

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
 Play: Gohonjatra
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: March 24
 Time: 7pm

Contemporary Art Exhibition
 Title: An Abstract Affair
 Artist: Mohammad Eunus
 Venue: EDGE Gallery
 Date: Mar 18-31
 Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War
 Venue: British Council
 Date: March 3-31

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Journey & Images
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: March 12-25
 Time: 11am-8pm

Duet Print Exhibition
 Title: Diversity in Duality by Ajit Seal & Uttam Kumar Basak
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Mar 12-24
 Time: 3-8pm

Theatre
 Play: Crutch'er Colonel
 Troupe: BotTala
 Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium
 Date: Mar 24; Time: 7pm



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Our theatre is in need of new ideas

... SARA ZAKER

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Sara Zaker has been a shining light in the country's theatre arena for the better part of five decades now. She joined Nagorik Natya Sampraday just after finishing secondary school in 1972, at a time when the recently-liberated country was searching for its own cultural identity. Her first production with the troupe, "Baki Itihash", premiered in February 1973, and her career on stage grew from strength to strength. Following it up with "Bidogdho Romonikul" and "Nishiddho Polli", she has been a part of numerous unforgettable plays, continuing up to "Naam-Gotroheen: Manto'r Meyera" in 2014. The Daily Star recently caught up to the thespian, also this year's recipient of the Ekushey Padak, about her thoughts on Bangladesh's theatre, and more.

Asked about what the biggest challenge is for Bangladesh's theatre at the moment, Sara Zaker says: "Our country and society are moving forward at a rapid pace. New avenues of entertainment are coming up. And at the same time, the busy life and traffic problems are also limiting people to a certain degree. Shopping malls and food courts have become a place to go for the urban populace. And that is why theatre is losing its audience. We, as theatre activists, work entirely non-commercially, and we have to compete with commercial mediums like television. So we have to think of how to bring the audience back, and keep them hooked. We have to come up with new ideas. If the theatre scene progresses the same way we did forty years ago, we will be at the losing end -- because today's audience don't live in those times. They are moving ahead."

"I have been in theatre for over four decades. I still get compliments from audience of those times for plays like 'Shot Manusher Khoje', that happened in 1976! People remember performances of 'Dewan Gazi'r Kissa' that was decades ago. Like we see with theatre audiences abroad, they are mostly middle-aged people. Because once a person starts enjoying theatre, they watch it all their lives. I think that is the space we are not being able to create today."

The artiste also shared the feeling of receiving this year's prestigious Ekushey Padak. "When I was there, I honestly did not know how to feel. Other recipients were receiving their awards, and their bio and achievements were being read out. The ambiance of that moment was very moving. Finally, when I was receiving my award, I was overcome with emotion and tears began to roll down my eyes. It was a moment of a monumental achievement for me and the work I have done."

ASK ME ANYTHING

Bhabna-Animesh coming on TDS Facebook Live

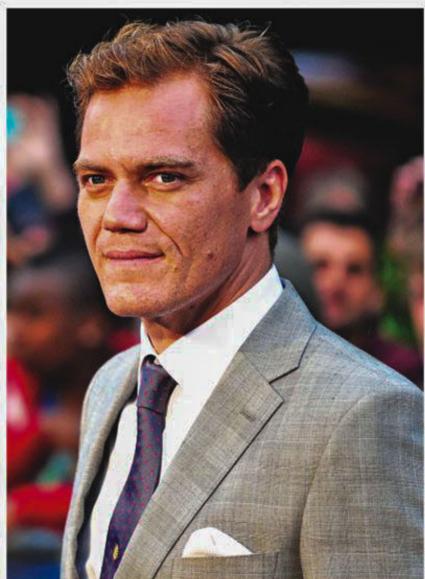


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the date! Celebrated actress-model Ashna Habib Bhabna and the ever-so-talented director/actor Animesh Aich will go on a Facebook Live 'Ask Me Anything' session with The Daily Star subscribers, at 7pm on March 30. The duo is gearing up for the release of the upcoming film "Bhoyongkor Sundor", which Animesh directs and Bhabna stars in.

Any subscriber to The Daily Star's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews>) can join the Facebook Live session, and pour in their love, adulation and questions to Bhabna and Animesh, and get all the lowdown on "Bhoyongkor Sundor".

NEWS bytes



MICHAEL SHANNON

eyes Cable role in "Deadpool 2"

Michael Shannon is the frontrunner to play Cable in "Deadpool 2". While no deal is yet in place, Shannon has been the top choice for about a week. Fox, the studio handling the film, had no comment on the news.

An official release date for Ryan Reynolds' sequel has not yet been announced. "John Wick" co-director David Leitch came on board to direct "Deadpool 2" last fall, after Tim Miller dropped out due to creative differences with Reynolds. "Deadpool" gave Fox its biggest hit of 2016 after opening on Valentine's Day to \$782.6 million worldwide, supplanting "The Matrix Reloaded" to become the highest-grossing R-rated film in history. Shannon is one of Hollywood's most versatile actors, with credits on "Man of Steel", "Mud", "Take Shelter", "Frank & Lola", "Machine Gun Preacher", "The Iceman" and the recently completed Afghan war drama "Horse Soldiers". He's received Academy Award nominations for best supporting actor for "Revolutionary Road" and "Nocturnal Animals".

Source: Variety



Liza's solo exhibit "The Water Impala" opens

A CORRESPONDENT

Contemporary watercolour artist Liza Hasan is displaying fifteen new works at the solo exhibition titled "The Water Impala" -- that opens in the capital today. Featuring ephemeral tones and dexterous brushstrokes, each painting implores the viewer to experience the world through the subject's eyes. The result is a suspenseful and multiplex consonance/dissonance that queries old and new methods alike and breaks with established patterns of perception. Hasan is a self-taught Dhaka-based artist

who has taken part in collective projects with The Invisibellas, The Milkshake Collective, and Mind Matters. In addition, her work has been featured at The Nordic Club (Dhaka) and at the Human Rights Illustrated exhibition in Bulgaria. In addition to numerous local publications, Hasan has been covered by Huffington Post Germany and HitRECORD online.

The exhibition is open from 9am-9pm between till March 26 on the 12th floor of the Crystal Palace building (House 22, Road 140, Gulshan-1).



Lara Dutta to play a single mother in her next

Actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi and Vinay Pathak are reuniting for her second home production film in which she will essay the role of an expatriate single mother.

The movie will be produced by Lara's Bheegi Basanti Entertainment. The actress-producer and Vinay have previously worked together in critically acclaimed film "Chalo Dilli", which was also produced by her banner.

To be directed by Sushil Rajpal, the movie chronicles the emotional journey of an Non-Resident Indian single mother through the heartland of India in search of the anonymous donor who fathered her son.

Sushil has worked as cinematographer on films like "Laga Chunari Mein Daag" and won the National award in 2009 for his directorial venture

"Antardwand".

"We at Bheegi Basanti Entertainment have been on the lookout for another story that had the same humour and emotional connect that 'Chalo Dilli' had and have finally found that with a script that Sushil brought to us," Lara said in a statement.

"It is liberating and refreshing to pursue great stories and bring them alive on celluloid through challenging and lovable characters and most importantly to make people laugh and cry at the same time," the statement further read.

The film is slated to release by June this year.

Source: TOI

TV WATCH

"Jemon Khushi Temon Shajo" on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT

To highlight the month of Independence, Channel i is airing a tele-film titled "Jemon Khushi Temon Shajo," on March 24 at 2:45pm. The tele-film is scripted and directed by Ashik Mahmud Ronny, with Arfan Nisho and Mehezabeen Chowdhury helming the cast, among other actors. The programme is broadcast in part of the weekly telefilm airing brought by Jui Bhalobashar Prohor.

