

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Waterscapes and Paintings
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: May 24-June 6
Time: 1pm-8pm

Concert
Band: Dolchhut
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: June 1, Time: 6:30pm

Cultural Programme
Participant: China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 9-10

Film Screening
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhamond
Date: May 25-31
Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tribute to Bijan Choudhury
Artist: Bijan Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Foundation, H-275/F, R-27 (Old), Dhamond
Date: May 22-31
Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Freefall
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: May 24-June 11

Classical Musical Soiree
Organiser: Shudhha Sangeet Proshar Goshh
Venue: 4th floor, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Dhaka
Date: May 31
Time: 6:30pm

ITI Theatre Fest
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Sherganghata
Date: May 27-June 3
Time: 7pm everyday



Chinese opera
"Mouse Daughter's Marriage"



Scenes from "Mouse Daughter's Marriage" and "Haar Taranga" (right).

JAMIL MAHMUD

With a vision to demonstrate the diversity of Asian theatre, the weeklong "International Theatre Festival, Seminar and Workshop" presented a traditional Chinese opera on May 29 (third day) at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Arranged by the Bangladesh centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI), the festival on its third day saw staging of Aranyak Natyadal's resurrected version of the Munier Chowdhury classic "Kabor", and Oikik Theatre's (Narayanganj) "Haar Taranga". The plays were staged respectively at the Studio Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall.

Nanning Yue Opera is the one of four troupes from overseas at the festival. Directed by Hao Yun, the opera, "Mouse Daughter's Marriage", was a vibrant display of traditional Chinese art forms such as martial art; although the performance was a light comedy. Each and every performer demonstrated martial art at times - sometimes to articulate ferocity and at others, exuberance.

Chua Soo Pong, the artistic advisor and playwright, said that the opera has been

designed especially for the young. "Mouse Daughter's Marriage" depicts a mouse's daughter (Yu Ren) seeking a husband. Three eligible bachelors -- Black Cloud (Fang Ning), Wind (Liang Wei Dai) and Wall (He Hui Lin) -- come and ask for her hand in marriage. But the mother and daughter reject them because in their opinion, they are not rich, powerful or famous.

The cast also includes Ning Jing, Huang Jun Cheng and Liang Su Mei. The opera was performed on a flat surface, as there was no set designing involved, except a white backdrop with blue reflection on it. Yet the performance was colourful because the actors were attired in bright costumes and had heavily painted faces.

The Chinese dialogues created little barrier to understanding the plot because of the comprehensible gestures that resembled mimicry. As the Chinese love bright colours, the light seemed overexposed sometimes, especially on white costumes.

The opera premiered in 2003. According to Chua Soo Pong, the innovative work had toured over 200 schools in Singapore and was presented at international theatre festivals in China, Germany, Indonesia and



PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Malaysia over the last couple of years.

Fang Ning is the producer and head of the delegation, while Lin Liang Shan composed the opera.

Aranyak's "Kabor" was the first play by the troupe back in the early 1970s. The Munier Chowdhury classic has been resurrected recently on the occasion of the troupe's 40th anniversary. Abu Hasim Masuduzzaman directed the new version. A group of young actors including Arif Hossain, Sazzad Sazu, Abu Hasim Masuduzzaman, Sujat Shimul, Ayon Ghosh, Sharmin Hayat and Firoz Masum enacted different roles in the play.

In memory of the play's first show, the new production is staged under low light. Only few lanterns were used for the play.

Oikik Theatre's "Haar Taranga" has been directed by Shoyeb Monir. The play circles around a group of indigenous people who fight for their existence.

Today, Pallabi Dance Centre will stage the dance-drama "Shapmochon" at the National Theatre Hall, while Nagarik Natya Sampraday and Bangla Theatre will stage "Achalayatan" and "Distant Near" respectively at the Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall.

Farah Ruma: All in one

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Farah Ruma has been in media for more than a decade. She has demonstrated her brilliance in drama, modelling, cinema, and in hosting TV shows. "Amaro Gaithe Ichche Holo", a music show hosted by her has been aired for about two and half years. The programme is telecast on ntv at 9pm once a week. Ruma has shared her thoughts with The Daily Star regarding the programme and other issues as well.

Tell us about the guests on "Amaro Gaithe Ichche Holo".

Farah Ruma: Usually upcoming singers perform in the programme. Young composers and singers, whose first albums have recently been released, and above all artists who have shown some potential in music are people who get highlighted. Audience and veteran musicians have spoken highly of the compositions of these upcoming musicians.

As an artiste you belong more to the field of drama. So, how does it feel to host such a programme on musicians?

Farah Ruma: Initially it was something new to me. But things do change as time wears on. Now I'm really enjoying it. Overall, I think I'm quite comfortable in my role.

So, are you planning to do it on a regular basis?

Farah Ruma: No.

Acting is what

I want to

focus on.

And I want

to do that with

utmost sincerity.

I will never be a

host at the cost of my

acting career. May be I will host occa-

sionally. However, I am going to anchor a

programme on the anniversary of ntv.

Tell us about your new projects.

Farah Ruma: I have worked in a serial named

"Omnamangshito Golpo" which was directed by

Ohiduzzaman Diamond. Besides, I am working on a

new serial titled "Maya Nigam" which is directed by

Golam Mostofa Shimul. The other one is "Shesh

Kotha" directed by Arshad Noor. And apart from

this, I have already completed the following

projects: Choyonika Chowdhury's "Ekono

Musholdhare Brishti Jhore," Shahriar Najim

Joy's "Darko o Doyeler Golpo," and Anjan

Aich's three one-hour plays named "Halo-

gen Rohoshyo."

What about movies?

Farah Ruma: I have just completed the

shooting of the movie "Putro Ekhon

Poishawala" directed by Nargis Akhter.

The movie is going to be released soon.