

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 "Pakhi'r Desh Bangladesh"
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Dec 4-11
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: How Do I Rent a Planet
 Artist: Razib Datta
 Venue: Kalakendra
 Date: Nov 20- Dec 10
 Time: 5-9pm



10th DU Theatre Festival
 Venue: TSC
 Organizer: Theatre & Performance Studies Dept
 Date: December 3-8; Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Aquatic
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 11
 Time: 12-8pm



Drawings & Sketches Exhibition
 By Master Artists
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 10
 Time: 3-8pm Daily



NEWS bytes

Original cast returns for "Trainspotting 2"

Moving fast to a preemptive deal, Sony label TriStar has landed the package, worldwide rights included, to the sequel of "Trainspotting", the seminal 1990s film with Danny Boyle back in the director's chair.

Also returning to the film project are the original principal cast, including Ewan McGregor, Jonny Lee Miller, Ewen Bremner, and Robert Carlyle. John Hodge, who wrote the script for the original adaptation, is also



back as writer.

The original movie adapted the 1993 novel by Irvine Welsh and told of a group of lower income heroin users in Edinburgh drifting through their lives.

McGregor was the movie's narrator and lead, surrounded by Miller's Sick Boy, a drug dealer, Carlyle's Begbie, a violent sociopath, and Bremner's Spud, a dim but genial friend. Considered among the best British films ever made, it launched McGregor's career and put Boyle on the world stage.

Source: THR



(L-R) Vidushi Shubha Mudgal, Minu Haque and Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar at the press meet.

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE MASTERS

SAURAV DEY

The fourth edition of Bengal Classical Music Festival wrapped up Tuesday night with a promise to return next year. During the festival, Arts & Entertainment caught up celebrated Indian classical vocalist Vidushi Shubha Mudgal and Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, along with noted Bangladeshi dancer and choreographer Minu Haque for a brief interview. Excerpts:

In addition to classical music, you sing and experiment with other genres including Hindi pop? What do you think is your greatest strength as a musician?
 Shubha Mudgal: I am formally anchored in khayal which is a part of raga sangeet and that is what I am most fluent with. The sense and the language of Ragadari Music as represented in khayal and thumri-dadra are, in a sense, my musical mother tongue. I was trained and brought up under the tutelage of some of the prominent gurus. So, in my childhood I was encouraged to listen to all kinds of music. Of course, I had my own preferences but I was never allowed to say "I

don't like it". Being brought up like that exposed me to all kinds of music.

And today I am able to listen to music from across the world and yet to be anchored in an age-old tradition which belongs to our region. This is a time where we have the best of the past and much more to look forward.

There's an age-old tradition of learning classical which is called the Guru-Shishya Parampara. How important is this tradition in teaching classical music?
 Wasifuddin Dagar: Guru-Shishya Parampara in this part of the world is very essential. You get initiated to any form through your parents, and fortunately I was born in a family where there were so many musicians. I grew up seeing and listening to what my father was doing; it's like I started listening to music even before I was born. You sit in front of your guru, and in our tradition we are never supposed to ask questions since guru knows more than we do--that is the key. Guru knows what to give and when to give, and the disciple should also be prepared to what he is able to receive. It's not a five-year course; it's a learning process and you have to improve your musicality through it. When

you teach you also learn; it's a non-stop learning process for the guru also. Guru opens you so that you make music on your own and you learn from your own perspectives.

How did you come with the idea of incorporating Rabindra Sangeet and patriotic song in your Bharatnatyam dance choreography in the opening evening?
 Minu Haque: I primarily do Odissi dance, but I have also learned other dance forms including Manipuri. I have fascination for all classical dance forms-- be it Kathak, Bharatnatyam or any other form. When I went Kolkata to record music track for this choreography with noted music director Swapnan Pakrashi, I requested him to include a Rabindra Sangeet. He suggested that I begin the salutation with "O Amar Desher Mati". When it was done, I thought this is something that would bring tears to the audience's eyes. I had the intention of including "Ekta Bangladesh" in my choreography. This came to my mind before I was thinking of doing the choreography. When I was doing that I was thinking about my country and its people.

LIPI'S "No One Home" opens

A CORRESPONDENT

"No One Home", an exhibition of installations, drawings and videos by Tayeba Begum Lipi, opened at the Bengal Art Lounge in the capital yesterday. The exhibition presents a series of objects of women's daily life, made of safety pins and stainless steel razor blades: heeled shoes, hand bags, a bathtub... Displayed in a gallery space, these personal items create a feeling of hollow intimacy for the owner is nowhere to be seen. The viewer is left with the strange impression of peering through an empty apartment.



The exhibition also showcases series of pencil drawings alluding to the aging process and its physical consequences. The metamorphosis of time is further explored in 2-channel video in which the artist is seen cleaning up her ancestors' graveyard; the work delves on the tension between what is and what was, inviting the public to introspection.

"No One Home" deals with womanhood, transition and ultimately mortality-- issues that Tayeba Begum Lipi continues to explore in her characteristically candid endeavour.

FARHAN excited for Wazir

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Farhan Akhtar has directed action films, but says he was excited to feature as an actor in action scenes for the first time, smashing baddies in upcoming movie "Wazir".

The Bejoy Nambiar-directed film is an action thriller --starring Amitabh Bachchan and Farhan in lead roles along with Aditi Rao Hydari, John Abraham and Neil Nitin Mukesh, and is slated to release on January 8 next year.

"I had a wonderful time doing action. I have directed action in films like 'Lakshya', 'Don' series. It is a different experience when you are directing it and doing action as an actor," Farhan told reporters at a promotional event of "Wazir".

"In films like 'Rock On' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' I get beaten up, so I was excited to do action on screen in this film," the actor-director said.

The film is about two unlikely friends- a wheelchair-



bound chess grandmaster (played by Amitabh Bachchan) and a fired brave anti-terror squad police officer (Farhan Akhtar). Both are brought together by grief and a strange twist of fate.

"Tere Bin", a song from the film, was also launched yesterday.

Asked about working with Amitabh Bachchan in "Wazir", Farhan said he hoped to have the same level of enthusiasm when he reaches the Bollywood veteran's age.

"You don't go and speak to someone of his stature asking for tips. But you observe him and that is the best thing, see his enthusiasm and excitement today even after over 45 years and that is amazing. We hopefully think we also have same excitement like him at that age," said Farhan, who had also directed Bachchan in "Lakshya".

Farhan said directing and acting with Bachchan have different sets of challenges, but is an enjoyable experience. "I had great time working with him in either capacity," he added. "As an actor I am young, I have grown up watching his films. I am a huge admirer of him," he said.



On its 20th anniversary celebrations, Crown Cement presented a scintillating cultural evening that featured Hungary's Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra play the National Anthem for the first time in full staff notation (top). Bangladeshi artiste performing at the event included Momtaz featuring Arnob (L), Ayub Bachchu and Warda Rihab and her dance troupe.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Ghazals at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

Cultural personality Kamal Lohani launched the Ghazal evening at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) courtyard, on December 4. He said that Manzoorul Islam Khan, the featured artiste of the evening, had tried his best

to keep alive the tradition of Ghazals in the country. It was because Mehdi Hassan had come to Bangladesh, that Ghazals are so popular, he remarked.

Bruno Plasse, the Director of AFD, said that he has enjoyed Manzoor's Ghazals before, as he sang the tunes of Indian artistes like Manna Dey, Kishore Kumar,

Mohammed Rafi and Jagjit Singh, and was a true promising Ghazal personality.

He learnt under Ustad Abul Kalam Siddiqui, Ustad Shankar Das, and under Ustad Nurul Islam. He also studied at Chhayanaut. He was inspired by classical nuances of Mehdi Hasan, Ghulam Ali, and also Kazi Nazrul Islam. He is an "A" grade artist of BTV and Bangladesh Betar.

With blue and purple fairy lights, Manzoor had the accompaniment of the tabla, harmonium, guitar and keyboard. He wore the conventional beige Sherwani. There was Rehana Jehan to add the commentary.

Manzoor sang songs which Talat Mahmood had made famous, like "Yeh Hawa Yeh Chandni". He sang others by Ghulam Ali, some of which were of Bollywood fame -- like "Badan Se Lagey". There was one which was of Ustad Amanat Ali Khan, who was well-known for his thumris.



"Alluvial Realization", a solo painting exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Kalidas Karmakar is currently on at the Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the capital. The opening ceremony of the exhibit took place on December 4. Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while Tasmina Hossain, Acting Editor of Daily Ittefaq & Editor of Anannya; renowned artist Mustafa Manwar and eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque were special guests at the event. The exhibition will run every day from 10am to 8pm till December 22.