

CULTURALFEAST

Photography Exhibition

Title: The Hill People of Bandarban
Artist: Enam Talukder
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: August 16 to August 29
Time: 3pm to 8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Selected Graphics and Drawings
Artist: Murtaja Baseer

Venue: Galleri Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 4, Uttara
Date: August 17 to August 31
Time: 11am to 8pm

Title: Extension of the Self
Artist: Aminul Haque Shanto
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), 26 Old Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Date: August 16 to August 20
Time: 3pm-8pm

Artist: Wakana Yamauchi
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: August 12 to August 18
Time: 2pm-8pm

Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Chatagram Charushilpi Parishod and Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Date: August 3-August 27 from 10 am 7 pm

Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Dual Contraption
Artist: Tejosh Halder Josh
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 17 to August 28
Time: 12pm-8pm

Live Musical Soiree at Kozmo

Artistes: Chapter 3
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa Tower (3rd Floor), Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: August 16
Time: 6pm

Artistes: Sumon with Anila, Punam and friends
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa Tower (3rd Floor), Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: August 17
Time: 6pm

Film Screening

Title: Golden Lion film session
Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalochchitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road
Date: August 17

Time: 4:30 pm

Film: Monsoon Wedding (India)

Director: Mira Nair

Time: 6:30 pm

Film: The Circle (Iran)

Director: Jafar Panahi

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre

Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House#25/Road#6, Gulshan 2.

Date: August 17

Film: Sardar

Time: 6pm

Date: August 20

Film: Bomboir Bombay(Bangla)

Time: 6pm

Date: August 24

Film: Nishi Japon (Bangla)

Time: 6pm

Date: August 27

Film: Corporate

Time: 6pm

Date: August 31

Film: Tumhara Kallo

Time: 6pm

The ins and outs of playback singing

Tête-à-tête with Rizia Parveen

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

It happened in 1982. Leading film actor Razzaque went to attend a cultural programme in Rajshahi. He was taken aback by a young girl, singing at the event. He offered the girl an opportunity to do playback for his next movie, *Talaq*. Overwhelmed, the girl agreed. And thus a successful career in playback was initiated and popular singer Rizia Parveen got her first break. So far the artiste has recorded over 800 songs, in films and music albums. Around 104 music albums featuring Parveen's songs are available in the market. *The Daily Star* recently talked to the artiste. Excerpts from the interview:

"My father late Md. Abdul Hasid had always wanted me to be a singer. My introduction to music happened at a very early age. Initially, I trained under my father. Eventually I took music lessons from Ustad Rabu Hossain, Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Aziz Bachchu. I trained in classical music for about 12 years," Parveen says.

Did she always feel passionately about music? "Not really. When I was a child, it used to irritate me when I had to do *reyaaz* while all my friends were playing outside. As I grew up, I came to understand the significance of *reyaaz* and now I'm thankful for it," she says.

Is playback different from other styles of singing? "Definitely," asserts the singer, "A playback singer must consider the character



he/she is singing for and the background of that particular song, so that the emoting is apt. Sometimes there are some verbal expressions or laughter or wail in songs. One also has to take into account which

actor/actress the song is featured on. I believe playback singing is more demanding and challenging."

Which are her favourite songs? Parveen smilingly says, "I don't think I have recorded a song yet

that has completely satisfied my artistic yearning. There are several songs that I admire, like my first hit, *Tumi amar chand* from the film *Chander Alo* or another smash hit, *Shobar jibone prem ashe* from the film *Bhangchur* and many more. But I am still waiting for that song which I can call an 'achievement'."

Is the current film music scenario inspiring for an artiste? "Recently it has developed, I think. The situation was utterly bleak at one point. There was a vacuum of quality songs: every other number was a substandard copy of some Hindi song. Unfortunately, I had to sing some of those songs, because playback is what I do, it's my profession. If I wasn't singing those songs, someone else would have. Fortunately, things have changed. There are quite a few talented music directors now and they are coming up with impressive, original compositions," the singer says.

A recipient of BACHSAS Award, CJFP award and more, Parveen wants to continue singing as long as humanly possible. She fondly remembers a recent recording experience with the "numero uno" playback singer in Bangladeshi film industry, Sabina Yasmine. Parveen prays for Yasmine's recovery and hopes that the diva would be able to sing more. Rizia Parveen's forthcoming albums include *Tumi Na Ami* with acclaimed singer Subir Nandi, and another with promising young artiste Pratik Hasan, son of artiste Khalid Hasan Milu.

ALL TIME GREATS

Rodgers and Hammerstein: The sound of music

The legacy of the talented musical duo of Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960) lives on. *The Daily Star* was recently transported to that immortal era when one had the fortune to see Carmen Jones, an operatic masterpiece for which Hammerstein took the entrancing score and story from George Bizet's Carmen. The work is a part of the opening season of the refurbished Royal Festival Hall in London.

The story unfolds as the fascinating Carmen, "a woman we love to hate," writes Jude Kelly, artistic director of the Southbank Centre which staged the production. "We wanted to present a piece that showed the power and expressiveness that great musical theatre can achieve...The combination of Bizet's life-enhancing music with Oscar Hammerstein's modern retelling of this tragic story has produced an enduring masterpiece of musical theatre," adds Kelly.

Hammerstein is of course best known for his enduring partnership with Rodgers. Between them the pair created musical history with renowned Broadway musicals in the 1940s and 1950s regarded as the golden era of the medium. Among their successful musicals were *Oklahoma!* (their first collaboration), *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*.

The outstanding shows and their

film versions bagged Rodgers and Hammerstein 34 Tony Awards, 15 Academy Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes and two Grammys.

Even today the duo continue to hold audiences in their sway with the rendering of *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*. The former was based on Margaret Landon's Anna

Foster in the stellar role.

Likewise there is the delightful *The Sound of Music*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's last work together. The story of the Von Trapp family, the musical love story opened on Broadway at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on November 16, 1959. Later, it was made into a film (released in 1965) with the pivotal roles of Maria (effectively rendered by Julie Andrews) and Captain Von Trapp (Christopher Plummer).

"These two artists completely re-worked the musical theatre genre. Before they came along, musicals were whimsical and usually built around a star, although there were exceptions such as *Show Boat*, which was also co-written by Hammerstein. Because the efforts of Rodgers and Hammerstein were so successful, more musicals now contained thought-provoking plots, and every aspect of the play, dance, song and drama was important to the play," says a write up in Wikipedia.

In addition to other awards, the pair was honoured in 1999 with a United States Postal Service stamp commemorating their partnership. Rodgers was honoured by the setting up of the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York city. And so the captivating musical tradition of the American songwriting duo remains evergreen.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

and the *King of Siam*, the biographical story of Anna Leonowens, governess to the offspring of King Mongkut of Siam in the early 1860s. The curtains went up on Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *The King and I* on Broadway on March 29, 1951. This musical starred Gertrude Lawrence as Anna and a

classic when Brynner bagged an Oscar as Best Actor and Kerr was nominated as Best Actress. Brynner reprised the role twice on Broadway in 1977 and 1985 and in a brief TV sitcom in 1972, dubbed *Anna and the King*. More recently a controversial film called *Anna and the King* has been made with Jodie

Foster in the stellar role.

Likewise there is the delightful *The Sound of Music*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's last work together. The story of the Von Trapp family, the musical love story opened on Broadway at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on November 16, 1959. Later, it was made into a film (released in 1965) with the pivotal roles of Maria (effectively rendered by Julie Andrews) and Captain Von Trapp (Christopher Plummer).

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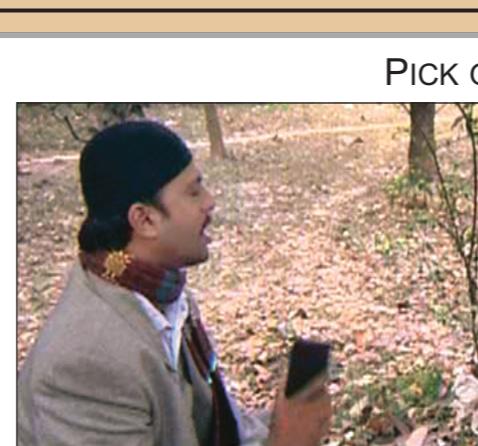
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PICK OF THE DAY



Amader Nurul Huda

On ATN Bangla at 9:20pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Reaz, Mahfuz



Nixon

On Star Movies at 9:00am

Genre: Drama/Biography

Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Joan Allen

Lukochuri

Special Programme:

Nirbhik Chittay

Unnoto Shir

Ekusher Shondha

Shondha