

Dance Festival

Organizer: Chhayanaut

Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 8-9

Time: 6:15pm

Photography Exhibition

Artist: Gazi Nafis Ahmed

Venue: EMK Center, H-5, R-27 (Old), Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 5-17

Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Shabekun Nahar Noushin

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Date: Oct 25-Nov 7

Time: 3pm-9pm

Exhibition

Title: Exotic Jute II

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 1-15

Time: 3pm-9pm

Duet Exhibition

Title: When Silence Eats Sound

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Date: Oct 30-Nov 13

Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS

bytes

Eminem wins top honours at first YouTube awards



The first ever YouTube awards, held in New York saw actor Jason Schwartzman and musician Reggie Watts presiding over a frenetic ceremony.

Eminem won Artiste of the Year, while Taylor Swift's "I Knew You Were Trouble" took the YouTube Phenomenon award.

The ceremony was streamed live online.

Nominees were chosen by taking into account the YouTube views, likes, comments and subscription figures for different artists.

The coveted Video of the Year award went to South Korean group Girls' Generation for their song "I Got A Boy", while Innovation of the Year went to DeStorm Power, the YouTube user whose 250 videos on the website have been watched more than 200 million times.

The inaugural YouTube awards reflect an increasing trend for people to turn to the internet, rather than television and radio, for music and video.

Source: BBC

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Culture breeds kinship for Kanak Chanpa Chakma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rarely are all members of a family involved in artistic endeavours. Khalid Mahmood Mithu and Kanak Chanpa Chakma along with their children Arjo Shrestho and Shiropa Purna are notable exceptions as familiar names in our cultural arena, and their creative expressions are almost a genre of art. The couple are mainly recognised for their paintings. Mithu is also a noted filmmaker. They have won several awards for their contributions to Bangladeshi art and cinema. Their son and daughter, Arjo Shrestho and Shiropa Purna, have made a number of praiseworthy films. The themes are very touching and document marginalised people and their way of life. Their works also feature inequity and inhumanity in our society. They are now learning the violin and guitar from accomplished trainers.

About her family, Shiropa said, "Our family is a circle of strength and love. We feel comfortable with each other. We like to give each other a chance to do new things, which are novel and refreshing. We enjoy hearing our parents' stories about the past."

Kanak said, "As parents, we always share our ideas and experiences in our family. It is a long family tradition. When I finish any of my paintings, Mithu and my children are the first viewers. Sometimes they differ with me on any aspect of my paintings. From time to time, I pleasantly take their feedback. Mithu also shows me his paintings and wants to hear from me about his works."

Kanak has been working on ethnic themes for a long time. Her works invariably feature indigenous people and their daily chores. She is inspired by the vivid colours of indigenous attire, the

hills, forests, 'jhum' cultivation and pristine blue waterfalls that define life in the hilly areas of Bangladesh. Her works also capture the serene moods associated with Buddhism and its various spiritual aspects. The semi-realistic and the abstract mingle in her works. The figures in her paintings are lively and easily communicate with the viewers for their expressive traits. Apart from her exotic and beautiful ethnic background which is reflected in the simple but beautiful lifestyle, Kanak has always been especially influenced



by impressionists.

Both Arjo and Shiropa are acclaimed for their documentary films and still photography. Over the years, they have produced a number of documentaries and taken many commendable photographs. Their themes usually highlight underprivileged people, street vendors, the Bede (gypsy) community and their lifestyle.

Arjo has just finished his O-levels. He said, "I feel that sharing is a very significant aspect among the members of a family. It strengthens the relationship and makes for good bonding. I feel

proud that both my parents are artists. The camera is my close pal and I have developed an interest in photography with my father's encouragement."

As a pure abstract painter, Mithu's works feature pure forms and compositions. His colours are subdued and the forms are not well defined. It is very noticeable that Mithu has made a great attempt to produce some alien features through his paintings. Space has played a vital role in his thought-provoking artworks where varied form movements are

observable.

Besides being a painter, Mithu has produced a number of documentaries, TV plays and tele-films. Most of his films usually address contemporary socio-economic and political issues. Some of his works highlight the Liberation War, Language Movement, secularism, social injustice as well as romance.

Mithu said, "I feel proud that my children have engaged themselves in varied creative activities, besides their regular studies. Kanak and I are very liberal and friendly with our children. I always support them in all their artistic activities."



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the build-up to the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013 in association with ITC-SRA (Kolkata), Star Arts & Entertainment introduces you to the maestros set to perform in Dhaka this month. Today's featured artiste is one who needs no introduction; he is the greatest living artiste of his instrument, and has played a massive role in popularising classical music all over the globe. He took the audience to a musical trance with his performance at last year's Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music festival, and is returning this year to repeat -- if not transcend -- that magic.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia is an artiste par excellence who is known for his outstanding contribution to popularising Indian Classical Music all over the world. His consummate artistry has distinguished him as the greatest living master of the Bamboo Flute.

Unlike many other great Indian artistes, Pandit Chaurasia does not come from a family of musicians. Rather, music is a path he found for himself and struggled very hard to overcome all the hurdles that came his way to emerge out successful with his sheer grit, sincerity, hard work, devotion and dedication.

Born on July 1, 1938 in Allahabad, Chaurasia began his musical pursuit at the age of 15, learning classical vocal music from Pandit Rajaram. In 1957, barely out of his teens, he became regular staff artiste

of All India Radio (AIR), Cuttack in Orissa. Transferred from AIR Cuttack to Mumbai in 1960, he received further guidance from Surbahar player Annapurna Devi, daughter of late Ustad Allaudin Khan.

Since that time Pandit Chaurasia has been performing nationally and internationally winning acclaim from varied audiences and from fellow musicians like Yehudi Menuhin, Jean-Pierre Rampal, among others. Pandit Chaurasia is a featured artiste in almost all major music festivals around the globe. He has performed memorable jugalbandi with the stalwarts of Indian Classical music like Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Dr. Balamuralikrishnan and Kishori Amonkar.

As a musician, Pandit Chaurasia is a rare combination of an innovator and a traditionalist. He has significantly expanded the expressive possibilities of flute -- playing through his masterful blowing technique and his unique adaptation of alap and jod.

Pandit Chaurasia has recorded many albums in which he has tried to blend Indian Classical Music with western music to create beautiful and soulful music. Such an experimental album "Eternity," became a platinum disc.

Pandit Chaurasia has been conferred on many awards and honours including "The Sangeet Natak Academy Award", "Padma Bhushan", "Padma Vibhushan", "Officier in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau-Netherlands", "Ordres des Arts et Lettres - France". The documentary film "Bansuri Guru" features the life and legacy of Chaurasia.



Quiz show "Bangladesh First" starts on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

The competition episodes of "Rin presents Bangladesh First", an educational venture for Bangladesh's youth, begins tonight on Maasranga TV. The show is powered by Standard Chartered Bank and brought to you by Champs21.com in association with The Daily Star.

The competition began its journey across the country in September with school rounds, and now it is down to its final stages. Bangladesh First aims to raise national awareness about our country, especially among the youth, who are to be groomed as tomorrow's leaders.

"In this competitive age of globalization, one has to know one's country very well to propel Bangladesh towards global success," stated Russell T. Ahmed, CEO of Champs21.com. "The competition is for children, but the show is for

millions to watch."

An intense competition is promised by the top 128 students, chosen from 80 different schools nationwide. The show will be aired every Monday and Tuesday on Maasranga TV at 9:05pm.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, applauded the efforts taken to arrange such an event. "The Daily Star is honoured and pleased to be a part of this venture," he said.

"Bangladesh First" can become one of those platforms through which one's love and patriotism for Bangladesh can be further consolidated."

Tonight's episode will feature teams from Cantonment Public School, Rangpur; Vigarunisa Noon School, Dhaka; Rajshahi Collegiate School & College, Rajshahi & Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls' College, Dhaka.

Bangladesh First is anchored by renowned Quizmaster Ferdous Bappy and directed by Redoan Ronny.

CINEMATIC FERDOUS

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Three-time National Film Award winner, Ferdous has been acting over a decade. Besides Bangladesh, he maintains a hectic schedule across the border in Kolkata.

The Daily Star spoke to the film star about his career and upcoming project.

What is your shooting schedule like in Kolkata?

Ferdous: It is a very packed schedule. I am acting in a movie "Samadhi" where Govinda and the heroine of India's first Oscar-nominated film "Lagaan" Gracy Singh are my co-stars. I am doing another movie "KhaNcha". Recently I packed up the shooting of "Parichay" where Prosenjit is my co-star. I am also busy shooting for some other movies.

What difference do you perceive in the professional climate of Bangladesh and India?

Ferdous: As artistes, producers and directors, we are yet to reach the status of professionalism. The dedication of filmmakers and stars in Kolkata is a study in contrast.

How about your experience working with Bollywood heartthrob Deb?

Ferdous: We worked together in a movie "Khoka Babu" which was a blockbuster. It took about one- and- a- half hours to reach the shooting spot from my house. Although the call time was seven o'clock I rushed to the spot at 5am. To my surprise Deb was there before me.

How come you have gone in for film production?

Ferdous: A film producer can truly entertain the audience. With that realisation, I produced the movie "Ek Cup Cha". Since the



film industry has given me a great deal, it is my turn to repay the debt.

How busy are you currently within the country?

Ferdous: I am also doing some movies

here. I am acting in "Film My Love" and "Char Okkhorer Bhalobasa". Recently I worked with Moushumi and Shabnur in "Kichhu Asha Kichhu Bhalobasha". I am also performing in a movie based on National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Recently I worked in another movie "Brihonnala" directed by Murad Parvez.

What is your view about the future of our film industry?

Ferdous: Like many others, I think the industry is on the verge of collapse. You see, at present 30 to 35 movies are released a year instead of 100 as in the past, which gives a gloomy picture. There are only 450 cinema halls now as opposed to 1100 before. While the film industry is prospering in the rest of the world, the number of our films is on the decline.

Can our industry go back its golden days?

Ferdous: Definitely. With a combined effort, the industry can be successful again. I am optimistic about that.

What is your reaction to winning the film award thrice over?

Ferdous: I won the National Film Award first for the movie "Hotath Brishti". I was also awarded for "Gongajatra" and "Kusum Kusum Prem". These are certainly great achievements in my life as it is difficult to attain such heights, despite putting in a lifetime in the industry.

What memories do you treasure of "Hotath Brishti"?

Ferdous: It gave me my first break. Before this, I worked with Bibi Russell. I was a student of Dhaka University then. Hero Ferdous was born from the womb of "Hotath Brishti". So, the film will obviously remain firmly in my mind forever.

Swani Zubayeer debuts in film music direction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted singer-musician Swani Zubayeer's is set to debut as a film music director and sound designer through "Ghashphul", a yet-to-be-released film by debutant filmmaker Akram Khan. It is one of the six films declared under the banner of 'Boutique Cinema' -- an Impress Telefilm initiative to develop the country's film industry.

Swani Zubayeer has written and composed the song "Bohudin Por Aj Shokal Takey". Accomplished singer Priyanka Gope will record the song for the film. The film contains only two songs. Another song titled "Shomoy



Themey Giyechhilo", written by Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, was composed by renowned singer-musician Lucky Akhand. Swani Zubayeer is playing back for the track.

"I was impressed with the storyline of the film, based on the idea of magic reality. I have used western instruments -- cello, clarinet, western flute, violin, classical guitar and harmonica for the songs. I have tried to do something innovative and creative for my maiden film music direction. I am thankful to director Akram Khan for choosing me for the job," said Swani Zubayeer.

The versatile Swani Zubayeer has earlier played back for two films -- "Devdas" and "Priyotoma, Tumi Dari Ami Koma."

IT'S TRUE!

A bronze statuette dubbed the "Dancing Girl", 10.8 centimetres high and some 4,500 years old, was found in Mohenjo-daro -- one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, and one of the world's earliest major urban settlements -- in 1926. In 1973, noted British archaeologist Mortimer Wheeler described the item as his favorite statuette: "There is her little Balochi-style face with pouting lips and insolent look in the eyes. She's about fifteen years old I should think, not more, but she stands there with bangles all the way up her arm and nothing else on. A girl perfectly, for the moment, perfectly confident of herself and the world. There's nothing like her, I think, in the world."

