

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Art Exhibition

Title: 18th National Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: May 24-June 7
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



Theatre

Play: Amputation
Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 31 & June 1
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Appointment
2009
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 28-June 12
Time: 12-8pm



Reception

To the cast and crew of the film 'Monpara'
Organiser: Chalachchil-tram Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: May 31
Time: 6pm



Swaying and headbanging with Habib and Fuzön

KARIM WAHEED

May 29: The concert kicked off on a laid back note. As composer-musician extraordinaire Habib declared, the mood was romantic, and it doesn't get mushier than "Hriday-er kotha" (from the "Hriday-er Kotha" soundtrack). It was a good start. The audience, comprising mostly youngsters, started swaying and humming along with the star musician at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

As the artiste warmed up, so did his fans. With "Tumi bhuley jeona amakey," more whistles and 'wah wahs' were heard. Habib then took it up a notch with more sugary pop -- "Keno emon hoy" and "Bhalobashbo tomaye"; it could've easily been mistaken for a Valentine's Day special. Teens and tweens went wild.

To the relief of those in the audience who craved "real" music, the artiste performed "Krishno" (written and originally composed by Shah Abdul Karim), his claim to fame. Vocal prowess is perhaps not the artiste's strong suit but he seemed to be on top of his game at the show. One particular musician accompanying Habib who must be mentioned, is Jalal. The flutist created a total ambience (and then some). When the flute dukes it out with vocals for the limelight, the audience is in music heaven. Its high time virtuoso musicians like him got solos.

Fusion of traditional Bangla folk music with contemporary techno and urban beats (mainly hip-hop, reggae, rap and electronica) is Habib's forte and he was totally in his elements as he performed the Hason Raja classic "Baula ke banailo rey."

Habib also sang his most recent smash hit "Didha" (from the "Third Person Singular Number" soundtrack) and the ever-popular "Din gelo."

Pakistani band Fuzön (pronounced 'fusion') took the stage next. With songs titled "Khamaj," "Malhaar" and "Madvanti," it doesn't take a seasoned connoisseur to figure out that the band's area of interest is North Indian classical music. That's how Fuzön describes its music: union of classical and contemporary rock music. Over the last few years, the band's popularity has transcended the borders of Pakistan. Though Fuzön is quite regular in the Indian music scene, this was the band's first live performance in Bangladesh.

With Shallum Xavier on the guitar, Imran Momina (aka "Emu") on keyboard and Rameez Mukhtar on the mic, the band received a warm response from the Dhaka audience as it performed "Neend na aaye" (from the band's second studio album "Journey").

As Mukhtar took on the song "Tere bina" (from Fuzön's debut album "Saagar"), Shafqat Amanat Ali was missed. Ali (the previous lead vocalist of the band), with his impeccable base in classical music, was the driving force behind the band's burgeoning popularity in the initial phase.

After performing "Suna suna" (from "Journey"), the band did a cover of the Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan classic, "Kinna sona tenu Rab ne banaya." Mukhtar seemingly demonstrated his singing chops with the powerful song, laced with brief 'alaap.'

As an endearing gesture, the band decided to perform a Bangla song. Why they chose the Bappi Lahiri kitsch, "Chirodini tumi jey amar" is a total head scratcher though.

The event was presented by MACOMM. Rtv and Radio Foorti were media partners.



The concert featured Habib (top) and Pakistani band Fuzön.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Acting is like mathematics

-- Bipasha

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

When I was a child I had a cassette player on which I would listen to "Shesher Kobita" by Tagore every single night before going to sleep. I thought I understood the theme. I listened to that cassette after 15 years again and suddenly realised I hadn't understood a word of it. Acting is like that. Even after 20 years, I feel that I have a lot more to learn. Such is the humility of a household name in Bangladesh -- Bipasha Hayat.

Highly influenced by her father, well renowned actor Abul Hayat, Bipasha always wanted to be an artiste. Her father's sincerity, love and respect for his work enthralled and attracted Bipasha to work in the same line. She wanted to give the audience the flavour of the same simplicity her father managed to present. The motivation to be a famous face was never the guiding force in her taking up the profession of acting.

"Acting is like mathematics," explains this self-critic of her evolution as an actress. "You need to know the theory as well as its application. Practice, concentration and dedication are quintessential." Since the initial years, she has done extensive research and studies on acting and attended numerous workshops. Elaborating on the correlation between acting and mathematics, Bipasha says "How much an eyebrow should be raised for a shot in relation to the facial expression, how many degrees should a head be aligned in a particular direction, these all have to be calculated. It's all very arty and complicated."

Not only has Bipasha been the leading tele-serial actress for years, but she has also emerged into playwriting. Her first brush with writing came when she wrote the serial "Shudhui tomake jani" in 1997. Using a pseudonym, she took the script to three leading artistes of the time. After the serial was telecast it was a raging success and Bipasha was confident that it was her talent and not the "Bipasha name tag" that got appreciated. However, it took her seven more years to take the prospect of writing seriously. This born perfectionist never felt she was ready until her husband Tauquir Ahmed insisted that she start writing. "Writing is like a spark of genius. A thought comes suddenly and I get so engrossed with it that I feel the characters haunting me until I have done each one justice."

An innovative writer, sketching the lead character with shades of good and bad is her specialty. "Every human has a good and bad side, why should heroes be different and be larger than life?"

Her husband has been like a rock foundation in all her projects. In her own words, "Tauquir has always been there for me. We respect each other's work tremendously and are always there for each other."

A complete woman, Bipasha Hayat is a lover of ancient civilisations and connoisseur of art. With a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, someday she wants to hold a solo exhibition. "I am my own critic and I know the time is not yet ripe for a solo exhibition," explains Bipasha.



New drama serial Dorakata goes on air

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new drama serial, titled "Dorakata", is set to go on air from tonight on Rtv. Jointly scripted by Aminur Rahman Mukul and Mahfuza Hilali and directed by Sumon Anwar, the serial will be aired Sundays and Mondays at 9pm.

The serial revolves around the friendship between five fun loving university students: Shojol, Nirob, Anindyo, Jisa and Hena. The friends plan a trip to Rangamati. En route they encounter a shady character named Abir, also a university student. The friends try to avoid him. On reaching Rangamati, they discover that Abir is staying in the same hotel. The



A scene from the TV serial.

group decide to take no notice--until they discover that he is stalking them.

When the group hire a boat to go to Longduur, Abir persuades them to take him along with them. In the evening, the engine fails, stranding the friends on a desolate hill. Now they

come face to face with the stark reality that there are different shades to their characters--greed, suspicion and the like.

Joyonto Chattopadhyay, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Mir Sabir, Richi Solaiman, Naznin Naz, Raunak Hasan, Shojol, Chandni, Nadia, Nova, Shahriar Shuvo and Sanjida Preeti, among others are the actors in the serial.

Focus on children's problems

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A painting programme to focus on children's problems was held at Pabna Annada Gobinda Public Library auditorium on Monday. National Children Task Force (NCTF) and Pabna Protishruti, an NGO jointly organised the event at Pabna Annada Gobinda Public Library auditorium.

Children from various educational institutions focused on child rights and problems through their canvas. Later, a group discussion of the children was held to point out their problems.

The children focused their problems, dividing them into five categories. The categories are school going children, dropouts

from school, working children, harijan children and girl children. All the children from every category pointed out the problems they faced.

Programme officer of Save the Children Australia, Sayeda Husne Kaderi Mala; Vice president of Manobadhikar Nattyo Parishad Abdul Matin Khan; Executive director of Pabna Protishruti Momota Chakladar; District children affairs officer Mokhesur Rahman; NCTF Pabna branch officer Faysal Rahman Anik conducted the programme.

The children displayed their paintings at the programme. A view exchange meeting will be held on this month. The programme is initiated by the Save the Children Australia and Shishu Academy, Pabna jointly.

Photography exhibition on Nazrul

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Alope Chitra Shilpi Sangsad (Ashis) organised a week long photo exhibition on Nazrul at its gallery. A total of 37 rare photographs of the poet were displayed at the exhibition.

Speaker of Parliament, Advocate Abdul Hamid inaugurated the exhibition on May 24. Principal Alhaj Motiur Rahman; advocate Promode Mankin and Dr. Captain (Retd) Mujibur Rahman; Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Professor Dr. Abdus Sattar Mandal; Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Professor Dr. Syed Giasuddin Ahmed; Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Zakir Hossain and Ashis secretary AHM Motalab were present at the inaugural session. Ashis President Md. Nawab Ali delivered the welcome speech.

A discussion was also held with DC of Mymensingh A.N Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury in the chair. The speakers said that such photography exhibitions will inspire others. Research on Nazrul, emphasised the speakers, should be geared up through the establishment of resource and study centres on Nazrul and photo galleries.

Later prizes were distributed among the winners of the photography competition. Jahangir Kabir Jewel of Prothom Alo received the first prize while Sakila Siddiquee Rima and Prithish Sarker Manik won second and third prizes respectively.

Six veteran photographers Nayeb Uddin Ahmed, Subash Das and Niranjana Das were also accorded a reception.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

As part of Civil Day celebration, the students of the department of Civil Engineering, BUET arranged a concert at the BUET Auditorium on May 29. Popular bands Warfaze and Shironamhin performed some of their popular numbers at the event. Shironamhin first took the stage and performed "Cafeteria," "Bondho janala," "Hanshimukh," "Bullet kingba kobita" and a Moheener Ghoraguli classic "Prithibita naki chhoto hotey hotey." Warfaze's charged performance featured some of its acclaimed numbers including "Oshamajik," "Jibondhara," "Money porey," "Bewarish" and "Maharaj."

Theatre

Awareness against early marriage

TAREK ALAM, Narail

Early marriage and dowry are still a curse in Bangladesh--placing major impediments for women in their search for a new identity and empowerment.

Shekar, a Jessore-based theatre group, delivered this message to the public through their hard hitting performances in the course of a seven day programme, beginning May 22. The programme ran in 11 upazilas under Jessore and Narail districts. The programme was conceived by the well-known NGO Banichte Shekha, headed by the gutsy Angela Gomez, together with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Hundreds of enthusiastic people flocked to the programmes, while some members of the local elite and government officials delivered speeches. Five shows ran in Sheikh Hati, Mulia, Banshgram, Bhadrabilla Upazilas under Narail district. An aggregate of six shows were held at Chowgacha, Pashapole, Dhulani, under Cowgacha upazila and Sharsha, Ulashi, and Nizampur UP under Sharsha upazila in Jessore district.

Fuad Zillani, Facilitator of Banichte Shekha, said, "Through these theatre performances we have gone a long way in generating awareness against the evils of dowry and early marriage. We should steadily continue on this path."