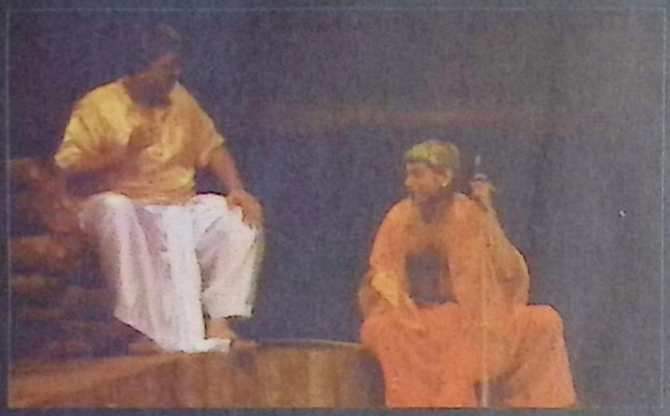
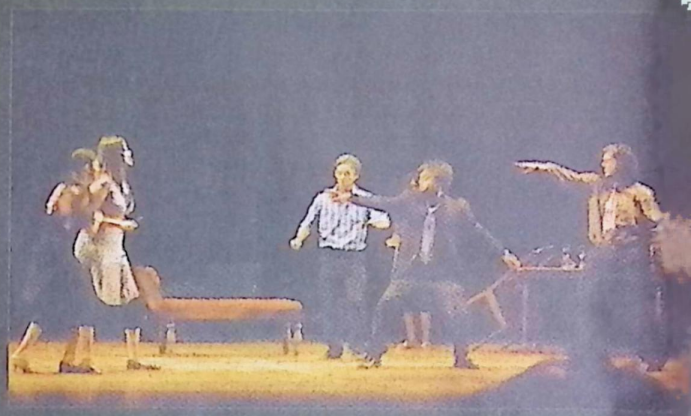




Eight Days of Imagination The Inter University Drama Festival

Aditi Ahmed

THEATRE means indulging oneself into the figments of the powers of the mind, both physically and mentally, and one can enjoy the happiness of placing themselves center-stage and wait for the curtains to lift to display to the world the antics of a latent personality that co-exists with the character portrayed. In celebration of this art, Independent University Bangladesh, in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, organized the Inter University Drama Festival from April 12th to the 24th. The festival, which was in memorial of the celebrated dramatist and teacher, the magnanimous late Selim Al Deen, was inaugurated with a glamorous opening with a heartfelt speech by the playwright's widow, Begum Zadi Mehrunnessa. This was followed by an oration by the renowned theatre activist, Ramendra Majumder who was the chief guest of the ceremony. The President of Bangladesh Theatre, M. Hamid, was the special guest. Jahangirnagar University's depiction of Selim Al Deen's mythical allegory *Shakuntala* was preceded by speeches from Dr. G. M. Shahidul Alam, Chief Patron of IUB Theatre, Shafi Kamal, Director of Dramatics Department of Shilpakala Academy and Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, Director General of Shilpakala Academy. The opening, apart from its hype and glamour, displayed an ample amount of flair amongst the performers of the play, which had a special connotation due to the event being held in memoriam of the extraordinary playwright.

The following days graced the stage with performances by East West University's comedic representation of Anton Chekov's *Proposal*, American International University Bangladesh's *Kanjush, Bhoddonnok* by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Independent University Bangladesh's *All This Madness*, the only English play in the festival under the awe-inspiring direction of Dr. G. M. Shahidul Alam, Yuzo Makamoto's sensational adaptation of the historical play *Eksho Bosta Chaal* by participants from Shilpakala Academy and directed by Golam Sarwar, Deputy Director of Dramatics of the academy, Al Masud's illustration on social realism *Padma Paarer Manush* by Primeasia University, and on the final day, Independent University Bangladesh's stunning representation of a skit from Michael Madhushudhan Dutta's *Buro Shaaliker Ghore Row* directed by theatre activist and lecturer, Samina Lutfah.

The festival was sponsored by Jarwa House and co-sponsored by D'damas and SME Corporation. Radio Foorti endowed the events with constant coverage, and the designs of the vibrant posters, tickets and brochures were done by the skillful hands at Stamford University English