

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Ferdousi Rahman: Civic Reception 2010**  
 Organiser: Nazrul Academy  
 Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag  
 Date: May 23  
 Time: 5.30 pm



**French Drama Festival**  
 Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: May 15-21  
 Time: 5pm onward



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Samiran Chowdhury  
 Venue: Gallery Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara  
 Date: June 15-30  
 Time: 10am 8pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Rooted Creativity-2  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F Dhanmondi  
 Date: May 18-29  
 Time: 12 pm-8 pm



## 3rd International French Drama Festival

### Bibarton stages Sartre's "The Wall"

ZAHANGIR ALOM

As part of the 3rd International French Drama Festival 2010, theatre troupe Bibarton, Jessore, staged "Deyal" ("The Wall") on May 16 at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Monoranjon Biswas adapted the play from existentialist philosopher and litterateur Jean Paul Sartre's drama "Le Mur" (The Wall) while Sanwar Alam Khan Dulu directed the play.

The story is set against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War (between 1936 and 1939), when the Nationalists led by General Franco overcame the forces of the Spanish Republic and entered Madrid. In this play Sartre depicts the story of prisoners who are condemned to death. The title refers to the wall used by the firing squad to execute prisoners. The wall itself symbolises the inevitability of one's death.

In the play, Faruk Abdullah (played by Sheikh Zahid), Mohammad Ismail (MA Muhith Tomal) and Azimuddin



Jean Paul Sartre

Haq (Mrinmoy Chakraborti) are captured by the military and are sentenced to death. The characters often get vocal, protesting the mockery of a justice system, but they keep dangling between life and death. They desire to live, as they love their lives and dreams.

Faruk Abdullah, a student of philosophy thinks of the freedom of soul before being executed. Azimuddin Haq, a politician and an idealist, momentarily causes panic among his captors by declaring his unrestrained freedom even after knowing of his imminent death.

The cast also included Munmun Basu, Sanwar Alam Khan Dulu, Rafiqul Alam Shanto, Atikuzzaman Rony, Enamul Kabir, Nesar Chowdhury Rana and Pankaj Ghosh, Takhirul Gani Nibir, Manoj Samaddar, Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Zahidul Islam Jadu.

Tarik Mahabub Rousseau was in charge of light design. Parimol Majumdar directed music and Foyez Zahir designed the set. Costumes were designed by Atikuzzaman Rony.

## Monalisa back on TV

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After six months, popular model-actress Monalisa has recently returned to the country. She was in Singapore. About her vacation, Monalisa says, "My sister lives in Singapore. I went with my mother to visit her. It was a nice and well-deserved break for me."

She is now busy with shooting the drama serial "Bhalo Theko Phul Mishti Boku" (directed by Ashrafi Mithu).

About her role as Deepika, in the serial, the actress says, "The story is pretty interesting and it's a family entertainer. I play a mischievous girl but everyone knows me as polite and gentle. My character does things secretly."

Besides the serial, Monalisa is also working in single-episode TV plays. Recently, she finished shooting for "Kacha Moricher Jhal" and "Biyer Bochor". She has some offers for TV commercials as well.

Says the selective actress-model, "If I like the project, I have no problem in taking up the offer. I don't want to take up whatever offers I get. I want to attain recognition through quality projects."

Recently, "Bari Bari Shari Shari" which featured Monalisa in one of the major roles, wrapped up on air.



Monalisa

The serial was aired on ntv. Her performance in the serial was much admired. "I felt comfortable in the role and perhaps that was demonstrated in my performance."

Asked if she's interested in working in film, Monalisa paused for a few seconds and responded, "I have received some offers to work in films but I haven't made up my mind yet."

## 63rd Cannes Film Festival

### Woody Allen presents "A Tall Dark Stranger"



Freida Pinto and Josh Brolin in "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger."

Forty-one years as a writer-director, 39 features at a rate of a film every year for the last two decades even as he has approached a seniority (he'll be 75 in December) when a slower pace, or retirement, might be an option -- Woody Allen's filmography is a remarkable achievement by measure of perseverance alone.

But the scale of his achievement is far greater, since Allen has made only original scripts (occasionally written with a partner, usually on his own) -- and because long ago, first as a stand-up comedian and then as a moviemaker, he charted his own universe. Glib urban professionals, often more self-conscious than self-aware, stumble through Manhattan, their egos colliding as if in a Coney Island bumper-car ride. For decades, Allen the actor was the confused creature at its centre: an analysand in Wonderland crying out for love but unable to realise it when it came his way, or hold onto it when he had it. That was agony for the Woody male, fun for audiences observing his crises from the safe border of the other side of the screen. As Allen himself has probably said, tragedy is what happens to you; comedy is what happens to someone else.

Advancing age has removed Allen from his familiar place on screen: just once in the past seven years has he appeared in his own pictures. ("For years I played the romantic lead," he said at today's press conference, "then I got too old.") And the exigencies of movie finance have sent this boutique filmmaker abroad for backing and locations; this New Yorkiest of auteurs has become a rootless cosmopolitan. Of his last six films, he shot only one, "Whatever Works," in New York. He went to Spain for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" and to England for the other four: "Match Point," "Scoop," "Cassandra's Dream" and now "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger" (Oddly, he's never directed a film in France, where he is revered by critics and was awarded the Legion d'honneur).

In Allen's new film, four folks in one family fall out of one relationship and leap headlong

into another. Alfie (Anthony Hopkins) has left Helena (Gemma Jones), his wife of 40 years, for the 20-something blond "actress" aka call girl, Charmaine (Lucy Punch). Helena, under the spell of a spiritualist, finds a kindred soul in Jonathan (Roger Ashton-Griffiths). Alfie's and Helena's daughter Sally (Naomi Watts), who works in an art gallery, is infatuated with the gallery's owner Greg (Antonio Banderas). And Sally's husband Roy (Josh Brolin), a novelist agonising over the reception of his latest manuscript becomes entranced by Dia (Freida Pinto of "Slumdog Millionaire"), the lovely young woman he sees in a window across the courtyard.

From this outline you will notice a standard Allen roundelay: people obsessed with love, but with a short emotional attention span, seeking the one person they think will solve their problems. In the Allen fashion, ardour soon dissipates into a reality as poignant and funny as it's embarrassing.

Another Allen fixation is death. Sally tells her mother, "I fear that you will meet the tall, dark stranger we'll all meet." Helena finds that her new love is still attached to his dead wife, and observes ruefully, "I lost him to another woman, a deceased one... They're often the stiffest competition."

The movie is easy to take, and perceptive in men's desires for things they can't have. When Roy moves out of Peggy's place and into Dia's apartment, he now looks longingly at the new woman in the window: his estranged wife. But "Tall Dark Stranger" shows a top film artist in a holding pattern. For those who find this minor Woody, no need to fret long. He's already at work on his next film, and this time there will be a French connection. Among his stars is Carla Bruni, wife of French President Nicholas Sarkozy. That relationship should make for a piquant group photo on Cannes' red carpet next year.

Source: Time

## Heavy Metal icon Ronnie James Dio passes away

Ronnie James Dio, legendary heavy metal singer who replaced Ozzy Osbourne in Black Sabbath and also was lead singer for the bands Rainbow and Dio, has died. He was 67.

Dio died Sunday, according to a statement on his website by Wendy Dio, his wife and manager. Maureen O'Connor, a Los Angeles publicist, said Dio died in Los Angeles. No cause was given, but Dio had said last summer that he was suffering from stomach cancer.

Dio replaced Osbourne in Black Sabbath in 1979. His first album with Sabbath, "Heaven and Hell," helped rejuvenate the group, selling more than 1 million copies. But Dio left soon after the release of "Mob Rules" in 1981 to form Dio.

He returned to Black Sabbath briefly in the 1990s and more recently had formed Heaven & Hell, basically a version of the band without Osbourne.

"Because I've been in and out of [a number of bands], people think I'm difficult," he told The Times in 1997. "That [probably] comes about because I'm very intense about what I do. I have a really high standard, and I expect people around me to reach that standard as well. That's probably unfair."

He was born Ronald James Padavona on July 10, 1942, in Portsmouth, N.H., and raised in New York. He once said he would have preferred playing for the Yankees to a life in rock music. He started his career with local bands such as the Vegas Kings.

His career took off in 1975 when he joined Rainbow. Dio had been playing with Elf, a band originally called the Electric Elves, but after guitarist Ritchie Blackmore quit Deep Purple, he brought most of the band into Rainbow.

Many of Dio's most memorable songs revolved around the struggle between good and evil, including "Heaven and Hell." He also drew heavily on medieval imagery in such songs as "Neon Knights," "Killing The Dragon" and "Stargazer."

"I consider myself a singer, not a shouter," he told the Buffalo News in 2007. "It's always interesting to me when over the years fans have come up to me and said, 'Man, nobody screams like you!' I know they mean it as a compliment, but inside I'm going, 'I'm not a screamer, I'm a singer.' It's about a marriage of technique and feel, emotional content -- not just screaming."

"He possessed one of the greatest voices in all of heavy metal and had a heart to match it," Twisted Sister guitarist Jay Jay French, whose band has toured with Dio since 1983, told the Associated Press.

Dio called off a European tour last year to begin treatment for his cancer.

"Most people have careers that last from three to five years, especially in metal," he told The Times in 1997. "When you've had this good a run, you certainly don't complain."

Source: Los Angeles Times



Ronnie James Dio

## Habib's duets with four songstresses



A CORRESPONDENT

Vocalist-composer Habib will sing eight duets with four female singers -- Nirjhor, Kona, Tishma, and Nancy. A song recorded by his father, seasoned artiste Ferdaus Wahid, will be the bonus track on the album.

Ferdaus Wahid with his brother Khasru Wahid performed the song "Tora Prem Korish Na, Bhalobashis Na" on the show "Anandomela" that aired on BTV in 1978. In the remake, Habib replaces his uncle.

"I wanted to do a mixed album with legendary singers of the country. But that was not possible due to various problems," says Habib.

## TV Watch

### Khairul Alam Shobuj on "Raat Biratey" tonight



Shobuj (left) with the host of the show.

A CORRESPONDENT

The entertainment-based street-show "Raat Biratey" will be aired on Banglavision at 11:25 pm tonight. Tonight's celebrity guest is

noted actor Khairul Alam Shobuj. The veteran performer will share his experiences about his life, acting and passions with the viewers.

"Raat Biratey" is hosted by Majnun Mizan and produced by Kawmain Sourav.