

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

14th Asian Art Biennale 2010

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery (BSA) and Osmani Memorial Hall
Date: October 8-November 6
Time: 11am-7pm



Duet Art Exhibition

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal
Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: November 5-15
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre

Play: Sitar
Ogniporikkha
Troupe: Sadhona
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 4
Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3/A, Dhanmondi
Date: October 31-November 10
Time: 10am-8pm



An introduction to Kathakali Dance recital at Shilpakala Academy



Honoured dancers with organisers at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



T Shankar Narayan during his performance.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a day of mourning: a leading light in the cultural arena, veteran singer Kalim Sharaifi, had passed away earlier. But the show must go on, that is the way of the world.

As a finale to a recent workshop on Kathakali dance (first in Bangladesh) jointly arranged by Shanto Marium University of Creative Technology and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), presentations highlighting the dance form were staged at the National Theatre Hall, BSA on November 2. Seven renowned dancers of Bangladesh were also honoured at the event.

The workshop was held at Shanto Marium University of Creative Technology from October 26 to 31 and was conducted by Guru T Shankar



Malavika Sen strikes a Bharatanatyam stance.

Narayan (former professor, Sangeet Bhaban, Visvabharati University, India).

Minister of Information and Culture, Abul Kalam Azad, was the chief guest. Among the special guests were Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan; Deputy High Commissioner of India Sanjay Bhattacharya; Secretary to the Ministry of Information Hedayatullah Al Mamun; Vice Chancellor of Shanto Marium University of Creative Technology Dr. Shamsul Haque and noted Bharatanatyam guru from India, Thankamani Kutty.

The presentation started off with a group demonstration -- led by Tamanna Rahman -- of basic Kathakali moves.

Kathakali is the most well known performing art form from the south Indian state of Kerala. The word "Kathakali" literally means "story-play". This highly stylised classical Indian dance-drama is

noted for its particular code of make-up, elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined movements. It originated in the 17th century. Kathakali performances are traditionally based on themes from Hindu mythology, especially the two epics -- "Ramayan" and "Mahabharat".

The main facial expressions of a Kathakali artiste are the *navarasams* (nine emotions): *Sringaram* (amour or seduction), *Hasyam* (humour), *Bhayanakam* (fear), *Karunam* (pathos), *Roudram* (anger), *Veeram* (valour), *Beebhatsam* (disgust), *Adbhutam* (amazement) and *Shantam* (calmness).

These expressions were magnificently illustrated by Guru T Shankar Narayan as he took the stage in the avatar of Damayanti. As heroine of the "Nala-Damayanti" episode from the epic "Mahabharat", Shankar delivered a performance that generated rounds of applause.

Following the Kathakali make-up code, the dancer had a yellowish face. According to the code, the faces of noble male characters are predominantly green. Characters of high birth with an evil streak, such as the demon king Ravan, are allotted a similar green make-up, slashed with red marks on the cheeks. Extremely evil characters wear red make-up and a flowing red beard. Women and ascetics have lustrous, yellow faces.

Through delicate, restrained and powerful facial and hand gestures, the veteran performer brought to life the tale of the star-crossed lovers.

Another highlight was a Bharatanatyam performance by Malavika Sen. The act, "Padam" was a homage to Lord Shiva and his wife, eternal companion Parvati.

At the programme Shanto Marium University of Creative Technology also honoured seasoned Bangladeshi dancers Shaju Ahmed, Dr. Shoma Mumtaz, Shukla Sarkar, Shibli Muhammad, Shamim Ara Nipa, Munmun Ahmed and Tamanna Rahman. Chairman of Shanto Marium Foundation Md. Imamul Kabir Shanto handed the crests to the artistes.

Many in the audience, however, could not enjoy all the dance performances. The shared grievance was that they had to wait over an hour and half for the recital to begin. The tradition of never-ending speeches and seemingly pointless formalities at cultural programmes need to be curbed.

Fifth Dhaka University annual theatre festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 5th Dhaka University annual theatre festival begins today at the university's TSC Auditorium. Organised by the Department of Theatre, DU, the festival will feature four plays till November 11. Today, an adaptation of the Sanskrit play "Madhyambyaog" will be staged. Wahida Mallick Jolly is directing the play originally written by Sangskrit playwright Bhasa.

ITI Worldwide president Ramendu Majumder will formally inaugurate the festival, while Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU, will be present as chief guest.

DU will also stage "Shiddhanto", an adaptation of German playwright Bertolt Brecht's

"The Measures Taken". Dr. Israfil Shahin will direct the play.

Apart from DU, the weeklong festival will also feature plays by the Department of Theatre and Music, Rajshahi University and the Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University.

Rajshahi University will stage the play "Elebele". Written by Zia Haidar, the play will be directed by Manoj Kumar Pramanik. The play will be staged on November 10.

On the last day, Jahangirnagar University will stage "Rohu Chandaler Haar". Written by Abhijit Sen, the play will be directed by Reza Arif.

Everyday plays will start at 6:30 pm.



The festival will open with the Sanskrit play "Madhyambyaog".

Fusion fashion show

ODE Management Ltd is organising, "A Social Business, A Social Cause, A Social Night" -- a unique event where twelve artists from the UK are being flown in to perform in an extravagant fusion fashion show, according to a press release. The event will be held on November 6 at Hotel Sonargaon, from 7pm onwards, and will feature an R&B singer, whose troupe will capture the imagination of the audience with their performances.

"East meets West" will be the theme of all the apparel being showcased at the event. International and local designers will be featured in this gala event. Among those who will have their couture on display

include Jimmy Choo, DKNY, Armani, Satya Paul, Manish Malhotra, Runa Laila and Tootli Rahman. All jewellery at the event will be courtesy of Gitanjali Lifestyle.

In essence, this is a charity show to highlight two of Nasrine R Karim's (the former managing director of Dia House of Fashion Ltd) projects, both of which were very close to her heart -- the Noor E Farid Nasrine Academy in Comilla, and her magazine Dia ASIANA. All proceeds from the show and the magazine will be donated to the Academy. The re-launch of Dia ASIANA will also take place at this gala event, which will likely be attended by the who's who of Dhaka.

Photo exhibition in Mymensingh



Visitors at the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Alokchitra Shilpi Shangshad (Ashis) organised a daylong photo exhibition at its office recently. It was the 28th such exhibition organised by Ashis.

Press secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Around 40 photographs on Liberation War were displayed at the exhibition.

Among others, Chief executive of Boishakhi Television, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul; vice-president, Ashis, Md. Mosharrar Hossain; Nitish Roy and Surindra Kishore Dutta Chowdhury were present at the inaugural session.

After visiting the exhibition, Abul Kalam Azad said that the photographs on Liberation War could inspire the present generation with patriotism. More such exhibitions should be

arranged to give a vivid picture to the young about the country's glorious history, Azad asserted.

Ashis also organised a certificate awarding ceremony among the participants of Digital Photography Training Course at the same venue.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah was the chief guest at a discussion on the occasion.

Sadar Upazila chairman Faizur Rahman Fakir; president of District Bar Association Advocate Anisur Rahman Khan and veteran photographer Bimol Roy were the special guests.

Coordinator of Digital Photography Training Course, Dr. Abul Mansur, delivered the welcome speech. Ashis president Md. Nawab Ali presided over the meeting.

Bipasha Basu goes Hollywood

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood screen scorcher Bipasha Basu will act in her first Hollywood film -- a love story -- to be directed by Roland Joffe

Set in different time periods, the new film by Joffe, known for movies "City of Joy", "The Killing Fields" and "Captivity", will see Bipasha playing an Indian warrior named Tulaja opposite Josh Hartnett of "Pearl Harbour" fame.

The movie traces an impossible love story set across two time periods and continents centred around four characters -- a British officer in colonial India, the Indian woman he falls in love with, an American marine biologist and his lover, who is a researcher trapped in a wrecked British merchant ship. Only the power of a ring can transcend time and save a life.

Joffe, who portrayed life in Kolkata's slums in "City of



Joy" starring Shabana Azmi, Patrick Swayze and Om Puri, hopes to release his latest titled "Singularity" next year. "I am very happy to tell you

that I am doing my first English language film 'Singularity'. It is Roland Joffe's film opposite Josh Hartnett," said the 31-year-old Bipasha.

The script has been written by Ajey Jhankar and the film also stars Bollywood actor Abhay Deol. Besides Hartnett, the movie has a

galaxy of international stars including "Star Trek" actor Chris Pine, Bond girl Olga Kurylenko and Christopher Egan.

Bipasha will fly to Brisbane soon to rehearse with Hartnett and then start filming from third week of November through last week of December.

Joffe was in India in September for the casting of the epic romance and plans to shoot a major portion of the film in the country since the story revolves around Marathas in 1780s.

Bipasha's role is that of a Maratha warrior and the bodyguard of a queen with whom James Stewart (played by Hartnett) falls in love.

Bipasha says she did not get enough time to rehearse the role and now has to wrap it up in eight to ten days.

However, "I'm really excited about working with a director who is recognised globally for his work and the experience of working with actors like Josh and Olga Kurylenko of 'Quantum of Solace' fame," says Bipasha.