

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival 2010

Title: Srijonshil Tarunner Tatyapokash
Organiser: Department of Theatre, Dhaka University
Venue: Natmandol, DU
Date: August 11-18
Time: 7:30pm



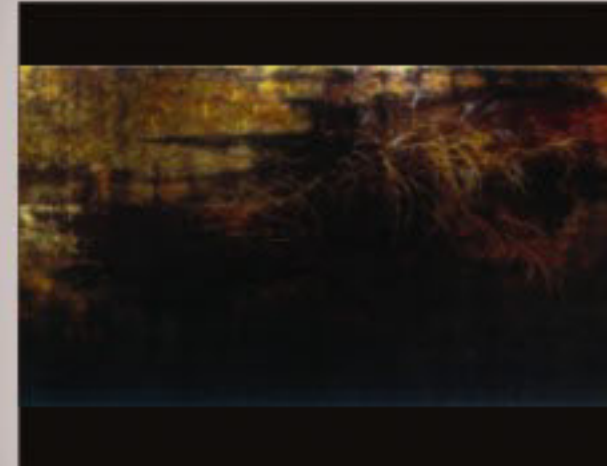
Film Screening

Film: "Summer Things"
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka
Date: August 13
Time: 6pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Noriko Naito
Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka
Date: August 9-14
Time: 2pm-8pm



Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi
Date: August 6-20
Time: 12pm-8pm



"I had no intention of being an actor"

-- Ferdous

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Actor Ferdous is busy shooting for both Dhaliwood and Tollywood films. He is also producing a film "Ek Cup Cha." Noim Intiaz Neyamul is directing the film.

"The story is quite remarkable. I hope the audience will head towards movie theatres to watch the film," said Ferdous.

Ferdous has recently acted in the film "Guerrilla", directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff. "It's been a great opportunity for me to act in this film. The film is based on the Liberation War and has received financial assistance from the Government of Bangladesh. The film is an adaptation of a Syed Shamsul Haq story," he said.

Asked about his experiences of acting in the film, the actor said, "It was truly an interesting experience. I've done more of a cameo in the film. I play a university teacher. Shooting was held in the northern parts of the country."

About acting in Tollywood (Kolkata-based movie industry), Ferdous said, "So far I have acted in around 15 Tollywood films in the last two years."

About Bangladeshi films, Ferdous pointed out that prior to working in "Guerrilla", he acted in the film "Jolrong" directed by Shahnewaz Kakoli.

What are the noticeable



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differences between Dhaliwood and Tollywood films? "Distinctions are conspicuous. Commitment to work gives a boost to Tollywood films. A debate is on in our country right now, regarding whether Hindi films are to be screened or not. My view is that if we screen 10 Hindi films in Bangladesh, they have to screen 10 Bangladeshi films in India," he responded.

About his upcoming film "Ek Cup Cha" that he is producing, Ferdous said, "I have been thinking of producing films. Noted director Basu Chatterjee has started writing the script. Internationally famed singers Runa Laila and Hari Haran (India) will do playback for a song. Moushumi is my co-artist in the film. Renowned Tollywood director Rituparno Ghosh will also act in the film."

Shooting for the film will kick off next month. Dhaka, Sylhet and Cox's Bazar have been selected as shooting locations. Emon Saha, Habib, Nochiketa and Bappi Lahiri will direct music for the film. Humayun Ahmed, Kabir Bakul and Zahid Akbar will write lyrics for the songs.

Talking about the initial stage of his 15-year old film career, Ferdous said, "I had no intention of becoming an actor. After Salman Shah's death in 1997, I acted in one of his unfinished films, 'Buker Bhetor Agun'. Right at that time eminent Indian director Basu Chatterjee came to Bangladesh in search of a fresh face for his film. After watching the print of 'Buker Bhetor Agun', Chatterjee selected me for his film 'Hothat Brishti' which was a major hit. 'Hothat Brishti' was the turning point of my career."

"I would like to continue acting till the end of my days. When the audience no longer wants me on the screen, I will pull the curtain on my career," he said.

Theatre festival at Natmandal begins

Two plays staged on first day

JAMIL MAHMUD

A weeklong theatre festival, featuring works of globally renowned playwrights, has begun at Natmandal, Dhaka University (DU), on August 11. The Department of Theatre, DU has arranged the festival, showcasing plays directed by final year students. On the first day, a comedy -- "Constantinople Smith" -- and Harold Pinter's "Landscape" were staged.

Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was the chief guest at the inaugural programme. Vice Chancellor of DU, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique formally inaugurated the festival. Among others, Professor Harun-ur-Rashid, Pro-Vice Chancellor; Professor Mizanur Rahman, Treasurer and Professor Sadrul Amin, Dean of Faculty of Arts, were present as special guests.

"Constantinople Smith" was written by American playwright Charles L Mee Junior. Mithun Chowdhury has directed the play, translated by Julhas Mian. The play features three characters -- Constantinople Smith, a young man who takes himself very seriously; Christina, who falls for Smith and Reality, who tries



Scenes from "Constantinople Smith" and "Landscape" (below).

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

to explain the facts of relationship between Smith and Christina.

As the play progresses, conversations among the three characters continue. Reality tries to explain that the relationship between Smith and Christina is not real, rather an idealistic agreement. The couple ignore this observation and go about their way.

Nazmul Hasan, Ira Ahmed and Shakil Ahmed played the three characters. Imam Abdul Hakim and Sanjida Rahman jointly designed the stage and

lighting.

Harold Pinter's existentialistic play "Landscape" narrates the tale of an elderly couple -- Beth and Duff. Farzana Aktar Chowdhury directed the play, translated by Uday Bhaduri. The play is set in a kitchen. The focus is on the interaction between the two characters. Duff speaks to Beth but does not appear to hear her voice. Beth never looks at Duff and does not appear to hear his voice either.

Beth recalls a romantic episode from the past,

whether involving Duff or another man, it's not clear. Duff talks of more practical matters, and finally has a sort of outburst, evidently in frustration. Beth continues her romantic reverie throughout the play.

Silvia Nowrin and Ridwanul Kabir played Beth and Duff. Mirza Shakheseb Shakib and Nadia Afrin jointly designed the stage, lighting, costumes, and planned music for the play.

The festival features 15 plays by legendary playwrights including Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, Eugene Ionesco, Jean-Paul Sartre, Eugene O'Neill and Ed Bullins. Adaptations of works by W.B. Yeats and Gabriel Garcia Marquez will also be staged at the festival. Today two plays Beckett's "Krapp's Last Tape" and Pinter's "Victoria Station" -- will be staged. Mohsina Aktar and Sharmin Sultana Munmun respectively will direct the plays.

The festival will continue till August 18.



"BBC Buzz" on ATN Bangla tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Weekly variety show featuring youth trends, "BBC Buzz," will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 9:20 pm.

This week, the programme will feature a debate on whether youngsters should try to maintain the purity of the Bangla language or accept "Banglish" (generous use of English in Bangla) as an inevitable part of an increasingly global society. Invited

young individuals will take part in the debate.

Tonight's show will also feature regular segments including 'Everyday Hero', 'Celebrity Report' and 'Day in the Life'. Young singer Nobonita will perform on the programme. Azra hosts the programme.

Now in its third series, the programme is a venture of BBC World Service Trust. The show runs every week on Friday at 9:20 pm with a re-teletcast at 3:15 pm on Monday.



Azra hosts the show.

Priyanka Chopra's noble cause

Bollywood beauty Priyanka Chopra has not forgotten her roots. Her active participation in championing the cause of child and adolescent rights has made her an ambassador of UNICEF.

The relationship between the actor and UNICEF was sealed through an agreement signed in front of the media in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Addressing the press conference the actress said, "I am elated to lend voice to an issue I strongly believe in. I have visited slums and travelled in the heart of villages to understand the problems of child education, malnutrition during my association with the UNICEF in past two years."

She said she would focus on girl child education, as she firmly believes that if you educate a woman you educate a family.

"Hailing from a family of doctors I was made to understand the importance of education at a very young age. I was allowed to chase my dreams but unfortunately not many families in India are supportive of their daughter's ambitions. I have seen this attitude even in affluent families and am



deeply affected by it. "For me a child's basic right, irrespective of gender, is

to be whatever (s)he wants to be in life," Priyanka added. She said education does not

imply solving two plus two; it extends to overall well-being of a child.

"I would be talking to parents, conducting lectures in rural India about reproductive health and family planning. Simple things like use of contraceptive has become pressing issue in times of population explosion," she said after signing the agreement.

When questioned about the challenges she is to face. She replied, "I'm scared of cynicism. People feel celebrities are full of words and little actions. There are times when you are not taken seriously but that's okay. I have fought that in the past too." DK Sikri, secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, said, "Hailing from a small town in Jamshepur, Priyanka becomes a great inspiration for girls in backward areas."

Associating herself to the noble cause, Priyanka joins the bandwagon of veteran actors Amitabh Bachchan and Sharmila Tagore in supporting UNICEF's word for children and adolescents in India and around the world.

Source: Internet

"I wasn't perceived as a successful actor"

--Abhay Deol

At the beginning of his Bollywood innings Abhay Deol was not perceived successful as his films failed to click at the box office but the actor says initial roadblocks helped him take further risks in his career.

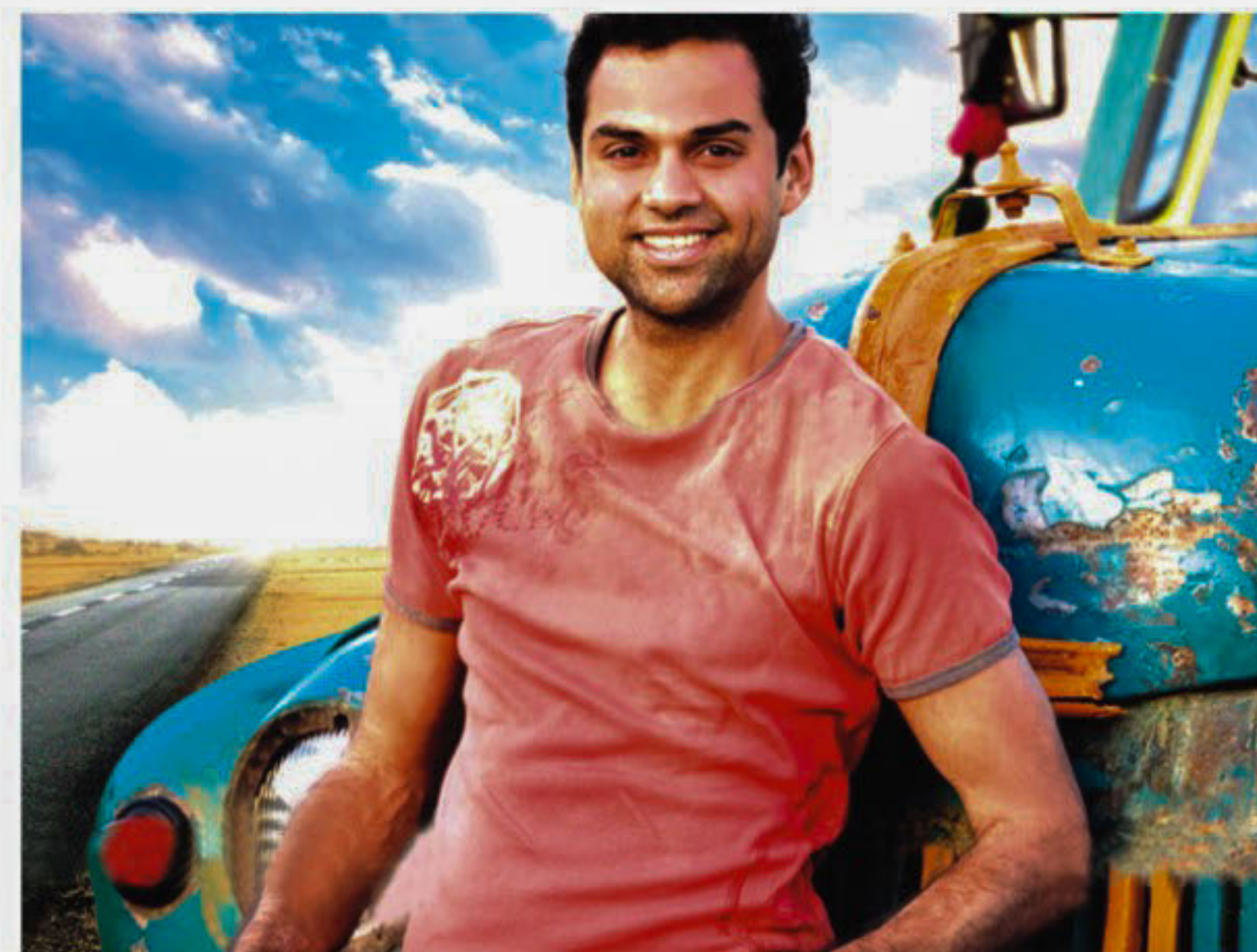
Abhay made his debut with "Socha Naa Tha" in 2005. The actor, who will be seen in a romantic role in "Aisha", says he had set rules for himself before stepping into the world of Bollywood, which helped him avoid stereotypes.

"My plan was to begin with a film like 'Socha Na Tha' and then in films like 'Ek Chalish...' or 'Manorama'. It was unfortunate that my earlier films flopped at the box office. I wasn't perceived as a successful actor and my career didn't make people stand up and say 'Oh God, let's check out this guy'," Abhay tells PTI.

The 34-year-old star, who has delivered gems like "Oye Lucky Lucky Oye" and "Dev D" that turned out to be commercial as well as critical success, says initial flops also helped him understand the business of cinema.

"All of this was only a blessing in disguise because now I could start taking further risks. I could afford to do films like 'Dev D' and 'Oye Lucky Lucky Oye' because taking such risks were worthy enough. As for some of my earlier films, it was my naivety and gullibility that they saw such disappointing releases. I was so clueless about the whole marketing. But now, I have learnt as I have moved along," the actor says.

Abhay, nephew of veteran actor



Dharmendra, is happy to be associated with cinema which is different and breaks quite a few rules when it comes to Bollywood diktats.

"At the beginning of my career, I did try doing something different. Yes, these were not films that fell under conventional cinema bracket but then these were not absolutely radical either. The change actually started with 'Ek Chalish Ki Last Local' and 'Manorama-Six Feet Under'," says Abhay.

Now that he has a film like "Aisha" lined up and shooting of "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" going on in full swing, does he feel that in half a decade gone

by, he has planned his innings quite well?

"Honestly speaking, five years back I always wanted to do stuff that was going to be non-Bollywood. I carried this sense right from my childhood days. However, don't get me wrong, I was never like 'Hey, I am different, so things have to move my way.' I had to enter the industry and see if I can act and then also demonstrate it to people. After that, I put down rules for myself around that I could do and perhaps couldn't do."

Compiled by Correspondent