

WHAT'S ON



Tagore Death Anniversary Programme
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library
Date: August 6-7; Time: 6pm

Tagore Death Anniversary
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut
Date: August 7
Time: 7pm






Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Prelude to a Monsoon Evening
Artist: Ferdousy Priyabhashini
Venue: Bengal Gallery
Date: August 7-22
Time: 12-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Realms of Memory
Artist: Bipasha Hayat
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1
Date: Aug 8-29
Time: 12pm-8pm





Documentary Screening
Organiser: BDC and BFI
Venue: National Art Plaza Gallery, BSA
Date: Aug 8-9
Time: 5pm onwards

Group Art Exhibition
Collagraph
Venu: Kala Kendra, Iqbal Road
Date: July 31-Aug 22
Time: 4pm-9:30pm





Mamata Shankar (2-L) guides the workshop participants.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Mamata Shankar's dance workshop in full swing

Grand performance on August 8 at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mamata Shankar, daughter of legendary Indian dancer Uday Shankar and Amala Shankar, is an accomplished dancer, choreographer and actress. The dance diva is now in Dhaka and has been conducting a dance workshop at the Rehearsal room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shadhona – A Centre for Advancement of South Asian Culture is organising the workshop.

Mamata Shankar; Lubna Marium, artistic director Shadhona; Sharmila Banerjee, director of Nrityanandan; Chandroday Ghosh, husband of Mamata Shankar and Aditya Mitra, secretary of West Bengal

Dance Group Federation formally inaugurated the workshop on August 4. Nineteen participants are taking part in the workshop where Mamata Shankar will acquaint the Bangladeshi dancers with Uday Shankar's choreography processes.

Following the workshop, a grand dance presentation will be held at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) at 7pm on August 8. Shadhona in association with BNM will arrange the show. Apart from dance displays by the workshop participants, artistes of Mamata Shankar Dance Company will perform at the event.

On the other hand, Indira Gandhi Culture Centre (IGCC) is organising a

lecture by Mamata Shankar on her father Pandit Uday Shankar at 6:30pm today at the IGCC auditorium.

Mamata Shankar had her basic training in dance and choreography at the Uday Shankar India Culture Centre in Kolkata under the guidance of her mother Amala Shankar. Mamata, following in the footsteps of her late father has imbued that rare sense of choreography, which, apart from being highly imaginative is truly Indian in spirit.

Over the past 29 years, Mamata has choreographed several dance-dramas and short dance items on wide ranging contemporary themes. Amongst the most

notable are Tagore's "Chandalika", "Horikhela" "Ajker Eklabya", "Milap", "Shikar", "Basantotsav", "Prakriti", "Kalmrigaya", "Mother Earth" and "Amritasya Putra". She runs the Udayan - Mamta Shankar Dance Company founded in 1986, which travels around the world with the "Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe".

Mamata Shankar is also an accomplished actress. Her first film was "Mrigaya" in 1976 directed by Mrinal Sen which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film. She has played memorable roles in many films directed by Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Rituporno Ghosh, Buddhadev Dasgupta and Gautam Ghosh.

NEWS bytes

Mariah Carey to join "Empire"



Mariah Carey is joining Fox drama "Empire", the show's creator Lee Daniels has confirmed. He made the announcement during Carey's Walk of Fame ceremony on Wednesday. "I love you with all my heart and am so proud of you. Watch her on 'Empire', you guys. She's coming on 'Empire'," he said.

No details so far on what role Carey will play, but she will join previously announced guest stars such as Ludacris, Kelly Rowland, Marisa Tomei, Snoop Dogg, Chris Rock, Alicia Keys, Lenny Kravitz and Ne-Yo -- on the second season of the show.

"Empire" returns to the television in September.

Source: **Billboard**



IT'S TRUE!

Crunk (or Krunk) is a music style that originated in Memphis, Tennessee in the mid-to-late 1990s and gained mainstream success around 2003-04. An archetypal crunk track most frequently uses a drum machine rhythm, heavy bassline, and shouting vocals, often in call and response manner. The term "crunk" is also used as a blanket term to denote any style of Southern hip hop, a side effect of the genre's breakthrough to the mainstream. The word derives from a slang past-tense form of the verb "to crank" (as in the phrase "crank up").

Kumar's Jamini: A Class Apart

NAZIA ANDALEEB PREEMA

Sheltered by the snow-capped Swiss mountains, the picturesque city of Lugano sits demurely next to Lake Lugano with intermittent sunny mornings gracing the city with a magical air. Such a delightful backdrop aptly calls out to art connoisseurs, welcoming them to an unprecedented art exhibition -- of more than seventy essential art pieces of the herald of modern Indian art: the maestro Jamini Roy, at the Museum delle Culture.

The exhibition is titled "Jamini Roy: From Tradition to Modernity", a Kumar Collection. The eponymous Dr. Nirmalya Kumar, despite being a faculty of the London Business School and a member of the group executive council of Tata Sons, is an avid collector of Roy's artwork. His love for these art pieces have evolved over 15 years, ever since he first laid eyes on "Seated Lady" for the first time. With utmost care, Kumar has been collecting and preserving Roy's masterpieces, and now the world gets to revel in them as well in their first exhibition in Europe.

Roy's works come alive through interplay of parallel lines, solid colours, folk motifs; the purity and simplicity of his technique making them a class apart. It is easy to see why his work has been praised highly by renowned art critics, who have compared him to the likes of Matisse.

Walking through the museum, I could feel the presence of the artist through the colours, motifs, and shapely eyes of the women, cats and children in his paintings, and particularly through the bold lines. Synthesis, balance and shape - all three ingredients are predominant in Roy's work. From the very first displayed painting of blue figure with parrot to casa, from a santal girl (the flower) to Nude lady, from bankura horse to cat and catfish, from Tagore to Christ - all depict diverse styles such as Kalighat, Impressionism and Christian art (Pink Phase). The geometric patterns of the figures depict the mathematical intellect of the artist, whose visual images are not just representing a culture but also the essence of his individual attitude towards visual art.

I was deeply moved to see the vividness of his artistic expressions; some drawings were just about lines



while few of them too detailed (abduction of Sita, Krishna and Blarama, Musicians) to describe.

When one observes his cat series, one notices that symmetry in shape, size and color has been used to create harmony between two cats in conflict. An amazing balance can be witnessed in any Jamini Roy piece. The distribution of color in any surface is flat and from pink to monotone we see the same treatment, despite usage of a few grades. Using traditional motif is another attractive attribute of Roy's works. 'Alpona' motifs are well used on his surfaces. All the elements in the artworks comes alive, vividly representing Bengali culture which Roy knew so well.

He was influenced deeply by expressionism; many will marvel at some works which were completed through simple brush strokes. The Tagore portrait and Nude Lady are indubitably an absolute image of modern expressionism. Through these art pieces, it is easy to understand that Roy, although solely traditional by skill and medium, was fully devoted to modern representation.

Although their original resting place is a sprawling apartment in Baker Street, the artworks seem to come alive in their temporary residence in the chillier European climes of Lugano. How is it that these Indian Modern Art pieces have transcended geographic and time boundaries to reach out to aficionados of such different heritage? It is a testament to the universality of Jamini Roy's work.

The role of an art collector is similar to that of a safe-keeper of a component of heritage and art history. A truly successful art collect does not merely "collect" art; he also acts as an emissary presenting the artist's collection for the whole world to partake in, to bask in their glory. As a collector, Kumar has achieved this. He has made himself one with Roy's work, going so far as to say: "I didn't choose Jamini Roy. He chose me."

While leaving the venue, I was thinking how he would now stay at his house with empty walls. But then I realise his Rabindranath Tagore, MF Husain, FN Souza and Ganesh Pyne works help to bear sacrificing his Roys for a few days just a bit easier!

The writer is a visual artist.



Tisha

ready for her new film

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite receiving applause for her acting in "Third Person Singular Number" and "Television", actress Tisha is not so regular in films; rather she is more engaged on the small screen. Recently, the actress has signed her fourth film.

Popular director Ananno Mamun will helm the yet-untitled film which also casts Arifin Shuvo alongside Tisha in the lead role. This is the first time Tisha and Shuvo will be seen together on the big screen.

Tisha will play the role of Pori in the film. "I don't want to disclose more about my role but I can say that the script is very interesting. It will be love story," said Tisha to this correspondent. She also informed that the film will go on floor in September.

The film will have four songs; of which Habib Wahid will do three and Kolkata-based music director Savy will do one.

Meanwhile, Tisha has recently finished shooting her third film "Mental" which stars Shakib Khan opposite her. "I can vouch that the audience will get to see a good film," Tisha said.

Tisha further said that she would be more regular in films if she gets good scripts.

Kamal Ahmed launches "Bhora Thak Smritisudhay"



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, singer Kamal Ahmed launched his solo Rabindra Sangeet album "Bhora Thak Smritisudhay" on Tuesday.

The singer, along with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu; Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Betar; noted singers Khurshid Alam, Rafiqul Alam, Shelu Barua and photographer Chanchal Mahmud launched the album at a

programme held at Sevenhill restaurant in the capital. Among others, Laser Vision managing director Mazharul Islam and chairman AKM Arifur Rahman also attended the event.

The album features 12 songs of Tagore including "Bhora Thak Smritisudhay", "Ektuku Chhowa Lage", "Tumi Robe Nirobe" and "E Monihar Amar".

Kolkata-based musician duo Durbadal Chattopadhyay and Amit Bandyopadhyay have done the music arrangement for the album.