

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
 Play: Helen Keller
 Troupe: Swapnadal
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Mar 8; Time: 7pm




Art Exhibition
 Shohomama
 Venue: Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct & Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Bidyapeeth
 Date: Mar 2-16
 Time: 11am-7pm




Solo Art Exhibition
 The Red Thread of Bangladesh
 Artist: Tarshito
 Venue: Bay's Park Heights, Kalabagan
 Date: Feb 23-Mar 9
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Imminence
 Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Ave
 Date: Feb 24-Mar 10
 Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre
 Play: Sararattir
 Troupe: Teerondaz Repertory
 Venue: Kagozitola Lane, Sutrapur
 Date: Mar 9; Time: 6:30pm



Chirkut to perform International Women's Day Concert

UN Women, the entity of the United Nations that works for gender equality, has organised a concert on March 8 at Mukto Moncho in Rabindra Sarobar to celebrate International Women's Day, says a press release. Chirkut, one of the most popular bands in Bangladesh, will perform in the concert on the theme of "Women, Peace and Security".



A theme song on "Women, Peace and Security" has already been developed to celebrate the concert. Chirkut has composed the theme song titled "O all powerful women, we salute thee in friendship and in peace, move forward... undaunted." The International Women's Day concert is open for all, and will begin at 4 pm. Meanwhile, seven flash mobs have also been prepared for seven divisional cities based on the theme song.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018



Women at the inaugural ceremony of the programme.

ARTISTIC TRIBUTE TO WOMEN AT BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Women's Day (March 8), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) regularly organises a gamut of programmes.

This year to pay tribute to great women, BSA in association with artists of the University Of Development Alternative (UODA) has organised a group art exhibition titled "Madhabilata" at Gallery No. 1 of National Art Gallery of BSA. More than 100

alumni and current students of UODA are taking part at the exhibition with diverse artworks.

Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on March 6. Suraiya Begum, ndc, former secretary to the Prime Minister Office, attended the event as special guest while founder and chairman of UODA Professor Mujib Khan was present as honourable guest. Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Chairman of the Department of Fine Art, UODA, delivered the vote of thanks. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA,

presided over the programme. Kaniz Sohani Islam, convener of the exhibition and an Associate Professor of UODA delivered the welcome address at the event.

Compiled by Dr. Mahfuza Hilali and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky, a special production "Mohiyoshi Nari" was staged at the opening ceremony. The production, themed on "Bishwer Ja Kichhu Mohan Sristi Chiro Kalyankor Ordhek Tar Koriyachhe Nari Ordhek Tar Nor", was performed by the artistes of BSA. The exhibition, opening from 10am to 8pm, will conclude on March 12.



A scene from the programme.

Special dance programme Rangaboti on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of International Women's Day, satellite TV Channel Rtv will air a special dance programme "Rangaboti" at 6:05pm today. Noted and promising dancers --Tamanna Rahman, Tanzin Tisha and Tama Mirza will perform dances at the programme. Shaheed Sharif has produced the programme.



CHANGING PERCEPTIONS Chayanika Chowdhury gears up for Women's Day

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

The number of women on the directing front in Bangladesh's entertainment industry has always been scarce, but television director Chayanika Chowdhury has remained staunchly active throughout her career. The director made headlines last year when she directed a record breaking 350th drama, but this achievement did nothing to slow her down. Today, she remains as ambitious as ever, and is gearing up for International Women's Day with two new hard hitting dramas.

Chayanika Chowdhury isn't afraid of telling it like it is in "Shikhar Kotha", a single episode play that delves into the relationship between a mother and her corporate-job holding daughter. When the daughter impresses her boss at work with an innovative idea, she reveals that the concept was formulated by her mother. Upon his insistence, she introduces him to her, who is revealed to be a former sex worker. Unable to come to terms with this revelation, her boss subsequently fires her. However, Chayanika shares, it is here that the narrative lives up to its title, when the characters learn to look past the social taboos and empathise with the struggles of the marginalised. The play will air today at 8pm on Rtv, and is scripted by Iffat Arefin Mahmood Tonni. Suborna Mustafa will don the role of the mother, with Tanjin Tisha playing the daughter's character. The main cast also includes Mamunur Rashud, Jovan, Shujat Shimul and Aruna Haidar.

The second play, "Shokhi, Meghomukhi Tumi Surjomukhi Hou" offers to give viewers a glimpse into the struggles of domestic workers, who are often victims of child marriage. The play is also written by Iffat Arefin Mahmood Tonni, and includes Shahiduzzaman Selim, Bijori Barkatullah, Deepa Khandakar, and more in the main cast. The play is produced by We Can, an organisation that campaigns against domestic violence against women.

"Nari nirmata has no gender, but as women, we have a responsibility to provide a space for the voices of women everywhere. Women struggle the most in society, and they are underappreciated, unrecognised. Unfortunately many female directors do not use their role responsibility, instead looking for opportunities for their own gain. As directors, we must understand the responsibility of our gender, towards our gender," shared Chayanika Chowdhury.

The director also noted that while women have a place in the entertainment and cultural industry, lack of social support still forces many to give up on their passions. "Two girls in my crew have had to quit; because our field demands unconventional working hours, as well as for the stigma attached to these facets. Family support is extremely important. I have been lucky to not go through such things, but many are forced to discontinue their dreams due to these limitations," she said.

A cry for change

A CORRESPONDENT

With Women's Day upon us, the air takes on a triumph note as we look at how far we've come in history. Over centuries, women have fought for an equal stance in society, created changes in social attitudes and reformed policies, to get us to where we are today. While there is much to celebrate for, there is also much more room for change. Noted elocutionist Proga Laboni notes that today is a good day to reflect on some of the questions society must ask themselves.

"It is easy to speak about the

liberation of women and other issues pertaining to our gender. But what bothers me is the collective social perception of women being inferior to men, and that is the position we have been working from. We are far more superior, and that is why men want to prove us wrong all the time. Patriarchy seems to have existed in perpetuity, and today we must ask ourselves what we really want."

"We need safety and comfort at work, and venture outside without fear. We need more respect at home and on the streets. The problem in our country is that the law sides

with the rich and superior. The police, who should be our protectors, are the members we are most afraid of. In this regard I feel that we are quite behind compared to other countries. In Canada, if you state to the police you are not comfortable with someone within your proximity that is all that is required for any course of action to take place. In our part of the world, women are the victims of violence every day, and their voices are not validated. Celebrating women just this one day almost seems farcical. Everyday should be a day for women."



A CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of International Women's Day, ATN Bangla will air "Shrabostir Karukarjo" at 8:30pm. The single episode play is scripted by Shireen Bokul and directed by Muktedir Ibne Salam. The main cast includes Shireen Bokul, Firoz Shahi, Jamaluddin Hossain, Shormili Ahmed, Enamul Haq, Bipasha Kabir and more.

The plot revolves around a family consisting of two daughters, of whom the younger one is deemed a beauty.

The older daughter, a school teacher, resigns herself to a life of spinsterhood as she lacks suitors. Her self esteem takes a worse hit when a much older man proposes marriage to her.

"Shrabostir Karukarjo" on ATN Bangla



A scene from the play.