

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival

Organiser: Loko Natyadal
Play: Shiddhida
Group: Loko Natyadal
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 8
Time: 7:00pm

Film Screening

Title: Juliette Binoche Retrospective
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society and the Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
July 08: 6:00pm The Unbearable Lightness of Being
July 11: 5:00pm Wuthering Heights
7:00pm Damage
July 12: 5:00pm The Horseman on the Roof
7:15pm Three Colours: Blue
July 13: 5:00pm The English Patient
7:30pm Jet Lag
July 16: 5:00pm The Children of the Century
7:15pm The Widow of St. Pierre
July 18: 5:00pm Chocolate
7:00pm The Country of My Skull
July 19: 6:00pm Hidden
Venue: the Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, Road # 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Nahid Sultan Juthi
Title: 1st Solo Oil Painting Exhibition
Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf, 62, Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka
Date: July 07-21
Time: 3:00pm to 8:30pm

Theatre
Photography
Exhibition

Photographer: Kamaluddin Kabir
Title: Light and Discourse
Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, road 7/old, Dhanmondi R/A
Date: July 03-12
Time: 12pm-8pm

Promoting pristine piano music

Ecole de Musique: A school for budding musicians



Mehjabeen (C) with her students

of the students have been trained elsewhere too, but most of them owe their piano skills entirely to Mehjabeen.

The pieces that the children played were from the repertoire and some classical pieces like Mozart's Sonata 545, Bach's Prelude, Chopin's Opus 18, Haydn's Minuet. "This gives the student an exposure to public performance and creates an awareness of western classical music among the audience. Some of the students have been here for a few months while others have been

training for several years," Mehjabeen says. What the students receive is an intensive basic course. The school follows the methods of Alfred, Beyer, Czerene and Rose.

Mehjabeen herself was trained by Korean teachers, Haan and Ji Hyon Rio. She hopes to do research in music associated with language learning in New York.

Adityo Noman Khan enjoyed piano music as a little boy, and today loves Chopin, Mozart and Beethoven. Adityo, who has just completed his SSC, practices from

half an hour to an hour every day. Besides western classical, he also likes rock and heavy metal. Tabassum, another student in Mehjabeen's school, is always encouraged by her mother. She began taking music lessons at Dhaka Int'l School and has been with Ecole de Musique for last five years. She is a student of BBA. Her favourites composers are Beethoven and Mozart. She likes modern Bangla songs too along with Nazrul Sangeet.

Masima Kamal is another devoted student of the piano. She trained initially at the Yamaha School in Malaysia, beginning in 2001. Her favourite pieces are the ones by Mozart and Chopin. She listens to Bangla music too along with her parents. Marilyn Shirley Louis, a IX-grade student, enjoys Strauss and Beethoven most of all. She hopes to carry on with music into her adult life. Sadia Zaman, another teenager, says that she was motivated by her mother and that her favourites are Beethoven and Mozart. At the same time, she likes Tagore songs as well.

Ayaz, Abrar and Maisha are seven, nine and eleven, respectively. They too flourished their fingers on the piano keyboard, although their selection of the pieces played at the Alliance Francaise programme were meant for beginners. Maisha likes Bach's minuets and has been a student for 18 months. Ayaz hopes to be a pianist in future. Faizah, the youngest of all, made her own vital contribution to the concert.

The fresh strains of piano notes by the young enthusiasts were refreshing indeed.

FAYZA HAQ

M EHJABEEN Rahman and her group of ten young pianists, ranging from seven to seventeen and a bit over, played to a captivated audience last evening. This was at the gallery of Alliance Francaise. Ecole de Musique, Mehjabeen's piano school gives regular performances as part of the Fete de la Musique every summer. Free of charge, the audience is provided with a feast of Mozart, Beethoven and Bach. A few

months while others have been

Palakar's new theatre studio inaugurated

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Palakar's new theatre studio at Natok Soroni (formerly known as Bailey road) was inaugurated on July 6. Noted theatre personality Ramendu Majumder inaugurated the studio. The studio is the first of its kind in Dhaka.

In his speech Ramendu Majumder complimented Palakar for its efforts and said, "Similar initiatives should have been taken earlier. This theatre studio is yet another step forward for creating professionalism in our theatre."

The speech was followed by a performance of Char Dewal, a workshop production of Palakar. Char Dewal is written by Aminur Rahman Mukul and Eva Khan and directed by Aminur Rahman Mukul.



(L-R) Judges Alamgir, Subarna Mustafa and Tarik Anam Khan at the audition and selection round of Lux Channel i Super Star' 06 held at the auditorium, Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong. The audition in Chittagong was held on July 6. The winner of the contest will get an opportunity to play the lead role in the upcoming movie Daruchini Dwip

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