

WHAT'S ON



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Monirul Islam
Venue: Gallery Chitrak,
Dhannomdi
Date: May 27-June 15
Time: 10am-8pm



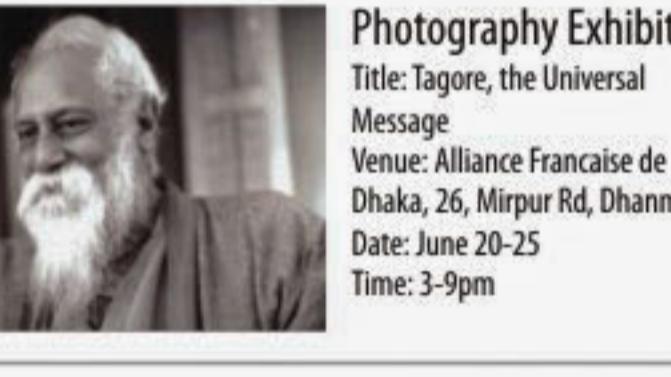
150th Birth Anniversary
of Tagore
Organiser: Shilpkala Academy
Venue: BSA, TSC, Rabindra
Sandar and two others
Date: June 11-17
Time: 7pm everyday



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group
Theatre Federation
Venue: Shilpkala Academy
Date: June 3-17
Time: 7pm everyday



19th National Art
Exhibition
Organiser: Shilpkala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery,
Shilpkala Academy
Date: May 28-June 17
Time: 11am-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Tagore, the Universal
Message
Venue: Alliance Francaise de
Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhannomdi
Date: June 20-25
Time: 3-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A
H-60, Dhannomdi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-8pm



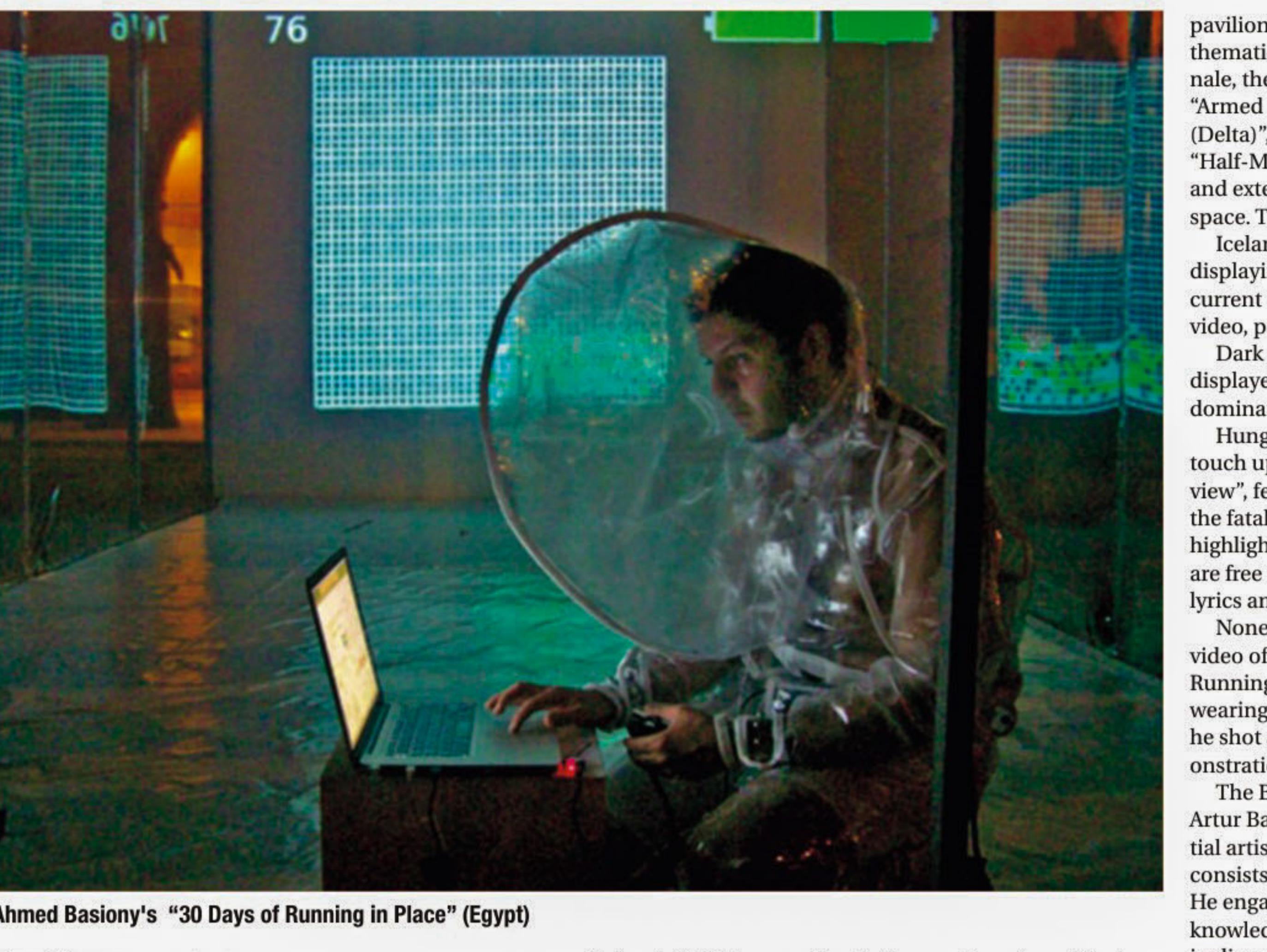
Solo Photography
Exhibition
Title: In Search
Photographer: Naimuzzaman Prince
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
Dhannomdi
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Secret
Artist: Tarak Mahadev
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance
Francaise de Dhaka,
Dhannomdi
Date: June 3-16; Time: 3-9pm

54TH VENICE BIENNALE

Diversity, Reality and Interconnectivity



Ahmed Basiony's "30 Days of Running in Place" (Egypt)

TAKIR HOSSAIN writes from Venice

pavilion. The works have received appreciation for their thematic monumental and performing art. At the biennale, the duo's interconnected works -- "Track and Field", "Armed Freedom Lying on a Sunbed", "Body in Flight (Delta)", "Body Flight (American)", "Algorithm" and "Half-Mast / Full Mast" -- have transformed the interior and exterior of the U.S. pavilion into a lively, interactive space. The works focus on contemporary politics.

Icelandic artists Libia Castro and Olafur Olafsson are displaying "Under Deconstruction". The work explores current economic and political issues in Iceland -- using video, performance, sound and music.

Dark memorials to the deceased Libyans and banners displayed at the Romanian pavilion criticise the Western domination in global politics and culture.

Hungarian artist Hajnal Nemeth's installation and video touch upon a number of themes. His "Crash-Passive Interview", featuring a wrecked red car, reminds the viewer of the fatalities of accidents. Beside the installation, a video highlights a musical composition. Walking around, visitors are free to discover various layers of sound and meaning, lyrics and voices, as well as the noises.

None could overlook the Egyptian pavilion, screening a video of Ahmed Basiony's last performance, "30 Days of Running in Place", in which the artist runs on the spot wearing a plastic bubble. The artist intersected the footage shot at Tahrir Square during the pro-democracy demonstrations. That is where Basiony was shot and killed.

The Brazilian pavilion is crammed with the work of Artur Barrio. Barrio is considered one of the most influential artists of contemporary Brazilian art. Much of his work consists of installation pieces that interact with the public. He engages the viewers as participants, often without their knowledge. In his installation, he focuses on environment in diverse ways. He also uses salt, meat, wood, fish, bread, and coffee for dimension.

Chinese works at the exhibition have a touch of smoothness and subtlety. Most of their installations are technically rich. Among the five participating artists at the China pavilion in Arsenale, Yuan Gong, Yang Maoyuan and Liang Yuanwei's works are quite impressive. Yang Maoyuan's "All Things are Visible" features medicine pots (made of porcelain) of different sizes and colours. Some of them are egg shaped and others round, with nothing in them except for the smells of medicinal herbs. "Beauty is generally defined by light in Western aesthetics. But Chinese aesthetics reveal a closer relationship between beauty and smells," said Peng Fang, Professor of aesthetics, Peking University. Liang Yuanwei's installation underscores the flavour, colour and mystery of Chinese liquor.

The Saudi Arabian pavilion houses a conceptually intriguing installation. Raja, a writer, and Shadia Alem, a visual artist, have jointly developed the project. The structure includes smooth chrome marbles, perfectly arranged in concentric arcs, representing marine traffic moving in circular motion. The marbles have created a certain glow in the dark room. Raja said, "I am always aware of the physical presence of black all around us -- the black outlines of Saudi women, the black cloth of the Al Ka'b, and the black stone that is said to have enhanced our knowledge."

Magela Ferrero and Alejandro Cesarc are two prolific Uruguayan artists. Their project, "A Common Ground", demonstrates the use of images and words engrossed with lyricism. Ferrero's photograph (small writings on fabric) refers to personal moments and memories. Cesarc's video is very precise and it features the dialogue between a young male and female. The dialogues are undoubtedly rich and help viewers comprehend life's decisive moments, loss and gain. The protagonists deliver dialogues intensely, demonstrating a bond and generating a lingo of highly symbolic content. Cilo E. Bugel is the curator of the Uruguay pavilion.

Under the title "Gloria", Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla have jointly developed six works for the U.S.

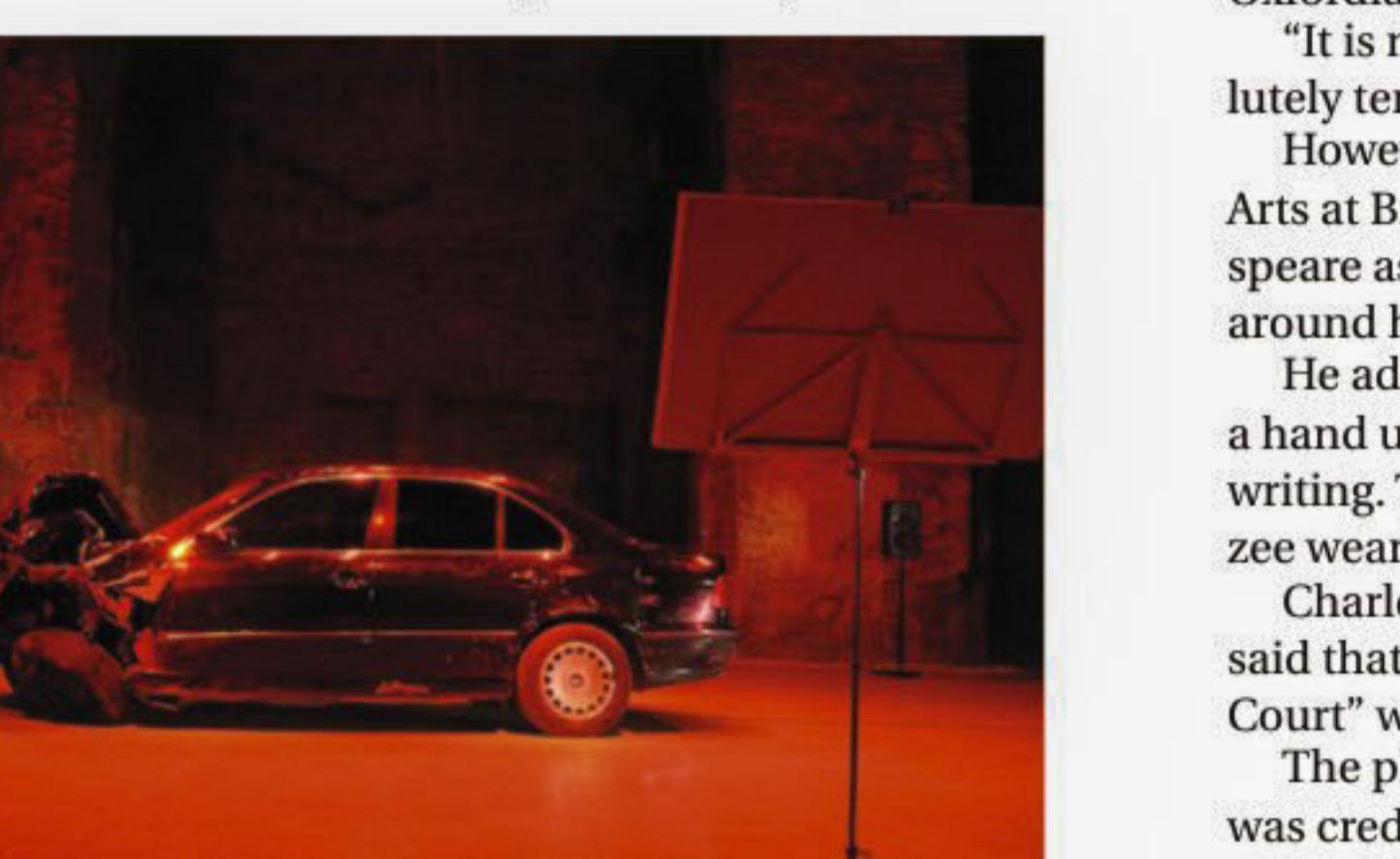
Among the participating countries, Venezuela, Uruguay,



Yang Maoyuan's "All Things are Visible" (China)



Raja and Shadia Alem's "The Black Arch" (Saudi Arabia)



Hajnal Nemeth's "Crash-Passive Interview" (Hungary)



Artur Barrio's Installation (Brazil)

Three-day cultural fest wraps up in Satkhira

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

A three-day District Cultural Fair ended at Satkhira Shilpkala Academy premises on June 8. The festival was organised by Satkhira District Administration.

Khulna divisional commissioner Md. Mashirul Rahaman was present as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the fair. Satkhira deputy commissioner (DC) Md. Abdus Samad presided over the programme. Satkhira Police superintendent Habibur Rahman Khan; Zilla Parishad chief executive officer Dewar Haider Hamed and additional deputy commissioner (general) Sheikh Hamid Hasan, among others, made brief speeches highlighting the importance of such fairs in the country.

Artists from Assasuni, Kalorao and Tala upazilas performed on the second day of the fair. Sanjoy Mondal's rendition of "Shono Ekti Mujiber Kantho Thekey" was followed by a performance of the Tagore song "Ektku Chhowa Lage" by Amrita Chakraborty. Other well-known compositions of Nazrul and Lalon were also performed by local artists.

Khulna divisional commissioner said that lack of cultural activities is alienating the youngsters. "This kind of cultural events," he hoped, "would help the youth go back to their roots and traditions."

The fair kicked off with lathi khela (an indigenous martial art form involving bamboo sticks) at Shahed Abdur Razzaq Park adjacent to the local Shilpkala Academy premises. Artistes from Shyamnagar, Debbata and Kaliganj upazilas danced, sang and recited poetry at the opening programme.

The group of lathi khela performers from Assasuni seemed to enthrall the audience with their fascinating skills. Children from Shyamnagar impressed the audience with their dance to the song "Hey Natu Dekha Dik Aar Bar".

Artistes from Assasuni, Kalorao and Tala upazilas performed on the second day of the fair. Sanjoy Mondal's rendition of "Shono Ekti Mujiber Kantho Thekey" was followed by a performance of the Tagore song "Ektku Chhowa Lage" by Amrita Chakraborty. Other well-known compositions of Nazrul and Lalon were also performed by local artists.

Khulna divisional commissioner said that lack of cultural activities is alienating the youngsters. "This kind of cultural events," he hoped, "would help the youth go back to their roots and traditions."

On the third day, artistes from Sadar and Satkhira municipality presented dances, songs and recitation.

A chorus, "Sabuj Shyamol Aar Shal Seguney Bhorai", narrating the nature and landscape of Satkhira, was

performed by Anna, Tumpa, Ratna, Shahidul Islam and Kabir Uddin.

Poems titled, "Sonar Medai" and "Keu Kotha

"Kheni" were recited by Sumona and Syed Ektedar Ali.

Renditions of Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet were also

part of the ending programme.



Lathi khela at the festival.

performed by Anna, Tumpa, Ratna, Shahidul Islam and Kabir Uddin.

Poems titled, "Sonar Medai" and "Keu Kotha

"Kheni" were recited by Sumona and Syed Ektedar Ali.

Renditions of Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet were also

part of the ending programme.

New film questions Shakespeare authorship



In "Anonymous", Roland Emmerich (left) examines the theory that someone else wrote Shakespeare's plays.

German film director Roland Emmerich has admitted courting controversy with his film that questions the authorship of Shakespeare's plays.

His film "Anonymous" portrays the bard as an inarticulate buffoon, making nobleman Edward de Vere the true author.

Speaking at a debate, Emmerich said: "I know it is controversial, and I was going for the controversy."

Emmerich is best known for effects-laden blockbusters like "Independence Day", "Godzilla" and disaster movie "2012".

"Anonymous" stars Rhys Ifans as de Vere -- the 17th Earl of Oxford, Rafe Spall as Shakespeare and Vanessa Redgrave as Queen Elizabeth I.

"Art has to provoke," Emmerich told the audience at the English-Speaking Union in Mayfair.

"That Shakespeare didn't write the plays is only one of the many scandals that this movie will unearth."

Having thrown down the gauntlet, Emmerich watched as academics from both sides of the argument engaged in a lively debate, broadcast live on the internet.

The debate was part-organised by Sony Pictures, who are releasing the film on September 30.

The motion was that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the author of the plays and poems attributed to him.

Supporting the motion, Shakespeare scholar Professor Michael Dobson of Birkbeck College, said: "I am very grateful to Roland Emmerich for perfectly underlining the very genre and character of what's called the Oxfordian case."

"It is no less and certainly no more than an absolutely terrific plot for a B-movie."

However, Dr. William Leahy, head of the School of Arts at Brunel University, painted a portrait of Shakespeare as an "opportunist" who stole the work of those around him and passed it off as his own.

He added: "The six signatures he left... are written in a hand unlike someone who has made their living by writing. They look like they were written by a chimpanzee wearing oven gloves."

Charles Beaulehr, president of the De Vere Society, said that "Hamlet" was "an exposé of the Elizabethan Court" written by the Earl of Oxford.

The play was highly political, he said, so authorship was credited to Shakespeare to depoliticise it in the public arena.

"With Shakespeare as author, 'Hamlet' becomes a harmless tale about an ancient Danish Prince," he said.

But Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, head of learning at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, put the anti-Shakespeare arguments down to snobbery.

"Nearly all of the alternative candidates are aristocratic, university-educated or both," he said. "Their proponents look down on Shakespeare as an uneducated commoner."

He went on: "William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the plays and poems attributed to him. His authorship was not even questioned until 1856..

"If he didn't write them, then we have to believe that thousands of people during his lifetime... were in on a terrible conspiracy. I think not."

At the end, Emmerich observed with a smile: "I'm amazed -- you make a little costume B movie and you end up here at the English-Speaking Union."

Source: BBC

WHAT TO WATCH

Raising Hope

OSAMA RAHMAN

Greg Garcia knew he had the formula right when "My Name is Earl" began garnering wide acclaim. But four seasons later it was cancelled and Garcia found himself back at the drawing board. And a while later, he gave the world "Raising Hope", a show that treads a fine line between being something new and a rehashed version of "My Name is Earl". But, there are considerable differences and the clincher is the fact that "Raising Hope" is much removed from most of the other family shows on TV.

"Raising Hope" follows the life as led by those labeled "white trash". The story zooms in on Jimmy Chance (Lucas Neff), who has a one night stand with a criminal and ends up with her baby nine months later, owing to the fact that mommy is still in jail. Jimmy, himself a victim of being raised wrong as his parents too were too young when they had him, decides to take care of the baby. The 23-year old faces resistance from his parents, especially his mom Virginia Chance. Martha Pimpton essays the role of the chain-smoking, easily irritated Virginia effortlessly, while Garrett Dillahunt plays the usually confused Burt Chance, Jimmy's father.

The motion was that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the author of the plays and poems attributed to him.

Supporting the motion, Shakespeare scholar Professor Michael Dobson of Birkbeck College, said: "I am very grateful to Roland Emmerich for perfectly underlining the very genre and character of what's called the Oxfordian case."

"It is no less and certainly no more than an absolutely terrific plot for a B-movie."

However, Dr. William Leahy, head of the School of Arts at Brunel University, painted a portrait of Shakespeare as an "opportunist" who stole the work of those around him and passed it off as his own.

He added: "The six signatures he left... are written in a hand unlike someone who has made their living by writing. They look like they were written by a chimpanzee wearing oven gloves."

Charles Beaulehr, president of the De Vere Society, said that "Hamlet" was "an exposé of the Elizabethan Court" written by the Earl of Oxford.

The play was highly political, he said, so authorship was credited to Shakespeare to depoliticise it in the public arena.

"With Shakespeare as author, 'Hamlet' becomes a harmless tale about an ancient Danish Prince," he said.

But Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, head of learning at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, put the anti-Shakespeare arguments down to snobbery.

"Nearly all of the alternative candidates are aristocratic, university-educated or both," he said. "Their proponents look down on Shakespeare as an uneducated commoner."

He went on: "William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the plays and poems attributed to him. His authorship was not even questioned until 1856..

"If he didn't write them, then we have to believe that thousands of people during his lifetime... were in on a terrible conspiracy. I think not."

At the end, Emmerich observed with a smile: "I'm amazed -- you make a little costume B movie and you end up here at the English-Speaking Union."

The show focuses on the sufferings of unplanned parenthood that Jimmy goes through while tending to little Hope's every need. Clueless, as a 23-year old would be, Jimmy struggles to raise Hope while making ends meet. His parents remain clueless too and

"Raising Hope" is aired on Star World (on Saturdays at 11pm and Sundays at 7pm).

"Raising Hope" is a show about a baby to last?"

Despite the flaws, there is still an odd and alluring charm about the show and its characters. In recent episodes, an improvement has also been observed, with the story branching out to involve different elements and aspects. All in all, the show is a breath of fresh air and hence Garcia deserves the benefit of the doubt, while the show itself promises that the viewers will not be disappointed.

The show focuses on the sufferings of unplanned parenthood that Jimmy goes through while tending to little Hope's every need. Clueless, as a 23-year old would be, Jimmy struggles to raise Hope while making ends meet. His parents remain clueless too and

"Raising Hope" is a show about a baby to last?"

Despite the flaws, there is still an odd and alluring charm about the show and its characters. In recent episodes, an improvement has also been observed, with the story branching out to involve different elements and aspects. All in all, the show is a breath of fresh air and hence Garcia deserves the benefit of the doubt, while the show itself promises that the viewers will not be disappointed.

The show focuses on the sufferings of unplanned parenthood that Jimmy goes through while tending to little Hope's every need. Clueless, as a 23-year old would be, Jimmy struggles to raise Hope while making ends meet. His parents remain clueless too and

"Raising Hope" is a show about a baby to last?"

The show focuses on the sufferings of unplanned parenthood that Jimmy goes through while tending to little Hope's every need. Clueless, as a 23-year old would be, Jimmy struggles to raise Hope while making ends meet. His parents