

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Film Screening**  
Title: 2nd Int'l Film Week '08  
Organiser: Jahangiragar  
Students' Film Society (JSFS)  
Venue: Central Auditorium, JU  
Date: April 16-22  
April 17  
3:00pm Paris Labyrinth (Mexico)  
5:30pm Rosetta (Belgium)  
6:30pm He Loves Me, He  
Loves Me Not (France)



**Int'l Inter  
University Short  
Film Festival**  
Organiser: Dhaka  
University Film Society  
Venue: Goethe-Institut  
Bangladesh, H 10, R 9,  
Dharmundi  
Date: April 21-23  
Time: 4pm onwards



**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Cosmic Journey II  
Artist: Ali Iham  
Venue: Alliance Francaise  
de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road,  
Dharmundi  
Date: April 4-18  
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-  
8pm; Saturday 5pm-8pm



**Satyajit Ray  
Retrospective**  
Organiser: Indian Cultural  
Centre  
Venue: Auditorium, Indian  
Cultural Centre, House 25,  
road 96, Gulshan 2  
April 23 Jol Baba Felunath  
Time: 6 pm



## "Satyagraha" at the Met

Fanciful visions on the Mahatma's road to truth and simplicity

Philip Glass' opera *Satyagraha*, is a landmark work of minimalism. When *Satyagraha* was introduced, in Rotterdam in 1980, Glass was following his own voice and vision, not firing a broadside against the complex, cerebral modernist composers who claimed the intellectual high ground while alienating mainstream classical music audiences. Happily, that divisive period is finally past.

Metropolitan Opera patrons, mostly bound by tradition, might not seem a likely source of Glass fans. But when Glass appeared onstage after the Met's first performance of *Satyagraha* recently, the audience erupted in a deafening ovation.

*Satyagraha* (a Sanskrit term that means truth force) is more a musical ritual than a traditional opera. Impressionistic and out of sequence, it relates the story of Mohandas K. Gandhi's fight for the civil rights of the Indian minority in South Africa from 1893 to 1914. The staging -- created by Phelim McDermott, director, and Julian Crouch, associate director and set designer, for the Met and the English National Opera, where it was seen last year -- makes inventive use of fanciful imagery, aerialists, gargantuan puppets and theatrical spectacle to convey the essence of a self-consciously spiritual work.

Without knowing the events of Gandhi's struggles in South Africa one would have little idea what is going on, starting from the opening scene. Gandhi, portrayed by the sweet-voiced tenor Richard Croft in a heroic performance, lies on the ground in a rumpled suit, his suitcase nearby. The moment depicts an incident when Gandhi, as a young lawyer en route to Pretoria



A scene from the Philip Glass opera *Satyagraha*

and holding a proper first-class ticket, was ordered to take his place with the Indians on board and, when he resisted, was pushed from the train onto the platform.

But this abstract production takes its cues from Glass, who was not interested in fashioning a cogent narrative. What continues to make the opera seem radical comes less from the music, with its lulling repetitions of defiantly simple riffs, motifs and scale patterns, than from the complete separation of sung text from dramatic action, such as it is.

The libretto, assembled by the novelist Constance DeJong, consists of philosophical sayings from

the Bhagavad-Gita, the sacred Hindu epic poem. Glass honours the text by keeping it in the original Sanskrit and setting every syllable clearly. This production dispenses with Met Titles on the theory that the audience would actually be distracted by paying attention to the words, which at best serve as commentary. Instead key phrases in English are projected on a semi-circular corrugated wall that forms the backdrop of the production's gritty and elemental set.

*Satyagraha* invites the audience to turn off the part of the brain that looks for linear narrative and literal meaning in a musical drama and enter a contemplative state -- not hard to do during the most mes-

merising parts of the opera, especially in this sensitive performance. For example, in the hauntingly mystical opening scene when Gandhi reflects on a battle between two royal families depicted in the Bhagavad-Gita, Croft, in his plaintive voice, sang the closest the score comes to a wistful folk song while undulant riffs wound through the lower strings.

That the impressive young conductor Dante Anzolini, in his Met debut, kept the tempos on the slow side lent weight and power to the repetitive patterns.

Sometimes, with its aerial feats and puppetry, the Met production relies too much on stage activity. Still, it's quite a show. McDermott

and Crouch have assembled a group of acrobats and aerialists called the Skills Ensemble, who produce magical effects. In one scene they form a huge puppet queen clothed in newspaper who goes to battle against a hulking puppet warrior assembled from wicker baskets. The use of simple materials is meant as homage to the poor and oppressed for whom Gandhi gave his life.

Because Gandhi relied on the news media of his day to support his agitation for human rights and published his own journal, *Indian Opinion*, newspapers are a running image in the production. Actors fashion pages into symbolic barriers for protests. At one point, in despair, Gandhi disappears into a slithering mass of people and paper.

Besides Croft, other standouts in the excellent cast included the soprano Rachelle Durkin as Gandhi's secretary, Miss Schlesien; the mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak as his wife; the bass-baritone Alfred Walker as Parsi Rustomji, a co-worker; and the baritone Earle Patriarco as Mr. Kallenbach, a European co-worker and ally.

Ultimately, despite its formulaic elements, *Satyagraha* emerges as a work of nobility, seriousness, even purity. In the final soliloquy, timeless and blithely simple, Gandhi hauntingly sings an ascending scale pattern in the Phrygian mode 30 times. To some degree the ovation at the end, after a 3-hour 45-minute evening, was necessary. The audience had to let loose after all that contemplation.

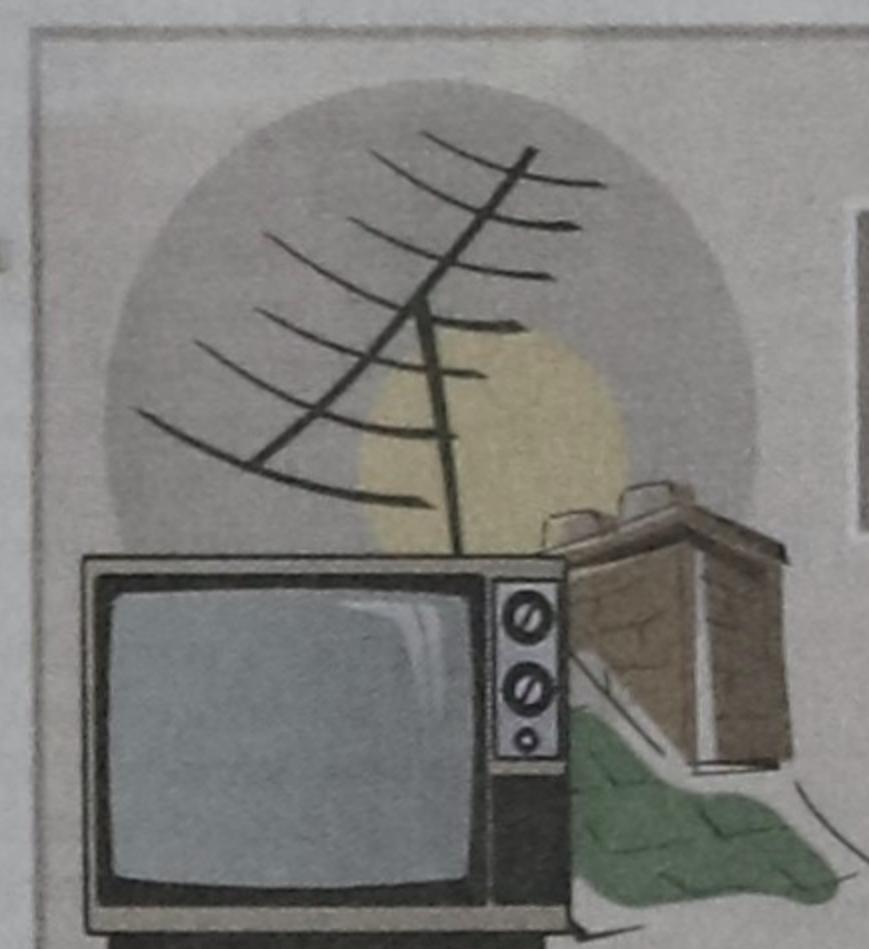
Source: The New York Times



Internationally reputed pantomime artiste Partha Pratim Majumdar (C) along with the director (L) of Fashion House Nandan Kutir is seen at its display centre in Dhanmondi. Nandan Kutir arranged Baishakhi exhibition to celebrate the Bangla New Year. Noted singers Subir Nandi and Fahmida Nabi were also present at the inauguration ceremony



Artistes Shelu Barua (left) and Pooja Barua sing at a cultural programme at Dhaka Reporters' Unity on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh



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

On Air

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

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.

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

CHANNEL 1

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

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 7:30am. 1:30pm. 5:00pm. 7:15pm.

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

News (English) at 6:00pm.

Rtv

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

etv

News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am.

ETV

News (Bangla) 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm.

11:30 Channel-i Exclusive  
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

ETV

08:00 Ajker Polrikay  
08:30 Ekush-er Shokal  
09:15 Drama Serial: Tomtom  
10:30 Ekush-er Business  
12:30 Ekush-er Business: Special Focus of Business  
01:30 Ekush-er Business: Shophol Jara

02:30 Drama Serial: Tomtom  
03:30 Documentary Programme: Ashar Chor  
04:00 Talk Show: Tini  
05:15 Sports Plus  
05:45 Ekush-er Shondhya  
06:15 SMS Mania  
06:30 Desh Jurey  
07:45 Ekush-er Chokh  
08:30 Drama Serial: Poribibi  
09:30 Musical Programme: Ta Na Na Na

10:00 Ekush-er Shomoy  
10:50 Financial Bulletin  
12:00 Ekush-er Raft

Rtv  
08:40 Musical Programme: Saangest Ongon  
09:00 Rtv Exclusive  
09:35 Travel Show: Pritibir Pathay Pathay

10:03 Drama Serial: Anondojatra  
10:55 News Update  
11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntaak  
12:15 Talk Show: Drishiklon  
12:35 Documentary Programme: Wedding of the World

01:03 Gaanchi Ei Din  
01:30 Dhallywood Beats  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film  
06:00 Prolidin  
06:35 Documentary Programme: Apon Shimay

08:00 Drama Serial: Kala Kitor  
08:35 Musical Programme: Cinema Ar Cinema  
09:20 Drama Serial: Anondojatra  
11:00 Musical Programme: Just Band  
11:30 Biz Event  
12:00 Editor's Comment

ntv  
08:30 Ajker Shokal  
08:55 Drama Serial: Eit Kach-er Khacha  
09:30 Bajobong Bajao  
10:05 ntv Shomeek  
10:30 Drama  
12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy  
01:05 Cartoon  
01:05 Drama Serial: Aguner Alo  
08:20 Drama Serial: Rasta  
01:05 Drama Serial: Eit Kaanch-er Khacha

03:15 Drama Serial: Teen Purush  
03:50 Drama Serial: Neer  
04:25 Cartoon  
05:30 Mohilaangon  
06:15 Shubho Shondha  
06:45 Musical Programme: Amaro

08:15 Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal  
09:00 Glamour World  
09:45 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number  
11:35 Ei Shomoy

Galley Ichchhey Holo  
Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal  
Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number  
Ei Shomoy

08:30 Street Show: Raat Biraatey  
09:00 Media Bhubon  
09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura  
10:10 Agamir Kontho  
11:35 Nana Rang-er Dinguli

BANGLAVISION

08:30 Shongbad Protidin  
Channel 1  
08:40 Shuprobhaat Bangladesh  
10:30 Bangla Feature Film  
02:00 One Sports  
03:30 Baishakhi Utshob  
04:00 Drama Serial: Mon Baan  
04:30 Paadmoraag  
05:15 Gollachhut  
06:00 Saaj Bela  
07:00 Tagore Song  
08:15 Drama: Utshob  
09:30 The One  
11:00 Proshno Utter

STAR MOVIES

10:45 Just My Luck  
12:30 Haven  
02:00 Fortress 2: Re-Entry  
03:30 Ripley Under Ground  
05:15 I Spy  
07:00 Wicker Man, The  
08:45 See No Evil  
10:15 Date Movie  
11:45 Mercenary For Justice

STAR WORLD

10:30 American Idol  
12:00 The Simpsons  
01:30 Northern Exposure  
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show  
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
04:00 U-tum  
05:00 Desperate Housewives  
06:00 King Of The Hill  
07:30 The Simpsons  
12:10 Mast Unlimited  
1:00 Todays Adda  
04:00 U-tum  
08:00 Tobe Tai Hok  
12:00am Today's Happy Moments  
12:10am Today's Dances Grooves

2:00 am Back to Back

08:00 Seinfeld

08:30 American Idol  
09:00 30 Rock  
10:00 Scrubs  
10:30 Love You To Death  
11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak  
11:30 Most Haunted

STAR PLUS

11:00 Prihviraj Chauhan  
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
02:00 Bhabhi  
02:30 Karam Apna Apnaa  
03:00 Gihasti

06:30 Bidaai

07:00 Gihasti  
07:30 Sangam  
08:00 Sanatan  
08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat  
09:00 Kis Desh Me Hal Meraa Dil  
09:30 Bidaai

10:00 Kasturi

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:25 Shudhu Gaan

12:00 Glory

12:30 House (Season 3)

02:30 Matrix Reloaded  
05:30 101 Favourite Stars Way Back When  
06:45 Reservoir Dogs

09:00 Freaky Friday  
11:00 Bram Stoker's Dracula

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

12:15 Creative Vision  
12:30 Helen of Troy  
01:30 Scotland's Sin City  
02:30 Lost Worlds  
03:30 Dogfights Season 2  
04:30 Commercial Jets  
05:30 The Pirate Ships

06:30 Helen of Troy  
07:30 Seagulls Circles MCA

08:30 Ocean Liners  
09:30 1968 Mustang  
10:30 1975 Firebird  
11:30 Lost Worlds

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

11:30 Dangerous Encounters  
12:30 Hong Kong's Big Bang  
01:30 Machines Of War  
02:30 Shark Quest  
03:30 Garbage Mountain

04: