

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Nazrul Shammelan 2010
Organiser: Nazrul Academy
Venue: Music and Dance Centre, BSA
Date: May 18-20
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



Celebration of Bengal Gallery's 10th anniversary "Rooted Creativity-2": Exhibition featuring feted artists



Clockwise (from top-left): Artworks by Shahid Kabir, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Farida Zaman.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

A group art exhibition, featuring the works of 10 painters, titled "Rooted Creativity-2" is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi. The exhibition is a part of the gallery's 10th anniversary celebration. Participating painters are Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Abdul Muqtadir, Kalidas Karmakar, Shahid Kabir, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Kazi Ghiyasuddin, Farida Zaman, Mohammad Eunos, Rokeya Sultana and Dhali Al Mamun.

Samarjit Roy Chowdhury is the senior-most painter in the group. Karmakar, Kabir and Shakoor belong to the same generation.

Samarjit Roy Chowdhury has been active in the art scene since the mid 1950s. His canvas features tiny fish, cats, snakes, birds and animals. His

lines crisscross over the canvas. Figures -- both male and female -- intimately appear in his works. His pure geometric compositions and delicate spatial arrangements denote fantasy, reality and nostalgia. His use of colour is both meaningful and ornamental.

Artist Abdus Shakoor Shah is widely recognised for his folk motifs and visual ballads. At the exhibition, most of his works predominantly showcase collages. The artist has pasted pieces of colourful saree and gamchha on his canvases. These pieces give his works a more decorative quality. The canvas appears more vibrant and lively for its slightly cracked surface. His works have always been in oil, acrylic and watercolour. At the exhibition, his "Kajolrekha" shows a woman whose face is surrounded by wild flowers. Four birds are placed at the corners of the

canvas. The selection of colours makes it a bit gloomy. Folk ballads from the "Mymensingh Geetika," "Nakshi Kanthar Maath," "Gazir Pot" and "Manosha Pat" are recurring themes of Abdus Shakoor Shah's paintings.

Shahid Kabir has lived and worked in Madrid for a long time. He has settled back in Dhaka and maintains a modest atelier at Kalabagan in the city. Kabir attained fame for his series on Lalou. Later he concentrated on objects from everyday life. Water vessels, teapots, flower vase and fruits are common subjects in his works. Brickfields, riverscape, working women also appear in his paintings. The overall look is faded and unembellished, suggesting a sense of nostalgia.

Farida Zaman has been focusing on riverine life in Bangladesh, beautifully articulating the community of fishermen. Her acrylic works provide an insight into the lives of fishermen and their hard knock life. Occasionally, cats, nets and petite girls appear in her paintings. She prefers using crimson, blue and yellow on her spacious canvases.

Rokeya Sultana's earlier works mostly featured female figures and she tried to highlight the link between humans and nature. Nude, semi nude figures and elements of nature were common elements in most of her works. In her later works, abstraction has become more familiar. Bright and subdued colours as well as amorphous forms and compositions are noticeable.

Abdul Muqtadir graduated from the Graphic Design Department, of the College of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) in 1960. At the exhibi-



tion, his works delve deep into the local flora and fauna. His compositions are a celebration of colours, light and simple forms -- inspired by nature. His works are suggestive and resonant. He pursued promotion and development of traditional crafts during the 14 years of his tenure at the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation. Later he joined Bitopi. He is now a freelance artist.

Mohammad Eunos prefers

pure abstract images. He frequently changes the arrangement of his forms and compositions. In his works, abstraction comes into an interaction with suggestiveness and expresses many meanings of life, time and space. Eunos always tries to focus on rich texture and open space. From his work at the exhibition, it is difficult to identify a personal hallmark.

The exhibition ends on May 29.

Mita and Bulbul sing at "Praner Khela"

A CORRESPONDENT

This month's instalment of the musical programme "Praner Khela" featured renowned Rabindra Sangeet artistes Mita Haque and Bulbul Islam. The programme was held at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on May 17.

Bengal Foundation has been continually working to promote traditional Bangla songs for the last two decades. Besides producing albums the organisation also arranges regular musical programmes throughout the year as well as on special occasions. "Praner Khela" is a part of this initiative.

"Ki Bhoy Abhoydhamay," "Jetej Jetej Chay Na Jetej," "Praney Khushir Toofan Uthechhey," "Akash Bhora Shurjo Tara" and "Dhay Jeno Mor Shokol Bhalobasha" were the Rabindra Sangeet that Mita Haque performed at the programme.

Bulbul Islam rendered "Tomaye Gaan Shonabo," "Tai Tomar Anando Amar," "Tomar Amar Ei Biroher," "Je Raatey Mor Duar Guli," "Tomaye Amaye Milon Hobey Boley," "Hridoy Amar Prokash Holo," "Shudhu Tomar Baani," "Jodi Prem Diley Na Praney" and more on the occasion.

Daulatur Rahman on keyboard, Enamul Haque Omar on tabla, Ashit Biswas on esraj and Nazmul Alam Jharu on percussion instrumentally assisted the singers.

Eastern Bank Limited sponsored the programme.



Mita Haque (top) and Bulbul Islam sing at Bengal Gallery.

Veteran actor Ariful Haque publishes a book



Ariful Haque

While most of us know Ariful Haque as a noted TV and film actor, many are not quite familiar about his latent talent as an author. The veteran actor went overseas in 2000 and now resides in Canada with his family. Before leaving the country, he wrote four books. His first book was "Sangskritik Agrashon O Protirodh". His second book, "Natyakar Nazrul Islam", features our National Poet as a playwright. The other books by Haque are "Hyderabad Tragedy O Ajker Bangladesh" and "Sangskritir Manchitra". All his books are research-based, according to a press release.

Recently the actor-author published his fifth book "Desh Shamaj Sangskriti O Rajneeti". According to the author, the book focuses mainly on the country, society, culture and politics.

Ariful Haque's latest film is Khalid Mahmood Mithu's "Gahiney Shabdo". The film is set to be screened in Canada from July 21 to 25, where Haque will watch the film for the first time. His other film "Prem Bishad" will be released soon.

63rd Cannes Film Festival

"Biutiful": Inarritu delivers straightforward tale on death

AP, Cannes

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu is keeping it simple for once. The master of intersecting storylines on Monday delivered a pared-down new movie with a linear plot, stripped of all its bells and whistles.

"Biutiful" stars Javier Bardem as a father of two making ends meet by acting as business middleman for African and Chinese immigrants in Barcelona.

Unlike Inarritu's previous efforts -- including critical favourites "Amores Perros" and "Babel," which divided on-screen time between the protagonists of the various tangled plotlines "Biutiful" focuses unblinkingly on Bardem. It doggedly follows the Oscar-winning Spanish actor's character as he coddles and cajoles his children, struggles to keep a healthy distance from his estranged, bipolar wife and alternatively defends and menaces the immigrants he works with.

"I was exhausted with, and thought I had explored enough multiple lines and structures of narratives and I was tired of that," Inarritu said at a news conference that followed Monday's screening at the Cannes Film Festival, where "Biutiful" is one of 19 movies competing for the festival's top Palme d'Or prize. The movie is also Inarritu's first effort without Mexican screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga, his former long-time collaborator.

"I want now to go into the rigor that the linear story demands for you as a story teller. It was really a challenge. Basically, 'Biutiful' is everything that I haven't done before in a way, but is exactly the same, (about) the same things that obsess me," said the Mexican-born director.

His obsessions? Death and the complexities of our intersecting, globalised lives.

Bardem delivers a remarkable performance as Uxbal -- a man

plagued by death. An orphan from early childhood, he earns extra cash by visiting funeral homes and communicating with the recent dead. As if that didn't suffice, he's diagnosed with terminal cancer and finds himself obliquely responsible for a terrible tragedy plucked from the newspaper headlines.

It's a devastating movie but manages to be oddly life-affirming.

"This character, (Uxbal) is tenderness, he's compassion, he's forgive-

ness, to himself first and to everyone around," said Inarritu.

"I found that really hopeful, in my point of view ... the most hopeful of my films, by far," said Inarritu, who won the Best Director prize at Cannes in 2006 for "Babel," four intense intersecting stories set in Morocco, Japan, Mexico and the U.S.

Like "Babel" and 2000's "Amores Perros" -- a critical favourite at Cannes that catapulted Inarritu from relative obscurity into the top ranks of contemporary filmmakers -- "Biutiful" also looks at globalisation's effects on those living on the margins of society.

Set in the dilapidated Barcelona neighbourhoods where the city's newest arrivals, immigrants from Africa and China, have largely replaced the local poor over the past decade, the movie documents their daily lives: the days spent in insalubrious sweatshops stitching endless cheap counterfeit bags or dodging cops to peddle them on the streets; the nights in dank apartment blocks, sleeping dozens to a room.

Inarritu said it was precisely that unsugarcoated take on life that makes the film optimistic, in its way.

"The fact that the film is human, and talks about human things that are real, it's already a hopeful film," he said. "Why? Because we don't find that very often now. ... Explosions, cynicism, killing people and violence in a very superficial way, is that life? Is that hopeful? Is that funny? I don't find it so," he said.



Javier Bardem in "Biutiful".

Mallika steals the show

The bold actress sure knows how to grab attention.

And she did it again last Sunday when she chose a snake to promote her forthcoming movie, "Hiss" at the ongoing 63rd Cannes Film Festival.

The actress plays a snake-woman in the film directed by Jennifer Lynch. The film also stars Irrfan Khan and Divya Dutta.

Besides "Hiss", the provocative actress is also promoting her other new film "Love, Barack" which will be screened at the festival.

Source: Internet

