

WHAT'S ON
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Neuralgic Window
Artist: Mustapha Khalid
Palash
Venue: Athena Gallery, Badda
Date: Sep 13-21



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: Verses Written Through Water
Artist: Anisuzzaman
Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan

Theatre
Play: Aroj Charitamrita
Troupe: Natyakendra
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 11
Time: 7pm

Short Film Screening
Title: Let's Talk
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut
Date: Sep 12; Time: 7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Mayur Singhashon
Troupe: Aranyak Natyad
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 9; Time: 7pm

NEWS bytes

Kevin MacDonald to direct Presley biopic

"The Last King of Scotland" director Kevin MacDonald has signed up to direct the Elvis Presley biopic "Last Train to Memphis", according to Variety magazine. The film follows Presley's early years and is based on the best-selling 1995 Peter Guralnick biography. The film is being produced by Mick Jagger and Victoria Pearman at Jagged Films.

Film company 20th Century Fox have launched an open casting call for a young actor to play Elvis.

At the "Young Elvis Casting" website, actors aged between 18 and 22 can submit audition tapes. The site describes the film as the story of Presley's "against-all-odds success due to his uncanny gift for self-invention, his unstoppable drive, and the new sound he created that changed the music world forever."

MacDonald had also directed the 2012 documentary "Marley" about the life, music, and legacy of Bob Marley.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Accordions are a family of box-shaped musical instruments of the bellows-driven free-reed aerophone type, sometimes colloquially referred to as a squeeze-box. A person who plays the accordion is called an accordionist. The concertina and bandonion are closely related; the harmonium and American reed organ are also in the same family. It's most prolific use is in European and North and South American traditional music, but also used in popular and folk music. It is known in many different names across the world, including Harmonika, Dragspel, Trekkspill, Oinu Handia and Eskusoinua.



Bengal Foundation breaks the big news
Second Classical Music Festival in November



Abul Khair (2-L) speaks at the press meet.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation made an official announcement on Sunday that it would host the second edition of the Bengal ITC-SRA Classical Music Festival 2013 at the end of November this year. In a "Meet the Press" event at Hotel Sonargaon, director general of the Foundation Luva Nahid Chowdhury read out an official announcement confirming the congregation of the foremost classical music and dance maestros from November 28-December 1, 2013 at the same venue as last year, the Army Stadium.

In association with the ITC Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) in Kolkata, the festival will feature some 50 prominent names in music and dance, with new names including sitar maestro Rais Khan, Carnatic music vocalist Jayshree, rudra veena player Bahauddin Dagar and Swapan Chowdhury on tabla, alongside the big names who entranced audiences last year, including Vidushi Girija Devi, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pandit Ajoy Chakravarty, Vidushi Kaushiki Chakravarty, Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra, and Purvayan Chatterjee. The artistes from Bangladesh will include Asit Dey on vocal, Tamanna Rahman and her troupe in Manipuri dance and a group tabla performance by four artistes. The performances will continue from evening till dawn on all four days of the festival.

Speaking at the press meet, executive director of ITC-SRA Ravi Mathur said last year's festival had exceeded their 'wildest expectations', and sought cooperation from journalists in disseminating the message of goodwill that music brings.

Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Maasranga TV, said last year's festival "lit up the

country's image", adding that it would not have been possible without people's participation, and expected a better turnout this time.

Anisul Hoque, associate editor of the Daily Prothom Alo, said there was great reason for optimism about the people of Bangladesh, because they had proven that they were great aficionados of good music and arts. He also pledged his organisation's support to all worthy initiatives.

Editor of Star Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star, Sadya Afreen Mallick could not conceal her excitement at the return of the event, terming it a "wonder". She said music listeners of Bangladesh have not moved away from classical music, and the Classical Music Fest last year was a vivid example of that. She also lauded Bengal Foundation for bringing about a "cultural revolution" in the country.

Chairman of Bengal Foundation, Abul Khair spoke last at the press meet. He credited the partners of the event, namely The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo, Maasranga TV and ICE Media for their continued help and support in making the event a success. He extended special thanks to Ravi Mathur for ITC-SRA's partnership without which the event would not be possible. He also highlighted the success of the festival and the subsequent "Bangla Gaaner Utsab" in Kolkata earlier this year, adding that the festivals are helping greatly in giving artistes and audiences of Bangladesh alike an exposure to great music and performance.

Registration for the festival will begin in November, where music lovers can sign up to attend the festival for free, or offline from various Bengal outlets. Registration facilities will also be available at venue, while organisers have ensured improved transportation to and from Army Stadium and other amenities.

Mini Karim's penchant for vivid colours

FAYZA HAQ

Mini Karim's exhibition of 42 paintings at Dhaka Arts Centre spans a period of three years. Mini worked in oil and acrylic at her first exhibition in London, where she visits her sister twice a year. For a change, in 1989 she had an oil and water-colour exhibition at the Sonargaon Gallery. She later held the "Under the Rainbow" series in 2010 at the Goethe Institute. Here, the artist sought to show how women were treated as second-class citizens and how they were on par with men given the right opportunities, in oil, acrylic and water-colour media.

At the Dhaka Art Centre, her exhibition was inaugurated by Rafiqun Nabi, with the Minister for Tourism and Aviation, Muhammad Faruk Khan. The display drew quite a few viewers, especially on the opening day.

At the acrylic painting "The Face", she has used the distorted face of an athlete who comes from the Hill Tracts. The face is in yellow-ochre, while the backdrop is a variation of royal blue.

"Townscape" reveals the pain of existing in the congested city with all its dirt and noise pollution. Here, says the artist, there is no ambience, to stay, with all of one's energy and imagination.

In "Innocent Face", Mini says that the visage depicts the pristine culture of Naarayanganj, Rangamati, Ghagrachori, Shatkira and Jessore. These are the woman football players -- under 14 or under 17, whom she works with; and with whom she flies abroad -- representing the Bangladeshi football team. Mini says that the players are disciplined, energetic and wonderful to deal with. They are unassuming, and seldom break rules, says the artist, who is also a keen sportswoman,

Mini says that the magnetic face of the pale woman with the thick lower lips, and hair put up is meant to be one of her women football players. So is the striding woman in green with bangles and earrings.

The bars of the wooden line symbolise our lacklustre and insipid life in the various metropolis of Bangladesh.

In "History", the artist traces our progress in culture and science since ancient times, when bisons and reindeers were made on the wall by the cave painters, the colours they used were raw, says the artist. Mini says she wishes her colours to be basic and bright too. Talking about young and prom-



ising painters, she says that they use many media and happen to be successful.

The artist's creation in bright ruby red, in geometrical shapes is ecstatic. Her "Deer", done this year, has elegant animals with long, delicate horns. Mini's "Cyclone", done in 2013, is a burst of colours -- in turquoise blue, vermilion and splashes of green and chrome yellow. The painter's "Landscape" in acrylic on canvas is a depiction of the forests, hills, and homes of the Hill Tracts--which fascinate the artist to no end.

The exhibition ends on today.

IN CONVERSATION

The Odyssey of Minu Haque

KAZI ANISA MOQUIT

Minu Haque, a prominent figure in the artistic community and one of the most renowned and versatile dancer-choreographers in Bangladesh today, has been an avid dancer since her early childhood. Having discovered her true calling at the tender age of six, she trained under a diverse group of different dance masters throughout the years since, which enriched her own techniques, and understanding of the essence of dance.

Haque first trained under Dulal Talukder, who later went on to teach dance at Harvard. And after she earned her Certification of Dance from Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, where she was schooled by artists like Babu Ramsingh, Habibul Chowdhury and Rahiza Khanam Jhunu, she went on to be trained under Shantibala Devi in the Manipuri style, learned ballet from visiting North Korean ballet artist Mr. Kim and finally studied Odissi, the dance form for which she is best known, with Sani Mohapatra and Ipshita Behura, both highly respected Odissi dancers in their own rights. Her knowledge on different forms of dance has made her an important figure on the dance community.

Haque explains that though all dances have different techniques and formations that are more clearly visible to those with a trained eye, dance overall shares the same philosophy. It celebrates the unison of mind and body to create the beautiful harmony of movement, which in itself is a form of freedom.



Liaquat Ali Lucky (3-L) presents a young dancer with the Bulbul Chowdhury Dance Scholarship. Two dancers were awarded the scholarships in a programme held at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Though Haque left the dance scene in her prime on a self-imposed hiatus to successfully raise her two sons, she returned afterwards with ease and soon became a leading figure on the dance scene. Haque now holds the prestigious honour of being the current president of the Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (Dance

Artistes' Association) and has already made huge strides in overcoming roadblocks and demolishing the baseless stigmas attached to the expressive art form of dance. Examples of her success are the establishment of the first ever dance department at Dhaka University, whose final details are currently being processed and to be

announced any time soon. "This was a great victory for the Dance Artistes' Association and all those involved, as we have been working tirelessly for years just to see this day; this is a great victory for artists everywhere," says Haque with pride.

Another example of her ceaseless work for the betterment of dancers in Bangladesh is the formation of the first ever, "Bulbul Chowdhury Dance Scholarship" in honour and memory of the late Bulbul Chowdhury, one of the pioneers and finest dancers of Bengal. The scholarship being the first of its kind was made possible by a donation. Haque explains that she though she herself never works to make a profit, donations -- even small ones -- are always welcome and are what make these projects and dreams possible.

Haque's own school Pallavi Dance Center, established in 1997 due to popular demand, combines the rare dance genres of Odissi and Bharatanatyam along with contemporary and folk styles, into one learning environment made easily accessible to children of all ages. These lessons also gradually instill among children: discipline, determination and appreciation for the ethereal beauty of dance. Haque is also planning to soon introduce the Manipuri dance form into the school as well.

Even with these responsibilities and engagements, Minu Haque is involved in an array of projects and still has time to spare to lend her command of dance and choreography to those in need.



Artistes of "University Cultural Foundation" offered paeans to scientist Professor SMA Fayez, marking his successful completion of 40 years of professional life, at a programme held on September 7 at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Artistes rendered solo and choral songs, recited poems and presented dances in honour of Fayeze while fellow professors of SMA Fayeze spoke highly on various illustrious aspects of the academic -- who also is the former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and the Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission. The event marked launching of a poetry book written by SMA Fayeze; he also recited some of his poems at the programme.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

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