

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sensation Within
Artist: KMA Quayyum
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: July 24-August 4
Time: 12-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Survivors
Artist: GMB Akash
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: August 14- 27



Photography Exhibition
To mark the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed
Organiser: Liberation War Museum (LWM)
Venue: LWM, 5, Shegunbagicha
Date: July 23-29



Musical Soiree
Organiser: Srijon
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: July 25
Time: 7:05pm



Promoting theatre activities across the country

Mahakal Theatre Festival begins with "Antarjatra"



Actors of Aikik Theatre in a scene from "Antarjatra."

JAMIL MAHMUD

Mahakal Natya Sampradaya's 26th anniversary celebration started with the staging of "Antarjatra" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on July 23. Narayanganj-based Aikik Theatre staged the play.

The festival features theatre troupes from each division of the country. Aikik is one of the six troupes from outside Dhaka.

Despite discouraging atmosphere, theatre activities outside Dhaka are gradually increasing and out of town troupes are regularly featured in festivals held in Dhaka. These troupes need more exposure and most importantly they need better infrastructure. IIT Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar addressed these issues at the inauguration of the festival and urged authorities to take steps to encourage theatre activities across the country.

"We need more infrastructure support than financial. If the troupes can rent auditoriums at cheaper rates, they can stage more plays," said Majumdar. Majumdar was the chief guest at the programme.

Among others, theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, president and secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) Liaquat Ali Lucky and Jhuna Chowdhury respectively, and Professor Afsar Ahmed were present as special guests.

Majumdar also suggested both the president and secretary general of BGTF that they should allow only proficient troupes to continue activities with the organisation. Later Majumdar, along with the distinguished guests, formally inaugurated the festival through lighting candles, while a group of dhuli (percussionist) lead by Dashrath Das played dhol.

Meer Zahid Hasan of Mahakal presided over the programme.

Before the staging of "Antarjatra," artistes of Spondon performed dance.

"Antarjatra" is an improvised play depicting a wondrous journey of four

ascetics throughout the history of human civilisation. The production was a combined effort by the members of the troupe. Sajedur Rahman Chanchal was the director and project designer.

The ascetics, from contemporary time of strife, start their journey during the advent of "Charyapad." The meet the great Charya poets and ask them how they can overcome troubled times. The leader of the poets, known as 'guru,' advises them to go to the dawn of the Greek civilisation to witness the tragedy of King Oedipus.

Throughout the play, the ascetics travel to different lands in different ages, like Britain during the rule of King Lear and Baghdad during the time of the great Sufi poet Mansur Al-Hallaj to learn more about fate.

The play tried to present an understanding of the current trauma through improvisation.

The cast included SM Ripon, Yousuf Atique Manik, Ruma Sarkar, Fahim Bhuiyan and Belal Hossain Mithu, Asit Kumar was the music director, while Ahidul Azam Tipu did the light designing.

Bibartan from Jessore (representing Khulna division) will stage "Kaibarta Gantha" at the National Theatre Hall this evening.



Dignitaries inaugurate the festival.

Tyler Perry's greatest accomplishment has nothing to do with business

Tyler Perry is known today as the first African-American to own a major film and TV studio. He's a pioneer whose own life story is a rags-to-riches tale that reads like a screenplay.

Now a writer, actor, director and producer -- Perry's success grew out of a troubled home in a poor neighbourhood in New Orleans, Louisiana. Strong on faith, Perry named his first play "I Know I've Been Changed," after an old Negro spiritual. It was a gospel musical about two adult survivors of child abuse.

In 1991, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked as a bill collector and eventually scraped together enough money to rent a small theatre and stage the play. With only 30 people in the audience, the play was a flop. For the next several years, he struggled and was often broke and sometimes lived in his car.

But Perry refused to give up. He finally got a second chance in 1998, when a promoter booked the show in the Tabernacle, a former church turned concert hall in downtown Atlanta. It was a sold out hit and the little boy from inner-city New Orleans was well on his way.

In 2004, he started looking for backers for his first movie project "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," a story about a devoted wife in a bad marriage. He said he faced a wall of ignorance when he pitched white executives in Hollywood. One told him the

project was doomed to fail at the box office because the core audience for Perry's stage plays -- black churchgoers -- wouldn't go to the movies. Another said the dialogue for his characters was unrealistic.

Though he was largely unknown to white audiences, Perry refused to play by Hollywood's rules and demanded creative control of his projects.

He was resigned to bankrolling the project himself and selling it as a DVD when he got a call from the independent studio Lionsgate. They struck a deal and he made "Diary" for about \$5 million. The movie earned 10 times

that at the box office.

Since then, Perry's movies have grossed nearly \$400 million and he has developed a loyal following. He now demands not only creative control but also ownership of the finished product.

Still, it's just the beginning, he says. "I don't necessarily feel like I've arrived."

Even so, Perry has a prolific output of stories, including his movies "Why Did I Get Married," "Meet the Browns," "The Family that Preys," and "Madea's Family Reunion." He signed a \$200 million deal with TBS (owned by Time Warner, the same company that owns

CNN) for 100 episodes of "House of Payne," one of television's most popular shows among black adults. The sitcom is now in syndication, making even more money for Perry.

Tyler Perry Studios, on 30 acres in Atlanta, is his black Hollywood. But he is quick to acknowledge his debt to the legendary black actors from an earlier generation by naming two of his soundstages after Sidney Poitier and Cicely Tyson. He has also helped introduce them to a new generation by casting Tyson, 76, an Oscar-nominated actress, in two of his films.

A study by the NAACP found that African-Americans are "underrepresented in almost every aspect of the television and film industry," but Perry is able to hire on both sides of the camera. On his production crews, black employees are getting unprecedented career opportunities, and black actors are portraying characters beyond the predictable drug dealers and thugs.

His greatest accomplishment, he said, has nothing to do with business.

"It's more personal than that for me," he said. "My biggest success is getting over the things that have tried to destroy and take me out of this life. Those are my biggest successes. It has nothing to do with work."

Source: CNN



Tyler Perry



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

A scene from Dhaka Theatre's latest production "Dhaboman." The play was staged at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on July 22. Written by the late theatre icon Selim Al Deen, the play marks Shimul Yousuf's debut as a director. "Dhaboman" belongs to the post-colonial 'narrative theatre,' a form conceived by Al Deen, highlighting our indigenous traditions and art forms. Set in a village by the Someshwari River in the greater Mymensingh area, the play revolves around a buffalo named Sohrab.



Poet Muhammad Nurul Huda presents his essay "Alauddin-Al-Azad-er Proshongey" at the memorial programme organised by Bangla Academy. Also seen are (from left) Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general, Bangla Academy; National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Khorshed Alam.

Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Krishnakoli on Amar Ami

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular singers Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Kazi Krishnakoli Islam are the guests on tonight's "Amar Ami," Banglavisión's popular talkshow.

Apart from being an accomplished vocalist, Babu earned much acclaim for his acting in the award-winning film "Swapnodanaye." Krishnakoli's songs featured in the recent blockbuster "Monpura" have become huge hits.

On the programme, the duo will share many untold stories with the audience, providing an insight into



Babu (right) and Krishnakoli with the host (left) of the show. Babu (right) and Krishnakoli with the host (left) of the show.

Their lives. "Amar Ami" is produced by Anonto Zahid and hosted by Munmun. The show is aired every Saturday at 9:05 pm.

Drama serial Monkora on Rtv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Sitcom "Monkora" will be aired on Rtv tonight at 10:10 pm.

The story zooms in on a hostel. After the demise of the owner, Romiz, his daughter Maisha takes the responsibility of running the hotel. Residents of the hostel consider Maisha gullible; some start daydreaming about winning her heart. Reality, of course, proves otherwise.

Anisur Rahman Milon, Kusum Shikdar, Litu Anam and Sumaiya Shimu play the lead roles in the serial.

"Monkora" is written and directed by Aniket and Kaisar Ahmed respectively.



Kusum Shikdar and Anisur Rahman Milon in the serial.