

Chhayanat's homage to Tagore

An evening of melody

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

FRIDAY, May 19, 2006, Chhayanat, a leading cultural organisation and music institution of the country organised a musical soiree on the occasion of the 145th birth anniversary of Tagore. The programme was held at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum. Artistes of Chhayanat performed in the programme.

The auditorium was filled to capacity with some listeners standing to hear their favourite songs. There were also people gathered outside the auditorium, straining their ears to catch a note of the melodic voices that floated beyond the auditorium.

The function began with a combined performance by the artistes in their opening song, *He Notun*. Tuheen Azizur Rahman sang *Tomar hather rakhikani bandho* with a depth of voice that won him a loud round of applause from the 300 plus audience. Aditi Mohsin with her melodious voice sang *Bujhechhi ki bujhi nai in taal Kaharba*. *Pran-e khushir toofan utheche* was performed by ATM Jahangir.

Other artists who entertained the audience were Biplobi Kormokar singing *Bhubonjora ashonkhani*,



Artistes of Chhayanat perform at the musical soiree

PHOTO: STAR

Shottom Debnath performing *Shoda thak anonde*, Mrittika Shohita Othoi singing *Bipul torongey* and Nilufar Jahan rendering *Amar mukti aloy aloy*, among others. There was

another combined performance midway through the programme with the famous song *Edeeen aji kono ghore go*. The programme ended with *Amar shonar Bangla* where the

artists as well as the listeners sang and stood in unison showing respect to our national anthem.

Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh

Bansi Kaul: A theatre director with a unique approach

Bansi Kaul is an eminent theatre director and designer, who has developed a new idiom and performance language. He was the professor of extension programme at the Delhi-based institution, National School of Drama (NSD). Besides NSD, he has served as the visiting theatre professor within different institutions in India. He is the founding president and director of the troupe Rang Vidushak. The play *Gappu Gope Gapangmdas*, an NSD Repertory production, directed by him was recently staged in the Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh festival.

Bansi Kaul's indepth research into sociology and performing art forms has been the impetus for a unique direction style, incorporating elements such as narratives, indigenous performing art forms, rural games, modern dance and others. As Kaul said, "My approach to direction has changed over time. Initially I used the folk theatre forms; nowadays, I like to incorporate the energy of folk forms in terms of blockings, colours, images, compositions, music, design and other elements in theatre."

"I like to raise my voice against the disorders of the society through love and entertainment, as, to me, these are the last weapons of protest. And I call it 'theatre of clown', which aims to glorify love. I like to analyse the critical world from a clown's point of view. I analyse a certain situation to open the eyes of the audience and enable them to react in their own ways to the particular situation. Nobody will be interested if scenes from daily life are presented in theatre. However, if unseen or unknown elements are

portrayed, the audience's perspective will be widened."

He further added that music is a component of his direction. Nowadays, he likes to direct plays based on the stories from mythology, folktales, fables and others.

What is the motivation behind using indigenous performing art forms in theatre? Kaul said, "India is a vast country, with diverse cultures and landscapes. I traveled different corners of the country and the diversity as well as power of these performing art forms motivated me to present these forms aesthetically in my compositions. It happens when one comes from certain values and traditions and when one opts to experiment to create new things at the larger level, that is the motivation. And the forms I have selected for my directorial compositions, such as rural sports, street acrobatics and others, were not considered as performing art forms a few years back. My intention is to incorporate these colourful events in the theatre."

Interestingly in Kaul's compositions, while different actions occur in a single scene, they are interwoven. However, each are interweaving.

What's the reason? Kaul said, "Watching the festive mood of the fairs in the rural areas, I have decided to capture the festivity and rhythm of life on stage."

Bansi Kaul praises the endeavour of the younger generation in theatre. He said, "In comparison with our days, the younger generation faces far more difficult problems. Overcoming hurdles such media aggression, rising living costs and socio-political turmoil, they are doing



Bansi Kaul

PHOTO: STAR

outstanding theatre."

Plays directed by Kaul have been staged in different countries. He has also presented research papers seminars in Asian and European countries. Moreover, he has won awards from Central Government as well as Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh State Governments in India.

Lively music and exchange of views

Contestants of *Bengal Bikash* make an impression



Contestants (L and R) take part in the pre-finals of Bengal Bikash

KARIM WAHEED

Bengal Bikash, the talent hunt organised by Bengal Foundation, has recently wrapped up its pre-finals. To introduce the contestants and update the media and music enthusiasts, an informal music soiree and 'adda' was held at Bengal Shilpalaya on May 19.

The judges outlined the selection process, explained the qualities an artiste should have and answered questions from the audience; the audience too provided feedback. Contestants introduced themselves and delivered lively performances.

Among the judges, Rezwana Chowdhury, Banya Shaheen Samad, Pramila Chakravarty, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Anup Bhattacharjee, Malay Kumar Ganguli and Khairul Anam Shakil attended the event.

Faheem Hossain Chowdhury said, "An artiste must be persistent

with practice. One should also concentrate on accurate pronunciation, apt emotiveness and certain style a song needs. Aspiring singers should also observe performances by reputable artistes to get an idea of nuances and details that breathe life into music."

Contestants taking part in the 'Tagore Songs' and 'Songs of Three Poets' (Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajnikant Sen) categories then rendered songs. Kanta performed *Ke abar bajaye banshi*, an Atul Prasad song. Pial rendered a Tagore song, *Tumi robey nirobey*. Nilufar Jahan sang *Jodi tor hrid-Jamuna*, another Atul Prasad number.

Pramila Chakravarty said, "One needs extra endeavour to master songs of DL Roy, Rajnikant Sen and Atul Prasad." To the untrained ear, songs of these three poets may often sound somewhat like Tagore songs, but a skilled artiste can



highlight the individuality of these genres through his/her renditions.

Performances of Nazrul songs followed. Champa Banik rendered *Tomari ankhir moto*. Anisur Rahman performed *Nohey nohey priyo e noy ankhilal* and Sarah Naz Billah sang *Kano kandeey poraan*. Audience and judges seemed to thoroughly enjoy the heartfelt performances.

Khairul Anam Shakil made a suggestion regarding the pace of songs. According to him, "Pace plays a key role in making a performance enjoyable. If a song sounds inaptly slow, an artiste should have the know how to pick up the pace with precision."

Contestants participating in the 'Folk Songs' category seemed to own the evening. The performances exuded passion and the charming lilt that make our folk songs alluring. Halima Parveen rendered *Pora mon-er dukkho* and Tapan Kumar Mandol performed *Tarey haraye*.

Monowara Mona presented a moving rendition of *Poobali batashey*.

Tapan is a carpenter who works at Nitya Upohar at Aziz Co-operative market and has no formal training in music. About his performance Malay Kumar Ganguly said, "Training and practice is must for anyone who wants to be a singer. Without these one cannot retain musical/singing abilities."

Bengal Bikash stands out in the current fad of talent hunts for its commendable efforts to discover artistes who have taken the less lucrative path of traditional Bangla songs. This talent hunt, unlike others, does not claim to "make stars". Hopefully this endeavour will be appreciated and the aspiring artistes will secure a promising future.

Delhi's National School of Drama present

Gappu Gope Gapanggamdas

On May 19, the Delhi-based National School of Drama (NSD) Repertory staged *Gappu Gope Gapanggamdas*, an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's well-known play, *Peer Gynt*. The play was staged at the National Theatre Stage as part of the ongoing international theatre festival titled 'Staging Ibsen in Asia'.

This theatrical work raises the eternal question: Who am I? In the play, acclaimed Indian director Bansi Kaul—much like a master painter's huge canvas—features diverse images and a powerful social message. His directorial compositions visualise different scenes in a particular sequence, to narrate the story of the central character, the bohemian Gappu.

Like the original text, the presentation of the adapted play is also full of images and not at all realistic; a large part of the action is the dramatisation of the imaginings of the main character Gappu.

Gappu's story narrates the colourful journey in search of the ulterior meaning of life and existence in the Indian and universal context. Gappu's urge to leave the mountains in search of adventure and wealth, has a contemporary ring. He is devoid of morals or convention—going so far as to seduce the bride at a wedding, set up a new cult in the desert and attempt to become king of the trolls. And at a different stage of the voyage he comes face to face with crime, treachery, love and emotion. Finally he realises that



A scene from the play

PHOTO: STAR

happiness lies not in materialism, but rather in love and compassion.

Using different colourful indigenous performing art forms, rituals, customs, games and sports of different parts of India, Bansi Kaul has effectively portrayed Gappu's travels. His masterful directorial

composition is exemplified by a successful handling of several actions performed by many actors all together in a single scene. His balanced and polished presentation of the play is supported by wonderful music composed by Anjan Puri, particularly the echo effect. Among the effective musi-

cal sequences are that of when Gappu meets imaginary trolls in the desert, complete with the traditional music of Gujarat and elsewhere.

A huge horizontal platform with a depressed area at the middle is used backstage to create the ambience of a rustic house in the hill tracts. Apart from the mountain scenes, the set is covered. Parag Sarmah's light design is simple but effective.

The NSD Repertory artistes displayed excellent team work. They were well suited to their roles and gave credible performances. Their body language and voice modulation were praiseworthy. The versatile Sameep Singh portrayed the varied stages of Gappu's life—from a spontaneous youth to a decrepit old age. Nasreen Ishaque as Amma, performed well in the role of a caring rural mother. And Dakshina Sharma as the pure and innocent Shanni gave a wonderful performance, particularly in the final scene when Gappu rests his head in her lap to take shelter from the cruel world.

On the same day, at the Experimental Stage Kanthashlian staged *Karigor*, an adaptation of Ibsen's *Brand*. Khaled Khan is the director of *Karigor*.

by Ershad Kamol

TV GUIDE

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

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, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
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, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 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 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV

09:05 Open University
10:30 Satellite Programme
12:15 Shongbadpotrer
Pata Thekey
12:30 Shastho Tathyo
01:30 Prottyashar Alo
03:05 Banshori
03:30 Amader Ranna
04:00 Shapto Shur
05:05 National TV Debate
06:10 Geetanjali
07:00 Mati O Manush
07:30 Drama Serial:
08:45 Drama Serial:
Rangdhanu
09:25 Drama Serial:
Swapno Shonar Gaon
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
10:30 Pratham Antora
CHANNEL i
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Tritiyo Matra
11:05 Tele Prescription (Live)
12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon (Live)
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected plays of Humayun Ahmed
03:30 Born to Play
04:25 Amader Gaan
05:30 Business Talk
06:00 Music Plus
09:35 Shanchita
10:00 Drama Serial: Bela Obelar Golpo
12:00 Ajker

Shongbadpotro

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Onyodrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Ek Jonome
11:35 Gandharaj Samsung Cine Aha
12:15 Adibashi Jonopod
12:50 Smritir Monikothae
01:30 Shormali Shadakalo
02:30 Drama Serial: Nirob Koshto
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhui Nai
03:45 Shapla Shaluk
04:20 Music Box
04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time
05:10 ATN Music
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab (Live)
06:25 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: Khola Duar
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Nirey Taar Neel Dheu
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Akasher Swapno
10:40 Business This Week
ntv
08:35 Ajker Shokal
09:05 Romizer Aaina
09:30 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri
10:05 Animal Kingdom
10:30 Natoker Gaan
11:00 Baul Gaan: Mon Amar Shondhan Kori
12:05 World Of Arts
12:30 Hoi Hullor

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PICK OF THE DAY



Adibashi Janopod
On ATN Bangla at 12:15pm
Documentary programme featuring the indigenous communities living in our country



Glamour World
On ntv at 09:10pm
Entertainment Show
Focusing on latest Hollywood movies

01:05 Mukhtangan
02:35 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
03:15 TV Play: Shei Tumi
05:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:20 Agrojo
08:20 Drama Serial: Romizer Aaina
09:10 Lux Glamour World
Rtv
09:00 Human Nature
09:30 Antorongo Alap
10:00 Aj Potrikay
10:30 Just Band
02:30 Islamic Programme: Shoto Proshno
03:30 Air Combat

04:00 Music Music
04:15 Look At Me
04:45 Human Nature
05:30 Bangla Cartoon: Rookatu
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:30 Rtv Exclusive
06:35 Amar Desh
08:00 Drama Serial: Aguntuk
08:50 Briddhashram
10:50: Travel Show: Prithibir Pothey
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
10:00 Desher Pothey

10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Film: Shontan Jokhon Shatru
01:30 Bagan Bilash
03:00 Smallville
03:30 Drama Serial: Society
04:00 Drama Serial: Dui Dugoney Paanch
04:30 Concert
05:30 Chokh Meley Dhekhi
06:00 Itihasar Poth Dorey
07:00 Padmoraag
09:00 Drama Serial: Tebhaga
11:00 Drama: Nongor
BANGLAVISION
08:30 Shubho Shokal
09:00 Cartoon
10:00 Desher Pothey

10:30 Drama Serial: Tobuo Bhalobashi
12:00 Drama Serial: Gharchhara
02:30 Drama Serial: Krishnopokkho
04:00 Shat Shotero
04:30 Cartoon
05:00 Cine Beat
05:30 Ashay Pashey
06:40 Diner Sheshey
08:05 Drama Serial: Album
08:40 Ki Jadu Bangla Ganey
09:15 Drama Serial: Shohorer Shesh Bari
09:50 Apnar Agami
HBO
09:45 What Dreams May

Come Out of Sight
02:30 Welcome to the Jungle
04:45 Little Secrets
06:45 Seed of Chucky
08:30 The American President
10:45 Deadwood 07: Bullock Returns to the Camp
11:45 The Making of Spider-Man 2
12:00 Connie and Carla
02:00 Secretary
STAR MOVIES
10:30 Faultline
12:20 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
02:15 Life Less Ordinary, A
04:20 The X-Men
06:25 X2: X-Men United
09:00 Opening Night
09:30 Hollow Man
11:40 The Ladykillers

STAR WORLD
08:30 Billboard Us Count-down
09:30 Hogan's Heroes
10:00 Get Smart
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Desperate Housewives
01:30 Lost
02:30 The O.C.
03:30 The Apprentice
04:30 Grey's Anatomy
05:30 Hollywood Shootouts
06:00 Travel Asia
06:30 Baywatch Hawaii
07:30 Malcolm In The Middle
08:00 Parkinson
09:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
10:30 Desperate Housewives
11:30 Lost
DISCOVERY
08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discover India
10:30 Feast India
11:00 Yatra-Indian Travels
11:30 More than A Game
12:30 Warrior Women
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Psychic Witness
3:30 Nat Geo Reveals the Industrial World
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Discovery Wings
06:30 Impossible Heists
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
10:30 Night Safari
11:30 Mummy Autopsy

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Nat Geo Reveals
09:30 Dogs With Jobs
10:30 Inside Mecca
11:30 Inside NFL Films
12:30 Nat Geo Reveals
01:30 Sunset Bollywood
02:30 Nat Geo Reveals
05:30 The Gospel of Judas
07:30 The Living Edens
08:30 Sunday Night Specials
09:30 History Of Football
10:30 Dangerous Encounters
11:30 Wild Sex
ESPN
08:00 Major League Baseball Saturday

11:00 Icc Cricket World
11:30 Team India Programming
01:00 Epi Celebration
03:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine S
03:30 FIFA World Cup Programming
07:25 Sportscenter
07:30 FIFA World Cup Preview
10:30 FIFA World Cup Preview
11:00 FIFA World Cup Programming
STAR SPORTS
08:30 Australia Tour Of South Africa
10:00 Cricket Classics
10:30 The Bermuda 20-20 Festival
11:30 Atp Masters Series
01:00 Alp Masters Series
02:30 Super Centuries
02:57 Fim World Motorcycle Championship
07:00 Cricket Classics
07:30 Australia Tour Of South Africa
09:30 Australia Tour Of South Africa
11:30 Hitz
TEN SPORTS
11:00 West Indies v India: 2nd ODI Highlights
01:45 Sports Movies: The Rookie
02:45 WWE:Heat
07:30 Moto GP : GRAND PRIX DE FRANCE
08:30 Trans World Sports
09:00 The XLYS Show : Ep 5