

BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL '16

FESTIVAL DEBUTANTS YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THIS YEAR

WHAT'S ON

Dhaka Lit Fest
 Venue: Bangla Academy
 Date: November 17-19
 Time: 9am-7:30pm

Duet Art Exhibition
 Title: Into the Valley of Beauty
 Artists: Suman Sarkar & Zahangir Alam
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, FFA, DU
 Date: Nov 18-24
 Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Sands of Time by Jamal Ahmed
 Venue: Edge Gallery, Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan-2
 Date: Nov 12-25
 Time: 10am-8pm

Theatre Festival
 Commemorating Munier Chowdhury & Selim Al Deen
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: November 13-17
 Time: 7pm

National Dance Drama Fest 2016
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Nov 14-22
 Time: 6pm daily

Group Watercolor Exhibition
 Water Rhymes - 4
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: November 19-December 2
 Time: 11am-7:30pm

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The Bengal Classical Music Festival, in its last four editions, have introduced the Bangladeshi audience to the highest forms of vocal and instrumental classical music from this region of the world, be it Hindustani or Carnatic. Through the festival the audiences have been introduced to magnificent, ancient instruments like to Rudra Veena and Saraswati Veena to the thundering percussive clay pot, the ghatam, and many more. This year is no different, with some big names promising to bring some new magic to the largest classical music festival. Here is just a peek into what to expect:



Dr. L. Subramaniam

Dr. L. Subramaniam:
The violin virtuoso
 Violin is possibly the only instrument of this lot that has its strong presence in both Western and Eastern classical music. Over the years, the audiences have been treated to some excellent from the Carnatic duo Ganesh and Kumaresh Rajagopalan, to three generations of violinists on stage, led by N Rajam. But arguably the most prominent living classical violinist in India will be making his first appearance at the Army Stadium stage this year. Dr. L. Subramaniam. The virtuoso is equally apt in Eastern and Western classical violin, and has collaborated with musicians of all kinds – from Yehudi Menuhin to Herbie Hancock to George Harrison. With over 200 records to his credit, he is one of the most revered names in Carnatic classical music, and will be eager to make a big

taken the festival five years to have its first mandolin act, considering it is not one of the more popular 'classical' instruments, and that too are in Carnatic music, which was not all too well-known to the audience here, and has been served in carefully increased dosages over the years. But it is a pity that the name almost synonymous to classical mandolin, U Srinivas, could never perform here. He passed away untimely in 2014 at age 45, but his soul may take solace in the fact that his legacy is finally reaching the biggest classical music stage. U Rajesh, the gifted young brother of Srinivas, is the other major debutant at this year's

festival's second night, November 25. **Pt. Anindo Chatterjee:**

Torrents of Tabla
 The four previous editions of the Bengal Classical Music Festival has seen some incredible tabla players, from the prodigious teenager Yashwant Vaishnav to the icon Ustad Zakir Hussain – and everyone in between: the prolific Yogesh Samsi, Pt. Kumar Bose, Subhankar Banerjee and Swapan Choudhury. The only major name in the world of classical tabla missing from that list was Anindo Chatterjee, but not for long. Disciple of the legendary Pt. Jnan Prakash Ghosh, he has accompanied the who's who of classical music: from



U Rajesh

first impression on the Dhaka audience. Dr. L. Subramaniam will perform on the festival's opening day, November 24.

U Rajesh:
Musings of the mandolin
 It is not all that surprising that it has



Pt. Anindo Chatterjee

festival. And fans can expect the sound to be quite reminiscent of Srinivas' playing, as his brother too discards the typical mandolin's eight strings tuned to GG-DD-AA-EE, in his brother's use of only five strings tuned to CGCGC. U Rajesh will perform on the

Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Hariprasad chaurasia, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, just to name the top few. Even at the age of 63, he is said to continue to give new voice to the instrument. U Rajesh will perform on the festival's third night, November 26.



"Acting is my life" ... Faruque Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A man of theatre, Faruque Ahmed has been involved with the field for decades. At one stage of acting in theatre, he stepped into the TV media. Later, he started acting in cinemas as well. The popular actor recently spoke to The Daily Star, about his theatre journey and more. Excerpts:

"It was 1983 when I was a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) where I took part in a workshop conducted by Humayun Faridee. Some of us, along with Humayun Faridee, founded Jahangirnagar Nagar Theatre. Under this, we acted in the play 'Songbad Cartoon'. That was the start of my theatre career.

"Meanwhile, I was drama secretary of the university's Mir Mosharrar Hall. I still don't know why I chose this life, but it never left my side since then. Later, I was enlisted as a member of Gram Theatre with the help of Selim Al Deen. After the university life, I joined Dhaka Theatre upon his encouragement.

"Two months after joining Dhaka Theatre, I was part of the play 'Keramot Mongol', which was a great achievement

of my career. Selim Al Deen played a big role in this regard. I, Shatadal Barua and Humayun Faridee played the role of Keramot Mongol at three different ages. I portrayed the middle aged Keramot and the character earned me immense fame then.

"Afterwards, I did the plays 'Kirtonkhola', 'Muntasir', 'Hat Hodai', 'Chaka', 'Bhoot', 'Joiboti Konnar Mon' and 'Bonpangsul' for Dhaka Theatre. My last play with them, 'Praccho', was staged in 2006.

"On the occasion of Dhaka Theatre's 40th anniversary, I worked with Shomi Kaiser in 'Joiboti Konnar Mon' again, which was memorable.

"In my theatre career, I would say my best character was Keramot Mongol. Besides, the role of Eshak Chowdhury in 'Joiboti Konnar Mon' was another one of my most favourite roles. Esahak Chowdhury was the leader of a theatre troupe in the play.

"I had never thought of working in TV plays; I couldn't even imagine that I would have to earn money from acting. I have worked in theatre with love and passion, for my love to art and culture. Acting is my life."

NEWS bytes



ROBIN HOOD gets release date

Lionsgate has set Taron Egerton's "Robin Hood" for a March 23, 2018, release. Egerton is starring in the origins story along with Jamie Foxx as Little John and Eve Hewson as Maid Marian. "Fifty Shades of Grey" star Jamie Dornan will portray Will Scarlett, the half-brother of Robin Hood.

Otto Bathurst is directing from Joby Harold's script. Producers are Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Davisson Killoran, Basil Iwanyk, Tory Tunnell, and Joby Harold.

The story will center on Robin Hood being a war-hardened crusader and joining with a Moorish commander in an audacious revolt against the corrupt English crown.

A number of "Robin Hood" movies have been made in the past century. The most recent came in 2010 when Ridley Scott directed Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett in Universal's "Robin Hood", which topped \$321 million worldwide.

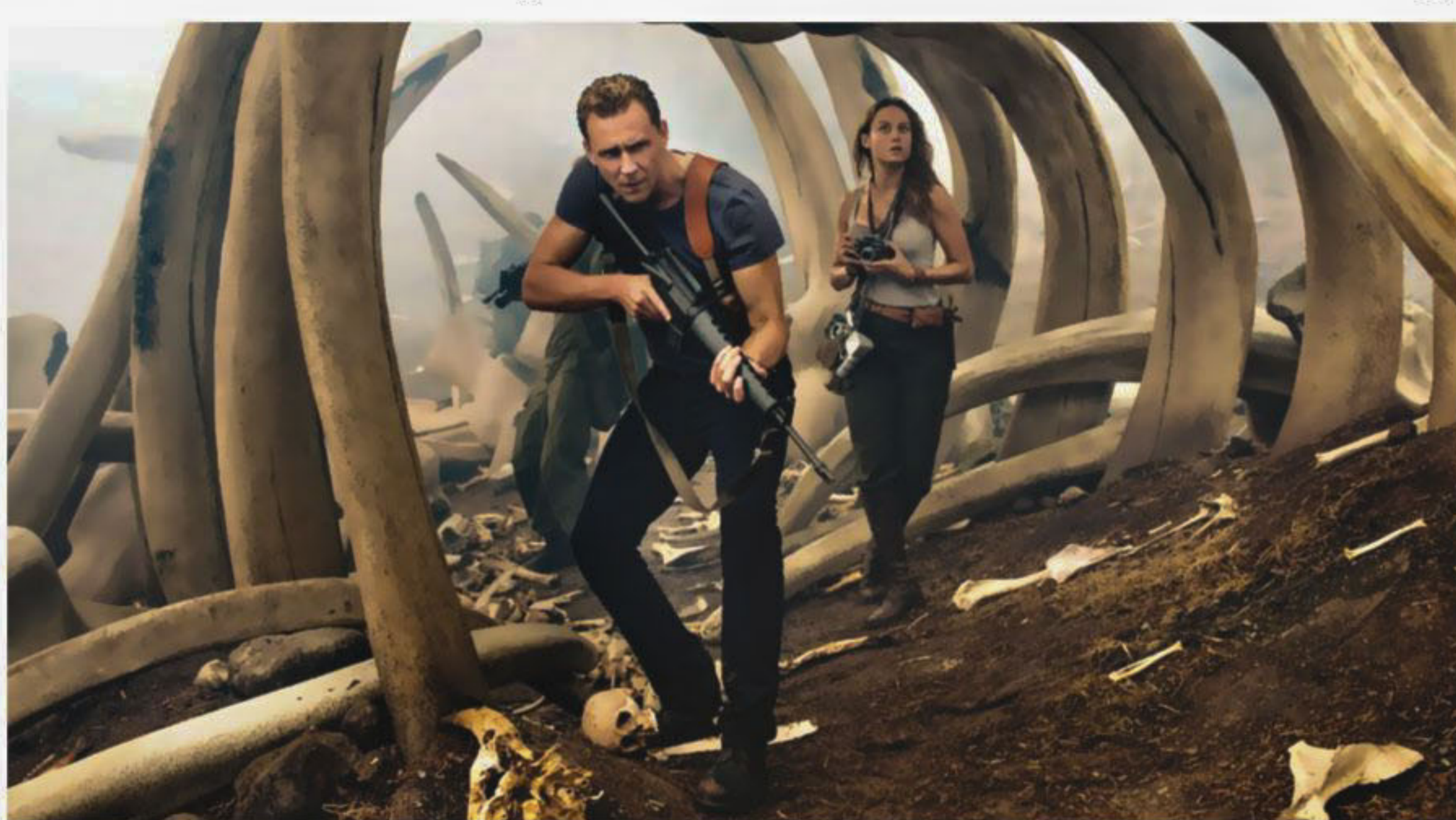
Source: Variety

New "Kong: Skull Island" trailer is primal and harrowing

The reign of Kong has begun once again! "Kong: Skull Island" is ready to not only revive the great ape that time forgot, but also tie him into a cinematic universe that will eventually pit him against Godzilla himself. For now though, fans will get to see the titular beast face off against a group of well-armed band of humans looking to settle a score. The film's latest trailer gives a glimpse of just that.

The trailer starts out with some light humor, only to take a left turn into some dark and dangerous territory. Maybe that's what happens when you bomb an island full of prehistoric monsters, but at the very least, island native John C Reilly seems to have a good natured attitude about it all, when he's not trying to warn Hiddleston and company about monsters named "Skull Crawlers". While the name sounds silly, the monsters they're attached to don't look like anything to mess around with.

Acting as a prequel of sorts to what could be called Warner Bros.' Monarch Cinematic Universe, "Kong: Skull Island" sets its story in the 1970s, after the initial expedition launched by Carl Denham in "King Kong" led to the capture and eventual death of the legendary beast in New York City. Presumably up against his son / nephew / relation of some sort, Captain Conrad's team of government officials and Army men will blaze yet another trail into the heart of the legendary island, in hopes of proving to the world that monsters are real. With an all-star



cast that includes Brie Larson, Samuel L Jackson, Corey Hawkins and John Goodman, it looks like the gigantic tenants of Skull Island will have to compete with some equally huge talents. Perhaps the most interesting piece of a very ambitious puzzle,

"Kong: Skull Island" is not only looking to connect with its historic predecessor, it's also the key to a larger cinematic universe that sets two of the titans of cinematic monsterdom against each other. Much like "Godzilla" before it, "Kong: Skull Island" looks to take

the monsters of yesterday and turn them into more modern, scarier versions of their previous selves.

"Kong: Skull Island" will release on March 10, 2017.

Source: Cinemablend