

WHAT'S ON

Documentary Screening
Documentary: The Speech
Venue: SUST Auditorium, Sylhet
Date: April 26
Time: 5:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara
Date: April 12-29

Grand Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: April 1-30
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: A Dream of Venice
Photographer: Stephan Rabold
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhamondi
Date: April 15-May 10

Dhaka Street Theatre Fest
Organiser: Patho Natok Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: April 19-25
Time: 4pm onwards

Baishakhi Mela
Organiser: BSIC
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: April 14-24
Time: 10am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Present Perfect Continuous
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, R-3, H-26, Dhamondi
Date: April 22-30
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Lata Ahmed Lisa
Venue: IGCC, H-24, B-2, Dhamondi
Date: April 22
Time: 6:30pm



A TOUCH OF ECSTASY
Syed Abdullah Khalid's solo exhibition



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Syed Abdullah Khalid is regarded as one of the most brilliant sculptors of our country. He is mainly recognised for his 'Aparajeyo Bangla', one of the most familiar sculptures, and considered a landmark, in Dhaka. A multi-talented artist, Khalid has not only excelled in sculpture but also made an impression with his paintings.

to experiment with different forms and enjoys breaking and constructing them in many ways. Blossoming flowers and dense forests are recurring features in his paintings. In many of Khalid's works, one finds a great interchange between abstract and realistic forms. The ongoing exhibition marks Khalid's return to the Bangladeshi art scene after a hiatus of 12 years. His last exhibition was held in 1998 at Gallery 21 (the gallery is now defunct).



Dhaka Divisional Theatre Fest begins in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
The weeklong Dhaka Divisional Theatre Festival began yesterday at the district Shilpakala Academy auditorium. The festival will conclude on April 27. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation is organising the festival with the assistance of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Seven theatre troupes from different districts, including Mymensingh, are performing at the festival. The plays being performed at the festival are 'Adam Shaheed' and 'Ballal Raja' by Theatre Circle (Munshiganj); 'Mohakali Bachha' by Bahurupi Natya Sangstha and 'Allahrakha' by Bidrohi Natya Gossthi (Mymensingh); 'Lalon' by Nagar Natyada (Tangail); 'Shei Amra' by Boishakhi Natya Gossthi (Faridpur); 'Shohagi Baidanir Ghat' by Amrita Theatre (Jamalpur) and 'Chitta Binimoy' by Narayanjan Theatre (Narayanganj).

Swapon, Mohit Chattopadhyay, poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kalyan Mitra, Munshi Mohammad Ali Rumi, Asadullah Farazi and Radha Romon Ghosh respectively.

The festival began with the staging of 'Adam Shaheed' and 'Ballal Raja', directed by Jahangir Alam Dhali. Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, Ekramul Haque Titu inaugurated the festival. Principal Motiur Rahman MP attended the function as chief guest, while Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah and assistant secretary general of BGTFF Akhtaruzzaman were the special guests. Convener of the festival and president member of BGTFF Shahadat Hossain Khan Hili presided over the event. Hili told this correspondent that such festivals organised at the district level give town people an opportunity to enjoy theatre, a very important form of this art. It is also very helpful to create young talents in this field, he concluded.



This month DS Café will have popular singer-composer Bappa Majumdar takes your calls. Readers will have the opportunity to converse with him on different issues regarding music and his personal life. Call 8126155 on April 29, between 2 and 3pm, to speak to Bappa Majumdar!!!

Bangladeshi director and playwright work on a British play

Bangladeshi playwright Masum Reza and theatre director Mohammad Ali Haider have worked on a UK production recently. UK based troupe Theatre Folks has produced the play, titled 'Tale of Two Friends'. The play is the debut production of the troupe, according to a press release. The play will premiere on April 30 at Pegasus Theatre Hall, Oxford. Another show will be held the following day. The plot zooms in on two friends Amir and Salman. Both friends are cricket fanatics. They both earn scholarships from a cricket academy in India. Amir's family supports him to go forward but Salman's family refuses to let him go to India. Salman becomes frustrated and joins an anti-social organisation. The cast includes Uma Pradhan, Andrea Canales, Samina Lufza, Selina Shelley, Mohammad Ali Haider, Kamruzzaman, Kavsaruzzaman and Sauduzzaman. George Philip is doing the light designing, while Sumel Chowdhury is directing the music. Syed Manzurul Hussain is the set designer. Rupkatha Priodarsanini and Chupkatha Priobhashini have jointly translated the play from Bangla to English. The play will be staged at different cities of UK throughout the year. Oxfordshire Bangladesh Association is supporting the production.



Saliha Lefevre, director, Alliance Française de Dhaka speaks at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-daylong 4th French Drama Festival begins tomorrow (April 23) at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in Dhaka. Natukay Theatre Group in association with Alliance Française de Dhaka and Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music, Chittagong has arranged the festival. The inaugural programme will be held at the National Theatre Hall on Saturday evening. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the festival, while Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, will be present as chief guest. French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Charley Causseret, will be present as guest of honour. Ramendu Majumdar, IIT Worldwide president, and Liakat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA and chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, will be present as special guests. On the opening day, French acrobat

4th Int'l French Drama Fest Begins Tomorrow

theatre troupe Collectif Prêt à Porter will stage a 30-minute-long show 'Ca cartonne à Washington', while Fame School of Drama will stage Eugene Ionesco's 'The Lesson'. On the following day, Prêt à Porter will repeat 'Ca cartonne à Washington', while Fame School will stage a collage of three plays by Samuel Beckett. Udichi will stage its recent production, a Jean Paul Sartre play 'Rajnoitik Hotya'. Theatre School will stage 'Godot' Opekkha, an adaptation of the Samuel Beckett play 'Waiting for Godot'. Ataur Rahman has directed the play. Natukay Theatre Group will stage 'Eit Marcar Patkeltio...', an adaptation of the Marc Camoletti play 'Ding Dong'. Like previous years, this year the organisers will honour two theatre personalities. This year Mamunur Rashid and Aly Zaker will receive the accolades. On the occasion of the festival, a press conference was held at Alliance Française de Dhaka on April 19.

DEVIDAS: Becoming a household name

We've seen 'Devdas' in all colours. But we barely know the actor who first brought Sharatchandra Chattopadhyay's famous character to screen. Thanks to author Pran Neville's 'KL Saigal: The Definitive Biography', movie enthusiasts now have the opportunity to know how 'Devdas' became a household name throughout the subcontinent. Based on renowned Bengali writer Sharatchandra Chattopadhyay's popular novel which he wrote at the age of seventeen, 'Devdas' was first filmed in 1928, in the silent period, by Naresh Mitra. PC Barua, a creative genius of his time, raised the level of his film to a solemn tragedy. He introduced a new style of acting, which was natural and unaffected, a departure from the then popular theatrical mode, and also adopted simple, easy-to-follow dialogues without any literary nuances. Barua played the title role in the Bengali version and KL Saigal in the Hindi one and both went on to become cult figures. 'Devdas' is the story of a young man, son of a feudal landlord, who has an abiding love for his childhood playmate Parbati, daughter of his less fortunate neighbour of a lower status. To prevent their growing attachment, Devdas is sent to Calcutta (now Kolkata) for higher education and Parbati is married off to an aged widower. Devdas returns to the village but is helpless in stopping Parbati's marriage. Devdas goes back to the city, and drowns his sorrows in alcohol and the company of a singing girl Chandramukhi who gets attached to him. To serve and look after him, she even quits her profession but Devdas' condition deteriorates. On hearing about his miserable plight, Parbati comes to plead with him to stop drinking but in vain. Rather than follow her advice, he promises Parbati that he would come to see her before he dies. His decline continues in spite of the devoted care and attention paid to him by Chandramukhi. In his fragile state of health, and realising that his end is fast approaching, Devdas embarks on a journey to keep his promise. He travels all night to get to Parbati's village, only to die in front of her home. And Parbati, within the high walls of her home, hears that her Devdas is dead. Barua's adaptation of the novel reflected his own tragic view of the life starved of joy and laughter. His creative passion and technical innovations are revealed in his expert editing for dramatic effect, close-up shots for image construction, and use of sound to suggest telepathic communication between the characters. Equally striking are the emotional patterns built through skilful handling of the visuals like conveying a sentiment or reaction through halting speech and using the intervening pauses during a dialogue for a more telling effect than the spoken word. Barua was a handsome young man, with aristocratic grace and charm, and had a deep voice which he used in a low, understated manner to enrich the content of visuals. Other features which distinguish Barua were his tragic and rather solemn intensity, his superb handling of actors, his instinct for detail and his subtle way of depicting the characters' agony and anguish. For instance, his shooting of the train journey, portraying Devdas' intense suffering, with sounds from the rail track as the backdrop, was indeed a marvel in cinematic art. Barua achieved great fame, popularity and adulation usually reserved for the stars. As the most eminent and successful creator of romantic-tragic



drama, Barua received fabulous offers from Bombay producers to make 'Devdas'-like films for them. He rejected them, saying, 'It is not my field; it is a bazaar.' Barua's Hamlet-like personality and his premature death, like his Hindi-version-hero KL Saigal, through alcoholism, made him an icon of cinematic genius. Just before his death, he is reported to have said, 'Devdas' was in me even before I was born, I created it every moment of my life, much before I put it on the screen, it was no more than a mirage, a play of light and shade, and sadder still, it ceased to exist after two hours. Now it's just a myth.' The powerful appeal of the romantic-tragic hero made Devdas a cult figure. This set the pace for the popularity of the doomed hero on the Indian screen. The term 'Devdas' replaced the old 'Majnu', to symbolise a deeply dejected lover.

Both Bengali and Hindi versions of 'Devdas' were released in 1935. Though KL Saigal was no match for Barua's attractive appearance and charm, he more than made it up with his enchanting melodies. The role of Parbati, the heroine, was played by Jamuna in both the Bengali and Hindi versions, while Chandramukhi was enacted by Chandrabati and Rajkumari respectively. Originally, Barua wanted Kananabha to play the part of Chandramukhi as she had already established her name and fame in Bengali cinema. But as she was bound by her contract with Madan Theatres, she could not accept Barua's offer. The phenomenal success of the film was also attributed to its marvellous music composed by Timir Baran (Hindi) and RC Boral and Pankaj Mullick (Bengali). Apart from his sterling performance as Devdas, which made him Indian cinema's first superstar, Saigal also had a sensational walk-on part in the Bengali version as one of the visitors to Chandramukhi's kotha and sang two Bengali songs 'Kahare je jodatey chai' and 'Golap hoye utuk phutey'. Saigal took pains to learn the meaning of each word of the songs and absorbed the mood and ambience of the scenes in which they were to be sung. Sung in a classical style in leisurely fashion, with pauses, the songs in Saigal's voice evoked unique beauty and serenity. Originally, Pankaj Mullick was scheduled to sing these songs but when he heard the recordings, he felt he could not match the magical spell created by Saigal's voice. This was Saigal's Bengali debut and the New Theatres' controllers of production awaited the author Sharatchandra's approval because they apprehended a negative public response to Saigal's imperfect Bengali accent. When the novelist arrived and heard the recording, he was greatly pleased and at once gave his approval by pointing out that non-Bengalis were not barred from visiting the saloons of singing girls and Saigal's rendition of the songs was justified in the scene. Later, Saigal acted in several Bengali films. It was noted in some quarters that the tragic ending in 'Devdas' did not conform to the Indian classical tradition in which there were only happy endings. In Sanskrit dramas there was no room for tragedy, since the Hindu mind treated life as a transitional state. But in the nineteenth century, western influence had its impact on Bengali literature and drama, and the element of a tragic ending had been already introduced. Many literary stalwarts and critics consider the tragedy and its portrayal saturated with agony and anguish to be a far greater literary achievement than comedy. The emotional content of the tragedy has a powerful and enduring impact on the audiences and enlightens them about the intensity of human feelings and their meaning in life. Compared with the Bengali version, the Hindi 'Devdas', which had a much larger reach all over the subcontinent, was a superhit. And, of course, the greatest asset of the film was the golden voice of Saigal, who was already a celebrity with his recent remarkable success as a singer-actor in 'Chandidas'. Saigal was the first artiste to sing in a relaxed, natural and intimate style and his songs were essentially dialogue in the musical form. The camera work was done by Bimal Roy, a genius in his own right.

Compiled by Correspondent

Jude Law and Uma Thurman join Cannes jury



Hollywood stars Jude Law and Uma Thurman have been added to Robert De Niro's jury at the Cannes Film Festival. Other members of the panel, announced on Tuesday, include Chinese film-maker Nansun Shi, Argentine actress Martina Gussman and Norwegian author and journalist Linn Ullmann. Terence Malick's long-awaited 'The Tree of Life', starring Brad Pitt, is among films competing for the Palme d'Or. The festival runs from May 11 to 22. Other contenders include Pedro Almodovar's 'The Skin I Live In' (La Piel Que Habito), starring Antonio Banderas, and former Palme d'Or winner Lars Von Trier's 'Melancholia'. The jury is completed by film directors Johnny To from Hong Kong, Chadian Mahamat Saleh Haroun and France's Olivier Assayas. This year's festival will be opened by Woody Allen's romantic comedy 'Midnight in Paris' and will also feature an out-of-competition screening of 'Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides'. Law and Thurman appeared together in 1997 film 'Gattaca'. Source: BBC

NEW RELEASES

Advertisement for new music releases including 'Jibananda Solo album by Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury', 'Raag Onuraag Duat album featuring Reenat Fauzia and Badhon', and 'Chowa Solo album by Hridoy Khan'.

Table with TV schedules for various channels including BTV, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL i.

Table with RADIO schedules for various stations including abcradio FM 89.2, 96.00, and RADIO TODAY FM 89.6.

Advertisement for 'Ekta Bhalo Manush Chai' on Desh TV at 09:45pm.

Advertisement for 'Terminator Salvation' on HBO at 11:45pm.

Advertisement for 'Phanush' on CHANNEL i at 09:30pm.

Table with TV schedules for various channels including ntv, Rtv, and Desh TV.

Table with DRAMA SERIAL schedules for various channels.

Table with NEWS BULLETIN schedules for various channels.

Table with TALK SHOW schedules for various channels.