

WHAT'S ON
Prangonemor Theatre Fest
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 6-12
 Time: 7pm




Concert
 Concert for the Burned
 Bands: Arbovirus, Powesurge, Owned + more
 Venue: National Library Auditorium
 Date: Mar 14
 Time: 11am-9pm



Solo painting exhibition
 Artist: Laila Anjum Ara
 Title: Joy of Nature
 Venue: Alliance Francais de Dhaka
 Date: Feb 27-March 9
 Time: 3pm-9pm



Remembering Qayyum Chowdhury
 Organiser: Bengal foundation & Kali O Kalam
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-27 (old)
 Date: March 9; Time: 6pm



Gaudiya Nritya Workshop 2015
 By: Rachel Priyanka Peris
 Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, BSA
 Date: March 12-14; Time: 10am



IT'S TRUE!

"I don't let gender define my roles in society" ...Lucky Enam



SAURAV DEY
 Lucky Enam is powerful figure of Bangladeshi theatre. In a career spanning over four decades, she has enriched the stage with their artistic talents and expertise. The actor-director spoke with this correspondent on International Women's Day. Excerpts:

What is your take on International Women's Day?
Lucky Enam: Women have been struggling for ages to establish their equal rights in the society. This day reminds women about their struggles and encourages us to move forward with dignity. Every day is a women's day; women have made substantial contribution in nearly every sphere of society.

As an artist, how do you celebrate womanhood?
Lucky Enam: I would rather say I am an individual instead of calling myself a woman. I don't let gender define my roles in society. As a human being, I have some responsibilities for fellow humans, and I am trying to do that. I am trying to raise awareness among the society on this issue through theatre: I run the Nagorik Natyangan Institute of Drama where I teach youngsters the art of theatre, which I think can build a society.

How do you think women of Bangladesh are doing in society?
Lucky Enam: Women are shining in every sector. Education has played in important role in their development, and that's why they are now working hand in hand with men. But I think awareness about their rights is also important. Women have to work collectively to establish their equal rights.



Curtains rise on Prangonemor theatre fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Theatre troupe Prangonemor's weeklong theatre fest began at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on Friday evening.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, along with distinguished guests including eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, thespian Ataur Rahman, BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky, and IGCC Director Siddhartha Chattopadhyay inaugurated the festival.

In addition, many cultural personalities and theatre artists attended the inauguration ceremony. On the opening evening, Kolkata-based theatre troupe Purbo Poschim staged their much-acclaimed production "Raktakarabi". The Tagore classic is directed by Gautam Halder, while Chaity Ghoshal, Malay Saha, Sraman Chatterjee, Parimal Mukhopadhyay, Suma Dasgupta and others played different roles in the play. Meanwhile at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Somoy staged "Bhager Manush".

Theatre Art Unit will stage their play "Na-Manushi Jomin" at the National Theatre Hall, and Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra will stage "Tritio Ekjon" at the Experimental Theatre Hall today evening.

Celebrating womanhood through art

In conversation with Arno Kamolika



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Arno Kamolika is an expatriate Bangladeshi classical dancer (based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) who has taken Bharatanatyam as her forte. An alumna of BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology), she further studied History of Art and Architecture at University of British Columbia and worked there as a Research Assistant. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Arno shared her views on International Women's Day.

How do you celebrate freedom and womanhood in your artistic perseverance?

Arno: As a Bharatanatyam dancer, celebrating womanhood has been an essential part of my artistic journey. In Indian classical dance, we dancers often tell a story from a Nayika's (heroine) perspective. The protagonist is always in a conversation with another being, whether it is her beloved, child, friend or a divine being. The storytelling brings forward her happiness, pathos, love, jealousy, struggle, in other words, the rasa or different states of mind that she experiences in an otherwise patriarchal

society. Classical dance becomes a language for the woman who has always been taught to be silent about expressing her feelings in this male dominated world, thus it also becomes a tool for her freedom.

How is International Women's Day significant to you as a classical dancer?

Arno: In our society, women are still somewhat invisible in a number of ways. Recognising a day to acknowledge their contribution to the society (instead of indulging into cheap consumerism) might help to increase the voice and visibility of marginalised women, and that will surely help women from all professions.

Tell us about the world you aspire for?

Arno: I dream of a world that allows everyone to hold their unique identities, and to exercise their freedom of expressions and preferences; a world where a woman will no more need to prove how strong she is and a man won't fear of being judged before expressing his vulnerability; a world that accommodates exploration of seemingly opposing ideas and views without any urge to react violently.

"Confidence is key" ... Cacoly

SHAH ALAM SHAZU



Shahneoyaj Cacoly is a talented filmmaker of the time. Her directorial debut "Uttarer Sur" earned her the National Film Awards. The director spoke to The Daily Star, on the International Women's Day and her new film.

As a female filmmaker, you face an obstacle at your work-place? Shahneoyaj Cacoly:

Not at all - although I'm the only woman in my unit. I treat work as just a work; I haven't really faced any hurdles specific to my gender. If you have confidence, your gender cannot come in way of your progress.

What do you think of International Women's Day?

Shahneoyaj Cacoly: Women are now moving forward towards advancement amid a lot of barriers. But they are growing in numbers. We need a strong unity to achieve equal rights for women, which is rarely seen in our society. I think it's a little sad that there has to be a special day when women are celebrated, but the rest of the year they are not remembered.

When is your new film, "Nodijon", going to the cinemas?

Shahneoyaj Cacoly: In April; I'm thinking Puhela Boishakh (the first day of Bangla New Year). It is based on the life of a boatman; divorce and other issues related to Muslim marriage also come up in it. It recently had its international premiere at the Bangalore Film Festival. Its storyline was very well received by the jury board there.

What's your plan with film direction?

Shahneoyaj Cacoly: I have a lot of plans, but the question is of implementation. My dream is to make international standard films -- on urban culture and life. I also want to make films on the life and love stories of youngsters.

TV WATCH

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury on "Aparajita"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Women's Day, ATN Bangla will air a special programme "Aparajita", featuring Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury. The first woman speaker of the parliament in Bangladesh will talk about her childhood, academic, professional and personal life, political ideals and future plans on the programme produced and hosted by Ruksana Kabir Kakoli, and directed by Mukaddem Babu.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special TV drama "Jibon Bodol" will air on ntv tonight at 9pm, marking International Women's Day. Written by Mahmud Didar and directed by Ashikur Rahman, the play casts Aparna Ghosh,

Arfan Nisho, Nazira Ahmed Mou and Pranab Sarkar Opu in the central roles. The story of the drama surrounds Opola, an introverted housewife, who leaves his extroverted, corporate executive husband Sujat - and goes through a major shift in life.

WHY GENDER EQUALITY ISN'T JUST ABOUT WOMEN

Emma Watson to discuss today in London

"What are you doing to advance gender equality?" Emma Watson wants to know.

The British actress will be discussing gender equality before a select audience in London today to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). The "Harry Potter" star is holding the special Q&A as part of the UN Women's HeForShe campaign for gender equality.

She invited fans to describe in 500 words or less, how they're advancing gender equality, for a chance to attend the event in person.

Those missing out on a place can still watch it live on Watson's Facebook page.

The event follows her impassioned speech at the UN headquarters in New York last year, where the 24-year-old described her personal feminist journey. She called for all men to "Take up this mantle so that their daughters, sisters, and mothers can be free from prejudice," at the HeForShe launch in September.

"Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong. It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum, instead of two sets of opposing ideals," said the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.

Almost 230,000 men and boys across the world have since joined the campaign, including US President Barack Obama, and actors Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Matt Damon.

Source: CNN

