



Kailash Kher



Jalal

## Performing today at Dhaka International Folk Fest 2016

Kicking off with power after a series of breathtaking performances on the opening night of Dhaka International Folk Festival 2016, the second day of the event will follow with much more. Featuring solo performances by flautist Jalal (Bangladesh), Latif Sarkar (Bangladesh) and Prosad (Canada), the stage tonight will also be graced by Bangladeshi artistes Shafi Mondol and Labik Kamal Gaurob; Spanish artistes Karen Lugo and Ricardo Moro. The line-up also includes Indian Ocean; Kailash Kher (India) will perform a solo as the showstopper.



Karen Lugo



## Back to the wilderness, take away the town

ABDUS SELIM

About ninety years ago, Rabindranath Tagore felt apprehensive about the rise of materialistic approaches in our so-called civilised society and expressed his uneasiness in at least three, if not more, of his literary works: "Raktakarabi", a play; "Sabhyatar Sankot", an essay; and "Sabhyatar Prati", a poem.

"Maatbring" is another theatrical addition to that persisting anxiety, in line with "Bon Pangshul" by Selim Al-Deen, "Rarang" by Mamunur Rashid or "Droupodi", a Monipuri play by recently-expired Thespian Oja Heisnam Kanhaila, although aesthetically more straightforward and less substantiating than the other two with themes like love and *back to the wilderness, take away the town*.

The play begins in a festive mood as the Mandi men and women enter the stage with brightly-coloured placards carved with designs of the flora and fauna of their dwelling immediately creating a befitting ambience, if not unique, for the narrative.

To quote Tagore once again, 'Trees are the earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven'-- the play has a similar maxim revolving around Tatararabuga, the creator of Garos who

dreams of 'founding an enlightened world that will have the sun and the moon after the colour of his eyes and his holy attire will spill all heavenly seeds on the barren earth to sprout countless trees and plants'. But unfortunately, writer Sanwar Alam Khan Dulu has not been able to incorporate this exhortation.

As for Jahidul Islam Jadin, the role of Kanu is quite articulate and acts with unbridled passion. The same goes with Tanjila Akter Jini, the lead female role of Mitti. I even think she has in many ways surpassed her counterpart Jahidul Islam.

Adity Sarkar Ruma, enacting Kolaboti Sangma, had the potential to be one of the core controlling characters of the plot but unfortunately was not given space to amplify her role.

In a tribal community, which is essentially matrilineal, the place of a personality like Kolaboti has a forceful projective importance. More so because ours is a patrilineal society where male egos dominate. Her torching death at the last scene could have created a meaningful and far-reaching impact.

Susimi, played by Afsana Beauty, is fluent and eloquent in her discourses most of the time but her expressions more often than not fail to

match with her dialogue projections.

Both the playwright and the director have mentioned in their notes that "Maatbring" is a Garo vocabulary originating from A'chick language meaning 'tribes who live in deep forest.' Albeit the appropriate usage of the term, study shows this particular dialect is not spoken by the Garos of Bangladesh.

Noticeably enough, all the dialogues and songs are in 'promito' Bangla without the tribal touch.

Sadhana is one of those few female playwrights who has achieved considerable success in our theatre world and definitely has displayed her quality and flair in "Maatbring". She possesses an intrinsic potent force for going a long way.

The off-Dhaka troupe, Bibartan Jessore, brought the wonderful production at the 19-day long National Theatre Festival 2016, arranged by Shilpakala Academy, and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, and sponsored by the Culture Ministry, People's Republic of Bangladesh, evidencing that with right guidance and patronage, the road to aesthetics can be traversed smoothly.

The writer is Professor, Department of English, NSU.



## SALMA READY TO RELEASE NEW ALBUMS

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



## Salman Khan in "Judwaa" remake

After Salman Khan x 2 in 1997, it's time for Varun Dhawan x 2, plus a dose of Salman.

Varun, who will fill in Salman's shoes for the sequel of cult laugh riot "Judwaa", will be directed by his father David Dhawan, and there is going to be a Salman-special cameo in the film, reported Mumbai Mirror.

"Judwaa 2" will be shot in scenic beach-locals along the Mediterranean and will also have a remixed version of the song famous "Judwaa" song "Tan Tan Taara", a source close to the film's unit said. "The icing on

the cake is that a special appearance is being written for 'bhaijaan'. Salman has already agreed to step in as 'godfather-gunda' to Varun's twins."

Salman Khan, now 50, starred as estranged brothers Raja and Prem Malhotra in the first film, co-starring Karisma Kapoor and Rambha. "Judwaa" was also directed by David Dhawan.

Asked about working with his father again, Varun told Mumbai Mirror: "It's a special film because in a career spanning over 50 films, my dad has explored every aspect of comedy.

Now, I want him to make a film from his heart. He has nothing to prove to anyone anymore."

Varun dismissed several rumours regarding the casting of "Judwaa 2" earlier in October, saying: "We have not cast the actresses in 'Judwaa 2'. Sorry I had to stop your casting party. Will announce the names soon."

"Judwaa 2" is scheduled to release on September 29, 2017.

Source: NDTV Movies

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Salma rose to fame after her voice serenaded the nation during her participation in *Closeup 1*. She has since focused on her singing career which has been an immensely successful one. The singer talked about her upcoming album with *The Daily Star*.

How far along are you in completing your new album?

Salma: Much of the work has been done. The album has been titled "Monmajhi", and I hope it will be ready for release by December 31. In the meantime I have shared a little musical teaser on Facebook so that the audience will know what to expect. I have received a very positive response and am eagerly waiting for the album to reach my fans.

Are you busy with stage shows?

Salma: I am mostly occupied with stage performances, yes. It is what I love doing most as there's a more intimate connection with the audience. I try to do stage shows every month.

You have done many stage performances in Bangladesh as well as abroad. Is there any experience that you remember most fondly?

Salma: I have many fond memories. Once I performed in Manhattan (New York, USA), and all the other performers had finished before I had started. All of a sudden, the emcee Debashish Biswas came on stage and announced, "Salma is nowhere to be found." Everyone was startled. But all of it was pre-planned, and I was sitting among the audience in the last row. Everyone was looking for me when I began to sing the song "Baniya Bondhu Re" from that row. The entire crowd cheered as I ascended onstage, singing all the while. That is one performance I will never forget.