

Shashwati Garai Ghosh mesmerises with Odissi

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It was pouring rain, as they say, 'cats and dogs' this past Monday in Dhaka, and while most people were apprehensive about stepping out in this weather, not even the strongest gusts of wind and water could stop dance enthusiasts from commuting to Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's Music and Dance Centre to watch Shashwati Garai Ghosh's mesmerising Odissi dance presentation.

On invitation from noted dance exponent Sharmila Bannerjee and her school Nriyannandan, student of esteemed Odissi dancer Smt. Sharmila Biswas and founder of Angshuddhi-Home for Odissi, Shashwati Garai Ghosh travelled from India for a weeklong workshop beginning June 6. After a week of rigorous training, Shashwati and her students presented the basics of Odissi dance in front of fellow dancers, performing arts enthusiasts and the press on June 12. The event was graced with presence of noted dancers, representatives of IGCC, Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Nriyashilpi

Shangstha.

The students of the workshop began the presentation with a Bhumi Pranam, and then moved on to display 10 basic stepping techniques of Chouka. They finished their presentation with a demonstration of some of the essential footwork of Odissi dance.

Shashwati presented the entire margam (framework) of Odissi to the audience, which consisted of six main pieces in a set format. Because of time constraint, the audience could not enjoy the entire pieces, as Shashwati presented bits and fragments that represented each dance. The dances performed were Mancha Pravesha, the piece that signifies ascending and taking blessings from the stage that one is about to perform on; Mangalacharan, for which she did a Ganesh Vandana, the piece that takes blessings from a diety; Batu, which is a pure dance offering in honour of Lord Batuka Bhairava, one of the 64 aspects of Lord Shiva; Pallavi, also a pure dance, an exposition not only of the dance but also of the music that accompanies it; an Abhinaya piece, expressional in nature; a depiction of a Bhava or deep emotion

expressed in a song or lyric; and lastly, a Moksha, equivalent to a Thillana in Bharatanatyam.

Shashwati was very pleased with the students of Bangladesh. "I really enjoyed my time here. The students worked very hard throughout the week. Next time, I will make sure I come for a longer time and we can hold a bigger show for a larger audience. I will be back, there is no doubt," she said.

Sharmila Bannerjee, founder and director of Nriyannandan, at the end of the presentation thanked Shashwati for her efforts with the students and the workshop. She also promised to bring Shashwati back to teach Odissi to Bangladeshi students through more in-depth classes.

Sharmila Bannerjee and Benazir Salam, one of the only two professional Odissi dancers in the country next to Prama Abonty, have taken the initiative to spread Odissi across the country and bring it to the fore, next to the popularities of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Manipuri. They plan to bring more gurus of Odissi and hold an Odissi-based show at the beginning of next year.

Bangladesh presides over UNESCO Cultural Diversity Conference



Bangladesh's Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor has been elected as the President of the 6th Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The matter was informed to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh through an e-mail on June 3 sent by the UNESCO Headquarters Paris, says a press release.

According to the declaration, the related formalities were accomplished on June 13. Held at the UNESCO Headquarters Paris, Bangladesh formally became the President of "6th Conference of Parties". Indonesia first proposed the name of Asaduzzaman Noor as the president of the conference. India and Italy proposed the same. Later, representatives from 44 countries of Asia Pacific Region supported the proposal and Asaduzzaman Noor was elected and presided over the conference.

Bangladesh will hold the presidential

position until the next conference, biennial in nature.

In his inaugural speech, Asaduzzaman Noor elaborated on the history of our glorious Language Movement and Liberation War. "The history heritage and culture of Bangladesh are conventional, diverse, rich and a millennium year old. Bangladesh gives the highest emphasis on preserving cultural heritage and diversity. The issue is importantly included in our constitution too," said the minister. He also upheld different initiatives undertaken by the present government in this regard and thanked all for electing Bangladesh as the president of the conference.

The conference began on June 12 and continued till June 15. Governed by UNESCO, 145 groups/committees of different countries work together worldwide to protect and develop cultural diversity. Bangladesh, for the first time, became president of the prestigious conference.



PHOTO COURTESY: A KIB ABDULLAH

TV WATCH "Raaf Ekhono Baki" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Special weekend TV play "Raaf Ekhono Baki" airs tonight at 8:45pm on ATN Bangla. Written by Shumoy Sumon and directed by Yamin Jewel, it stars Sadia Jahan Prova, Pavel Islam, Hasin Rowshan, Rubel Shankar and others.



The play begins with Zareen waiting for Sutapa at a restaurant. One of them is the former wife of Farhad, and the other is his current wife. Five years after their split, Zareen wants to have some alone time with Farhad, and threatens to commit suicide and convict them of it if Sutapa doesn't agree to her proposal.

Salman's "Kick 2" going on floors in 2019



Salman Khan has been one of the most bankable stars of Bollywood in recent years, with an army of hardcore fans storming the cinemas for every release of his. Three years ago, Sajid Nadiadwala's directorial debut "Kick" made the fans go crazy about the style of the movie and epic punchlines.

Ever since, there have been speculations about a sequel to the 2014 blockbuster. The action-comedy which was originally a remake of the 2009 Ravi Teja starrer Telugu hit will soon have a sequel on Christmas 2019, as per reports in Mumbai Mirror.

A close source to the development revealed to Mumbai Mirror that Sajid has been working on the script of the sequel and is planning to give out the narration to Salman by next month. "Kick 2" is said to be a proper sequel with a continuation to the first part where Devi Lal Singh (Salman) goes on to becoming a Robin-Hood like robber for ailing children as he is constantly looking for that kick in life. Devi further

goes on to becoming a cop himself to catch the corrupt businessman named Devil.

It is still unclear if Randeep Hooda and Jacqueline Fernandez will be a part of the sequel or not. However, the source informed that "Kick 2" will have an international action star alongside Salman. The movie is said to be completely action-packed with daredevil stunts, which will require Salman Khan to undergo intense training.

Nadiadwala is currently busy with "Judwaa 2" and "Baaghi 2" on the production front.

Source: Mumbai Mirror



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