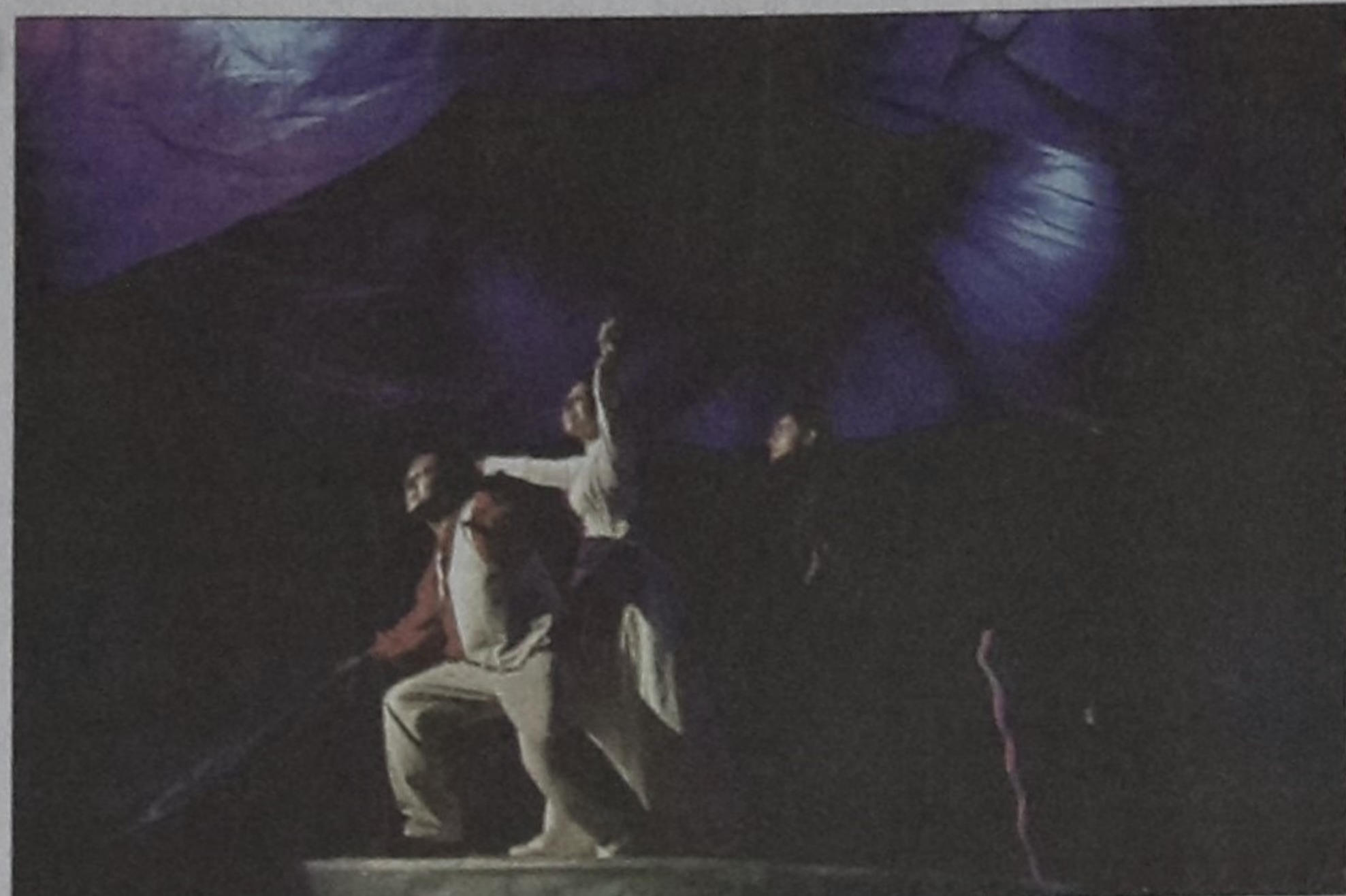


Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival

Prachyanat stages "Punarjanmo"



Punarjanmo--when the dead awaken.

JAMIL MAHMUD

A deconstruction of Henrik Ibsen's last play "When We Dead Awaken" by local troupe Prachyanat was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on November 20. The play "Punarjanmo" was staged as part of the ongoing International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival. Directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the play is an intensive insight into the characters' psyche.

"When We Dead Awaken" is considered different from Ibsen's earlier works. It could be related in some ways to his later works like "John Gabriel Borkman" and "The Master Builder."

Where Ibsen's original work depicts the death of the protagonist Professor Arnold Rubek at the end, in "Punarjanmo" we find no sign of death or end of his life.

The story of "Punarjanmo" starts with Professor Rubek and his wife Maja sitting in the garden of a coastal hotel. The couple come here on a long vacation. Although famous as an artist, Rubek is going through a humdrum of his life and no more enjoys his marital state.

In such a mental state, everything changes when two individuals from his past come to the scene. One is Ulfheim the filthy bear hunter, while the other is Irene, the model for his art and the lone inspiration behind his present position.

Maja herself feels bored with Rubek. As a result, she finds Ulfheim's materialistic talking more interesting than her husband's poetic expressions. Gradually she agrees to the offer by Ulfheim to go with him for bear hunting to the top of the mountain. Perhaps it gives Rubek a sense

of relief and more time to reminisce on his old days with Irene.

Rubek and Irene recall their old days with enthusiasm. To fulfil his earlier promise, Rubek also leads a journey to the mountaintop with Irene. In rough weather, there they meet Maja and Ulfheim, who are on their way back. The play ends, as their journey leaves no sign of ending.

The director has himself enacted the role of Professor Rubek. Sheikh Jannatul Ferdous Eti and Reetu A Sattar perform as Maja and Irene respectively.

Dressed in black attire, Sanjida Preety performs in a role, which seems to be the shadowy presence or the dark side of Irene. In contrast, Irene's white dress symbolically stands for her innocence and beauty.

The play sees the character Ulfheim in a bit more elaborate way in comparison with the earlier adaptation of the play, "Ashibagee Eshei", by Chorus Repertory Theatre. Toufiqul Islam Emon performs the role. Shariful Islam plays the Inspector.

The play has been adapted by Shahidul Mamun. Rahul Anand is the music director, while M Shaiful Islam is the set and light designer. The set, designed with polypaper, was innovative.

Today, Bangaranga Natyadal will stage "Guru Nirmata" (adaptation of "The Master Builder") at the Experimental Theatre Hall at 5pm. Asif Munir is the director of the play. At the National Theatre Hall, Centre for Asian Theatre will stage one of its earlier productions, "The Lady from the Sea", at 7pm. Un-Magritt Nordseth directs the play.

Chhayanaut's soulful tribute to Sufia Kamal

CORRESPONDENT

The teachers and students of Chhayanaut paid homage to Poet Sufia Kamal with a recitation and renditions on her 10th death anniversary (November 20) at Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangkriti Bhaban.

The programme began with a choral rendition of Tagore's "Bohey niranton ananta anandadhara." Sanjida Khatun, President and a founding member of Chhayanaut, spoke reverently of the late poet: "Poet Sufia Kamal spoke out not only for women but also for human beings as a whole. I can't forget



Artistes recall the late Sufia Kamal(left) with songs.

how deeply and deeply she adored the students."

Nazrul artiste Shaheen Samad rendered "Tumi to shey-i", a topka by Nidhu Babu; Khairul Anam Shakil performed "Bheshey ashey shudur", Lalon

artiste Chandana Majumdar sang "Ekta bod haowa legey khanchay"; Sharmin Shathi Islam rendered "Amay rakhtey jadi", a song by Atul Proshad; and Abul Kalam Azad performed "Nakshi kanthar

matheray", a song by Bijoy Sarkar, (tribute to Palli Kobi Jashim Uddin).

Shahed Imam, a Tagore artiste, also recited as a tribute to the poet. "The eternal flow of life reminds us of the eternal

presence of Poet Sufia Kamal among us," he said. Shahed Imam also rendered a Tagore song, "Dinanto belay shesher phashol." Among others, noted artiste Ifiat Ara Dewan, Tania Mannan, Laisa Ahmad Lisa performed three Tagore songs "Amarey tumi oshesh korechho", "Jani jani kon aadikal", "Dukho achhey hey nath" respectively and Nasima Shaheen Fancy rendered a Nazrul song "Shunya e bukey pakhimor".

The programme ended with another choral rendition of Tagore's "Abar jodi ichchha koro", followed by the National Anthem.

Art exhibition and auction at Gallery Chittrak



Renowned artists at the event.

CORRESPONDENT

An art exhibition and auction titled "Traditional Festivals of Dhaka City" was held on November 20 at Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Matiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo. Mamun Rashid, City Country Officer and CEO of Citibank, N.A. of Bangladesh and Muniruzzaman, managing director of Gallery Chittrak, were present.

Two months ago, Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh and Gallery Chittrak organised an art workshop with twelve contemporary painters in Bangladesh. The participating painters were Quayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Shahid Kabir, Alokesh Gosh, Jamal Ahmed, Shamsuddoha, Nisar Hossain, Sheikh Afzal, Muniruzzaman and Kanak Chapa Chakma. Baishakhi Utsab, Wedding Festival, Nobanno Utsab, Ghurir Utsab, Eid Utsab, Mahoram Utsab,

Durga Puja festivals, Shab-e-Barat, Christmas, Janmashami, Noukabaiche, Buddho Purnima Fanush and other religious festivals were the themes of the various works of art. The paintings are underlined by vibrancy. The themes are thought provoking and very close to the soul of Bangladesh. Painters mainly wanted to demonstrate Bengali culture and tradition.

Auction of art works is a new phenomenon in Bangladesh. At the auction in Chittrak, the price range was from Tk 45000 to Tk 1 lac for a painting. Monirul Islam, Hashem Khan, Kanak Chapa Chakma, Nisar Hossain and Quayyum Chowdhury's paintings were put up for bidding at the auction. The money from the auction will be donated to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) for its new Speech and Language Therapy Unit.

Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh, in collaboration with Gallery Chittrak organised the event.

PHOTO: NELOU HOSSAIN

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