

CULTURAL FEAST

Art Exhibition

Title: Lines of Madness
Venue: Goethe Institute Gallery
Date: June 4-14
Time: 10am-6pm (closed Friday and Saturday)

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Chitra Mele: Art Fair 2007
Venue: Shilpajangan, Road 3, House 26, Dhannondi
Date: May 31-June 14
Time: 10am-8pm

Theatre

Troupe: Jibon Sanket Naya Gosthi
Hobigonj
Title: Bibhajon
Venue: Theatre Institute Chittagong
Date: June 1
Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Troupe: Palakar
Title: Dekhgor
Venue: Palakar Theatre Studio, 133, Natak Shorony, New Bailey Road
Date: May 31 & June 1
Time: 7:00pm

Play: A Birthday Party
Organiser: Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka
Venue: Natak Mondol, Dhaka University Campus
Date: May 28-31
Time: 7:00pm

Cultural Show

Organiser: Autism Welfare Foundation
Venue: Central Public Library
Date: May 31
Time: 5:15pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalechitra Kendro, 62, Science Laboratory
Date: June 2
4:30pm Nironitor
6:30pm Shonkhonad

Group Exhibition

Title: Chitra Virendra
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhannondi
Date: May 30-June 10
Time: 12pm-5pm

Musical

Presented by: Dhaka Stage
Title: Working
Venue: American International School, Dhaka Theatre
June 1 Matinee 2:00 PM, Evening Performance 7:30 PM

Ikebana Exhibition

Organiser: Embassy of Japan & Japan Foundation
Title: Ikebana Demonstration and Seminar 2007
Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium & Nafrikanta Bhattacharji Hall
Date: June 4-5
Time: 5:30pm

Discussion

Title: Munir Chowdhury Shorony
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Date: May 31
Time: 5:00pm

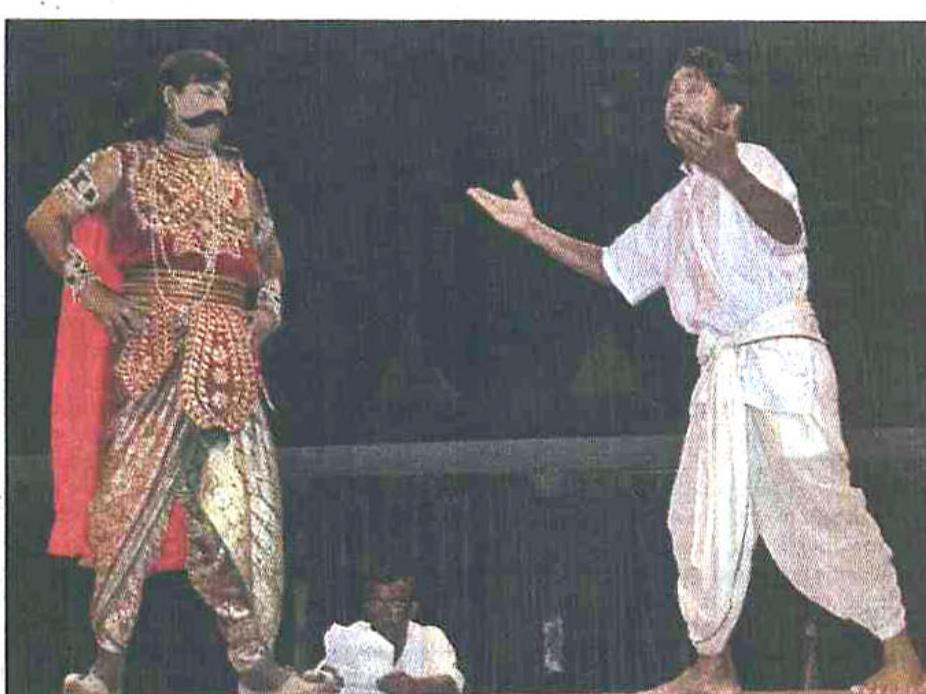
Jatra Pala-e Bibeker Gaan

An initiative by Shilpkala to boost the dying art form

ERSHAD KAMOL

INTRODUCED in 1894 the character "Bibek" (conscience) has become an indissoluble part of *Jatra Pala*: A form of folk drama combining acting, songs, music, dance, characterised by exaggerated gestures and orations. The stentorian vocals of the actor in the role of "Bibek", who renders verses that represent our rationality, is the essence of a *Jatra Pala*. The character appears on the stage during the 'climax' to jolt the audience's conscience into awareness.

Featuring 21 remarkable "Bibek" characters from 19 *Jatra Palas* -- from the character's introduction in *Suroto Uddhar* (1894) to contemporary *Jatra Pala* -- Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) arranged a show on May 29. Titled *Jatra Pala-e Bibeker Gaan*, the programme took place at the Experimental Theatre Stage. It was a research-based programme conducted by eminent *Jatra*



"Bibek" characters (top-right and bottom) sing in different scenes staged at the programme

Pal researcher-actor-writer Milon Kanti Dey,

As in typical *Jatra Palas* in the rural areas, the event began with a performance by an orchestra incorporating a number of western instruments including the silver flute, harmonium and clarinet. Milon Kanti Dey appeared on the stage as a narrator and delivered a bold performance maintaining the authenticity of characterisation in *Jatra*. The thespian analysed the role of "Bibek" in *Jatra*.

Throughout the evening seven professional *Jatra* artistes -- Balai Das, Chitta Ghosh, Shankar, Open Das, Bachchu Khan, Mohammad Zahid and Gazi Shahid -- performed 21 songs of "Bibek" characters from popular *Jatra Palas*. To make way for the "Bibek", *Jatra* artistes performed the climax sequences on the stage.

The first song was jointly performed by Balai Das and Chitta Ghosh. Rendering *Apon brijhey*

chol ei bela, the duo performed the role of the first "Bibek" character in *Suroto Uddhar*. Among others, "Bibek" characters from popular *Jatra Palas* including *Rabon Badh*, *Anarkali*, *Rahim Badshah* and *Rupban Konya*, *Sohrab Rustam*, *Ekti Poisha* and *Ganga Theka Buriganga* were featured at the programme.

A discussion presided over by Secretary of BSA, Ashraful Mosaddek, was held prior to the show. Shafi Kamal, director, Department of Theatre and Music, delivered the welcome speech. Humayun Khalid, joint secretary, Ministry of Education, also spoke at the programme.

Discussants focusing on the necessity of promoting the decaying performing art form, said that the Department of Theatre and Film will carry out programmes to preserve traditional *Jatra Pala*.



years and is currently headed by President, Susan McGee. "Working" will be their third show in just eighteen months, and after deduction of costs, all profits will go to charity.

"Working" first appeared on Broadway in New York in 1979. The choice seems pretty straightforward for Dhaka Stage music director, Dawne Warkentin and director, Ben Snowdon, who were immediately attracted to the music. They were excited about the opening night, which was a sell-out performance. Their biggest challenge has been the time factor, as the 25-

strong cast all have other jobs. Auditions in February and hectic rehearsals over the last two months have resulted in a musical satire following the "life in a day" of a variety of workers, including, construction workers, a car park attendant, a teacher, supermarket check-out sellers, a paper boy, a courier, a housewife, a prostitute, a socialite, assembly-line workers, masons, truck drivers, telephone operators, a waitress, fire-fighters and cleaning ladies. Musical support to a medley of styles (jazz, pop, rock, blues and folk) is admirably provided by trio on piano, guitar and drums.

The play opens with the entire cast singing about their mundane, monotonous existence. Workers from different backgrounds recount their poignant life stories. "You become your job; you are what you do," exclaims the prostitute in the musical. Some songs bring out the workers' frustrations; some ("What I could've been") reflect the workers' aspiration to become something better. The waitress character sings about the dignity of labour, when she declares, "I'm a one-woman show."

The construction worker talks about the mistakes he has made when he sings, "If you can't improve yourself, you can improve your posterity". In his case, as with the cleaning lady, the workers yearn for a better future for their children. There is a sense of loss, of under-achievement. In the last song "See that building", the workers unite to sing, "Everyone should have something to point to," attempting to bring in a feeling of pride in what they do.

With twelve solo performances, the show had a professional look and was thoroughly entertaining.

"Working": An entertaining musical by Dhaka Stage

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As the title suggests, "Working" charts the daily grind of a wide spectrum of workers. The musical is being performed by an amateur theatre group, Dhaka Stage, which draws talent from the diverse pool comprising the international community in Dhaka. The debut performance was staged last night at the American International School Dhaka auditorium. There will be two more shows on Friday June 1.

Dhaka Stage has been around for nearly thirty



Actors of Dhaka Stage in a scene from *Working*

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

News Bulletin

BTW
08:45 *Bishwa Bichitra*
11:15 *Selected Programme*
11:40 *Selected Programme*
12:05 *Maa O Shishur*
Kotha
12:30 *Selected Programme*
01:30 *Shukhi Ponbar*
02:15 *Children's Drama*
02:40 *Esto Gaan Shikhi*
03:05 *Cartoon*
03:30 *Selected Programme*
04:30 *Barishuri*
05:05 *El Shomoy*
05:30 *Shomoyer Shonglap*
06:10 *Selected Programme*
06:40 *Islamic Programme*
07:00 *Musical Programme*
07:35 *Protidin Bangladesh*
08:40 *Drama: Shokher Itikotha*

CHAN

08:30 *Selected Programme*
09:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
Shambad Poire
Bangladesh

09:45 *Public Reaction*
10:50 *Tribonmatri*

12:30 *Tarokatahien*
Eboni Cinemar

01:05 *Guan*
01:30 *Shengbad Pottery*

01:45 *Bangladesh*
Public Reaction

02:40 *Tribonmatri April*

03:05 *Hridoye Melli O*
Manusher Gaak

04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:30 *Muktijuddho Protidin*

06:00 *Akash Sora Doratori*
Amar Ozboli

06:20 *D Rock Stars 2*
Selected Programme

09:35 *Jansala*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi*

11:05 *ATN Commentary*
Box

10:30 *Talk Show*
11:05 *Nizobon*

12:10 *Talk Show*
01:05 *Shundor Jiboner*

02:30 *Chikor*

03:15 *Drama Serial: Amader Joto Kotha*

04:20 *Cooking Programme*

05:10 *Ranger Manush*

05:40 *Islamic Programme*

06:20 *TV Serial: Mugly*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha*

05:20 *Chetona Islam*

06:45 *Drama: Koto Chena*

12:15 *Koto Ociema*

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am. 10:00am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 11pm. News (English) at 8:00am, 7:00pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am. 11:00 am. 1:00pm, 3:00 pm. 4:00pm. 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am. 12:00pm. 2:30pm. 6:30pm. 7:30pm. 10:00pm. 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am. 2:00pm. 6:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am. 12:00am. 4:00pm.

News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm. and 12:15am

ntv

News (Bangla) at 8:00am. 2:00pm. 6:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am. 12:00am. 4:00pm.

News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm. and 12:15am

PICK OF THE DAY



Koto Chena Koto Ochena
On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Jitu Ahsan, Sweety



30 Rock
On Star World at 9:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Alec Baldwin, Tina Fey

TV GUIDE

Drama Serial:

Dokhineyan

Bokab

Article Thirty Nine

Shobnai

Timon And Pumbaa

Hobbit

Kasauli Zindagi Kay

Meri Awaz Ko Mill Gayi

Roshni

Driving Dreams

Kesturi

Shararai

Kartishma Ka

Kartisha

Karam Apna Apna

Kasauli Zindagi Kay