

CULTURAL FEAST

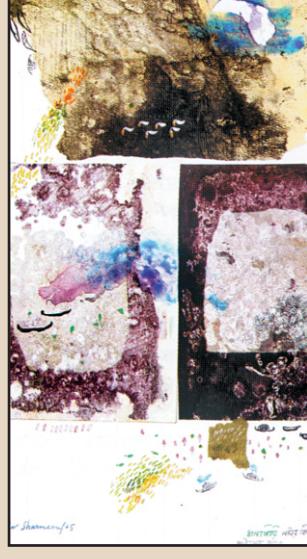
Film Festival

Title: International Short and Independent Film Festival 2005

Participating Countries: Germany, Netherlands, France, USA, England, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Hungary, Australia, Canada, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, Sweden, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Italy, Malaysia, Indonesia, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Austria and Mexico.

Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shishu Academy Auditorium and Goethe Institut Auditorium

Group Exhibition



FAYZA HAQ

MEASURING up the possible success of the ongoing International Short and Independent Film Festival, director Morshedul Islam, famous for his film *Chaka*, said at the opening of the festival, "From 1988 onwards, the festival has been held biennially. Each time it is larger and more organised. This time we located some good films from Bangladesh and abroad. If enough viewers and connoisseurs come, the festival should be a success."

Comparing the 9th festival (which runs from December 22 to 30) with earlier ones, Morshed said this festival creates a new kind of audience. This is due to the fact, he said, when the Short Film Festival

began in Bangladesh in the early 80s, the situation was such that some good films could be made like *Shurjo Dighol Bari* (Moshuuddin Shakir and Niamat Ali being the filmmakers, and it was released in 1979). These films couldn't be released in the cinema halls at that time. Even when they were released, Morshed said, they got a brief exposure, as they were allowed to run only for a stipulated period.

"Under those conditions, the short films, in an alternative manner, done in 16 mm, were distributed differently. Now the situation is much better because two decades have elapsed and we are able to release our films in the local cinema halls and they run for a while," Morshed said. "These include films like *Matir Moina* by Tareque Masud and my own two films, *Dipu No 2* and *Dukhai*. Today, the owners of cinema halls are eager to release such feature films in 35 mm. Hence there is a change in the situation; the contemporary audience in the festival is the result of the Short Film movement. The Short Film Festival plays an important role too for filmmakers like myself."

Dwelling on the problems that he faced during his work, Morshed said that when he and his contemporaries began making short films in the '80s, there was no video or digital media. He said that they had to make films in 16 mm and now, when

the video media is available, unfortunately the new generation is not coming forward to make such films. The young makers, he said, seek quick bucks and because the telefilms are more popular, they become preoccupied with directing mega-serials for the small screen.

"They are not interested in making serious short films which I think is unfortunate," he said.

Regarding the festival, he added, that when they had begun the festival in the '80s, the festival was lively and bursting with enthusiasm. He said that the festival, with each year gets more

films and has more purchasing power. Earlier, he stressed, the film-makers had little money at their beck and call but they had more "guts and gumption." According to him, "The short film movement is definitely on the decline."

Morshedul Islam made the first Bangladeshi short film called *Agami* and that was the beginning of the movement. After that he made *Chaka* in 1993. His latest project is *Khela Ghor*.



A scene from *Chaka*, directed by Morshed

Hridi Huq

A new beginning

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Hridi Huq is an actress with simplicity, in addition to being a choreographer-costume designer-scriptwriter. Hridi, the elder daughter of theatre activists, Dr Enamul Huq and Lucky Enam, tied the knot with popular small screen actor Litu Anam recently at her parents' residence.

The auspicious celebration was graced by leading film and TV personalities, politicians, family and friends. Among the guests were Asaduzzaman Noor, Subarna Mustafa, Runama, Srabonti, Touqir Ahmed, Sumaiya Shimu, Nadia, Shakila Zafar, Subir Nandi and Sujit Mustafa.

The venue was tastefully decorated. Flowers and colourful lights were used to decorate the stage for the newly-weds.

Hridi is articulate on the subject of life after marriage. As she says, "Though I am married, I am still my own person and I can be selective about the parts I play. I don't feel I will miss out on good roles just because I am married now. At this point I am only looking for roles that will challenge and excite me. I like to have the protective mantle of marriage around me as well. It has added a lot of responsibility to my lifestyle."

Hridi has carved a place for herself on the small screen as a well-received actress. Audiences readily recall her roles in drama serials *Pothey Jetey Jetey* and *Albatross* on Channel i, drama serial *Chithi* on ntv. She is also the



The newly-weds: Litu Anam and Hridi Huq

satisfying one. I have enjoyed every character I've played so far. I have always had a soft corner for television. I guess my experiences with TV have been fulfilling. This has a lot to do with the kind of roles that came my way too."

Theater festival in Chittagong

PaglaGhora: A theatre of absurd



Actors in a scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing theatre festival arranged by Group Theatre Forum at Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong, Pritinidhi Natya Sampradaya will stage *PaglaGhora* today at 7 pm.

PaglaGhora symbolically represents the dynamism of life, over which human beings have no control. Through the conversation of four depressed men, Badal Sarkar's absurd play is an analysis of life – Can pain, hurdles, frustration and failure impede its motion? Obstacles are an inseparable part of life but life goes on at its inexorable pace. Rahmat Ali directs the play.

Rahmat Ali directs the play.

Arunabha Ghosh

A penchant for record covers

KAVITA CHARANJI

One has heard of stamp, coin, car and painting collections, among others. Where Kolkata-based artist Arunabha Ghosh breaks new ground is in his collection of exquisitely designed early classical Long Playing (LP) record covers. On display at the India International Centre in New Delhi were an array of record jackets from the period 1948 onwards until the late '90s.

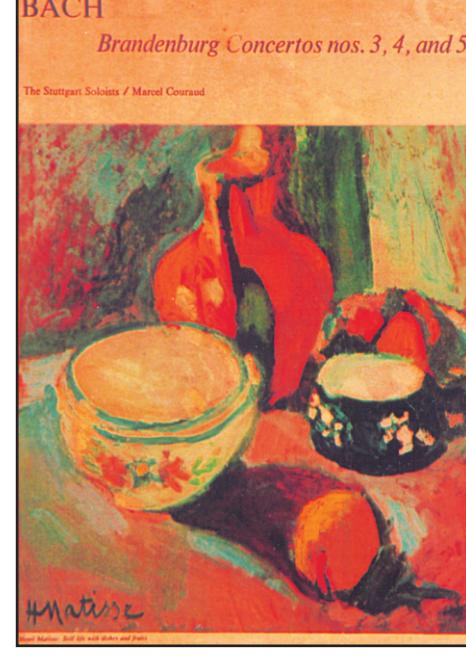
Among the works exhibited: a record of ballet music from *Coppelia* by composer Delibes. The music is rendered by Roger Desormiere. Then there is an LP with the music of Joseph Haydn. There is also *Scheherazade* by the London Symphony Orchestra, under the aegis of Pierre Monteux. Then there is Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6, Pathétique*, rendered by Heinrich Hollreiser of the Philharmonia di Trieste. On the cover is a well-known work by Vincent Van Gogh, called *The Starry Night*. It shows stars and swirling brush strokes. There is also Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos nos 3, 4 and 5* with a still life with dishes and fruits by Henri Matisse. The music is rendered by Marcel Couraud of the Stuttgart Soloist. There is also Ludwig Beethoven's *Christ on the Mount of Olives*. The painting is by Hans Burgmaier.

Explaining the raison d'être of his record collection, Ghosh who also collects art books, picture post cards and newspaper cuttings on art and music, says, "People tend to hear music rather than pay attention to the record cover. However attractive covers could go a long way in influencing buying decisions." In fact, he says that he has received requests for exhibitions of Indian classical records.

The exhibition is curated by Kishore



Cover jackets of Lps on display



applied and fine art...The CD continues to promote art but does not have the wide canvas of the LP. In the best international labels like DGG, Harmonia Mundi, EMI, Philips and Decca, the Long Playing record was both an album of music and a folio of art."

Blockbusters

Narnia could wallop King Kong



Tilda Swinton as the White Witch in *The Chronicles of Narnia*

ing to the figures released by Hollywood studios.

Given the fact that this is the Christmas week, and the Protestant churches in America have openly embraced *Narnia* will give the film a big advantage over the ape film. Apparently the film reassures values of redemption and the archetypal story of good vs. evil through the magical creatures and children.

Source: Internet

What seemed most unlikely just the other day could happen over the weekend: *King Kong* could be dethroned but the new box-office champ won't be one of the two films that were released last Wednesday – *Fun With Dick And Jane* and *Cheaper By The Dozen 2*.

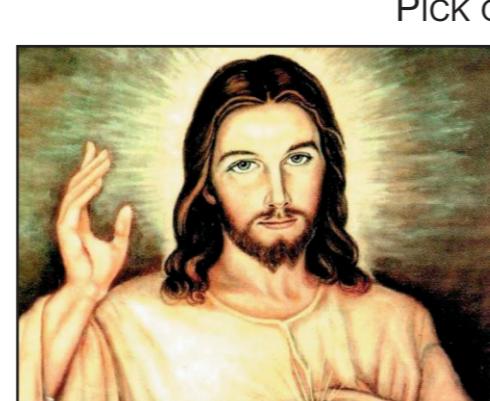
The miraculous new champ could well be a film that has been around for more than two weeks – *The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* – which overtook *King Kong* on Wednesday. It grossed about US \$4.93 million while *Kong* ate up US \$4.87 accord-

ing to the figures released by Hollywood studios.

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Source: Internet

PICK OF THE DAY



Muktir Ahban
On ntv at 9:20 pm
Special programme on Christmas featuring the life and philosophy of Jesus



BBC Bangladesh Shanglap
On Channel-i at 8:00pm
Dialogue regarding social, political and financial issues of Bangladesh

STAR MOVIES

08:00 Drama Serial: <i>Jol Porey Pata Norey</i>	08:30 Drama Serial: <i>The New Shabub Opera</i>	09:00 Drama Serial: <i>Taar Neel Dheu</i>	09:30 Drama Serial: <i>Ek Akasher Shopno</i>	10:40 Business This Week
10:30 Tele Prescription	11:30 Hridoy Mati O	12:30 Aj Dupurey O	01:00 Ebong Cinemar	ntv
12:30 Manush	11:30 Citycell Tarokakothon	01:30 Aj Dupurey O	01:00 Gaan	08:35 Ajaker Shakal
01:25 Shangbadpotrey	01:30 Bangladesh	01:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	01:40 Public Reaction	09:30 Right Click
02:00 Bashundhara	01:30 Amader Gaan	01:30 Christmas-special movie: Jesus	01:40 Shangbadpotrey	10:05 Mukto Chalachchitro
02:45 Sa Re Ga Ma	01:30 Janaala	01:30 Jesus	10:30 Aajiker Shakal	10:30 Christmas-special movie: Jesus
03:30 Chhaya Jhankar	01:30 Music Plus	01:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Right Click	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro
04:00 BBC Bangladesh	01:30 BBC Bangladesh	01:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro
04:45 Janaala	01:30 Shonglap	01:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro
05:30 Anandomeila	01:30 Shonglap	01:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro	10:30 Mukto Chalachchitro
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