

CULTURAL FEAST

Cultural event in aid of tsunami victims

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

Play

Title: Dhweja Mestari Moron
Group: Manipuri Theatre, Sylhet
Director: Shubhashis Shamir
Venue: Mehta Sharmi Auditorium,
Bally Road
Time: January 28, at 7:00pm

Exhibition

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

Book Publication

Ceremony

Title: Diner Sheshey Ghumer Deshey
(on renowned composer Abdul Ahad)
Guests: Muhammad Habibur
Rahman, Mustafa Nuru Islam, Prof.
Anisuzzaman, Prof. Zillur Rahman
Siddique, Manzur-e-Mowla, Prof.
Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof.
Kurnamoy Goswami
Venue: Begum Sofia Kamal
auditorium, National Museum
Time: February 04, at 4:30pm

Film Screening

Title: New German Feature Films
Organiser: Dhaka University Film
Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10,
Road 9, Dhamondi
Time: February 01-03
Schedule
February 01
4:30pm Good Bye, Lenin
6:40pm Do Fish do it?
February 02
4:00pm Licher
6:00pm Der alte Affe Angest
February 03
4:00pm Punkchen und Anton
6:00pm Das liegende
Klassenzimmer
8:00pm Emil und die Detektive

Films were clearly in her destiny

In conversation with Champa

HARUN UR RASHID

ONE would think that Champa was destined to become an actress. Her two elder sisters Suchanda and Babita had already become popular film heroines and the younger one was expected to follow suit. Besides, she had an almost irresistible attraction for the fashion world.

Explaining her initial reservations about joining the film industry, Champa says, "Initially I detested filmdom as I watched my sisters being pestered by their fans and their family life being hampered. They avoided going out as the frenzied fans hounded them. Fans would ask them silly questions like what they ate, even wanted to touch them to see if these silver screen goddesses were real!" Champa, therefore, hated the excess public attention and decided not to enter filmdom.

However, Champa was destined to join filmdom. After her first film, she has chalked up a long list of about 200 titles in the nearly two-decades of her movie career.

Champa's introduction to the glamour world took place through her fascination for modelling. "I always loved modelling and wanted to perform myself," she says. She first modelled for CUTE cosmetics. "Saidul Anam Tutul made the TV ad. At that time TV ads were a series of still photographs accompanied by commentary," recalls Champa. Later, the heroine-to-be was featured in many TV commercials and calendars before becoming a TV actress.

Champa reveals her fondness for acting. "At an early age I had to take charge of our family after my mother's death. Simultaneously with carrying on the household chores, I would also find time for recreation. And my favourite recreation was playing different roles: often I played the mother of my dolls; sometimes I played the



Champa

beloved of some imaginary young man I had seen in a movie."

Champa would often lip-sync with songs like the heroines of films. She would also record recitations from storybooks and later listen to them. "One day I was caught red-handed by my father while I was imitating none other than him" recalls Champa. "But my father, usually a grave angry man, burst into laughter seeing my acting," she adds.

One day actor-director Abdullah Al Mamun, who often used to visit their house, offered Champa a role for a TV play. Initially, Champa felt a little nervous. A sympathetic

Mamun said that she would not have to go outside for shooting.

"The shooting took place in our house," says Champa. And she did her debut TV drama *Duub Shatarin* which she played a girl who can foretell the future. Gradually, Champa featured in many of BTV's popular plays including *Ekhane Nongor*, *Akash Bariye Dao* and *Shazzadil Kalo Nekab*.

Champa might not really have come into filmdom had her eldest sister Suchanda not asked her to play a role in her production. "The story was about three sisters and Suchanda Apa had already cast herself and Babita," Champa says.

"She explained to me that three real-life sisters would perform the best in such a film." The film *Tin Kanya* (Three Daughters) became a huge success.

"But at this point I was somehow overcome by a tremendous lure for the silver screen," says Champa who had previously thought that *Tin Kanya* would be her first and last film. "Soon I did my second movie produced by actor Alamgir," and she became a full-fledged film actress in a short time. This Eid saw the release of Champa's latest film *Shasti*, based on a story of Rabindranath Tagore.

Besides winning at home, in her long career in films Champa has earned international acclaim doing films under the direction of renowned filmmakers such as Gautam Ghosh and Buddhadev Dasgupta. Watching the play *Ekhane Nongor*, Gautam Ghosh chose Champa for the role of Mala of his epic film *Padma Nodir Majhi*. She has also performed in Buddhadev Dasgupta's *Lal Doria*, Sandip Ray's *Target* and latest *Goutam Ghosh's Abar Aranye*.

At present, however, Champa has withdrawn a little from mainstream films "just when I thought I had gained experience in acting and had the opportunity to show it off," she says. "The environment in the industry has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now almost impossible to work here like before," she adds. Moreover, Champa believes that it is time she gave her family more attention. "One could say I am thoroughly enjoying my life with my family. Know what? Today we bought some earthen vessels from the village and Babita Apa and myself are cooking *Koi* fish and chicken. It has a country flavour which is second to none. These are the little things I want to enjoy in life. All this brings great satisfaction for me," says the National Award winning actress.

OUR TALENTS

Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage has been built up by many notable talents. Some of them have passed away, while some are still contributing to their chosen fields. Here we continue to highlight their laudable moments in alphabetical order.

Bulbul Chowdhury

One of the most active proponents of dance, Bulbul Chowdhury was born Rasheed Ahmed Chowdhury, on January 1, 1919 in Chittagong.

From childhood, Bulbul was keenly interested in dance, music, painting, poetry and writing. His career began with *Chatak-Dance*, a dance that he had choreographed himself, at a cultural function at Manikganj High School.

After his matriculation, Bulbul came to Calcutta and joined the Presidency College. Ms Hemlata Mitra, a well-known social worker, first discovered the spark of genius in him. She invited him to perform in an important charity show, his first public appearance on stage. Here, he partnered with the famous dancer Sadhana Bose. This was his first step towards fame. He performed in front of an august audience in the Empire Cinema Hall. In those days this was by no means an ordinary event.

A creative genius and a remarkable organiser, Bulbul helped establish the Oriental Fine Arts Association (OFA) in 1937.

He was not only fond of dance but also literature. He wrote articles on the bright future of dance with special reference to the Cultured Society of Bengal. He also wrote a novel, *Prachi* (1942), on the Second World War, as well as a number of short stories.

Bulbul's performance was distinctively different in technique and spirit. This was inspired by his patriotic feelings, love of art and spirit of adventure.

Within a few years, his exceptional performances had earned widespread repute across Dhaka and Kolkata. His dance drama on the World War was, in particular, widely acclaimed. One of his boldest stage performances, *Quit India*, was performed in England—a direct protest against colonialism.

In January 1940, Bulbul came to Dhaka with his troupe and performed a number of dance dramas. During the Second World War, he moved to Chittagong and worked at different places from 1943 to 1947. In 1953 he visited Europe with his troupe, performing in Britain, Ireland, Holland,



Belgium and France.

Bulbul drew ideas for his dance from common myths and legends, folk tales, and history. Most importantly, by showing that dance was part of the Muslim-Mughal tradition, he helped break down Muslim conservative attitudes and make dance respectable and popular. A prolific artist during his active life of about 20 years, he wrote and choreographed 70 dance dramas, among them were *Abhimanyu*, *Indrasabha*, *Sapure* (Snake Charmer), *Kobi O Basanta* (Spring and the Poet), *Moru Sangeet* (Song of the Desert), *Fasal Utsah* (The Harvest), *Iraner Panthashashay* (In an Iranian Tavern), *Sohrab O Rustam*, *Khudhito Pashan* (The Hungry Stone), *Bharat Chhoro* (Quit India), *Anarkali* and many more.

He passed away in 1954, but his wife Afroza Bulbul, carried on his work through the setting up of the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) in Dhaka, named after him.

The adventures of super Ringo



Ringo Starr

You look at Ringo Starr, and see an ex-Beatle. You are not Stan Lee. "We were talking and kidding around and I said [to Starr], 'You're known all over the world, and you've got the most distinctive way of talking and I think if we did a cartoon of you it would be fantastic,'" the comic-book legend said. "Wouldn't it be cool if we could make you a superhero?"

Starr agreed that, yes, it would be cool. And, thus, another origin story was born. Lee's POW! Entertainment recently announced plans for an animated series to feature the dulcet Liverpoolian tones, music and crime-fighting tactics of the rockidol.

The show doesn't have a name yet. Neither does the character, really. "At the moment, it's just Ringo," Lee said. "The name Ringo is magic." A DVD, likely to feature

three episodes of the drummer's exploits, will debut either late this year or early next.

Source: Internet

CINEMA SHORT TAKES

Douglas to film new Romancing sequel with Ash

REUTERS, Bombay

film will be directed by Steven Carr, who shot *Daddy Daycare* and *Doctor Dolittle 2*. Production is due to start by the end of 2005.



Oscar-winner Michael Douglas has signed up Indian film producers to shoot a sequel to the films that helped make him a big-screen star two decades ago.

Douglas, 61, will produce and star in *Racing the Monsoon*, which will revolve around a diamond robbery in India and follow up on the pair of 1980s hits, *Romancing the Stone* and *Jewel of the Nile*, India's Percept Picture Company said Tuesday.

Aishwarya Rai, a successful Bollywood actress who is now trying to crack Hollywood, is likely to play the female lead. The

Romancing the Stone a 1984 action film starring Kathleen Turner and Douglas. *Jewel in the Nile* featured the same pair a year later.

9:30	City in a Pyramid	2:30	National Geographic Special	West Indies 7th Odi 2nd Session
10:30	Zero Hour Disaster At Chernobyl	3:30	Frontlines Of Construction	1:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 West Bromwich Albion Vs Manchester City (T)
11:30	Master of the Spins, The Once Upon A Time In The Sunderbans	4:30	My Favorite Monkey	3:00 Zimbabwe Tour Of Bangladesh 3rd Odi (S)
12:00	In The Sunderbans Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century	5:30	Backyard Science	7:00 Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Pakistan Vs West Indies 7th Odi Highlights
	Wayne Williams: The Atlanta Killer	6:00	Serious: Desert Dogs With Jobs	9:00 Icc Cricket World (T)
		6:30	Storm Stories One Life In The Desert Sea	10:30 Here We Go (S)
		7:00	One Life In The Desert	11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
		7:30	Sea	12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)
8:30	Scientific American Frontiers	8:30	West Indies 7th Odi Highlights	
9:00	Frontlines Of Construction	9:00	Sportscenter India (L)	
10:00	My Favorite Monkey	10:00	Zimbabwe Tour Of Bangladesh 3rd Odi Highlights (T)	
11:00	Backyard Science	11:00	Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Pakistan Vs West Indies 7th Odi	
12:00	Serious: Desert Dogs With Jobs	12:00	Highlights (T)	
	Storm Stories One Life In The Desert Sea		Here We Go (S)	
	One Life In The Desert		West Indies 7th Odi	
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9:00	Frontlines Of Construction	9:00	Zimbabwe Tour Of Bangladesh 3rd Odi	
10:00	My Favorite Monkey	10:00	Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Pakistan Vs West Indies 7th Odi	
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