

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Lecture

Topic: Mahabanaspatir Padabali
Lecturer: Nawazesh Ahmed
Venue: Chhayana Sangskriti Bhaban
Date: November 1
Time: 7pm



Theatre Festival

Celebrating 30th anniversary of Subachan Natya Sangsad
November 1
Play: Khandani Kissa
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Time: 6:30pm



13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum
Date: October 21-November 19
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-6pm)



Group Art Exhibition

Artists: Mahmudur Rahman Dipon, Shahraz Sultana and Aowlad Hossain
Organiser: Kamranga
Venue: Kamranga, H 30, Rd 42, Gulshan 2
Date: October 25-November 1
Time: 10am-7pm



Subachan Natya Sangsad celebrates 30th anniversary

Theatre festival at Shilpakala

NADIA SARWAT

At a corner of the National Theatre Stage, members of Subachan Natya Sangsad were humming a classical based tune, while actor-musician Ahsan Habib Nasim started reciting a message on behalf of the troupe on their 30th anniversary. A collective sound of conches followed. At another corner, Subachan members lighted thirty candles. Subachan Natya Sangsad started their 30th anniversary celebration on October 30 at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). A three-day theatre festival, on the occasion, features popular productions of Subachan.

Subachan started its journey in 1977 with a group of young theatre enthusiasts. During the last three decades, none of them remained in the troupe but Subachan has become a platform for young theatre activists. Subachan has produced over 30 theatre productions, providing opportunities for more than 500 theatre artists to work with the troupe at different times. With the slogan "Krishnopakker Meghey Meghey Krishnochura Bristi," the theatre festival features plays --



The honoured theatre personalities at the programme (top). A scene from "Rupoboti."

"Rupoboti," "Khudhito Pashan" and "Khandani Kissa."

Noted theatre personality and president of ITI, Ramendu Majumdar, inaugurated the event. Subachan Natya Sangsad conferred "uttoriyo" to 30 eminent theatre personalities of the country who have made significant contributions to the medium. Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Ataur Rahman, M hamid, Niranjan

Adhikari, Golam Kuddus, Jhuna Choudhury, Shimul Yousuf, Lucky Inam, Rokeya Rafique Baby, Mannan Hira, Nader Chowdhury, Mujibur Rahman Dilu, Mahmud Sajjad and others were among the ones honoured. Ahmed Gias, convener of Subachan Natya Sangsad delivered the welcome speech. Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, M hamid, Golam Kuddus, and Nader Choudhury spoke at the event.

The inauguration programme ended with a dance performance with the song "O Alor Potho Jatri."

On the first day of the theatre festival, Subachan's 29th production, "Rupoboti" was staged. Written by Nasreen Jahan, the play is directed by Khaled Khan. "Rupoboti" is a symbolic play, depicting the plight of a flutist, who sets out to find the killer of his beautiful and loving wife Rupoboti. Abject poverty in the form of hunger was the only obstacle between the lovers. The flutist could only hope for some miracle to satisfy the hunger, as art does not earn enough money. This naivete of the young artist paved the way for a wicked magician to overpower Rupoboti. When Rupaboti is killed brutally, the flutist leaves the village to avenge her. After many years, he returns. The question still remains -- who killed Rupoboti? The question seems to address the entire society, which, in a way, sustains the conflict between art and a life filled with opportunities.

The cast included Sonia Hasan Subarna (as Rupaboti), Mehedi Hasan Shohag (Flutist) and Asadul Islam Asad (Magician). Based on a short story by Tagore, the play "Khudhito Pashan" was staged yesterday. The festival will end today with "Khandani Kissa."



Radio Today celebrates 2nd anniversary with a concert

JAMIL MAHMUD

The first private FM radio station of the country, Radio Today, celebrates its second anniversary this year. On this occasion, a concert was held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) on October 30. Popular band LRB, and artists Balam and Tishma performed at the concert.

The gig started with Balam's performance. Balam, a former member of the rock band Warfaze, started with "Brishti jhori." One after another Balam rendered his popular songs including "Tomar jonno," "Prem shikari" and "Prem jamunar matahridoy." Balam also sang a duet with his sister Julie. The song, "Priyatameshu," is from the soundtrack of the upcoming Morshedul Islam film with the same title. However, during Balam's per-

formance, the sound system seemed to have glitches and it was hard to follow the songs from the back rows.

Vivacious pop singer Tishma sang "Ichchheygulo chhowa jaye" and "Mon-er-pashey."

A troupe, promoting the Mojo brand, performed in between Balam and Tishma. The troupe did a cover of the Winning song "Ichchhey korey." Mojo was the sponsor of the event.

LRB took the stage after Tishma and started with "Shudhu tomar jonno." "Neel nayona" was the next. The audience seemed unmoved to LRB's less familiar songs and it was not until the old and hugely popular numbers like "Hashhey dekho gaithey dekho," that they started cheering.

LRB rendered several of its oldies including "Ural debo akashey," "Gotokaal raatey" and



Ayub Bachchu and LRB perform at the concert.

"Sheitumi." RJs of Radio Today, Neerob and Nawshin, were the MCs of the event. Channel i, daily Samakal and entertainment magazine Ice Today were the media partners of the event.

Special screening of "Celebrating Life' 08" films

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Short Film Forum is organising a short film festival at the Bangladesh Film Centre Auditorium starting from today. The four award-winning films of the "Celebrating Life '08" contest would be screened at the festival. The screening is open to all. The "Celebrating Life" contest aimed at bringing to light the talents in our country. After the screening, the filmmakers will express their

views on filmmaking.

The films to be screened are: "Ural Mon-er Ghuri" (the best documentary by Luthfun Nahar Mousumi), "Illias-er Khoari" (best documentary by Shibu Kumar Shill), "Knowing Bangladesh Better" (best debut documentary by Adnan MS Fakir) and "Bicycle-er Shohor" (best fiction film by Abdullah Mohd. Saad).

The film screening will be held at the Film Centre Auditorium, Aziz Cooperative Market, Shabbagh at 5:30 every evening.



A scene from "Bicycle-er Shohor"

Grand finale of "Magic Tin Chakar Taroka" on ATN Bangla



Omar Ali (left), the "Tin Chakar Taroka" with Asaduzzaman Noor.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The grand finale of "Magic Tin Chakar Taroka" will be aired tonight at 7:45pm on ATN Bangla. Directed by Munni Saha, the programme will highlight the award giving ceremony and colourful cultural programme that was held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre recently.

At the programme, Omar Ali, a rickshaw-wallah in his fifties, won the title. Mokhlesur Rahman and Abdur Rahman Khokon were declared the first and second runner up respectively.

The cultural programme highlights solo performances by the finalists alongside eminent artists.

Faisal, one of the top ten contestants, performed the popular song "Aamar buker moddhekaney" with noted Nazrul singer Ferdous Ara. Mohammad Rakib Hossain, Mohammad Shohag, Hamidul Islam and Anwar Hossain performed with Abida Sultana, Subir Nandi, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar and Kanak Chapa respectively.

Guest judge of the show, noted folk singer Momtaz, also performed at the finale. Noted media personality Asaduzzaman Noor hosted the show.

Voices of others: Films about Israeli Arabs

When Carole Zabar planted herself at a folding table this weekend outside Zabar's, her family's Upper West Side establishment, it wasn't to hawk the lox.

She wanted to promote her pet project and consuming passion for the past few years: the Other Israel Film Festival, running November 6 to 13 at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan.

The festival is not to be confused with the 23rd Israel Film Festival, which is running at the Ziegfeld Theater in Manhattan and runs through November 13 at the Clearview Cinema, on Broadway. Zabar's festival, in its second year, focuses specifically on the experience of Israeli Arabs, which makes it somewhat less mainstream and certainly more of a hard sell to its core audience, New York Jews.

So it was not surprising that a

man who stopped in front of Zabar's, saying he was a Holocaust survivor, reacted with such hostility to the festival's concept. "What are you doing this for?" he demanded. "Why do you care about Arabs? You should care about Jews."

The criticism doesn't faze Zabar, a dynamic 66-year-old woman. She started the festival, she said, because she believed that Israeli Arabs deserved to be better understood.

"I want people to see Israeli Arabs as human beings," she said. "Not just as human beings -- as citizens that contribute to the vibrancy, the cultural life of Israel."

Because of this emphasis -- and to avoid some of the contentiousness that comes with Middle Eastern matters -- the festival has avoided overtly political films.

Instead it features material reflecting the daily lives of Israeli Arabs, like "Arab Labor," a series about an Arab journalist working for a Jewish newspaper; "Lady Kul el-Arab," about a young woman hoping to be the first Druze Miss Israel; and "Bridge Over the Wadi," which chronicles the first fraught year of a school for Arabs and Jews. All screenings conclude with panel discussions.

To form the festival Zabar collaborated with Mohammad Bakri, an Israeli Arab movie actor and director who has generated his own share of controversy. Bakri's film "Jenin, Jenin," a documentary about the Israeli Army's retaliatory strike on a West Bank refugee camp where scores of Palestinians and Israelis were killed in 2002, was originally banned by the Israeli film board. In 2004 the High Court

of Israel overturned the ban, but called the film a "propagandistic lie."

Through working on the festival, Bakri and Zabar have developed a close friendship. Zabar has visited him about five times and come to know his whole family.

"He's given me a window on Arab-Israeli life," she said.

Bakri, in turn, stays with Zabar when he visits New York. "She is a very courageous woman and a great dreamer," he said. "God bless her for what she's doing for nothing, just for her soul."

Zabar could be enjoying a more retiring life as the wife of Saul Zabar, who, with his brother Stanley, owns Zabar's, a New York institution of smoked fish, coffee and cookware. A mother of three, she has already had several careers: photographer, family-court prosecutor (she began law school at 49) and portrait painter. She has run five marathons (one in three hours and 45 minutes). Zabar, who was educated in Israel, visits there three times a year and speaks Hebrew fluently.

"The point is not, will everybody agree with these films," she said. "The point is, will people grow from their experience?"

Ultimately, Zabar said she most wanted to change the attitude among many Jews that Arabs are "the enemy, that they want to push the Jews into the sea."

"They see Israeli Arabs as a threat," she said. "When you see somebody as a threat, you stop seeing them. All you think about is defending yourself."

Source: The New York Times



Carole Zabar (left) talking up the Other Israel Film Festival.

"Amar Bangladesh": Highlighting views of the young

"Amar Bangladesh" is a new TV show that focuses on the youngsters -- their thoughts, attitude, priorities, aspirations and concerns. The programme goes on air today at 6:00 pm on Channel-i, says a press release.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), with financial support of the British High Commission in Bangladesh and technical assistance of Green Planet Communications Ltd, has produced the second phase of this discussion programme after successful airing of its first phase last year.

This weekly programme has been designed on the basis of the findings of a research involv-

ing young people from different social sections. Eight different issues were placed for discussion in the initial episodes.

Professor Syed Munir Khasru anchors the show. Two panelists are present on each episode to facilitate the discussion.

The issues highlighted on the show are: family and friends; gender disparity; unemployment and career choices; democracy and politics; values of mainstream Bangladeshis and the young Bangladeshi Diaspora; culture, fashion and trends; youth and extremism and journey towards 2015.

The show will be aired every Saturday.



Syed Munir Khasru (left) hosts the show.

Showtime: 10:50am || 1:40pm || 4:25pm || 7:15pm

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