

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival
Title: Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh
Venue: National Theatre Stage

Date: May 16
Play: Putti Ki Ghar
Troupe: Arohan Theatre

Date: May 17
Play: An Enemy of the People
Troupe: Workshop in Heaven

Date: May 18
Play: Bhittiprostor
Troupe: Anya Chetana

Date: May 19
Play: Gopu Gopu Gopangamdas
Troupe: National School of Drama Repertory

All the shows at this venue at 7:15 pm
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage

Date: May 16
Play: Ichchamritu
Troupe: IDCCC, Chittagong

Date: May 17
Play: Ganoshotru
Troupe: Khulna University

All shows at this venue at 5 pm

Art Exhibition

Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery

Date: May 5-18

Time: 11am-8pm

Title: Harmony

Organiser: Bangladesh Artist Welfare Organisation and Delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka

Venue: La Gallerie de Alliance de

Dacca

Date: May 7-16

Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-7pm

Title: Exhibition of Ibsen Commemoration 2006

Organiser: Centre for Asian Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy and Norwegian Embassy

Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Date: May 10-20

Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-7pm

9th Calligraphy Exhibition 2006

Venue: National Museum gallery

Date: May 6-22

Time: 10:00am-5:00pm (except Thursdays)

Canadian Film Festival

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society and

The Goethe-Institut Dhaka

Venue: German Cultural Centre

Date: May 16

Film: Atanarjuat by Zacharias Kunuk

Time: 3:00pm

Film: Mambo Italiano by Emile Gaudreault

Time: 6:00pm

Film: Emile by Carl Bessai

Time: 7:45pm

Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh

Uparwala: An adaptation of Ibsen's Pillars of the Society

ERSHAD KAMOL

IBSEN'S play *The Pillars of Society* points to many of those respected citizens in the society who have a dark history.

Aranyak Natya Dal staged the premiere show of *Uparwala*, an

adaptation of Ibsen's *The Pillars of Society* on May 14 at the National Theatre Stage.

In the opening scene of *Uparwala*, one finds Mirza Iskandar (Mamunur Rashid) at the height of his career. A rich, powerful and respected citizen of the community,

he is held up as the model of an ideal husband and devoted father. In short, a worthy pillar of society.

Abdullah Hel Mahmud's adaptation has its flaws. One often finds fragmented stories. And if the adaptation is compared with the original, it is noticeable that many of the

major events as well as characters - Borhan Master, Swapna, Faria and Zafar -- are not adequately fleshed out. As a result the conflict between Mirza and Zafar, Borhan Master and Swapna and other are not clear. At the end of the play, a few of the conflicts of the play are unveiled when Mirza confesses to his evil acts.

As director of the play, Shah Alam Dula's approach is realistic. The pace is uniform throughout the play. He has successfully handled the procession scene with sound effects and body language of the actors. However, more effort could have gone into the scene when Faria (Tamaika) and Zafar (Shah Alam Dula) return.

Set designer Faiz Zahir's suggestive set goes well with the theme of *Uparwala*. Thandu Raihan's light design is appreciable, particularly his effect on the cyclorama in the scene of disaster and calamity.

The spontaneous comic performance of Tushar Khan as Kabirul Islam generated many laughs. Momena Chowdhury as Rebu, Dipak Suman as Borhan Master and Mitali as Swapna gave impressive performances.

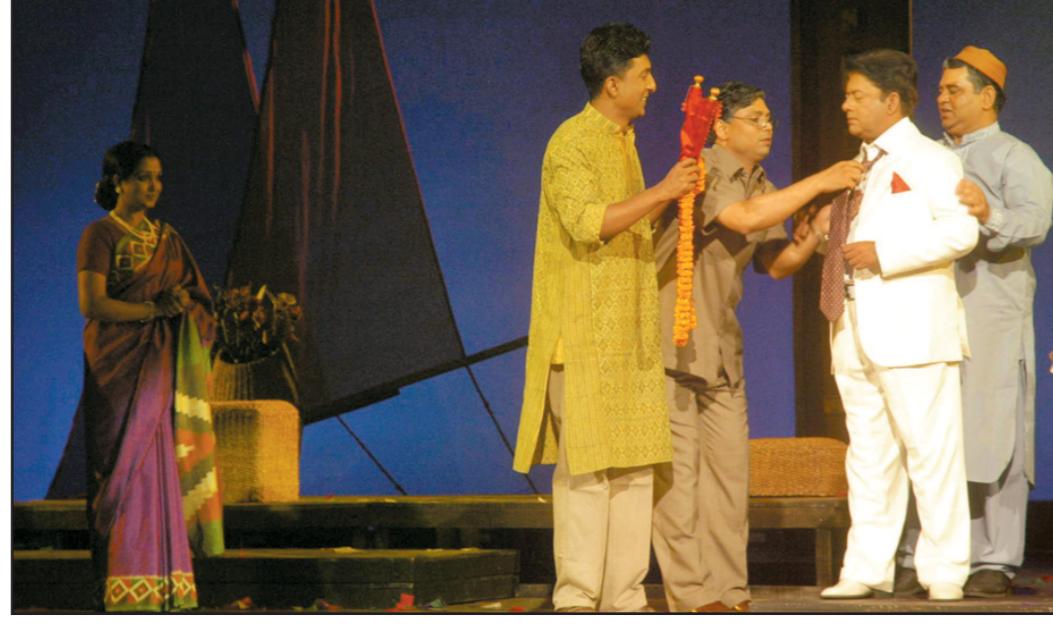


PHOTO: STAR

Mamunur Rashid (2-R) and co-actors in the play *Uparwala*

Shokhi Bhalobasha Kare Koy
An adaptation of Love's Comedy

Shokhi Bhalobasha Kare Koy is not a lyric, poem, novel or play by Rabindranath Tagore, but an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's drama *Love's Comedy*. The work is a landmark as this is the first time that such an adaptation has been staged in the subcontinent.

Usually Henrik Ibsen's plays deal with powerful social issues such as politics, freedom, gender inequality, pollution and questions of existence. However through the

triangular love story in *Love's Comedy*, Ibsen has raised an important question: Do most people aspire for a secure conjugal life or a world of fantasy? The answer would in most cases lie in the former. This is evident in Adhara's decision to make a life with a rich businessman, Gulzar; leaving her fiancée, a young poet Roudra, in Professor Afasar Ahmed's adaptation.

The adaptation deserves credit.

Though his craftsmanship is influenced by Tagore, he has adroitly converted the Norwegian classic to a contemporary Bangladeshi play. As a director Rashid Haroon's approach is realistic. Logically he has given more emphasis on vocal-based acting. Interspersed with laughter, dreams and other entertaining sequences throughout the play, Haroon's handling of the conflict at the end, when Adhara makes her decision, is noteworthy.

Using a suggestive stair at one corner of the back stage, replica of trees and stools, an ambience of a lawn of a house has been created. The light design is the weakest part of the play. Creating zones, rather than using general light throughout the play, would have been more effective.

Sharuddin Anam as Prokhar Roudra, Partha Protin Haldas as Sultan Mandal and Zakia Sultana as Kajori performed spontaneously. The other actors need to refine their histrionic skills.

As part of the ongoing Ibsen Commemoration theatre festival, Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University staged *Shokhi Bhalobasha Kare Koy* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on May 14.



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from the play

Seminar

Evolution of subcontinental art



Professor Abul Mansur Speaking at the event

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Shilpalaya recently organised a two-day long seminar on the history and heritage of art in the subcontinent. The seminar, titled *Manab-aboyer Roop-roopantar* (Beauty and adaptation of the human form) was held at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi.

Noted art critic and a professor of Department of Fine Arts, Chittagong University, Abul Mansur presented informative lectures at the seminar.

On the first day of the seminar, Professor Mansur made a presentation of art in the subcontinent since the first human settlements in this part of the world till Partition in 1947. The presentation featured art forms found in the ruins of the Indus civilisation.

sation, history and evolution of art during the time of the first natives of the subcontinent -- Veda, Austral, Dravid, migration of the Aryans to this land, Mourjo, Shankha and Kushan reign and the British colonisation.

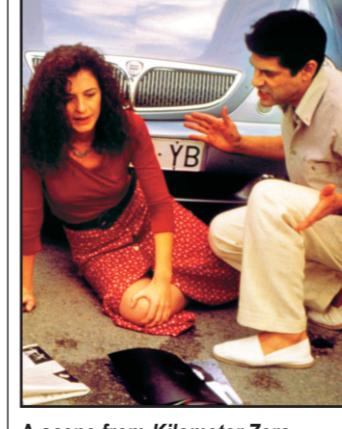
Professor Mansur also spoke on the distinctions of art forms in the pre-Aryan Indus civilisation.

Subcontinental art and culture went through a metamorphosis after the Greek invasion and connection with the western world. During the Gupta dynasty, subcontinental art attained a refined Indian character. In art from the Mughal era, Persian, Indian and European influences are noticed. Subcontinental art adapted certain characters during the colonial period as well.

Professor Mansur's presentation on the second day of the seminar highlighted evolution of paintings and sculptures during the Pakistan era, post-Liberation War and current times. The presentation featured the impact of western affiliation on art after the Partition. Paintings and sculpture demonstrated a distinct aesthetic sense that originated from the subcontinental heritage. In the then-East Pakistan, political activities and emerging nationalism made a major impression on art. The presentation wrapped up with a discussion on the input of young artists in the formation of an identity of our art.

Film session

A glimpse of diverse cultures



A scene from Kilometer Zero

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 12th anniversary on May 14, Jahangir Film Society organised a day-long film session at the German Cultural Centre.

Three films were screened at the daylong session: *The Boys*, an Australian film directed by Rowan Woods; a Spanish film, titled *Kilometer Zero*, co-directed by Yolanda Garica Serrano and Juan Luis Iborra and the Indian-Bangla film *Apur Sansar*, directed by Satyajit Ray.

"The first two films were chosen because Bangladeshi audience don't often get to see films of these countries. The third one was chosen in honour of Satyajit Ray," said the co-ordinator of the programme.

On the occasion of the Noble Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's 145th birth anniversary, the Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies organised a discussion. The main topic of the discussion was films based on the bard's literary works and his depiction of the lifestyle of the middle class. The discussion was held at the Alamgir Kabir Film Centre on May 13.

Two films, *Strir Potro*, directed by Purnendu Putri and *Charulata*, directed by Satyajit Ray, were screened at the programme. Based on Tagore's literary works, the films feature the status of women in a male-dominated society.

Satyajit Ray's profound humanitarian outlook has an indelible influence on filmmakers and audiences throughout the world. His filming techniques are studied in film schools and avidly observed by upcoming filmmakers. Filmmakers like Kumar Shahani, Mani Kaul and Shyam Bengal have drawn inspiration from Ray.

The consensus of opinion was that films based on Tagore's works are detailed and accurate portrayals of Bangalee women. Among his

works that are widely appreciated

Kanya.

The event wrapped up with the screening of Ray's *Charulata*.

are Postmaster, Hoimonti, Teen

Seinfeld

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TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shei Tumi Ei Tumi
On Channel i at 10:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Azizul Hakim, Shumi, Shahed



Shimul Tolir Ghat
On Rtv at 8:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shimul Khan, Nadia, Milon

BANGLAVISION

10:00 Jibon Dhara

10:30 Shaharer Shesher Bari

11:00 Amader Ottihi

11:30 Drama Serial: Album

12:00 Ebong Classer

12:30 Bailey

12:45 Sudhu Gaan

01:30 Drama Serial: Album

02:00 Darkness Falls

02:30 Phantom Force

03:45 Wimbledon

05:30 ELF

06:00 Romeo Must Die

06:30 Shanghai 13

07:00 The Guardian

07:30 The Lost Boys

08:00 Fugitive's Run

08:30 Talk Show

09:15 Cook Show

09:45 Diner Sheshe

09:45 Drama Serial: Rode

10:15 Fhool

11:25 Hunt For Justice

01:20 First Blood

04:30 Wild Discovery

04:40 Popular Mechanics for

05:30 Greatest Ever

HBO

09:45 Invasion USA

12:00 Happy Gilmore

02:00 Darkness Falls

03:45 Phantom Force

05:30 Wimbledon

06:00 Romeo Must Die