

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Int'l Baul Festival and Seminar

Organiser: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy
Date: December 11-12
Time: 10am onwards



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Rejaul Karim
Title: Twilight Zone
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



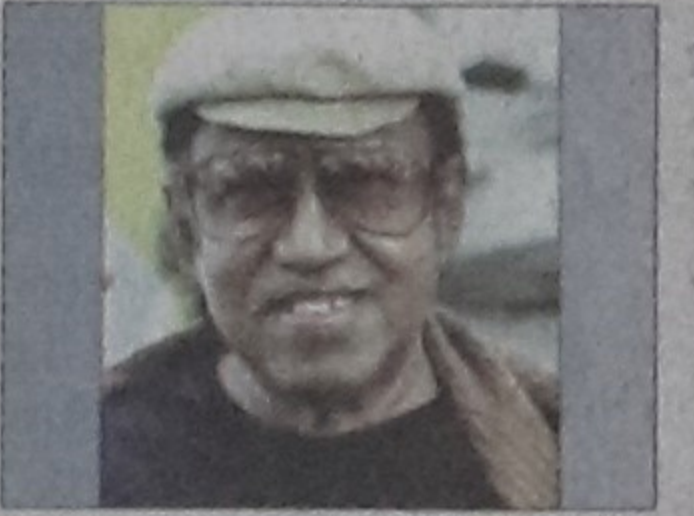
Documentary Screening

Film: Al Badar
Filmmaker: Fakhru Arefin
Venue: Muktomancha, Jahangirnagar University
Date: December 15
Time: 7:30pm



Remembrance

On Dr. Noazesh Ahmed
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Auditorium, Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi
Date: December 12
Time: 7pm



Footprints in the creative arena

In conversation with writer-director Ananta Hira

ZAHANGIRALOM

Born in Barisal, Ananta Hira stepped into the creative arena through a theatre troupe called Barisal Natok. He had been a member of the troupe for five years (1984-89) and acted in a play titled "Chetonaye Hanchhey Aghat" besides publishing a little magazine.

He did both his Honours and Masters' in Bangla from Barisal Govt. Braj Mohan College (popularly known as BM College). He was also very active in the local cultural scene and journalism.

"An indomitable urge always propels me to create something new," asserts Hira.

In 1988, Hira's friend Jhantu Bayen introduced him to leading theatre personalities from Nagarik Natya Sampradaya. On April 8, in the following year he joined Nagarik Natya Sampradaya and picked up many elements of theatre up till 2002.

As a theatre activist, Hira performed in a number of productions, namely "Nurul-in-er Shara Jibon", "Khatta Tamasha", "Darpan", "Shoth Manush-er Khojey" and "Achalayan" -- all directed by Aly Zaker; "Dewan Gazir Kissa" directed by Asaduzzaman Noor; "Kal Shondhya" and "Muktadhara" directed by Khaled Khan; "Rother Rashik" directed by Abul Hayat; "Galileo", "Raktokarobi" and "Himtoti Ma" directed by Ataur Rahman; "Bibishab" written and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun and Nikhel Sen respectively; "Sri Madhusudan" directed by Jalaluddin Hossain; "Ora Kadom Ali", written and directed by Mamunur Rashid and Nikhel Sen respectively and



Ananta Hira

several others.

"I'm truly indebted to Nagarik Natya Sampradaya as it expanded my inner horizon," says Hira.

Later Hira founded a theatre troupe titled "Prangoney Mor Natyadol" in the city.

In the meantime, Hira wrote "Tar Mlan Chokh" and "Shaath Pourey Kabya", both aired on BTV in 1985 and in 1987 respectively.

He adapted a tele-film from "Char Oddhyay", a novel by Rabindranath Tagore. Directed by Ahsan Habib, the tele-film was aired on BTV in 1992. He also personified the character of Kana Lal in that film.

Hira wrote and directed his first documentary on the Liberation War "Muktijuddho

Rupkatha Noy" that went on air on BTV. His other works include "Ratno Gorbha Janoni" (a documentary on five Freedom Fighters), "Mriyueen Pran" (a documentary on Colonel Taher), "Madhumala O Madankumar" (an adaptation of Jasim Uddin's work), "Shona Mian Transport Agency" (an Eid-special play) and "Urukku" (adaptation of a novel by Nasrin Jahan); all aired on BTV.

Hira is a ceaseless worker. He works from both commercial and artistic angles. He writes and directs TV plays, tele-films, documentaries and occasionally acts too.

Among his other works are "Meghla Manush" (a tele-film

directed by Badol Rahman) and "Bishkata" aired on Ekushey TV; "Bichar" (a special drama on Victory Day 2006), "Shampotti Shamorpan", "Mohona" and "Swapner Pathshala" on ATN Bangla; "Shampriti Gantha" and "Dhaka Crime File" on Rtv; "Epitaph" (a single episode drama written by Nasrin Jahan) on ntv; "Bhalobasha Pherabe Orchid" and "Shunya Thekey Shamudra" on Channel i; "Bongshiwala", "Ognigiri" (an adaptation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's work) and "Boshtomi" (an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's work) on Channel 1.

"Of all my works, I was content with "Bishkata", "Bichar", "Shampriti Gantha", "Bongshiwala", "Ognigiri" and "Boshtomi," says Hira.

Questioned on his recent works, Hira says, "At present I am busy with a number of TV plays and serials. A new daily soap titled "Shamporko" is all set to go on air soon."

Hira has lent his voice to three audio albums featuring recitation so far: "Shundaro Hridi Rangono Tumi", "Tchchheygulo Matal Bhisshon" and "Bhalobasha Nokshikatha".

Hira is credited with publication of five books -- three on poems and two on essays on drama. "Bhalobasha Nokshikatha", "Nadhir Naam Kittonkhola, Narir Naam Kittonkhola" and "Shoshyagondha Nari" are his books on poems and "Dui Bangla-e Rabindra Natya Charcha O Onyanyo" and "Lokonayak" are essays on drama.

"I'd like to portray different aspects of life on my creative canvas until my exit from this world," concludes Hira.

A celebration of Bangla music

Khairul Anam Shakil performs at 'Jalpaiguir Sangeet Utshab 2009'



Khairul Anam Shakil (C) sings at the programme.

CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul artiste Khairul Anam Shakil, recently performed at Jalpaiguri, India at the 'Jalpaiguir Sangeet Utshab 2009.'

On his return from the festival, the artiste spoke to The Daily Star about his tour, shared his experiences of the festival and more.

Shakil attended the event at an invitation from the Indian Centre for Cultural Relations (ICCR). This is the second consecutive event of its kind. Noted Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna attended the first festival in 2008. The festival was organised by AICURD and supported by ICCR.

About the festival, Shakil says, "The experience was simply wonderful. For three days, artistes from various regions of India came to the festival, turning the event into a celebration of Bangla music."

"I performed at the festival on the opening day," added Shakil.

"The festival kicked off on December 4. The first to take the stage were talented and upcoming singers of Jalpaiguri, who performed wonderfully," said Shakil.

"Jalpaiguri is enriched with cultural diversity. To promote local talent, the organisers aimed at providing the upcoming singers a common platform with established artistes," he added.

"I performed Nazrul songs one from each genre -- Khayal, Ghazal, Kabyo Geeti, Bhatiali and a few raga based songs of Nazrul."

Songs performed by Shakil included "Keno ano phulo dhoro", "Eki oshim piyasha", "Padmar dheurey" and more.

Among other participating artistes were noted singers Sraboni Sen and Dr. Anup Ghosal.

At the festival Shakil met Bhawaiya artiste from Cooch Behar, Shukh Bilash Burman. Burman has established an institute in the name of maestro

Abbasuddin in Cooch Behar and regularly celebrates his birth anniversary there.

Talking about the positive response from the audience, Shakil said that, "Among the audience were many Bengalis who live in Jalpaiguri. When I rendered various compositions of Nazrul they were simply amazed-- there is hardly any Bengali genre where Nazrul hasn't left his mark. Some of them came forward and thanked me after the performance."

"The organisers and people were very hospitable and friendly. The festival featured performances of Nazrul and Tagore numbers, compositions of Manna Dey, Shaili Chowdhury and songs of yester-years," said Shakil.

"Representing my country at any foreign festival is always a great experience. Cultural exchange can be a very positive thing in creating friendly relationship between the two countries," concluded Shakil.

"Third Person Singular Number" released across country

CORRESPONDENT

Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's much awaited feature film "Third Person Singular Number" premiered at the Star Cineplex on December 10. Produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd., the already internationally acclaimed film released simultaneously at several theatres across the country.

Apart from Cineplex, the film will be screened at Balaka, Abhisar and Shaheen Hall (Dhaka); Shangeeta (Khulna) and Utshab (Rajshahi). On a bigger scale, the film releases worldwide from December 13 in several countries including France and Australia.

Before the premiere show, director of the film Farooki spoke at the programme and introduced the cast to the audience. Managing Director of Impress Telefilm Farid Reza Sagar, among others, spoke at the occasion.

Inspired by a novel written by Syed Manzoorul Islam, Anisul Haque and Farooki

jointly wrote the script for "Third Person Singular Number".

Featuring interrelationships among a convict serving a life sentence, a mentally liberated woman and a singer, the film poses a question: can a woman, on her own, lead a secure life in our society?

Most of the cast members are small screen actors. Tisha and Mosharrif Karim played the central roles as Ruba and Munna. Singer Topu, as himself, donned the other significant character.

Abul Hayat, Arpana, Shuvechchha and Isha played other roles in the film. Shubrata Ripon, who passed away just after finishing the film, was the cinematographer of the film. The soundtrack of the film has already hit the market.

It should be mentioned that before its Bangladesh premiere, the film was screened at several international film festivals. The film was one of the 18 entries vying for the top award at the Middle East International Film Festival this year and was also screened at this year's Pusan International Film Festival.



A scene from the film.

The concerned crooner

Terra Naomi in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

On the day the climate change negotiations began in Copenhagen, thousands of miles away on the bank of the picturesque Dal Lake in Kashmir surrounded by snow-capped mountains, American pop star and Youtube's award-winning singing sensation Terra Naomi crooned, seeking to make the world aware of the disastrous consequences of global warming.

Braving the December chill and dressed in a typical Kashmiri suit, Naomi, on her maiden visit to India, sang on the bank of Dal Lake in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, the ski resort of Gulmarg and on the bank of the Yamuna river in Delhi to spread awareness about climate change. And the one song she belted out in all the three places was 'Say it's possible', the number which earned the Youtube award.

With the mountains and a Sufi shrine forming the backdrop, thousands of people, majority of them youth, swayed to the music of Naomi's guitar and voice as the first-ever American singer mesmerised Srinagar.

Performing along with Naomi was Kashmiri singer Waheed Jilani who rendered the indigenous version of "Say it's possible".

Naomi said she came to know that climate change has had its impact on Gulmarg which now receives much less snow compared to a decade ago.

On the bank of the Yamuna, the singer was accompanied by Indian bands Indian Ocean and Menwhopause.

How did Naomi get involved with climate change issue? "It was accidental," she admits, adding that the inspiration came from former US Vice President Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth".

It is not only the cause of climate change alone that Naomi promoted. In the early part of her India tour, she sang in Mumbai remembering the 166 people who were killed in the deadly terror attack in India's financial hub a year ago.



Life after "Harry Potter"

Young stars look back on nine years of magic

They might have been trained to ride flying broomsticks and mix potions but life after Hogwarts is still a riddle for the young magicians of the Harry Potter series.

With filming in the last part of the series -- "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II" -- well underway, the cast of the multi-million selling franchise seem bound to look back and reflect on their nine-year-long magic ride.

"It was September 29, 2000," Daniel Radcliffe, now 20, told CNN with a hint of nostalgia about his first day on set in Goathland railway station in northern England.

"Me, Emma [Watson], and Rupert [Grint] had all travelled that day in a minibus, and we sat on the back seat -- which was undoubtedly my influence -- pretending that we were DJs on a radio station."

"Surely, not many of those present at that first shoot could have predicted Harry Potter's unprecedented level of success in the coming years."

It will be very, very sad to think that I can't come here every day and work with my best friends all the time," said Daniel Radcliffe.

The film series, whose sixth instalment "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" was released on DVD and Blu-Ray on December 8, has become the most successful franchise in history, smashing several box office records and amassing billions in revenue.

The first six Harry Potter films have grossed \$5.4 bil-



Harry Potter Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson exchange notes on their experiences of nine years.

lion according to the Guinness Book of Records, making it the most successful film franchise ever.

The figure is expected to rocket still higher when the seventh chapter hits cinemas in November 2010, followed by the eighth and final instalment in the summer of 2011.

After initially beating more than 40,000 young hopefuls to their roles, the series' wide-eyed stars have spent nearly half their life casting spells at Leavesden Studios outside London, where the Harry Potter sets are housed.

"I'll never forget walking through those amazing doors for the first time, as we have done many a time since," Tom Felton, who plays Harry Potter baddie Draco Malfoy, said.

Looking ahead to the future, you don't have to be a wizard to guess that sentiments will run high on the Potter set when director David Yates shouts "cut" for

the last time.

"Before this film you never really thought about it ending, you kind of just thought it was going to go on for ever. It's going to be quite a moment I think because my whole childhood is really in this place," said 21-year-old Rupert Grint, who has spent the last decade playing Harry Potter's loyal friend Ron Weasley.

But Grint quickly goes to stress that he is ready to leave Hogwarts' gates behind him and move on to new ventures -- this time without the help of magic potions. "I think I'm ready to move on and get out into the real world and see what it's like," he said.

All the young stars seem excited about what the future holds for them, helped by the fact that they have roles in the world's biggest movie franchise under their belts.

Source: CNN