

WHAT'S ON

Solo Dance Show
Production: DESH by Akram Khan Company
Organisers: British Council & Bengal Foundation
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 18-19, Time: 6:30pm everyday




Group Exhibition
Only Connect.Edition One
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: Sep 14-23
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Murtaja Baseer
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Sep 13-25
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Montage
Artist: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 6-22
Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shreyoshi by 11 women artists
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 11th Floor, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 12-Oct 4
Time: 12-8pm



NEWS bytes

Final poster released for "Mockingjay"



"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay" (pt. 1) has released a final poster, along with a new trailer teaser, ahead of its release in November.

The new poster shows Katniss looking battle-ready, sporting a new jet-black outfit and backed by the outstretched wings of the mockingjay.

Meanwhile there's also a brief teaser, featuring an ominous voiceover by the nefarious President Snow.

Directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, the film opens in the UK on November 21.

Source: TotalFilm

IT'S TRUE!



The Oud is a pear-shaped stringed instrument commonly used in Arabic, Hebrew/Jewish, Greek, Turkish, Byzantine, North African, Somali and Middle Eastern music. Construction of the oud is similar to that of the lute. According to 10th-century philosopher Al-Farabi, the oud was invented by Lamech, the sixth grandson of Adam. The oldest pictorial record of it is in Southern Mesopotamia, over 5000 years ago on a cylinder seal. It is considered an ancestor of the guitar.

MURTAJA BASEER

Artist Supreme

FAYZA HAQ

Renowned artist Murtaja Baseer's drawings, collages and oil paintings (spanning 1954-2014) are on display at Galleri Kaya. The exhibition began on September 12 and runs till September 25.

Murtaja has a place of his own among Bangladeshi artists. His careful portraiture, with detailed lines and balanced colours expresses his comments on society. His depiction of Bangladeshi women, in particular, reflects their individuality, strong personality and angst. These works are done in the form of collage, drawing and in pastel.

Being a socially aware individual, he indulged in politics as a student, fired by the fervour of the Freedom Movement. He depicts women of different levels of society from villages as well as urban areas. The canvas he uses has different sizes. These have been piling up for the last 20 years.

He took lessons in the Asutosh Museum, Calcutta (now Kolkata), around 1954. During 1992 and 1993, he depicted the vulgarity of society in his portraits of society women, who took pride in being fashion plates. During 1993 his depiction of bourgeois women revealed them as entities who took pride in dyeing their hair and wearing sleeveless blouses. He was exploring the technicalities of colour and form. While in Italy, he was influenced by Botticelli, Modigliani, and Picasso.

Around this time, he did a collage of "No More War". He depicted the hollow stage, the ruin and pillage of the Iraq War which affected so many families, just as the Gaza conflict has worst affected homeless orphans and women in the Palestine region. The collage "Statue of Liberty" once again depicted the fleeing women and children leaving behind their precious assets.

Many of Baseer's drawing are included in the exhibition. They include pen and ink drawings of 1960, nudes and semi-nudes. In this period, the artist was stressed and these works are a record of his frustration.

Baseer's "Women No. 3", 1991, on board depicts a woman doing her hair. Behind her are blooming cacti, clumps of bushes green and white abstractions. She is shown in colours of deep purple ad light, as



"Woman # 3"; Collage on Board (1991).

if sitting on a hillock with a spray of cacti on her breasts. "Liberty Now" features a woman in shades of emerald and jade, with a yellow and black scarf around her neck and bosom. The background is a mixture of black, deep green and navy blue. The painting has a 3D effect as if carved from stones.

"The Artist & Transmitted Energy" and "What Makes A Creative Thinker" are once more abstract, and gives 3D effects. In "Creative Thinker" one gets the effect of several people sitting on benches in a church, where overhead are arcs of section of the building. This is in dark umber and black, touched vermillion.

Black and gold take up the rest of the space. The painting is mind-whirling.

"Review", oil pastel on canvas, has a lady with flowing tresses who wears a silk sari in blue with gold and orange border and *anchal*. The backdrop is in streaks of white and turquoise. "Woman No2" 1990

(collage on canvas) has a beige coloured woman with a stark bikini on. This is more eye-catching than a nude, especially in our conservative world. "Review No e, 2014 (oil pastel on canvas), in contrast has a shy village woman with the edge of her sari's *anchal* between her teeth. The sari is green and blue while her lips are a pale shade of pink and the backdrop is orange.

"Dream" 1991, (collage on board), has a young woman with a milk and honey complexion, dreaming of white steeds, frisking among rocks, flower bushes and a stream of clear water, as if spouting from a fountain. His "Birth of Venus Homage to Botticelli" 1990 (collage on board) has Venus, as if made from a blue still, rigged up for the demands of the twenty-first century with pirouetting ballerinas in pink, purple and white leotards -- as if in a ballet practice, among a flower and gold bubble-laden river bank.

Backstage workshop on DESH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A backstage workshop was held on September 13 on internationally-famed choreographer-performer Akram Khan's production "DESH". Sander Loonen, technical director of "DESH" conducted the workshop at the Seminar Room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, which saw participation by 20 participants from theatre arena.

Sander, through PowerPoint presentations, explained how Akram Khan and his company put the idea of "DESH" into practice through teamwork. When Akram Khan came up with the concept, he focused on building a strong team for the execution of the idea.

Sander, at first gave the participants an insight into the team of "DESH".

Then through video presentations he explained how they brainstormed and

gathered different materials from different countries to design the set. Designing the production and bringing it on stage was a time-consuming job and it needed hard work and dedication, he added.

He then he moved on to the idea of "DESH", which combines two different places, Dhaka and London. They had to focus on different aspects so that they can clearly portray the story, he added.

Following the presentation, Sander took the participants to the stage being set up for "DESH". There, he focused on all the technical details of the set and lights. Participants engaged in a lively Q&A session with Sander, and were especially curious to learn how the crew of "DESH" had made the sky-forest on stage.

The workshop gave the participants an insight into the technical aspects of the award-winning production.



PHOTO COURTESY: SAAD ENAMUL HAQUE

Participants of the workshop backstage at the set of "DESH".

"Only Connect.Edition One" at Arts Precinct



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six young artists from three universities in Dhaka have contributed previously unseen, experimental work to create a collaborative exhibition with the support of Bengal Foundation's Visual Arts programme. The exhibition, titled "Only Connect. Edition One", is being held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct (at The Daily Star Centre). In both the presentation and the works on display, the artists explore the boundaries between popular categorisations in the arts.

The participating artists are - Arfun Ahmed (site-specific installation of photographic prints), Emran Sohel (prints and paintings), Manik Bonik (paintings), Pervaj Hasan (paintings), S. M. Asaduzzaman (origami and installation) and Syed Tareq Rahman (sculpture).

The exhibition opened yesterday, and will continue until September 23.

Tilottoma's Kathak performance fascinates Chittagong audience

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Performing arts aficionados of the port city were captivated on Friday by a dance evening featuring solo Kathak performance, by Chittagong's eminent artiste Tilottoma Sengupta. With the theme "Chhonde Nrittey Sharad Abahon", Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music organised the event at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) auditorium.

The programme started with Tilottoma's "Guru Bandana", seeking blessings from her mentors. Next followed "Krishna Bandana", a dance piece dedicated to Lord Krishna.

Later, Tilottoma performed Ukat followed by Dadra and Thumri, composed by Pandit Birju Maharaj.

Her presentations on different *tukra* and *tehai*, depicting the adolescent girls' excitement during wearing of scarf, birds taking flight and landing on the earth kept the audience spellbound.

She successively presented dance performances with the tune of a Bhajan and a Tarana, followed by two dance performances -- "Makhan Chhuri" and "Kaliya Daman" -- narrating anecdotes from Lord Krishna's childhood. Her



PHOTO: STAR

steps and abhinaya were impeccable.

The programme ended with a *Jugalbandi*.

Sharmila Chakraborty and Prakash Roy accompanied the artiste on the harmonium while Roni Chowdhury performed on tabla.

Artistes Chanchal Chowdhury and Nishigondha Dasgupta recited the verses on Lord Krishna and Radha to accompany the dance performance.

A familiar face in the dance arena of Chittagong, Tilottoma was trained at National Institute of Kathak Dance, Kathak Kendra of New Delhi. Later she refined her training under the tutelage of the legendary Pandit Birju Maharaj.

TV WATCH

SUPER CHEF

finally comes to Dhaka



A contestant receives an elusive "Yes" card.

OSAMA RAHMAN

Tonight at 9pm on NTV, the final audition round of the Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Super Chef will be televised. The audition rounds have already spanned across the country, visiting the cities of Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong, before arriving in the capital.

Much is expected from the participants of the city, with many claiming that perhaps Dhaka is where the first ever Super Chef will be from. Viewers will today get a first look at what Dhaka has to offer and gauge its chances of progression.

The Dhaka auditions have already seen a registration of over 2000 applicants with half of them sure to appear. Judges Shahida Yesmin, Afroza Banu, Kanishka Chakraborty, Selina Parvin, Reema Islam, Dora Alamgir and Asma Aziz will be marking the participants

on their presentation. Owing to the huge numbers, the Dhaka round will see a change in format, with the judges tasting the food first and giving a "Yes" card to the best entry which will see them progress to the next round.

The next round will then feature question and answers, MCQ test and the much-awaited skill test held in the Super Chef premises. The metropolitan nature of Dhaka will be on full display tonight, with a variety of international cuisines set to make an appearance. What the judges will favour, however, remains to be seen.

Dhaka may possibly have the most diversity in terms of dishes. The people's exposure to so many different cuisines is expected to play a part in this factor in this. Of total participants, 100 will be taken to the skill test and from there the final four of the top 24 will be selected.



WATCH THE NEXT EPISODE OF
**RUPCHANDA-STAR LIFESTYLE
SUPERCHEF 2014,**
AT 9 PM TONIGHT ONLY ON NTV



CATCH THE SHOW'S REVIEW ON STAR LIFESTYLE, PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY.

STAY TUNED!