

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

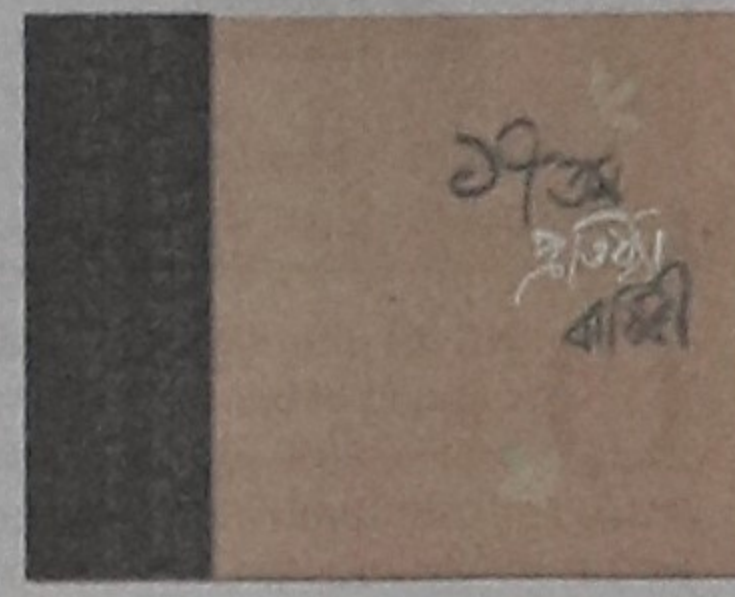
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
**Abdur Razaque Retrospective**  
 Title: Rhythms of Figures, Forms and Nature  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 10-29  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**13th Asian Art Biennale '08**  
 Organizer: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum  
 Date: October 21-November 19  
 Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-8pm)



**17th Anniversary Programme**  
 of Sangskriti Bikash Kendra  
 Venue: SBK premises  
 Date: October 23-25  
 Inauguration: 4:05pm (today)



**Theatre**  
 Play: Dakghar  
 Troupe: Palakar  
 Venue: Palakar Studio, 133/3, Natok Swarani  
 Date: October 23-24  
 Time: 6:30pm



## Tête-à-tête

### Behind the Scene: Tropa Majumdar



Tropa Majumdar

*Tropa Majumdar, balances her time between working as the creative director at a reputable ad agency and performing on stage and TV. Coming from a family that has made immense contributions to our contemporary culture, Tropa has made a mark in plays such as "Madhobi", "Meraj Fakirer Ma" and "Sporaha". A look at Tropa behind-the-scene.*

**TDS:** With well-known actors as parents (Ramendu and Ferdousi Majumdar) was it easy to set foot in the media?

**Tropa:** It was harder than one might imagine! Far from being a piece of cake! I had to convince two parties for any role -- the director and my parents. There were times when my parents didn't allow me to play certain roles simply because they thought people might think that I'm getting an extra edge not because of my merit but because of my family's "influence."

**TDS:** How do you balance your time between office, theatre and TV?

**Tropa:** That's easy, I work on a very limited number of TV plays, that too, if the shooting takes place on weekends. As for theatre, the rehearsals are held mostly in the evenings when I'm usually free. I dub for TV commercials every now and then as well. However, I am more into creative direction and I enjoy every bit of it.

**TDS:** What is the most outrageous thing you have done so far?

**Tropa:** Outrageous is probably the last adjective I would use to describe myself! During my Bachelors and Masters exams, I had to burn the midnight oil to make sure I didn't fail. It came as a shock when I learnt that I had secured a first class in both and had topped the list in Masters from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism.

**TDS:** The real Tropa is...

**Tropa:** I'm basically a nervous wreck and an introvert. To some extent, I'm a perfectionist. I even worry how my co-artists would perform on stage and other trivialities. I think my directors would have a fit if they knew how many times, minutes before taking the stage, I had thought of quitting!

**TDS:** Memorable goof-up during a play?

**Tropa:** During stage plays, giggling is regular; nothing unusual about it. But during the staging of "Antigone," my co-actor Khairul Anam Shobuj totally forgot his lines and looked blankly at me. It was a 45-minute dialogue and we were standing very close to the audience.

It seemed that time stood still as he was struggling to remember his lines. After a while I heard him faintly say in a pure Barisal dialect, "kissu hoibo na, kaw." (Just say the lines). Amidst pin drop silence even the viewers could hear him. I uttered a few lines and he was back on track.

**TDS:** Are you selective about the characters you play?

**Tropa:** Very much so. Even with so many TV channels, we don't have enough scopes to do quality work. I feel that our predecessors were more fortunate. There were fewer plays and only one channel. Quality was the prerequisite. Now because of over-exposure, the audience hardly remembers a certain TV character.

**TDS:** Dreams ahead...

**Tropa:** I live in the present. I like to take into my stride what comes naturally.

## 13th Asian Art Biennale '08

### Budoor Al Riyami and her Grand Prize winning video installation

ERSHAD KAMOL

A video installation titled "The Peak of Burning" by Budoor Al Riyami (Oman) is one of the very few artworks employing modern technologies on display at the 13th Asian Art Biennale '08. For her innovative work Riyami has won a Grand Prize.

Incidentally this is her first Grand Prize at an international biennale, though she has participated in many biennales and triennals.

"The Peak of Burning" shows the back of a man projected on the screen made of white T-shirts. As soon as the clip begins, Arabic words in different dimensions appear on the man's back. After a while a hand with a piece of cloth emerges and covers the words with blood. The clip ends with the back of the man all bloody, with a mourning sound effect.

"I have tried to feature the ongoing crisis in a chaotic world. War is going on in many parts of the world, not for any noble cause but for the political and business interests. Humanity, peace and rationality are under constant threat," said Budoor Al Riyami.

On winning the Grand Prize, Riyami said, "It's exhilarating to win the Grand Prize, competing with so many works of high calibre. I heard positive things about this biennale and even met some Bangladeshi artists at other international exhibitions in Sharjah and Dubai. This award will encourage me to do even better."

A graduate from Sultan Qaboos University Muscat, Oman, Riyami also works in other mediums such as painting and sculpture. But currently she prefers video installation to other mediums. Talking about working with high tech mediums Riyami said, "In



Budoor Al Riyami, with her Installation.

the Stone Age man used to draw on stone. Then why shouldn't we use modern technologies when science has developed?"

On her approach to art, Riyami said that she tries to stir the viewers' sensibilities with her works. In her words, "The viewers should be allowed some space so that they can interpret art in their own ways. As an artist I can give them some clues on any particular issue. But they should decide how to react."

On her upcoming project, Riyami said that she was planning to make a video installation on Dhaka. She said, "This city is full of contrasts, which is quite interesting. I believe I can make a good video installation on Dhaka, which is very different from Muscat."

On the current art scenario in Oman, Riyami informed that there are several art institutes in Oman and a remarkable number of artists including over 60 female artists.

## "Lux Channel i Performance Award '08" to be held in Sharjah



Faridur Reza Sagar (L) speaks at the press conference.

The Lux Channel i Performance Award 2008 will be held with glitz and glamour. The star-studded affair will take place in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on November 14, says a press release.

A press conference was held recently to update the media on the preparation for the award giving ceremony. Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i; Naushad Karim Chowdhury, brand and development director of Uniliver Bangladesh and Abdul Mukit Majumdar, director of Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i were present at the conference. Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel, event director of "Lux Channel i Performance Award," provided a briefing on the event.

A group of 65 celebrities will attend the event, which will be held at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Channel i will telecast the event live on November 14 at 7pm.

Awards will be given in 19 categories this year. Three in each category have been nominated on the basis of their performances. The winner will be selected by text messages from the audience. A major attraction of the event are live performances by celebrities.

## Drama serial "Mando Bhalo Sada Kalo" ends tonight on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The last episode of drama serial "Mando Bhalo Sada Kalo" will be aired tonight on Banglavisision at 9:45 pm. Written by Hafiz Redu, the serial has been directed by Belal Ahmed.

Set in a village, the story of the serial begins with the murder of a village vendor named Araz Ali. But he was not the original target of the murderer; Hasan Master, admired by the villagers, was. No one knows the motive behind this evil act or who is behind it. Right after the incident, a mysterious saint (Sadhu baba) like figure appears in the village and sets up his business. The serial moves on with some other puzzling incidents and finally ends through a resolution of those mysteries.

Anisur Rahman Milon, Tushar Khan, Dr. Enamul Haque, Joyraj, Homaira Himu and others play major roles in the serial.



Dr. Enamul Haque (L) and co-artist in the TV serial.

## Edward Norton finds "Pride and Glory"

Well before Edward Norton shot this past summer's hit "The Incredible Hulk," and months before Colin Farrell shot last winter's "In Bruges," the duo starred in the New York police drama "Pride and Glory." A victim of New Line Cinema's absorption into parent company Warner Bros., "Glory" is finally getting released this month.

Directed by Gavin O'Connor ("Miracle"), "Glory" centres on Ray Tierney, an NYPD detective (Norton) who discovers unethical behaviour by his brother-in-law (Farrell), also a city cop. How Tierney handles the corruption ends up not only affecting his immediate family members (who are all on the force), but also the entire police department. Norton says it was the slow reveal of his character in the screenplay that drew him to the project.

"One of the things I noted when I read it was for a long time you learn more about him from other people talking about him than from the things he says. It's just very mysterious," Norton says. "I found myself reading along and going, 'Huh? I wonder what the deal is with this guy.' That's unusual sometimes in a script because a lot of times people will telegraph, you know, make sure you understand the character."

A selection at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, "Pride" left many critics disheartened because its take on the crime genre wasn't anything new. But Norton clearly disagrees.

"Sometimes people talk about genre as though that's a simplistic thing or a bad thing, but I think we go back again and again because there's something in it that we're fascinated by," Norton says. "The way Gavin and Joe Carranahan had structured this in the script, I look at it and I feel like this has questions in it."

On a different note, Norton has been out of sight most of the year working on a documentary chronicling Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

"We're making a historical record, not something to play a role in the election, and so we have an agreement that this is something that we won't talk a lot about or really publicise until the election is over," Norton says sheepishly. "But it's a fascinating thing to be able to document, and I think we'll definitely have an opportunity to talk about that process and how it unfolded when it's all over, but we kind of have to stay off the record until it's all resolved."

Source: Internet

## Eminem resurfaces in new role: Memoirist

Four years ago, Eminem, one of the best-selling rappers in history, released his last album of original material, "Encore," and then essentially disappeared. The years since have been pockmarked with personal struggles. He entered rehab in 2005 for a dependency on sleep medication. In 2006 he remarried, and then divorced, his ex-wife, Kim Scott, the subject of many of his most vitriolic songs. And that same year his closest friend, the rapper Proof, was killed in a shooting at a Detroit nightclub.

In his new book, "The Way I Am," Eminem hopes to set the record straight. "I'm really just a normal guy. You can ask my neighbours," he writes in the book. "I ride a bike. I walk the dog. I mow my lawn. I'm out there every Sunday, talking to myself, mowing the lawn with a chainsaw."

Well, one out of three isn't bad. "I do ride my bike. I don't have a dog. I don't mow my lawn," Eminem, 36, admitted in an interview. But otherwise he's been living the life of a suburban father, taking care of three girls: Hailie, his daughter with Kim; Alaina, his niece; and Whitney, Kim's daughter from another relationship.

And now Eminem, born Marshall Mathers, is tentatively re-entering public life with his book, published by Dutton. Part autobiography, part photo gallery, part ephemera collection, it's a handsome mid-career (and mid-life) roundup for an artist who has been notoriously reluctant to discuss his personal life any place but in his music.

Originally intended to be a scrapbook for his fans, Eminem said, the book grew to include large chunks of first-person narratives culled from interviews with the journalist Sacha Jenkins, and presented in a conversational style. "Rap is one big Fantasy Island," Eminem writes. "It's the place I always retreat to when things get too hectic in real time."

In a section about his family and upbringing, he's disarmingly frank. "If you go back and look at the abuse that I took, it's no surprise I became who I am. Someone I don't really want to be."

Jenkins said: "I think Em has an appeal that's very everyman. That's his natural voice in the book." He added: "The guy has been out of the mix and not interacting with a lot of people, let alone a writer. But this was an opportunity for him to get a lot of stuff off his chest, especially in the wake of the death of his best friend."

In fact Eminem's memories of how Proof toughened him up as a young man are among the most vivid passages in "The Way I Am." "As difficult as it was to talk about, I had to," Eminem said. He also writes of how much his retreat from public life had to do with Proof's death: "After he passed, it was a year before I could really do anything normally again. It was tough for me to even get out of bed, and I had days when I couldn't walk, let alone write a rhyme. When I tried to put my thoughts together -- well, I wasn't making sense when I spoke, so every-one was trying to keep me off TV and away from the press."

But while Eminem discusses some personal topics in the book -- fatherhood gets especially lengthy treatment ("Being a dad makes me feel powerful in a way that I hadn't known before, and it's the kind of power I don't want to abuse") -- he almost completely avoids other, more familiar subjects, like his exceedingly public battles with his ex-wife and his mother, Debbie. (Next month Eminem's mother will release a memoir, "My Son Marshall, My Son Eminem.")

"Everyone already knows how I feel about those situations," Eminem said. "I don't want to keep putting Kim and the kids in everything that I do, stuff where it's not necessary." The book, he said, is "more about Eminem and less about Marshall."

And so it's the career artefacts, especially the handwritten lyrics that receive place of privilege. For years Eminem would scribble down snatches of lyrics on whatever piece of paper was available -- spiral notebooks, hotel memo pads -- and carry them around in a backpack. When he wanted to put together a song, he'd riffle through the sheets, pick out some lines that might go together and head into the studio.

More than two dozen of the sheets are reproduced in the book, and they're impressive in both content and appearance -- lyrics scrawled at odd angles, in different ink colours, at lengths varying from a few words to complete verses. A few of them -- ones that include lyrics from his hits "My Name Is," "Stan" and "Lose Yourself" -- are on perforated pages so that they can be easily removed.

In an era when stars like Jay-Z famously do not write down their rhymes, instead constructing them in their head and committing them to memory, "The Way I Am" is a celebration of a sort of artisanal approach to rhyme.

Eminem appears ready to return to the world of music now. He has been recording with Dr. Dre, with whom he has made his biggest hits, working on songs for his next album, to be called "Relapse." (There are rumours that the album will be released by Interscope before year's end, but there has been no official word yet.)

Source: The New York Times