

NEWS bytes

Dusk Till Dawn becomes TV series



Don Johnson will lead the cast of a television series based on Robert Rodriguez's cult 1996 film "From Dusk Till Dawn", starring Quentin Tarantino. Johnson, best known for his role in '80s TV hit "Miami Vice", takes a recurring role as Sheriff Earl McGraw. Rodriguez, an executive producer on the series, will direct the first two episodes of the 10-episode drama. "If the movie's the short story, the series is the novel," says Rodriguez. The series will premiere next spring. DJ Cotrona and Zane Holtz will star in the forthcoming TV series as criminals Seth and Richie Gecko, previously portrayed on the big screen by George Clooney and Quentin Tarantino, respectively.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



US TV and Film actor Charlie Sheen is primarily known for his drug abuse and domestic violence occurrences, but he is also a sincere philanthropist. Sheen was the 2004 spokesperson for the Lee National Denim Day breast cancer fundraiser that raised millions of dollars for research and education regarding the disease. A major donor and supporter of Aid For AIDS since 2006, Sheen was honored with an AFA Angel Award, one of only a few ever given, at the nonprofit's 25th Silver Anniversary Reception in 2009. He also donated one dollar from each ticket sold from his "My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not An Option Show" 2011 tour to the Red Cross Japanese Earthquake Relief Fund. On July 16, 2012, Sheen announced that he would donate at least \$1 million to the United Service Organisation, a troops'-morale-boosting organisation of the USA.

A UNION of SOULS

Classical Dance Festival '13

LAMIA SAIYARA MELA

Whether coming alive through the sanctum of a temple, remote unknown greens or a vast stretch of polished wood underneath, a screaming audience in front to applaud appreciation in the air -- a form of dance has been encircling these various atmospheres even to this day with the exact urgency it has always adhered to, and we recognize it profoundly as Indian classical dance. Classical dance is to be indebted to, because it gives the world something no one can hold back. In bound of words to gratify solely what defines it, the classical dance forms have magnified and traveled to today, where the amount of respect and devotion towards it multiplies to the highest altitudes, enough to have immense festivals in favour of it. Just like the staging at Chhayanaut's main auditorium of the two day long Classical Dance festival that started for the

Bandyopadhyay. Taking the crowd by awe, the graceful classical dance form trails to the next performance that was presented by Sonia Rashid and Farhana Ahmed, playing a tale inscribed with Radha and Krishna, embodying delicate and lyrical movements to portray the classical essence that Manipuri symbolises beautifully. The Manipuri section was commenced by Sweetie Das, who performed Shiva Stuti. This number began verbally, first summarized in a few quotations before the performance, then picking up the semblance of innate elegance in an almost reflexive manner, leaving the audience to view the undulating and poised dance form with all the piety the Manipuri dance embodies.

Bharatnatyam performances: Srishti Cultural Center opened the Bharatnatyamm section for the evening, performing 'Guru Vandana' with choreographic direction by Anisul Islam Hiru, following another performance by the same

among the audience, left it rather amazed by the end. The first artiste to start off was Tabassum Ahmed, who performed two numbers in a row, ending with a piece called 'Jhula', embodying various postures and availing facial expressions to exalt the performance. It was followed by a group performance of Rewaz Performers' School, swaying and stomping in sync with their belled feet in graceful blue attire. Their performance was choreographed by renowned Kathak dancer Munmun Ahmed, who later took the stage by fire with a staggering performance of Sher and Sargam, resplendent and fiery compiled with elegant stances and mastered expressions. Tahmina Islam Jhumi took the stage later with also another staggering number that enlightened the audience with the delicate yet turbulent dance techniques. Next was Mehraj Haque Tushar's performance of Birju Maharaj's 'Tarana', encircling with rather a poise consisting of both



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



fourth consecutive year on Friday, 8th November.

With the festival's aim of gathering souls and celebrating the classical dance forms, intrigued crowds swarmed the auditorium the whole evening, savoring the union of souls between the classical dance artistes and themselves. The first day's line up consisted of the classical dance forms of Manipuri, Bharatnatyamm, Odissi and Kathak by noted performing artistes like Sharmila Bandyopadhyay, Munmun Ahmed, Tabassum Ahmed, Amit Chowdhury, Mou Das, Tahmina Islam Jhumi, Sonia Rashid and Farhana Ahmed, Sriram Pooja Sengupta, Mehraj Haque Tushar and also a few dance groups run under renowned dancers.

Manipuri performances: The evening started off with a Manipuri 'Pranam' followed by a performance of Mandira Nartan by Chhayanaut students and Sharmila

group staging Shiva Tandava, exalting the audience by their strong stance and synchronized movements. The third Bharatnatyamm act was by Amit Chowdhury, who elegantly performed Natesh Kautubhang that was choreographed by Kirti Ramgopal. The audience was left to bask at a level of vivacity after the intense, picturesque embodiment of powerfully precise movements, staged with poise and effort that only left the already boosted audience hyped for more. This dance form's section was closed by Sriram Pooja Sengupta, who had a solo performance of a number incorporated with ignited facial expressions and soft, delicate movements.

Odissi performance: Nritashree staged a performance in a troupe enlightening the audience with their rhythmic and supple Odissi number.

Kathak performances: This classical dance form, being a personal favourite of many

yearning vigor and delicateness. Closing the first day of the Classical Dance festival, Munmun Ahmed and Tabassum Ahmed took the stage to another level with a duet choreographed by the direction of Munmun Ahmed, -- 'Barshar Mayur', elegantly sculpturing synchronized dance movements and majestically commencing an occasion like this.

The first day went ahead to be a success in fulfilling the goal of serenading souls with the classical dance forms that have actively been highlighted for ages. The second day will be staged at the same location at 6:30 pm on 9th November, to be graced by more renowned dance artistes and classical dance forms, including Gaudiya Nritya.

Maasranga Television is the media partner of the festival, assisted by Square Group and Grameenphone.

The writer is a young dancer.



Bangladesh participates at Kolkata Int'l Film Festival

Two Bangladeshi feature films and a documentary film will be screened at the Kolkata International Film Festival. Veteran filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel's documentary film "1971", Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's "Television" and Amit Ashraf's "Udhao" has been selected by the festival committee to be screened at the festival, according to a press release.

About 189 films from 63 countries will be screened at the eight-day festival which is going to start from today. Veteran Indian actor Amitabh Bachchan will inaugurate the festival at Netaji Subhash Bose Indoor Stadium. Noted Indian actors Shah Rukh Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Prosenjit and others will also be present at the inaugural session.

Shakib Khan ventures into film production

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Superstar of filmdom, Shakib Khan has debuted in film production. The Dhallywood hero revealed the news yesterday. The title of his first produced film is "Hero: The Superstar," which will be directed by Badiul Alam Khokon.

The shooting for the film will start in England on upcoming Valentine's Day (February 14), informed Shakib. Shooting will also take place in Bangladesh. Two heroines --Apu Biswas and Bobby will enact roles with Shakib Khan in the film.

"Film spectators have great confidence in me. I can assure them that the film will impress all. They will find a complete story," said Shakib Khan.

Shakib Khan is passing a very busy time for a new film shooting. On the other hand, all his films released on Eid-ul-Azha have become commercially successful, added the actor.



Aminul Islam Awards for the young artists

FAYZA HAQ

The Aminul Islam Award 2013 was an overflowing gathering of artists of all age. Art lovers had poured in too on Thursday evening at The Bengal Gallery premises. Artist Aminul Islam (1931-2011) is amongst the first generation artists and a leading member of the pioneering modern art movement in Bangladesh. His family has introduced the Aminul Islam Young Artist Award.

Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation said, "All the ten artists deserve prizes. They are so good. Even the ones not selected were superb. We did not know what to leave and what to take."

Veteran artist Rafiqun Nabi said, "Aminul Islam Sir always had great weakness for those who experiment and try to find a new way, as doing woodcuts back in those days. Earlier too, he gave awards for drawings, for Art College students. After his death, his family donated the money, one lakh each, that being a handsome amount for each two artists. They are for artists up to the age of 40. This is encouraging for young artists."

Monirul Islam, who lives in Spain and



Awardees with the guests pose for a photo.

who helped judge the paintings said, "There has been entrance of the works of many artists. For the show, ten of the best were selected. On the second anniversary of Prof. Aminul Islam, it is a very good move from his family to promote younger artists. There is a

variety of styles and subjects. All the paintings have a different outlook. In the art world it is difficult to decide which piece is better than the other. The jury agreed also on the prizes. This definitely brought in new ideas and ways.

The young artists can send their work through the internet for international acclaim. The internet also widens their knowledge. The universal tendency can communicate with other parts of the world."

Anisuzzaman Sohail, who won one of the first prizes, says he uses flowers and doves at times to camouflage the negative images of the butcher's knife. "This is to reduce the ugliness of what I am presenting. I am trying to show that man is never at peace. He is haunted in his dreams, and hunted down like an animal, with sharp traps, while he goes about the business of making a living in this world. I try to make the paintings attractive. When the audience stands in front of the picture, there is a self-reflection with the glass, in front. It was in Japan, where I learnt the use of the importance of black dramatic colour. There is the fear element created by images, like the armoured fighter of the Middle Ages, the vulture's skeleton, the animal trap and the sharp, ugly knives. From such feelings and ideas the works are done. They were shown before at my solo at the Dhaka Art Centre, not long ago, and the paintings, on the fourth floor, occupied many rooms. The six pieces are framed together as

in one. They are called "Neutral Correlators."

Md. Alamgir Hassan, one of the participants said, "The Savar Tragedy is what I wish the viewers to keep in mind by this video, which is of five minutes. Many events take place by which we forget the past ones. The news media rushes on to the next carnage and burning. There is irregularity in our activities. There is not much sense in what propaganda leads us to do. The hartals for instance are a hindrance to the nation--when education and business suffer". Incidentally, video art is getting popular and common in Dhaka.

"Portraits of Ambiguity" mixed media on paper, by Ruhul Karim Rumi bring in portraits of the older generation with stripes of red on them. They bring in the aging and withered men with white beards and moustaches. There are pinched dried lips. These people are from the "chor" area and have constant fear in their minds. There is agony in the eyes of all the old people.

Farzana Ahmed Urmi has painted her husband and a close friend of hers, who came to visit from USA. Urmi has also sketched her "bua" (house-help) and a natural scene of her surrounding. The paints are thick, dark and impressionistic.