

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
 The Shambhoo
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: August 6-7 Time: 7PM



Painting Exhibition
 Title: The Sita of a Living Thought
 Artist: Bangsi Paly
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: August 4-16
 Time: 3-5pm



National Art Exhibition 2017
 Organizer: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Jul 26-Aug 14
 Time: 11am to 5pm



Solo Sculpture & Art Exhibition
 Title: "Rhythms of Gender"
 Artist: Ferdous Prityhabhiso
 Venue: Gallery Shilpakala, H-7, Rd-12, Dhaka
 Date: Aug 4-15 Time: 3-5pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Charcoal
 Venue: Gallery Koya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, DDA
 Date: Jul 29-Aug 11
 Time: 11am-5pm



76TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE

The genius of brevity

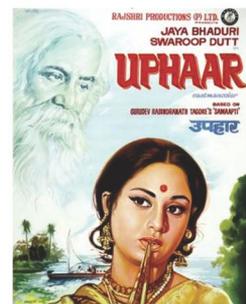
Inspiration behind Tagore's shorts

FAHIM FERDOUS

Poet, lyricist, bard, novelist, essayist, dramatist ... there was no territory of prose, his richest contributions are probably in short stories; it has been said over the years that it was Tagore who shaped the literary genre in Bangla. The lyrical, rhythmic pieces, that dealt with the simplest of themes and yet struck the strongest of chords -- be it in "Kabuliwala", "Chhuti" or "Samapti", he expressed the exuberance of childhood and heart-sinking tragedy with equal finesse. His collection of short stories, "Golpoguchho", also contains the back-story of how he came upon some of his short stories. Here are a few:

Tagore wrote "Postmaster" while at his Shahzadpur Kacharbari (in Sirajganj), where there was a post office at the ground floor of it. Tagore befriended the postmaster and the two spent time together regularly. The protagonist of the story was inspired from his friend, as was the plot, from his experiences.

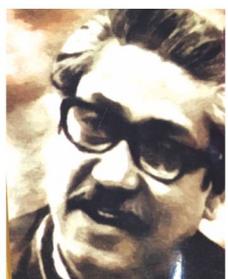
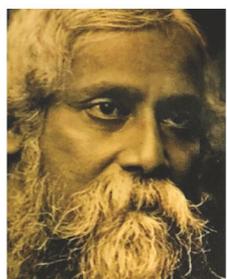
When Tagore was young, the room he slept in had a skeleton, that of a woman. However, it did not bother him as a child. But years later, when there were guests at his house, Tagore had to sleep in his old room, and was awakened deep into the night by an eerie feeling of a woman walking around his mosquito net. Despite being spooked out, he found a plot in the incident, and that is how "Kongka" was written. Meanwhile, the story behind "Libeto O Mritu" was also conceived late one night, when Tagore woke up in the middle of the night, and mistaking it to be just before dawn, went on his usual walk on the rooftop when the clock struck two. He felt as if he was haunting the house; that he was not alive, but only a spirit, and decided to pen it down. Another one of his horror stories, "Master Anshai", was made up on the spot, when he went to visit the grave of Cooch Behar, Suniti Devi, on an invitation, and the queen, convinced that Tagore had seen a ghost, insisted on his relating a haunting experience. The story was received so well by the audience that Tagore decided to write it down.



Another short story of his, "Durash" was also written on that trip, when Suniti Devi proposed that a story be written in collaboration with a group, where each participant adds a line to the story. But after Tagore started -- with a woman crying by the Darjeeling-Calcutta road, no one seemed to come up with the subsequent plot, and Tagore himself completed it.

"Khudhito Pashan" was written when Tagore visited his brother Satyendranath, posted in Ahmedabad as an officer in the Indian Civil Service. His residence there was in Shalibag, in an old palace. When his brother would leave for work, Tagore would roam the halls, awestruck by the marvel of history that still stood there. The place-setting inspired him to write the story.

"Samapti" and "Chhuti", two of his classics, were also written at Shahzadpur. In front of his Kacharbari was a small dock where passenger boats would stop. One day, he noticed a young girl who would come to that 'ghat' sometimes, with her hair cropped short and bright eyes that sparkled with intelligence. And then one day he saw the girl dressed as a bride, leaving on a boat. The thought of such an exuberant, energetic soul having to settle into the character of a married woman and the difference of her life saddened the bard, and the character of Mrimoyi was written. And then there was a young, mischievous boy that he noticed there, who jumped from one boat to another, and watched boatmen at work. Suddenly, he started rolling down tree logs kept in the river-bank. But a little girl came and sat on one of the logs, and after failing to get her off it, the boy pushed the log over along with the girl. The girl, in tears, retaliated with a slap to the boy's face, and that is how the character of Fotik was inspired.



BSA's programmes shed light on Tagore and Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 76th death anniversary of Tagore, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has arranged a discussion and musical programme at its National Music and Dance Centre auditorium today at 6:30pm. The programme titled, "Rabindranath O Bangabandhu", will have writer-educator Dr. Hayat Mamun as chief discussant. BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the programme.

Child artists of BSA will set the musical event with a choral rendition of the songs "Tumi Je Surer Agun" and "Akash Bhora Surja Tara". Artists of the Department of Music of Jagannath University, Govt. Music College, Rabindra Sangeet Shilpa Sangstha and Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad will present choral songs while Tagore singers - Anima Roy, Kamalika Chakraborty, Nusrat Bintey Noor, Sajed Akbar, Salma Akbar, Mubizazzaman Chowdhury, Mozta, Shama Rahman, Farjeeling Chowdhury and others will render solos.

Noted elocutionists - Syed Hasnain Imam, Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Krutika Hefaz and

others will recite Tagore poems at the programme.

Besides, to pay homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 42nd death anniversary, BSA is organising a month-long programme "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu". Fine Art Department of the academy arranged a two-day (August 4-5) art camp at the National Art Gallery Plaza where noted and promising artists - Abdul Mannan, Alakesh Ghosh, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Jamal Ahmed, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Almoteg Tushar and others took part. The month-long programme includes a 15-day (August 1-15) children art competition at all the metropolitan, district and upazila level academies of BSA, a month-long (August 1-31) portrait and painting exhibition of Bangabandhu at Gallery 5 of BSA, a two-day (August 15-16) discussion and cultural event focussing songs with choreographies written on Bangabandhu at National Theatre Hall of BSA and a three-day (August 17-19) staging of Liberation War plays dedicated to the Father of the Nation at Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA.



Kamal Ahmed to perform solo musical soiree

NAZIBA BASHIR

Kamal Ahmed is one of the more popular and devoted Tagore singers in the country at the moment, along with being the former adviser of Rabindra Sangeet Shammelon Parishad. Throughout his career, he has managed to become an iconic music enthusiast with a visible passion for the art form. Besides performing regularly on Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, and other TV channels, he has also taken Tagore songs to different countries like India and Sri Lanka. Now, he is performing at a solo musical soiree organised by and held at the National Museum. In a quick chat with The Daily Star, Kamal Ahmed speaks about what he has in store for the audience.

What songs have you prepared for the audience?
Kamal Ahmed: I have been thinking about making a compilation of certain songs alluding to the focus and also songs of love, by Tagore. So I will be focusing on these mostly. I will begin the performance with "Abar esheche ashaar", and of course, I will be performing the title song of the programme -- "Srabon ghono gahon mohe". I feel like the two -- monsoon and romance -- make the perfect combination for any musical evening.

How much do you think Tagore exists among the youth of today, and what can we do to increase their involvement?
Kamal Ahmed: I think anyone in the country who is involved with art and culture is involved with Tagore. But as the country moves forward, a lot of the leaders taking us forward have forgotten their roots, for which they have become more distant from cultural affairs. With these leaders looking away from cultural activities, it leads the youth towards deviation too. I think if we can modernise Tagore without destructions of the songs, we can bring the youth closer to it.

What do you think is the impact of Tagore on our culture?
Kamal Ahmed: I think Tagore is for every Bangali, of all generations. Whatever we feel, think, observe -- Tagore has written about it. As long as our culture survives, Tagore will survive with it -- now, and forever.

TV WATCH

Live musical show "Seemar Majhe Oshim Tumi"

A CORRESPONDENT

A special live musical programme "Seemar Majhe Oshim Tumi" will air tonight on Banglavison, on the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Fahim Hossain Chowdhury and Anima Roy will be the featured artists of the event.

Viewers can call in to the show and request their favourite Rabindra Sangeet, while the artists will also talk about their music and more.

Hosted by Shimul Mustapha and produced by Nahid Ahmed Biplob, the show will air at 11:25pm.



Fahim Hossain Chowdhury



Anima Roy



"Charu O Onnanyo" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Special single-episode TV play "Charu O Onnanyo" will air today on ntv at 8:05pm, marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Based on Tagore's "Noshtoner", Tuhin Abanta has adapted and directed the script. The star-studded cast includes Anisur Rahman Milon, Bidya Sinha, Him, Maznun Mizan, Azizul Hossain and others. Lawyer

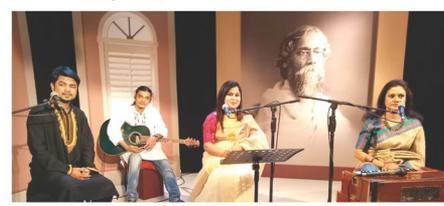
Bhupati stays busy with his practice of English and press business, and never has time for his wife, Charu. Eventually, Charu befriends Amal, Bhupati's cousin who lives in their house. Their friendship snowballs into love as they spend more and more time together. But then, Bhupati's press business is in turmoil and Amal leaves the house in search of a job, and Charu becomes lonely again.

"Achhe Dukkho, Achhe Mrittu" on ETV

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 76th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Ekushey Television is airing a musical programme titled "Achhe Dukkho, Achhe Mrittu". Adity Mohsin, Komolika

Chakraborty and Shwapanil Sajeesh will perform songs with the programme, while Shahadat Hossain Nipu will host the show, and recite Tagore's poems. Produced by Asaduzzaman Asad, "Achhe Dukkho, Achhe Mrittu" will air at 10pm tonight.



"Samapti" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

A special single-episode TV play titled "Samapti" will air tonight at 8:45pm on ATN Bangla, marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Shafiqur Rahman Shantanu has adapted the script from a Tagore short story, and BU Shuvo directs it. Sporshia, Jonny and Aruna Biswas play

the central roles in the TV play. The story revolves around young educated youth Apurbo who comes to his native home after completing his higher studies, and falls in love with Mrimoyi, a bubbly village girl. Apurbo's mother grudgingly agrees to their marriage but the events that follow cause trouble for the entire family.