

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Film: War and Peace (I, II)

Director: Sergei Bondarchuk

Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi

Date: September 21

Time: 3pm onwards

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Searching Our Roots

Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka

Venue: Gallery, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Date: September 5-18

Time: 9am-12am and 4pm-8pm (Only 4pm-8pm on Saturdays)

Film Screening

Title: Importance of Wim Wenders: A Retrospective

Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi

Date: September 15-17

Time: 2pm onwards

Exhibition

Title: Eid o Aamar Swopnobhumi

Organiser: Nitya Upahar

Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag

Date: September 5-30

Time: 10am-8pm

Profile

Zahir: A painter with panache



Md. Zahiruddin

FAYZA HAQ

Md. Zahiruddin amazed his viewers with his splendid and inimitable paintings on the Sunderbans in the recent past at Chittrak Jivial, never giving in to pretentiousness, he speaks softly and carefully on his paintings, sipping evening coffee at Dhanmandi. He quotes from songs, which he can sing adlib in his gentle, husky voice, elaborating on his inspirations for his paintings of numerous mediums. Modern artists have taken their inspiration from music, books, flora, fauna, and what have you, in their overwhelming metropolis existence. Zahir is no exception. With his quicksilver wit and repartee, he elaborates on his styles and themes.

Zahir, who expresses his thoughts, feelings, memories and emotions in paints, rather than anything else, did his Masters (Painting) in 1990 from the IFA, (DU). He juxtaposes man against nature in the different seasons of the year. "Man is a gem placed in nature and so he too is reflected in my work. The birds, bees, flowers and fauna are netted in my work. When presenting man, the environ-

ment is included in my focus. If you simply place cows next to the paddy fields and streams, along with the beaten gold sky, this creates an idyll. A quickly sketched-in farmers, fishermen and their wives add more interest and lustre.

His feelings are far from merely pictorial. He includes the joie de vivre of his childhood in his uncle's home in Bikrampur. The scintillating vermilion creepers and hedges on the sides of the pond with their gray waves have been incorporated in his work. Even the emerald slime by the pond lends fascination and inspiration. In his eternally optimistic vision, he feels that the problems faced in city life, with the traffic jams and frequent power cuts too have a beauty of their own, if one should seek for peace and harmony. "There are variations in beauty. It is the vision that lends the difference. I'm a contented man with a positive outlook," Zahir says.

Asked to elaborate on his style and theme, he elaborates, "I'm influenced by the water-colour of Rafiqun Nabi. I don't copy, but my forms and washes are inspired by his works. I admire Shaheed Kabir (of Spain fame), along with that of my compatriot, Ahmed Nazir. In landscapes, I am fascinated by the works of Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal and Alokesh Ghosh." From the western world, his pick of painters include Andrew Wyeth (who does landscapes in water-colour), based in NY. Miro has also had an enormous impact on Zahir's choice of colour, line and space.

Works by the artist.



Sara Zaker directs "Eid Vacation"



Sara Zaker (right) goes over a scene with actors Subarna Mustafa (2nd from left), Mirana Zaman and Asaduzzaman Noor.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted actor Sara Zaker has written and directed a single-episode play for the coming Eid. Produced under the banner of Ddhoni-Chitra Ltd, the play, *Eid Vacation*, follows holiday celebrations of a family involved in the media.

The first days of Ramadan: the members of the family are busy with the shooting for upcoming Eid-special projects. Shopping and other preparations for Eid are also underway. One day during iftar, the son suggests a family trip to Bhutan during the Eid vacation. But problem arises when the daughter asks who will take care of the grandmother.

The cast of the play includes Asaduzzaman Noor, Subarna Mustafa, Eresh Zaker and Mirana Zaman. Sara Zaker will be seen in a special role.

*Eid Vacation* will be aired on the first day of Eid-ul-Fitr at 8:15 pm on Ekushey Television.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged their 14th production *Raja...Ebong Annanyo (King of the Dark Chamber...and Others)* on September 12 at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the production is a contemporary, experimental theatrical presentation of the classic Tagore play *Raja* (1910).

Theatre Institute Chittagong pays tribute to Zia Hyder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers expressed the view that playwright Zia Hyder worked towards the development of the society with his creative writings in different branches of literature like poetry and drama.

A discussion was arranged to pay tribute to the late poet-dramatist-director-teacher Professor Zia Hyder on Friday here. Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) organised the discussion at its auditorium.

Local theatre activists, artistes, litterateurs, Professor Hyder's colleagues and students paid tribute to the late playwright with wreaths.

Artiste Shila Momen performed two songs prior to the discussion.

Speaking at the discussion, noted social scientist Dr Anupam Sen focused on the remarkable contributions of Zia Hyder to the development of theatre in the country.

After forming Nagarik Natya Sampradaya in the 1960s in Dhaka, Hyder joined the Fine Arts Department in Chittagong University and played a pioneering role in launching the Drama branch at the University. Professor Hyder also prepared the syllabus for the course, Dr Sen said.

Though the branch could not be run unfortunately, Zia Hyder would always be remembered for his efforts, said Dr Sen.

Poet Abul Momen said that the practice of freethinking that was started by the then Bengali Muslim society in 1920s is now diminishing. The non-communal practices have now been confined to some special occasions like February 21 or Pahela Baishakh.

Momen said that Zia Hyder maintained these practices in his family and that was his achievement.

Litterateur Rashid Hyder, younger brother of Zia Hyder, said that the late playwright enlightened and educated their family. "Our family, in Pabna, had wealth but lacked education," he said. "He was an optimist and worked tirelessly," added a visibly moved Rashid Hyder.

Professor Kazi Mostain Billah, English Department, CU, said the realm of theatre met an irreparable loss with the death of Professor Hyder. Poems of Zia Hyder were expressions of the complex contemporary times and people, he said.

TIC Director, Ahmed Iqbal Haider conducted the discussion.

Dr Anupam Sen speaks at the memorial programme.




PHOTO: STAR

Film goes back to the future with 3D

CNN, London

In the future, viewing the world through rose-tinted glasses may not just be the prerogative of the naive.

Movie audiences will soon find themselves donning a pair of 3D glasses that will enable them to see animation films in higher definition.

But these aren't like the ordinary red and green cardboard glasses of old.

3D experience provider RealD, for example, has already begun production of very hi-tech lightweight 3D specs that look just like a pair of sunglasses.

Since Disney released "Chicken Little" entirely in 3D in 2005, the number of Tinseltown's biggest studios and directors making 3D animation films has risen significantly.

Also, the success of "Hannah Montana" & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour," released this year in 3D, has only served to increase Hollywood's appetite for the technology.

"Kung Fu Panda," another one of this year's biggest hits got a huge thumbs up during a 3D screening at an industry event.

DreamWorks, the studio behind the animated film, has said that come 2009, most of its animated movies will be produced in the third dimension.

Directors James Cameron and Peter Jackson also have climbed aboard the 3D bandwagon -- Cameron's "Avatar" is due out in 2009, while Jackson will produce "The Hobbit," with Guillermo del Toro directing.

Techno pundits and industry experts at the Intel Developer Forum (IDF), held in August were hailing 3D films as the next big thing.

At the forum, CEO of DreamWorks Jeffery Katzenberg, said 3D filmmaking was the "greatest innovation to occur in the movie business in 70 years."

So, what's all the fuss about? And for those who remember 3D the first time around, is it really anything to get excited about?


For animation, it will be an important part. Companies like DreamWorks finally feel that technology is advanced enough to make it viable to make films from scratch in 3D.

"I was in the crowd at IDF and even sitting near the back in a room filled with thousands of people, the clip Katzenberg showed of 'Kung Fu Panda' in 3D was pretty amazing. It looked great, but the new 'Monsters vs Aliens' film trailer banking on the technology to lure back moviegoers to the cinema screens as they shun it for computerscreens.

As the options for bringing movies over the Internet into the living room grow bigger with devices like Apple TV, Vudu, Roku and the Xbox 360, consumers will watch movies more and more using sites (like Netflix) downloading films to desktops."

Experts say that eventually the

"Kung Fu Panda" producer DreamWorks will make all its animation in 3D from 2009.



For RealD CEO Michael Lewis, likening the new-generation 3D to its old counterpart is like "comparing the space shuttle with the Wright brothers."

MG Siegler, who writes on technology and digital media for California-based "Venture Beat," believes we will be able to live the experience. He is impressed with what Katzenberg had to show at IDF and believes 3D is here to stay.

Siegler, who is also behind Elite Tech on Reddit, told CNN: "I think they showed off looked arguably better."

Siegler believes that the technology could advance so much over the next 10 years that glasses will not even be required to view 3D elements onscreen.

But not all films will get the 3D treatment in future, just as only a few blockbusters, like "The Dark Knight," get the IMAX treatment, largely because of the high production costs, he argues.

The film industry is clearly

"Saturday Night Live" recalls Tina Fey to play Sarah Palin



Sarah Palin



Tina Fey

Live, from New York, it's Tina Fey as Sarah Palin.

Fey, the former "Saturday Night Live" cast member and head writer, has agreed to return to the series to play the Republican vice presidential candidate.

This season will also include an appearance by Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama and Olympic swimming star Michael Phelps as guest host.

Buzz about Fey playing Palin surfaced almost immediately after the Alaska governor was tapped to be Sen. John McCain's running mate because of similarities in their looks.

"SNL" executive producer Lorne Michaels said he was trying to get Maya Rudolph to return to play Michelle Obama.

Source: Internet