unicef Bangladesh. The globe trotting couple has been to places like France, Nepal, US and Vietnam. "In the 25 years since I first began weaving tapestry, this art has become my survival kit," she says.

Bombay Dreams comes to Mumbai



A scene from the grand musical show

PALAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After wowing West End and Broadway, Andrew Lloyd Webber's grand musical *Bombay Dreams* is to come to the city that inspired the project *Bombay*.

Producer company Really Useful Pictures is assessing the feasibility of holding the show in India. According to Kerry Comerford, general manager of the company, the search was on for finding local partners to stage the show in India and also the possibility of including some Indian

faces in the cast.

The expensive and glitzy production captures the story of a slum resident in *Bombay* who dreams of being a Bollywood star and falls in love with the daughter of an eminent director. *Bombay Dreams*' music is composed by AR Rahman and has Farah Khan as one of the choreographers.

Bombay Dreams ran to full houses in West End in London for two years before it shifted to Broadway in New York in April last year.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTB
07:30 *Shubhechha Nin*
08:20 *A Compilation of Band Programmes*

Chhayantha
09:00 *Live Telecast of the ODI match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe*

ntv
05:30 *Eid Special Drama: Buddhichor*
06:00 *Desh Jonapad*
06:30 *Eid Special Drama: Hridoyer Ekul Okul*

7:00 *News Headlines, Weather forecast, Share Market*

8:30 *Eid Special Drama: Byer Aye Porey*
10:25 *Teknai Theke Tatulfa*
10:30 *Eid Special Drama: Rupali Megh*

12:05 *Satellite Programme*

12:30 *Shongbad Poirey*
12:45 *Bangladesh and Public Reaction*

12:45 *Trityo Matra*
11:00 *Sports Line*

12:30 *Shishu Rayo*
1:00 *Assassins*

1:30 *Housefull*
1:45 *Tales From the Crypt*

6:00 *Music Plus*
6:30 *Moner Mola Gean*

7:00 *Drama: Swapnochuri*
9:35 *Eid Special Drama*

10:30 *Ananda Jhilmil*
11:15 *Palagaan*

12:15 *Bangla Feature Film: Bholobasha Karey*
2:00 *Double Impact*

3:45 *Koy*
4:35 *Gauner Shury*

5:25 *Tarunye*
6:35 *Blue Streak*

6:40 *Telefilm: Tomar*
7:00 *Creature*

Every hour on the hour

BBC WORLD

10:30 *News (Bangla)* at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
10:30 *News (Bangla)* at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

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

12:30 *Tara News (Bangla)* at 9:30 pm.

13:30 *Tara News (Bangla)* at 9:30 pm.

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