

WHAT'S ON
Fundraising Exhibition
 Title: Pray For Nepal
 Organiser: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
 Date: May 17-24
 Time: 10am-9pm

Pray for Nepal


Solo Exhibition
 River Stories
 Artist: Vinita Karim
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: May 16- June 6
 Time: 12-8pm

Rabindra Nazrul Jayanti
 Organiser: Star Melodies, The Daily Star
 Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall (Level 3), The Daily Star Centre
 Date: May 23
 Time: 6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Soft Reflections
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: May 15- June 14
 Time: 11am-10pm

Celebrated Violence -3
 Artist: Ripon Saha
 Venue: Kala Kendra, 1/11, Iqbal road (3rd floor), Mohammadpur, Dhaka
 Date: April 30- May 23
 Time: 5 pm-9pm

NEWS bytes

Star-Lord set for non-Guardians appearance

Because of the way Marvel Studios operates, it's easy to predict that there will be a film somewhere down the line that lets the characters of The Avengers mingle with those from Guardians of the Galaxy... but thus far the company has been very hush-hush in regard to if or when that will ever actually happen. As such, it's pretty interesting that Chris Pratt recently revealed that he is not only signed on to two more Guardians of the Galaxy films, but also "another couple."

Chris Pratt recently spoke with GQ as part of a cover story, and about his Marvel contract, he said:



"... I'm tied to doing three more, or five more, Guardians of the Galaxy or whatever it is, you know. Two more Guardians plus another couple..."

As of now, the only future Marvel Cinematic Universe film that Pratt is officially on-board is James Gunn's "Guardians of the Galaxy 2", penciled for release in 2017. The easiest guess is that he, along with the other 'Guardians', could wind up being in "The Avengers: Infinity War"?

Source: **CinemaBlend**

IT'S TRUE!

The first *Batman* movie was released in 1966, starring Adam West as the caped crusader and Burt Ward as his loyal sidekick, Robin, a month after the first season of the *Batman* TV series (of the same cast, except for Lee Meriweather replacing Julie Newmar as Catwoman). Beside the Batmobile, the other vehicles used were the Batcycle (with a sidecar), Batcopter and the Batboat. The Batboat was made by Texas-based company Glastron, whose payment was in having the film premiere at their hometown.



CANNES DIARY
 In conversation with Neeraj Ghaywan

RAFI HOSSAIN

Indian film "Masaan" was screened at the 68th Cannes Film Festival on May 19 in the Un Certain Regard section and received standing ovation at the end. In an interview, Star Showbiz Editor Rafi Hossain, currently at the festival, caught up with its director Neeraj Ghaywan -- a director belonging to a generation of filmmakers who took independent Indian films beyond the clichés of Bollywood. "Masaan" recounts a tale of impossible love between Deepak and Devi set in the holy city of Varanasi.

How did you begin work on this film?

Neeraj: In 2010, a friend told me about the cremation ghats in Varanasi. An idea for a short film occurred to me instantly, about a young orphan boy who spends his time burning bodies on ghats of Varanasi. His banal life becomes exciting when he sees the priest's young daughter and falls in love with her. One day his boss gives him three bodies to burn, and one of them is that of the girl.

Describe your working method and the atmosphere on set.

Neeraj: Since I started assisting Anurag Kashyap and became an admirer of Vikramaditya Motwane's work (they are also my producers), I have learnt many skills and techniques from them. But what I have learnt most from them is that filmmaking is mostly about getting the right team on board. In this film, most of my crew is debuting too. I wanted people to be part of it because they are passionate about the story. When we went into production, I banned any hierarchical structures.

Tell us about your actors.

Neeraj: Richa Chadda (who plays Devi) is an extremely intelligent actress. She is a

happy fun person on set, and when you say "action", she completely turns herself into the character. Thanks to her emotional intelligence, Richa has captured the complexity of Devi perfectly. Vicky Kaushal (Deepak) and I are very good friends, and that helped both of us to succeed in bringing out the depth of the character together. Once we got to Varanasi, Vicky spent a lot of time with the locals and became one of them. He would spend days on the cremation ghaat, observing the people work and the way they talked.

What are your views on the Bollywood industry?

Neeraj: Our film industry is strongly dominated by money-making "song, dance and action" films. These films generate huge revenues, which in turn help fund smaller indie films -- so the two need to co-exist. Over the years, we have seen a change in

audiences' tastes. This year has been a marked example of this shift, with many of the blockbusters finding things difficult at the box office.

Who and what do you draw your artistic inspirations from?

Neeraj: I grew up watching the great movies of Satyajit Ray, Guru Dutt and Shyam Benegal. I couldn't appreciate them much but in my formative years they had a great impact on me. I admire Shekhar Kapur, Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vishal Bharadwaj and Dibakar Banerjee. In terms of Western cinema, I draw inspiration from Bergman, Fellini, Haneke, Inarritu and the Dardenne brothers.

What's your next project going to be?

Neeraj: I am currently toying with an idea about the abuse of freedom of expression in the modern world, and the quest for identity.



Ghaywan (2-L) with the cast at the "Masaan" photocall. PHOTO COURTESY: GETTY IMAGES

Apurbo-Shokh
 in Nazrul's "Meher Negar"



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Apurbo and Shokh will be seen as onscreen couple in a special single-episode television play "Meher Negar", based on a story by Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Apurbo plays Yousuf while Shokh will be seen as Meher Negar in the play that surrounds the love story between the two.

About the play, Apurbo said, "I always prefer literature-based works, as I think this type of works have long-term impacts on the audience."

Shokh said, "I read Nazrul's 'Meher Negar' and I also watched the film. Apurbo helped me a lot to portray my role properly. I hope the audience will like our work."

The play will air on ATN Bangla on May 24 marking the birth anniversary of Nazrul.



Somoy to stage
 "Shesh Rokkha" today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Somoy Natyadal will stage its much-acclaimed production "Shesh Rokkha" today at 7pm at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Based on Egyptian playwright Tawfiq al-Hakim's "Sultanuz Janam", the

play has been adapted jointly by Dr. Syed Jamil Ahmed and M. Saiful Alam Chowdhury, while Akhtaruzzaman has directed it.

The play casts Pavel Islam, Riaz Mahmud Jewel, Akhtaruzzaman, Ruma, Tofayel Sarkar, Fakhruul Islam, Sonia and others.

Dance and costumes
 In conversation with Samina Husain Prema

A CORRESPONDENT

Samina Husain Prema, a renowned classical Manipuri dancer, is a busy performer, choreographer and teacher. Prema's dance school Bhabna teaches classical, Manipuri and Bharatanatyam to students from different age groups. She recently spoke to The Daily Star about her students, dance forms and the accessories that come with it.

"It's not that I don't teach male students but in Bangladesh boys tend not to dance that much. Since I have handful of students in my school, during any kind of dance show, I also select performers from outside."

"There are different dance forms, and the attires also vary according to the type of dance, maintaining the theme. Classical dance, Bharatanatyam and Manipuri all have different styles and costumes as well."

"Classical dance follows a very strict pattern of costume; so is the music for it and even the ornaments differ -- from minute details like fastening of the ghungur and the style of the makeup."

"For folk, fusion and modern dance, there is usually a complete set of costume. It has no similarity with the main genre of dance, which has been taught mainly in South East Asia."

"Seasons have a lot to offer to dancers' wardrobes, too. Different seasons require us to wear different colours of attire and make up as well. Ultimately, it's a mixture of the dance theme, the type of dance, the season and the genre of the song that requires us to dress up in different forms."



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON



Shraddha
 to sing in
 "Rock On 2"

Bollywood Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who will be seen in the sequel to 2008's cult hit "Rock On!!" is excited that she will be singing her own song in the film. She said that she feels blessed to land the opportunity.

Shraddha told IANS, "I'm very excited about 'Rock On 2', and more than that, I'm very excited to be singing my own song in the film. I'm playing a musician in the film. But there's still a lot of time for that film."

She said that she had loved the original film, starring Farhan Akhtar and Arjun Rampal, when it released in 2008. "When 'Rock On!!' had released, I had made sure I wanted to be part of the sequel. I feel lucky and blessed to be part of the sequel," added Shraddha, who will soon be seen in "Any Body Can Dance 2".

Shraddha will join the returning star-cast of the previous film, including Farhan Akhtar, Arjun Rampal and Prachi Desai. The movie will be directed by debutante Shujaat Saudagar and will be produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani.

Source: **IANS**

TV WATCH

Joler Gaan on Music Station



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular urban folk band Joler Gaan will perform live tonight at 11:20pm at Apon Jewelers Music Station, on Rtv. Besides performing from their

own set-list, the band will also take in requests, and talk to the audience via the phone, and share stories behind their songs and the band.

Ishika will host the programme, produced by Shah Amir Khasru.