

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Film Screening

Title: 2nd Int'l Film Week '08  
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society (JSFS)  
Venue: Central Auditorium, JU  
Date: April 16-22  
April 17  
3:00pm Paris La Pyramide (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, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 21-23  
Time: 4pm onwards



### Solo Exhibition

Title: Cosmic Journey II  
Artist: Ali Imam  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
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 Jai 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 Azolin, 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 Schlessen; the mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak as his wife; the bass-baritone Alfred Walker as Parsi Rustumji, 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.

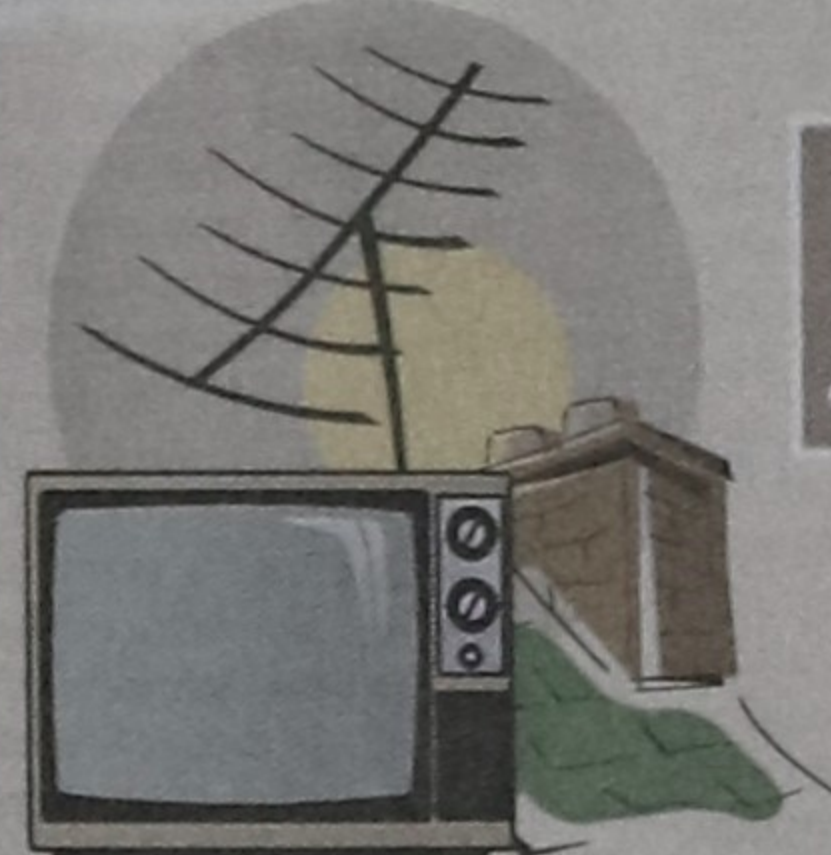
Source: The New York Times



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

### News Bulletin

**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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm, News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.  
**CHANNEL 1**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 12:30 am.  
**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 7:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm.  
News (English) at 6:00 pm.  
**Rtv**  
News (Bangla) at 10:15 pm, and 12:15 am.  
**ntv**  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 12:02 pm, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:00 am.  
**ETV**  
News (Bangla) 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

### BTV

08:20 Shuprobhaat  
08:45 Selected Programme  
09:05 Talk Show  
09:35 Smritimoy Geetimoy  
10:05 Educational Programme  
10:30 Lok Lokali  
10:55 Selected Programme  
11:30 Ongona  
12:05 Shomali Shondha  
12:30 Maa O Shishur Katha  
01:00 Dance Programme: Nritter Taley Taley  
01:30 Shukhi Poribar  
02:40 Documentary Programme  
03:00 Cartoon  
03:30 Musical Programme  
04:05 Apon Bhumi  
04:30 Musical Programme: Saangeeta  
05:05 Educational Programme: Sisimpur  
05:30 Udhid O Jibon  
06:15 Dharmo O Jibon  
07:00 Bol Potro  
07:30 Talk Show  
08:45 Drama: Khokar Jula  
10:30 Musical Programme: Gaan Guli Mor  
**CHANNEL-i**  
09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Grameenphone Trinitomatra  
11:05 Special Programme  
12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Tarokakathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Musical Programme: usical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma  
02:35 Selected Programme  
03:05 Hridoye Matr O Manusher Daak  
05:30 Mukhti Judhgo Protidin  
06:00 Talk Show: Ek Dui Teen  
06:30 Amar Chhobi  
07:50 Drama Serial: Aguner Alo  
08:20 Drama Serial: Rasta  
09:35 Drama Serial: Chhayabari  
10:00 Drama

### Channel-i Exclusive

12:00 Grameenphone Aikter Shongbadpotro  
**ETV**  
08:00 Aikter Potrikay  
08:30 Ekusher Shokaal  
09:15 Drama Serial: Tomtom  
10:30 Ekushay Business  
12:30 Ekushay Business: Special Focus of Business  
01:30 Ekushay 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 Ekusher Shondhya  
06:15 SMS Maria  
06:30 Desh Jurey  
07:45 Ekusher Chokh  
08:30 Drama Serial: Poribibi  
09:30 Musical Programme: Ta Na Na Na  
10:00 Ekusher Shomoy  
10:50 Financial Bulletin  
12:00 Ekusher Raat  
**Rtv**  
08:40 Musical Programme: Saanget Ongon  
09:00 Rtv Exclusive  
09:35 Travel Show: Prithibir Pathay Pathay  
10:03 Drama Serial: Anondojatra  
10:55 News Update  
11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntaak  
12:15 Talk Show: Drishikon  
12:35 Documentary Programme: Wedding of the World  
01:03 Gaanchil Ei Din  
01:30 Dhallywood Beats  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film Protidin  
06:00 Documentary Programme: Apon Shimay  
08:00 Drama Serial: Kala Koitor  
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 Aikter Shokaal  
08:55 Drama Serial: Eit Kach-er Khacha  
09:30 Bajor Ebong Bajao  
10:05 ntv Shamoeki  
10:30 Drama  
12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy  
01:05 Cartoon  
02:30 Drama Serial: Eit Kaancher 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 Gaitey Ichhchhey Halo  
08:15 Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal  
09:00 Glamour World  
09:45 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number  
11:35 Ei Shomoy  
**Ekla Pakhi**  
On Banglavisian at 9:45 pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Jayanta Chatyopadhyay



### BANGLAVISION

08:30 Street Show: Raat Biraley  
09:00 Media Bhubon  
09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura  
10:10 Agamir Kontho  
11:35 Nana Rang-er Dinguli  
**Radio Foorti 88.0 FM**  
07:00am Hello Dhaka  
11:00am Amar 88  
03:00pm Dhaka Calling  
07:00pm Seven Eleven  
12:00am Back to Back music  
**Radio Today 89.6 FM**  
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka  
11:00am Masti Unlimited  
1:00pm Todays Adda  
04:00pm U-tum  
08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok  
12:00am Today's Happy Moments  
12:10am Today's Dances Grooves  
2:00 am Back to Back  
**02:00** Drama Serial: Mohanagar  
**02:40** Cookery Show: Amader Ranna Ghar  
**03:05** Sports Vision  
**04:20** Musical Programme: Pran-er Gaan  
**05:30** Talk Show: Top Story  
**06:05** Citycell Din-er Sheshey  
**06:20** Children's Programme: Ichchchhey Ghuri  
**30 Rock**  
On Star World at 09:00 pm  
TV Series  
Cast: Alec Baldwin, Tina Fey  
**06:50** Musical Programme: Shur-er Bhubon  
**08:25** Drama Serial: Mohanagar  
**09:05** X Crime  
**09:45** Drama Serial: Ekla Pakhi  
**11:25** Musical Programme: Shudhu Gaan

12:00 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 Baari  
04:30 Paadmaraag  
05:15 Gollachhut  
06:00 Saag Bela  
07:00 Tagore Song  
08:15 Drama: Utshob  
09:30 The One  
11:00 Proshno Uttar  
**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 General Hospital  
05:00 Desperate Housewives  
06:00 King Of The Hill  
06:30 The Simpsons  
07:00 Rodney  
07:30 Friends  
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 Prithviraj Chauhan  
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
02:00 Bhabhi  
02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa  
03:00 Bidai  
06:30 Bidai  
07:00 Grihasti  
07:30 Sangam  
08:00 Santaan  
08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat  
09:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil  
09:30 Bidai  
10:00 Kasturi  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
**ZEE STUDIO**  
11:50 Glory

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 Seagrams 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  
04:30 I Didn't Know That  
05:00 Swimming With Cobras  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:30 Forest Crows  
06:30 Human Age  
07:30 A Life With Bears  
08:30 Megastructures  
09:30 Ancient Megastructures  
10:30 North Sea Wall  
11:30 Megastructures  
**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
11:30 Haunting  
12:30 Baby Story  
01:00 Finest Hotels In The World  
01:30 In Search Of Manesater  
03:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive  
04:30 Natural World  
05:30 Extreme Engineering  
06:30 Speed Science  
07:30 Bull Shark  
08:30 Wild Nights  
09:30 Planet Earth  
10:30 Weapon Masters  
**AXN**  
01:00 Pirate Master  
02:30 Whacked Out Sports (Season 2)  
06:30 The Amazing Race: All-Stars  
07:30 The 4400 (Season 2)  
08:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! (Season 4)  
09:30 Magic Asia: India  
10:00 Ultimate Guinness World Records  
10:30 So You Think You Can Dance (Season 2)  
11:30 House (Season 3)