

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

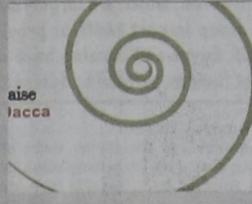
Film Screening

Film: The Cage of Queens (La Cage aux Folles)
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 4
Time: 10am and 6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Landscape
Artist: Isme Azam
Venue: Gallery Zoom of Alliance Francaise De Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, **Date:** March 28-April 10, **Time:** 5 pm-8pm, 9am-12amaturday)



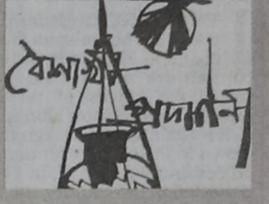
Film Screening

Film: Tristana
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 11
Time: 10am and 6pm



Baishakhi Exhibition

Designs by: Nahida Sharmin
Organiser: Shilpangan
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: April 4-13
Time: 10:30am-8:30pm



Jatiya Chhara Utsab '08 ends



Over 200 chharakars attended the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The two-day long Jatiya Chhara Utsab '08 ended on March 29. With the slogan "Chhara hok muktir jai gaan", the Jatiya Chhara Utsab Committee arranged the programme at the Plaza of National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. More than 200 chharakar (poets) from all over the country attended at the programme.

On the first day (March 28), Chharakar Foyez Ahmed inaugurated the programme. Eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest. In his speech Professor Siddiqui emphasised on the need to publish more books and CDs on chhara (rhymes).

Convener of the Jatiya Chhara Utsab Committee, Abdul Aziz presided over the programme. Abdul Aziz expressed his intentions to arrange more such programmes on a regular basis.

Two chharakars from Kolkata also attended the programme.

The two-day long programme featured recitation by attending chharakars, cultural programme and two seminars.

The topics discussed at the seminars were "Bangla Chharaye Fantasy O Hashyarosher Byabohar" and "Bangladesher Chharaye Gonochetona". The programme wrapped up with a recitation by the 70-year-old Syeda Zebunnesa from Netrakona.

Bette Davis centennial

The bold, the bad and the bumpy nights

Bette Davis, born 100 years ago this week, made her first appearance on film in 1931 and her last in 1989, and like every star of her generation she was always ready for her close-up. The difference with Davis -- part of what makes her, one of the greatest Hollywood actresses -- was, she didn't need it. You could tell what she was thinking and feeling from across the room, even a very large one like the ballroom she swoops into, wearing a red dress, in William Wyler's *Jezebel* (1938), scandalising the haut monde of 1852 New Orleans; unmarried young women like her character, Julie Marsden, are expected to wear white. But Julie wants to make an impression, and she does; and as she takes a turn on the dance floor with her stiff-backed escort, you can see, although most of the sequence is long shots, her growing awareness that she has made a terrible mistake, that she has gone, for once, too far.

Bette Davis could make you see red in black and white.

Davis certainly knew how to make an impression, though her boldness, like Julie Marsden's, sometimes had unintended consequences. Moviegoers familiar with her only from late horror films like *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962) and *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964) -- the most substantial hits of the last four decades of her career -- may think of her as a campy grotesque, a cartoon diva. That's perhaps partly her own fault, for attacking those ludicrous roles with such unseemly comic gusto. And her performer's soul must have been gratified by the attention they brought: better to be noticed, for whatever reason, than ignored. (*Baby Jane* even earned her an Oscar nomination, her last of 10.)

But on the occasion of her centennial, it's worth remembering Davis as she was in her

prime, in the 1930s and '40s, when she commanded the screen with something subtle and more mysterious than the fierce, simple will that carried her through the mostly grim jobs of work that followed. In her heyday, as the reigning female star at Warner Brothers, she was electrifying as Marlon Brando in the '50s: volatile, sexy, challenging, fearlessly inventive. She looked moviegoers straight in the eye and dared them to look away.

Usually they kept looking, even when she was putting on display, as she frequently did, the unlouder aspects of human nature. Her breakthrough role, after three years of more or less routine assignments, came in John Cromwell's 1934 adaptation of the W. Somerset Maugham novel *Of Human Bondage*, in which she plays the coldhearted Cockney temptress Mildred Rogers, a vile specimen who cruelly -- and protractedly -- abuses the affections of a sensitive, artistic, clubfooted young medical student.

It was a part Davis had campaigned for. At that point in her career she had nothing to lose by taking on a juicy role that the better-established actresses in town wouldn't touch for fear of damaging their images.

There's no mystery, really, about why she would choose to portray the selfish, conniving, amoral, downright malevolent human beings: any actor who doesn't know that, say, Lady Macbeth and Iago are pretty good parts should probably consider a different line of work. It's also perfectly clear why other stars of her stature were less keen to dirty their hands with such unattractive characters: in the studio era actors were brand-name products, and audiences tended to identify them with the parts they played. Late in life Davis ruefully told an interviewer, "The more successful an actor, the less he or she gets to act." She added,



The woman in red (in black and white): Bette Davis makes an impression in *Jezebel*

"People come to expect a personality, and that's the kind of parts you get offered, ones to suit audience expectations of your star's persona."

In her bad movies, and there are many, you can always sense her impatience with the material she's been given. And when she got a part worthy of her gifts, she had the wit to put the lab work done in her lesser pic-

tures to good use. In Lloyd Bacon's terrific *Marked Woman* (1937), for instance, in which she plays a nightclub hostess, you see a kind of distillation of all the tramps, gun molls and shady dames she'd played as an eager young non-star under contract to studios that didn't know what to do with her. Her character in *Marked Woman*, "is a wonderfully complex creation, a wary survivor who's both proud of her sensuality and slightly uncomfortable with it."

And in one of her most celebrated roles, as the panicky aging actress Margo Channing in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *All About Eve* (1950), Davis trots out every bad habit she'd developed over the years, every "Bette Davis" mannerism, and makes them all seem, strictly speaking, necessary: real aspects of an unmistakably real woman. It helps, obviously, that Margo happens to be an actress.

The performance is dry-eyed and free of camp posturing, the portrait of a woman whose theatricality is natural, both as an expression of her self and as a tool of her peculiar trade. It's something she's learned to live with, and to make a living from.

So did Davis, who never retired from acting and lasted, improbably, to 81, after a lifetime of abusing alcohol, nicotine and, often, her directors. Her best director was Wyler, who abused her back, productively. The three movies they made together represent one of the great collaborations of a filmmaker and an actor in the history of movies, because Wyler's theatrical intelligence was a match for hers. (She once referred to him, admiringly, as "the male Bette Davis.")

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



On Air

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

<p>09:45 Public Reaction 09:50 Grameenphone Tritto Matra 11:05 Educational Programme 12:30 Citycell Taroka Katha 01:05 Ebong Cinema Gaan 01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma 02:35 Ekattur Er Dinguli 03:05 Banijo O Orthoni 03:30 Musical Programme: Hridoyer Gaan 04:30 Selected Programme 05:30 Muktyjuddho Amar Ohonkaar 06:00 TV Series: Superman 06:40 Oshamanya 07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shanglep 09:35 Drama Serial: Neel Tepantore 10:00 RC Travel On 11:30 Drama Serial: 69 12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shanglep</p>	<p>11:00 Shangkriti Ei Shophato 11:30 Tiffin-er Phakey 12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy 01:05 Japan Video Topic 02:30 Drama Serial: Shantokutir 03:15 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan 03:45 Drama Serial: Dhaka Nibash 05:25 Ithasher Ei Dine 05:30 Appar Jigyasha 06:20 Shubho Shondha 06:45 Rupali Pordar Golpo 08:15 Drama Serial: Eit Kather Khacha</p>	<p>09:00 Music Express 09:45 Drama Serial: Dhaka Nibash 11:30 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHANNEL 1</p> <p>08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh 10:30 Bangla Feature Film 03:30 Drama Serial: Ocheno Apon 04:00 Musical Programme: Gaaney Gaaney Bohudur Shadinota Concert 04:30 Shomoy-er Ainaye Rajniti 05:15 Krishi O Krishok</p>	<p>06:00 Saaj Bela 06:45 Rokto Gham Potaka 07:00 Shamprolik 08:15 Drama Serial: Daanguli 09:00 Nongor 09:30 Bioscope 11:00 Stop n Rock</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BANGLAVISION</p> <p>08:30 Drama: Dhal-er Badyo 09:30 Special Programme 10:10 Bangla Feature Film 02:10 Khola Chokhey</p>	<p>12:00 The Simpsons 01:30 Table For Three 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 04:00 General Hospital 05:00 Desperate Housewives 06:00 King Of The Hill 06:30 The Simpsons 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld 08:30 My Wife And Kids 09:00 8 Simple Rules 09:30 Life With Bonnie 10:00 Less Than Perfect 10:30 Last Comic Standing 11:30 Cops</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STAR PLUS</p> <p>10:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 12:00 Raja Ki Aseygi Baraat 01:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil 01:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa 03:00 Ghrasti 06:00 Raja Ki Aseygi Baraat 06:30 Bidaai 07:00 Ghrasti 07:30 Sangam 08:00 Santaan 08:30 Raja Ki Aseygi Baraat 09:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil 09:30 Bidaai 10:00 Kasturi 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyurki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Kayamath 12:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISCOVERY CHANNEL</p> <p>09:30 Worst Shark Attack 11:30 World's Most Dangerous 12:30 Body Story II 01:30 Raw Nature 02:30 Man Vs. Wild 03:30 Into Alaska With Jeff Corwin: Denali National Park And Preserve 04:30 Wildlife Specials 05:30 Cheetah 06:30 Stunt Junkies 07:00 Planet's Funniest Animals 07:30 Shark Battlefield 08:30 Futurocar 09:30 Really Big Things With Matt Rogers 10:30 Ganges 11:30 Bouncing A Thrill Ride</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC</p> <p>09:00 Monk Seals 09:30 Temple Of The Tigers 11:15 Sauna Bath 11:30 Wild Dog Diaries 12:30 Temple Of The Tigers 01:30 Rhino 02:30 Happy Hill 03:30 Desperate Dive 04:30 I Didn't Know That 05:00 Venom Harvest 05:30 Big Bang 06:00 Arizona Rattlers 06:30 Inside Afghan Heroin 07:00 Suck for the Kill 09:30 Shatranj Critical 10:30 Trapped 11:30 Air Crash Investigation</p>
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08:15 Shuprobhat
08:45 World Round up
11:15 Documentary Programme: Swadesh Desher Gaan
12:00 Maa O Shishur Katha
12:30 Shei Din-er Katha
01:00 Banishur
01:30 Cartoon
02:15 Onu Porumanu
02:40 Selected Programme
03:00 Shukhi Ponbaar
03:30 Dolon Changa
04:05 Selected Programme
04:30 Musical Programme: Shur-er Shrabhi
05:05 Debate
06:10 Matri Bhasa
06:35 Dance Programme: Nritter Taley Taley
08:35 Agricultural Programme: Krishi Dibanshi
09:00 Musical Programme: Chhaya Chhondo
10:30 Selected Programme

ATN BANGLA

08:15 Aiker Shanglep
08:30 Talk Show: Probbashi Bhabna
10:30 Talk Show: Onnyodrishti
11:05 Health Show: Shushitho Thakun
11:35 Musical Programme: Nolon Chhobir Gaan
12:15 Molamat
01:25 Talk Show: Dhaka Aj Ebong Agami
02:30 Exclusive
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme: Chhotoder Prithibi
04:20 Agricultural Programme: Shomali Din
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor
05:10 Health Show: Square Hospital Shushitho Thakun
05:45 Business Show: Genetic Business Week
06:20 Documentary Programme: Ashoy Pasher Manush
06:45 Projomno Katha
08:00 Drama Serial: Swapno Mangal
08:45 Musical Programme: Chirokaal Chirodin
11:30 Talk Show: Jay Katha Keu Boley Ni
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

08:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shanglep

08:30 Gaanchil Ei Din
09:00 Rtv Exclusive
09:05 Talk Show: Borney Borney Rochito
09:35 Musical Programme: Path Chaoatei Anondo
10:00 Drama Serial: Poroshpor
11:00 Taroka Alap
11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntuk
12:15 Wide Angel
12:35 Musical Programme: Path Chaoatei Anondo
01:00 Gaanchil Ei Din
01:30 Dhallywood Beats
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Proidin
06:35 Documentary Programme: Prachir Ghera China
08:00 Drama Serial: Aguntak
08:35 Look at Me
09:20 Drama Serial: Poroshpor
11:00 Health Show: Heart Beat
11:30 News Watch
12:00 Rtv Exclusive

ETV

08:30 Ekusher Shokaal
09:15 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
09:15 Ekusher Dupur
12:00 Ekusher Business: Special Focus
12:30 Ekusher Business: Shophol Jara
01:30 Exclusive
02:10 Drama Serial: Poribibi
02:30 Drama Serial: Aziz Market Dhaka 1000
03:30 Shomali Shada Kalo
04:00 Sports Round up
05:15 Sports Plus
05:45 Ekusher Shondha
06:15 Sms Mania
06:30 Documentary Programme: Desh Jurey
07:45 Cookery Show: Tomi Mian-r Recipe
08:15 Drama Serial: Hitlu
09:30 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
10:00 Ekush-er Shomoy
10:50 Financial Bulletin

ntv

08:30 Aiker Shokal
08:55 Drama Serial: Shantokutir
09:30 Joto Modhur Bhulguli
10:05 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number

03:10 Cinebit
04:20 Saitamami
05:30 Children's Programme: Ichchhey Ghur
06:05 Citycell Din-er Sheshey
06:20 Bangla Feature Film
08:25 Bangla Feature Film: Cinema
11:20 Drama: Dhulor Shomoy
12:00 Shongbad

03:10 Cinebit
04:20 Saitamami
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