

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Shudurer Mita  
Artist: Mustaque Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 23-November 5  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ballads and Paintings  
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh  
Date: October 24-November 7  
Time: 11am-6pm



### Painting Exhibition

Title: Faces of Buddha: An Expression of early medieval spirit  
Organiser: IUB Art Club  
Venue: Art and Aesthetics Gallery, 90 Park Road, Bandhara, Dhaka  
Date: October 28-November 11

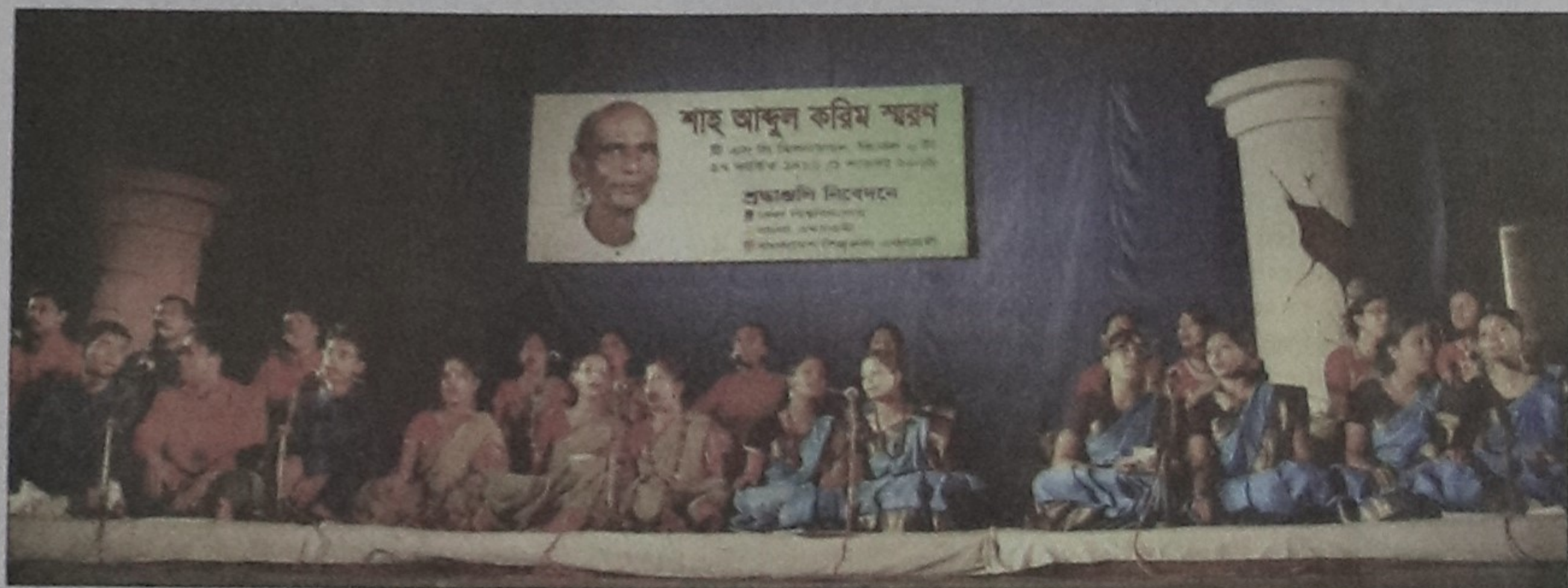


### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash  
Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna  
Date: October 23-November 22  
Time: 10am-8pm



## A musical tribute to Shah Abdul Karim



The programme featured songs of Shah Abdul Karim by students and teachers of music department, DU.



Kamal Lohani speaks at the event.

MAINUL HASSAN

On November 1, Dhaka University's music department, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangla Academy,

organised a programme in memory of Shah Abdul Karim at TSC Auditorium, DU.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith was the chief guest at the event. Among others Kamal Lohani, director general, Bangladesh Shilpakala

Academy; Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy and Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrobarty, professor, Department of Music, DU were also present at the event.

This was the first memorial

programme, honouring Shah Abdul Karim, by the DU music department, BSA and Bangla Academy after the bard's death on September 12 this year. Karim's timeless creations are considered priceless and have found keen audiences among generations. His songs, adapted by popular contemporary bands and artistes like Dolchhut, Habib and others, have reached greater heights.

At the programme, teachers and students of the music department made homage to the 'Baul Samrat' through renditions of his evergreen songs -- compositions on love, *deho-tatwa* (metaphysical aspects) and nature.

The programme began with a group performance of the song "Agey ki shundor din kataitam," highlighting religious harmony.

Next was a patriotic number, "Ami Bangla ma-er chhele" by Enamul Haque. Razia Sultana performed

"Aillaye na aillaye narey bondhu".

A popular romantic number, "Bashonto batashey shoigo", was rendered by Lutfur Morshed Chowdhury. The song received a warm response from the audience.

Naima Haque sang another familiar Karim song, "Gaan gai amar monrey bujhai".

Kakoli Dev and Susmita staged a duet "Pirit koria bondey" -- articulating separation in love.

Teachers of the music department, Mafizur Rahman and Biman Chandra Bishwas performed "Rai tomarey ami" and "Ami phool bondhu phool-er bhromora" respectively.

Group performance of the songs -- "Tomra kunjo shajao go" and "Kon mistori nao banailo" were greeted with rounds of applause.

"Among the countless subjects that a baul delves into, *deho-tatwa* is one of the most profound. Almost every baul has compositions on the subject," said Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrobarty.

Dr. Chakrobarty performed a lesser-known Shah Abdul Karim song, "Dekhna khujey dehar majhey".

"I collected the song from Hossain Ali, a student of Shah Abdul Karim, in 1985," he said.

The programme ended with a group performance of the familiar song, "Gari choleyna".

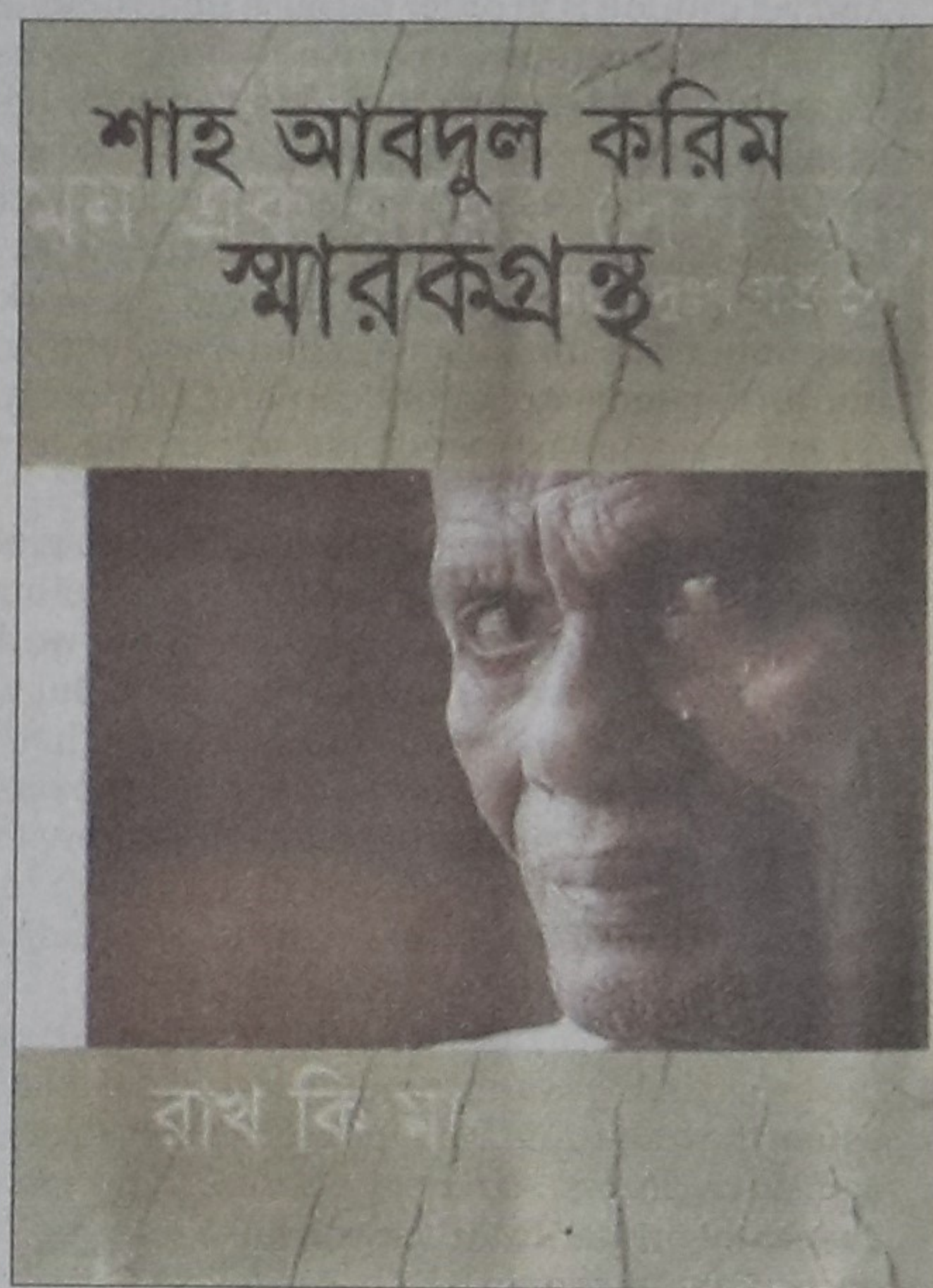
## Memorial publication on the 'Baul Samrat'

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

"Shah Abdul Karim Sharok Grantha", a collection of writings on the rural bard, has been published recently. The credit must go to young writer Sumon Kumar Das, who has compiled 32 write-ups in the literary work.

The authors include Finance Minister AMA Muhith; director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani; director general of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan; music exponent and artiste Mustafa Zaman Abbasi; Jatin Sarker; Abul Ahsan Chowdhury; researcher Simon Zakaria; artistes Selim Chowdhury, Habib, Bappa Majumder; Mihir Kanti Chowdhury; Abul Fateh Fattah; Main Uddin Ahmed Jalal; Ikhtiar Uddin; Golam Rabbani; Ujjal Mehdi; Prabir Debnath; Apurbo Sharma and Sanjaynath Sambhu.

Apart from the writings, speeches of Professor Anisuzzaman and Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal (in 2007) in Sylhet have been included in the book. The publication also features poems by Gauhati University VC Professor Topodhir Bhattacharya; Sarwar-ul Islam, Ambarish Dutta, Baul Abdur Rahman



Cover of the book.

and Baul Bashir Uddin Sarker.

Translations of 10 Shah Abdul Karim songs by Mihir Kanti Chowdhury have been included, while two portraits of the 'Baul Samrat' by Nasir Ali Mamun add value to the publi-

cation.

Annesha Prokashon of Dhaka is the publisher of "Shah Abdul Karim Sharok Grantha". Dhruva Esh has designed the cover of the book.



(From left) Nazrul singer Ferdous Ara, Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury and veteran film actor Wasim after winning 'Bestway-BCRA award 2009' on October 31. Bangladesh Cultural Reporters Association (BCRA) honoured individuals for their contribution to the cultural arena for the year 2008. Actors Riaz, Apu Bishwas and TV personality Razu Alim were among others awarded at the event. The programme was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

## Mustaque's contemplative journey

Solo painting exhibition at Chitrak



Artworks by Mustaque Ahmed

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mustaque Ahmed is a self-taught painter who has been quite active in the Dhaka art circuit. He regularly paints and has been trying to convey his personal language through art. His paintings have a true touch of aestheticism, tinged with simplicity. The artistic works clearly articulate his passionate mind. He works on varied subjects but his special attention is on nature and human relationships. He fervently draws the psychological temperament of human beings, their expressions and relationships. Mustaque's solo painting exhibition, titled "Shudurer Mita", is now on at Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi.

Mustaque loves nature and its imaginative world propels him to paint. The mingling of light and shade creates a

silence and serenity in his works. Nature is closely connected to his soul, as he adores basking in it. His colours can be easily interpreted by our soul and mind. Subdued and vivid -- both kinds of hues -- are properly executed on his canvases. It can be easily understood that he has made an attempt to control his application of colours so that they look simultaneously very permissive and restrained. His works look more mature for his contemplation of the very root of his subjects.

In his current exhibition, Mustaque has done a number of faces, each with its individual look. The grounds feel uneven and the backdrops look impressive because of the affluent blending of colours. Some faces seem to be primitive, ancestral and unfamiliar. The faces are not identical and each face expresses a unique

explanation of the human psyche and look. The face is the most significant part of the human body and it can mirror the mind vividly. In creating so many faces in different perspectives, he has again demonstrated his unrivalled creativity. Mustaque's "Bench" is an acrylic piece, which denotes the silence and loneliness of life. An empty bench is the only element of the canvases and the complete setting emits pain and stillness.

"Moon" is another rich acrylic painting in the exhibition. Azure, emerald green and crimson are very noticeable and the colours mingle well with each other. In this painting, colours create a distinct language and give the viewer a touch of fantasy and optical illusion.

"Forest" is one of the evocative works that mingles emerald green, red and white. The

work is mainly colour-oriented and focuses on the eternal beauty of nature. The artist meticulously arranges forms and colours in his works.

Mustaque paints "Morning", "Day" and "Night" -- three moments with only controlled colours. He scrupulously uses brush (wash) with his personal technique. The space feels open and large, clearly emphasising each moment and time.

In his "Sky" series, the painter demonstrates varied colours of the sky during different seasons and times. He applies the colours directly, and then meticulously polishes them suited to their artistic requirement. In the series, he has lost himself through a spiritual journey. Colours are present here as a musical note.

The exhibition ends on November 5.

## Oprah, Tyler Perry happy to endorse "Precious"

Oprah Winfrey did not write "The Bluest Eye" or "Middlesex" or "Love in the Time of Cholera". But her formidably influential book club has helped many an author -- alive or dead, famous or no -- reach a wider audience. Now the multinational corporation disguised, cunningly, as a cultural arbiter and television personality hopes she can do a similar favour for a film she "really, really loves."

It is "Precious," based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire. Already this year, director Lee Daniels' adaptation, from a script by Geoffrey Fletcher, has won key awards at the Sundance and Toronto film festivals. There should be many Academy Award nominations in its future.

The film may tone down the grim oppression of the 1996 novel, but it's nonetheless a wrenching experience. In 1987 Harlem, a teenage girl named Claireece "Precious" Jones lives life one crushing day at a time. She is illiterate, obese and pregnant with her second child -- both times, she was impregnated by her own incestuous and abusive father. Her mother offers no protection. As portrayed by Mo'Nique, she is a fearsome, almost feral physical and abuser herself, a barbed-wire hurdle the protagonist, played by newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, must clear before getting on to what life holds in store.

Perry and Winfrey came to

the project after it was finished. Daniels, who previously produced "Monster's Ball" and directed Helen Mirren and Cuba Gooding Jr. as assassins and lovers in "Shadowboxer", sent a screener of "Precious" to Perry, whose entertainment empire is spearheaded by his overly popular character, Madea. "After I saw it," Tyler said, "I called Oprah (whom he'd known since she had him on her show in 2001) and said: You gotta see this."

She did. "It struck me in a way that nothing else has," she said. "The only thing that came close was reading 'The

Color Purple' -- that's how struck I was. It took the breath right out of me."

Winfrey called Daniels in January on the night, and at the moment before the actual moment, in fact, he walked up to the stage to receive an award at Sundance in Park City, Utah. She offered her support and encouragement alongside Perry's. She offered some money as well, which Daniels declined. Both said they plan to collaborate in the future on something.

"Singer Mariah Carey (who plays a social worker in 'Precious') wanted to invest too," Daniels said, "but I

knew if I were to accept money from Mariah I couldn't get the same performance out of her. I can't get truth if they're cutting a cheque."

Winfrey has spoken freely of her childhood sexual abuse. Perry, too, has gone public with his own horror stories, and in Toronto he spoke quietly but candidly about "Precious" echoing his own experiences growing up in New Orleans.

"That's what made me say: I have to be involved. I have to bring this to my fan base. I have to let them know about this film."

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent.



"Precious" zooms in on an obese teenage girl from Harlem who lives life one crushing day at a time.