

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Sultan Utshav 2010 Organiser: SM Sullan Shishu O Karukala Foundation Venue: SM Sultan Art College, Narail Date: August 8-10 Time: 10am</p> 	<p>Film Screening Film: "Summer Things" Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka Date: August 13 Time: 6pm</p> 	<p>Musical Soiree Title: Diley Eshechhi Shraboner Gaan Organiser: Wrihobh Sangeet Bhavan Venue: Bengal Café, H-275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi Date: August 9 Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi Date: August 6-20 Time: 12pm-8pm</p> 
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Emerged from Unknown

Exhibition of art by autistic children



Professor Abul Barq Alvi (left) with guests at the exhibition.

HANS, a students' association, recently organised an exhibition featuring artworks by autistic youngsters, in association with SurfExcel. Through this exhibition, HANS intended to generate awareness in autism among the masses. The exhibition, titled 'Emerged from Unknown II', was held at the Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, according to a press release.

HANS, a non-profit organisation, has been working to create awareness in autism since 2005. This is the second time they have held this painting exhibition under the title 'Emerged from Unknown'.

Professor Abul Barq Alvi, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, inaugurated the exhibition. Professor Alvi highly appreciated the effort, suggested taking this event to a greater dimension, and

assured help whenever needed.

Presence of people at the exhibition was noticeable. Renowned music composer and singer Naquib Khan was present at the opening of the exhibition. Several schools for children with special needs attended the inauguration. Parents of the young artists were moved to see the encouragement their children were receiving. They hoped that their children would no longer be alienated in the society.

Chairman of HANS, Meer Sohrabul Hossain, has long been backing the students with his immense support and enthusiasm.

A touching moment: Pashla, an autistic youngster, held Professor Abul Barq Alvi's hand and showed him her paintings. She was visibly excited.



An autistic youngster shows his drawing.

"Audrey Hepburn really couldn't act": Emma Thompson's scathing appraisal



Hepburn in "My Fair Lady".

She may be considered a screen and style icon, but Audrey Hepburn doesn't have a fan in Emma Thompson.

"The Nanny McPhee" star has described the Old Hollywood actress as "mumsy" and "twee".

The Oscar-winner's cutting remarks were published on the day she was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In interviews with both The Hollywood Reporter and Daily Variety, the 51-year-old says the "My Fair Lady" star was not "a very good actress."

Thompson, who is writing a new movie version of the hit musical, says she wasn't a big fan of the 1964 film that starred Hepburn and Rex Harrison.

"I'm not hugely fond of the film," she says. "I find Audrey Hepburn fantastically twee."

When asked by The Hollywood Reporter what "twee" means, Thompson

says: "Twee is whimsy without wit. It is mimsy-mumsy sweetness without any kind of bite. And that's not for me."

"She can't sing and she can't really act, I'm afraid."

"I'm sure she was a delightful woman - and perhaps if I had known her I would have enjoyed her acting more, but I don't and I didn't, so that's all there is to it really."

Hepburn -- who died in 1993 -- has long been considered a Hollywood icon.

The actress won an Oscar for her starring role in the 1953 film, "Roman Holiday".

She also played Eliza Doolittle in the 1964 movie version of "My Fair Lady".

But the actress' voice was dubbed over and she is not heard singing the musical's most classic songs such as "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "The Rain in Spain".

The voice of American singer Marni

Nixon is heard instead.

Thompson says she is "thrilled" to be writing a new version of the musical but she admits she doesn't like the original movie and prefers "Pygmalion" -- the George Bernard Shaw play upon which "My Fair Lady" was based.

Thompson also doesn't like the way Eliza Doolittle was portrayed in the film, a part she hopes British actress Carey Mulligan will play.

It is the story of a working class flower seller who is taken in by posh phonetics professor, Henry Higgins. Higgins bets he can train her to speak in an upper-class accent in a bid to pass her off as a lady in society circles.

Thompson says: "The central relationship between Eliza and Higgins is a fascinating one."

She calls him "dysfunctional" and even accuses Doolittle's father, dustman Alfred as selling his daughter into slavery.

"He's more brutal," says Thompson who admits to being a feminist. "I suppose my cheekiness is in saying: This is a very serious story about the usage of women at a particular time in our history. And it's still going on today."

Thompson also admits that fans of the 1964 Oscar-winning film may not like the new version.

"Fans of the original won't want another one to be made -- and honestly, one has to just cope with that," she says.

Compiled by Correspondent



Emma Thompson.

Unstinting passion for theatre

In conversation with Anowarul Haque

JAMIL MAHMUD

Young theatre actor-director Anowarul Haque is a member of the theatre wing of cultural organisation Udichi. He stepped into the Bangladeshi theatre scene in 1997 via a three-month workshop organised by Udichi's theatre troupe. Anowarul first performed in the Udichi play "Shubhro Timir" in 1998. The young talent made his debut as a director with Aikik Theatre's production "Drop Out" last year.

Recently Anowarul talked to The Daily Star about his career and passion for theatre.

Anowarul was born and brought up in Dhaka. "My family, especially my father, always inspires me and gives priority to my interest in the medium," said Anowarul.

Explaining his motivation to become a theatre activist, he said, "As a youngster I saw that cultural activists were highly respected. My reasoning was that if I wanted to do something for my country, it should be through cultural activities. Secondly, whenever I saw programmes at the Central Shaheed Minar premises, I dreamed of performing there."

Anowarul has earned plaudits for his laborious and talented performances in



Udichi plays such as "Freedom of the City" (directed by Ashish Khandakar), "Bou Bashanti" and "Half Akhrai" (both directed by Azad Abul Kalam), and in Akhtaruzzaman Ilias' "Chilekothar Shepai" (directed by Kamaluddin Kabir).

Apart from Udichi productions, Anowarul also performed in "Ahor Kandol", a repertory production of Janmoshutra.

As a director, Anowarul earned accolades for his debut work "Drop Out". The play is a reflection of present-day social inconsistencies. Through the play, Anowarul tries to de-construct the

contemporary social structure. He said, "In some sequences, the play narrates my own crisis."

Anowarul's protagonists in the play seek to live coherently but often find themselves at cross-purposes, a symbolic representation of the society. Through their conversations it appears that they live in a society where people do not laugh. "Why don't people laugh nowadays?" questions one character. "They don't want to," responds another.

"We are gradually becoming socially detached from one another. I wanted to depict this in my play. The direction in which society is moving does not seem okay to me," he added.

On the current theatre scenario, Anowarul finds that young activists are not disciplined about rehearsals. The reading habit too, he adds, is on the wane. "To do 'Chilekothar Shepai', we had to read a lot of Ilias' writings. I'm not sure we follow this path comprehensively nowadays. The practice of reading is fading gradually."

"Studying is important for theatre, I realised this once again when I worked on 'Drop Out'."

Anowarul is modest about his achievements. "I've come this far because I wanted so. I am still learning," he said.

Julia Roberts: "I'm definitely a practicing Hindu"

Perhaps Julia Roberts' new movie title should include few more words: Eat, Pray, Love, Chant, Pose.

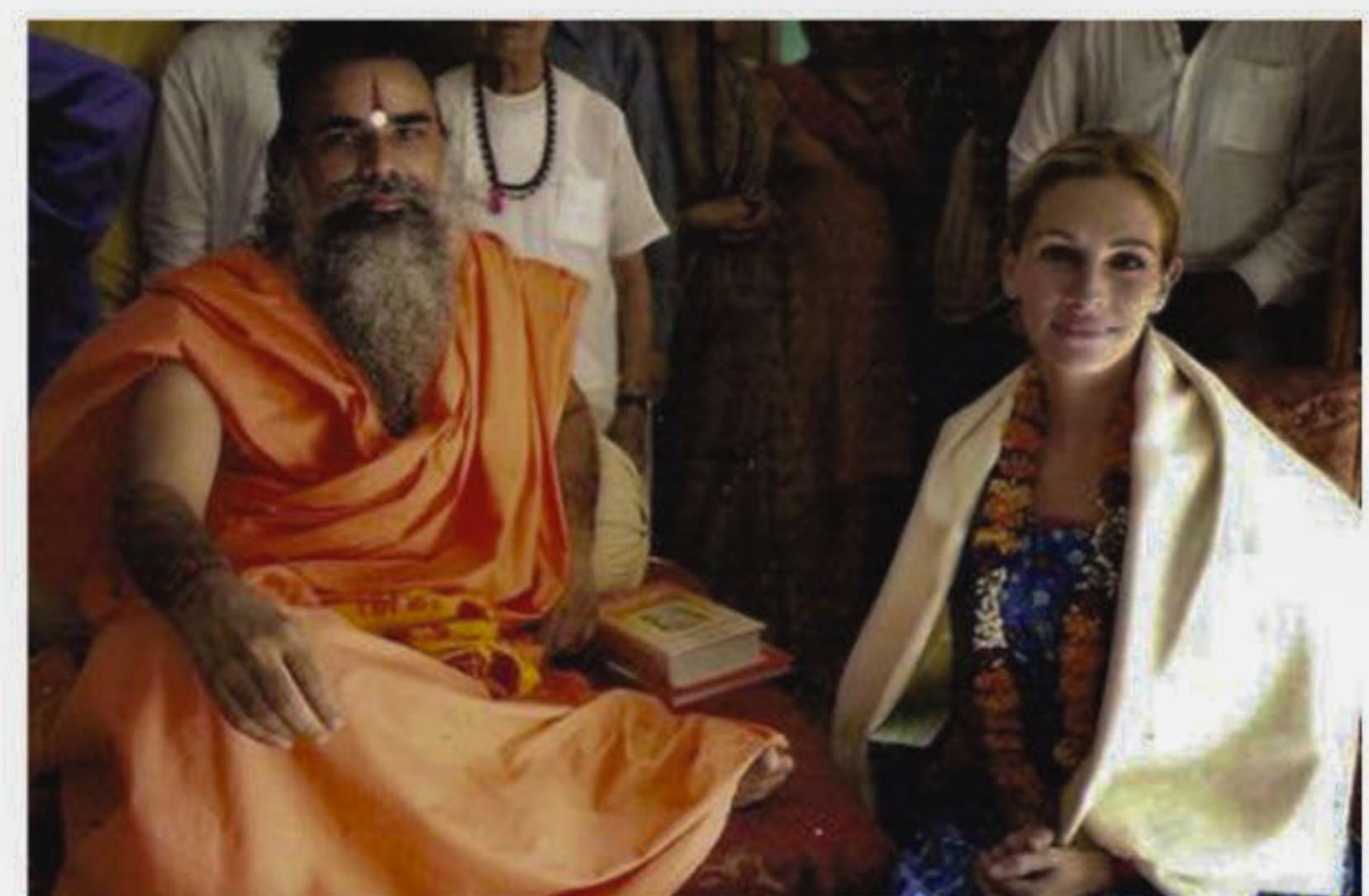
In her September Elle magazine cover story, Roberts announces that since her film-making sojourn in India, she and her family now worship as Hindus and go together to a temple to "chant and pray and celebrate. I'm definitely a practicing Hindu."

Roberts, who was brought up Christian, has already named her production company Red Om Films, drawing on the mystical syllable Hindus say encompasses the universe.

Her children already have Hindu names, according to a 2009 Associated Press story relying on The Times of India newspaper. It quoted a Hindu priest, Swami Dharam Dev, as saying, "I have named her twins Hazel and Phinnaeus as Laxmi and Ganesh, while Henry will be called Krishna Balaram."

Apparently you don't convert to Hinduism the way people adopt Judeo-Christian faiths.

Suhag Shukla, managing director of the Hindu American Foundation, explains: "As a non-proselytising, pluralistic faith, Hinduism does not seek converts nor does anyone



Julia Roberts with Swami Dharam Dev on the outskirts of New Delhi while filming "Eat Pray Love".

need to 'convert' formally to become a practicing Hindu. [There are] countless examples of prominent people in the West who have drawn inspiration from Hindu philosophy, converted formally or for all

intents and purposes could be considered practicing Hindus."

Source: USA Today

Carey Mulligan drama to open London Film Festival

Carey Mulligan and Keira Knightley's new film "Never Let Me Go" will launch this year's BFI London Film Festival on 13 October.

The drama, directed by Mark Romanek, tells the tale of former boarding school pupils who confront their sheltered pasts. It co-stars new Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield and is based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro.

The full festival programme will be announced on 8 September.

"Never Let Me Go" was adapted for the screen by Alex Garland -- previously known for his novels The Beach and The Tesseract, and his screenplays for Danny Boyle's films "Sunshine" and "28 Days



Mulligan and Keira Knightley star in "Never Let Me Go".

Later". Its main characters Kathy (Mulligan), Tommy (Garfield) and Ruth (Knightley) spend their childhood at Hailsham, a seemingly idyllic English boarding school, where they discover a dark secret about their future.

The stars of the film are expected to attend the opening night screening, which will be the film's European premiere.

Sandra Hebron, the festival's artistic director, said "Never Let Me Go" combined "impeccable film making,

outstanding performances and a deeply moving story".

Director Mark Romanek added: "I think I can speak for the entire cast and crew when I say that we are deeply honoured and excited to have been selected to open this year's festival."

"For me personally, it seems the perfect way to celebrate the conclusion of an incredible filmmaking experience in the UK."

The film will be released in the UK on 14 January, 2011. The London Film Festival runs from 13-28 October, 2010.

Source: BBC