

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Jai Bangla
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahamida Enam Kakoli
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: October 1-14
Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shells and Souls
Venue: Dnk Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: October 9-15
Time: 3-9pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Nitya Kendra
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 9-11
Time: 7:30pm
Today's Play: Pratissharan (at Experimental Theatre Hall)



SYMPHONY OF AUTUMN



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

With 'Sharat' -- the third season of the Bengali calendar -- approaching its end, leading cultural organisation Chhayanaut arranged a colourful programme at the Shatayu Angan (opposite Russell Square, Dhanmondi) yesterday to celebrate the season. Starting early in the morning, the programme featured rendition of Rabindranath's songs on the season, such as "Megher koley roud heshechhey," "Aaji megh ketey gechey" and "Amra bendhechhi kash-er guchchho". Several dance performances were also highlight of the programme. 'Kash' and 'Shefali' -- signature flowers of the season, dominated the decor, adding a rustic touch to the urban venue. Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanaut, and several renowned cultural personalities were present at the programme.

Rakto Karobi all set to shine at Egyptian theatre festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Nagorik Nitya Sampradaya is participating at the 21st Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre, beginning at the Egyptian capital today.

To participate at the festival, a 17-member team led by Ataur Rahman (general secretary of Nagorik) left Dhaka yesterday. Humayun Kabir Khan, joint secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs is the deputy team leader. Other members of the team are Aupi Karim, Shireen Bakul, Lufur Rahman George, Gazi Rakayet Hossain, Md Nasimul Haque Ripon, Md Khaled Anwar, Md Abdur Rashid, Rajib Dey, Kazi Anisul Haque Borun, Muhtasim Billah, Fakruzzaman



Kamal Lohani (centre), Ataur Rahman and others at the conference. PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

Chowdhury, Md Nasirul Haque (light designer) and Md Shaiful Islam (set designer).

A press conference on the team's programme was held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on October 8. Kamal Lohani, director general, BSA, presided over the session. Among others Ataur Rahman

and Humayun Kabir Khan were also present at the conference.

Speaking at the conference, Ataur Rahman said, "Rakto Karobi" has had 88 successful shows so far and now the production is representing Bangladesh at a major international event. This is truly a reason to celebrate."

"We are very optimistic that the play will attain a good response and make Bangladesh proud at the festival," Rahman hoped.

Nagorik was founded in 1968 and so far the group has staged 1470 shows of 40 plays.

Written by Rabindranath



A scene from "Rakto Karobi". Tagore and directed Ataur Rahman, "Rakto Karobi" is a symbolic play that addresses an agrarian nation obsessed with industrialisation.

The theatre festival in Cairo will continue till October 20.

Lloyd Webber to resurrect "Phantom of the Opera"

AP, London

The Phantom of the Opera is coming back -- but this time, he'll be haunting the amusement park at New York's Coney Island.

Star composer Andrew Lloyd Webber announced Thursday a long-awaited sequel to his massively successful "The Phantom of the Opera," one of the world's best-loved and longest-running musicals.

"There's unfinished business," Lloyd Webber told journalists assembled for a teaser -- a new song featuring the titular Phantom, played by Iranian-born Canadian Ramin Karimloo, and his love interest, Christine, played by American actress Sierra Boggess.

"I don't regard this as a sequel; it's a standalone piece," Lloyd Webber said.

The new musical will be called "Love Never Dies." It is due to open in London in March. It will be staged also in New York beginning in November 2010 and will open in Australia in 2011.

The musical picks up a decade after the original's conclusion, and has the Phantom trading his customary hideout beneath the

Paris opera house for Coney Island, the iconic Brooklyn amusement park known for its roller coasters and "Nathan's Famous" hot dogs.

Lloyd Webber said he wanted to produce a sequel because the original's ending, which sees Christine leave the brooding Phantom for his rival, Raoul, was unsatisfactory.

"Christine goes off with this boring guy, the Phantom disappears," Lloyd Webber said. He said he wanted to set the piece at Coney Island because, at its turn-of-the-century heyday, it was "the eighth wonder of the world."

"Think of Vegas and then triple it," he said.

Based on the eponymous French novel by Gaston Leroux, the play is the longest-running show on Broadway, beating Lloyd Webber's other masterpiece, "Cats," in 2006 and reaching an unprecedented 9,000 performances on the night of September 17. Producers say it has been seen by more than 100 million people worldwide and has been translated into 15 languages and staged in 25 countries, including Brazil, China and Poland.

The album of the show has sold more than 40 million copies.

Growing up with fame and retaining it

Most successful child stars in Hollywood

We've all heard the child star horror stories: parents stealing all their earnings, criminal charges, and rehab stints. Or more often than not they simply fade into obscurity. But occasionally these showbiz kids are able to make the transition into adulthood and become Hollywood powerhouses. Here some of the most successful former child stars working today.

Drew Barrymore

Age: 34
 Years in Show Business: 33

The fourth generation in an acting family, Drew appeared in a commercial when she was eleven months old. After winning over audiences at age six in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," Drew had some tough teenage years. But she came back as a grown-up star, and now she has her first movie as a director, "Whip It."

Christian Bale

Age: 35
 Years in Show Business: 23

Though he appeared in some TV movies beforehand, Bale's first major role was as the lead in Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun." Since then, his star has steadily risen. Last year, he played the Caped Crusader in "The Dark Knight," one of the highest-grossing movies ever. This year, he starred in a pair of summer blockbusters: "Terminator Salvation" and "Public Enemies."

Jodie Foster

Age: 46
 Years in Show Business: 43

A Coppertone Girl at age three, Jodie was doing guest spots on TV by six. While shooting her first movie, Disney's "Napoleon and Samantha," 10-year-old Jodie was picked up and mauled by her lion costar. It left her with scars, but didn't diminish her drive. She went on to win two Best Actress Oscars, continues to star in hits like "The Brave One," and is currently directing her third feature.

Christina Ricci

Age: 29
 Years in Show Business: 23

Like many others, Christina was a child model until she got her first acting gig in the 1990 movie "Mermaids" with Cher. After the success of "The Addams Family," she became known for quirky and sometimes dark roles. She started taking on more adult roles with the bawdy "The Opposite of Sex," and got great reviews

attention starring with Robert De Niro in 1993's "This Boy's Life." The next year he was Oscar nominated for "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." And then he was in the biggest movie of all-time. Next up: his fourth movie with Martin Scorsese, "Shutter Island."

Scarlett Johansson

Age: 24
 Years in Show Business: 15



Johansson got her start at the tender age of nine with a bit part in Rob Reiner's box-office dud "North." Now she's a bona-fide A-lister. Next year, she will star as the duplicitous Black Widow opposite Robert Downey Jr. in "Iron Man 2."

Reese Witherspoon

Age: 33
 Years in Show Business: 19



Then and now: Drew Barrymore (left) and Leonardo DiCaprio.

starring with Samuel L. Jackson in "Black Snake Moan."

Leonardo DiCaprio

Age: 34
 Years in Show Business: 19

Leo is a late-comer compared to some, getting his first break at 15 on the short-lived TV version of "Parenthood" in 1990. He appeared on the last season of "Growing Pains," but really got

Reese auditioned for a bit part in "The Man in the Moon" on a lark and wound up with the lead. She's since gone on to win an Oscar for her turn as June Carter Cash in "Walk the Line." This year, she could be heard in "Monsters vs. Aliens."

Natalie Portman

Age: 28
 Years in Show Business: 15

Portman first role was in Luc Besson's "The Professional" (aka "Leon") in 1994. After she took a brief hiatus to go to Harvard, Portman went on to star in Oscar-nominated movies and crowd-pleasing blockbusters. She costarred with fellow former child star Scarlett Johansson in "The Other Boleyn Girl," and watch for her in the 2011 Marvel flick "Thor."

Kirsten Dunst

Age: 27
 Years in Show Business: 24

At three years old, Kirsten was a child model in commercials, and at eight made her film debut in Woody Allen's section of "New York Stories." She made a big impression kissing Brad Pitt when she was only 10 in "Interview with a Vampire." Since then she had huge hits with the "Spider-Man" movies and showed off her majestic side as "Marie Antoinette."

Kurt Russell

Age: 58
 Years in Show Business: 46

At age 12, Kurt appeared in the 1963 movie "It Happened at the World's Fair" starring Elvis Presley. 16 years later, he played Elvis in the TV movie about his life. That was his first film with director John Carpenter, who then turned Kurt into an action star with "Escape From New York." Kurt was still doing action -- and his own stunt driving -- in 2007's "Grindhouse."

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent