

Rebuild a Life

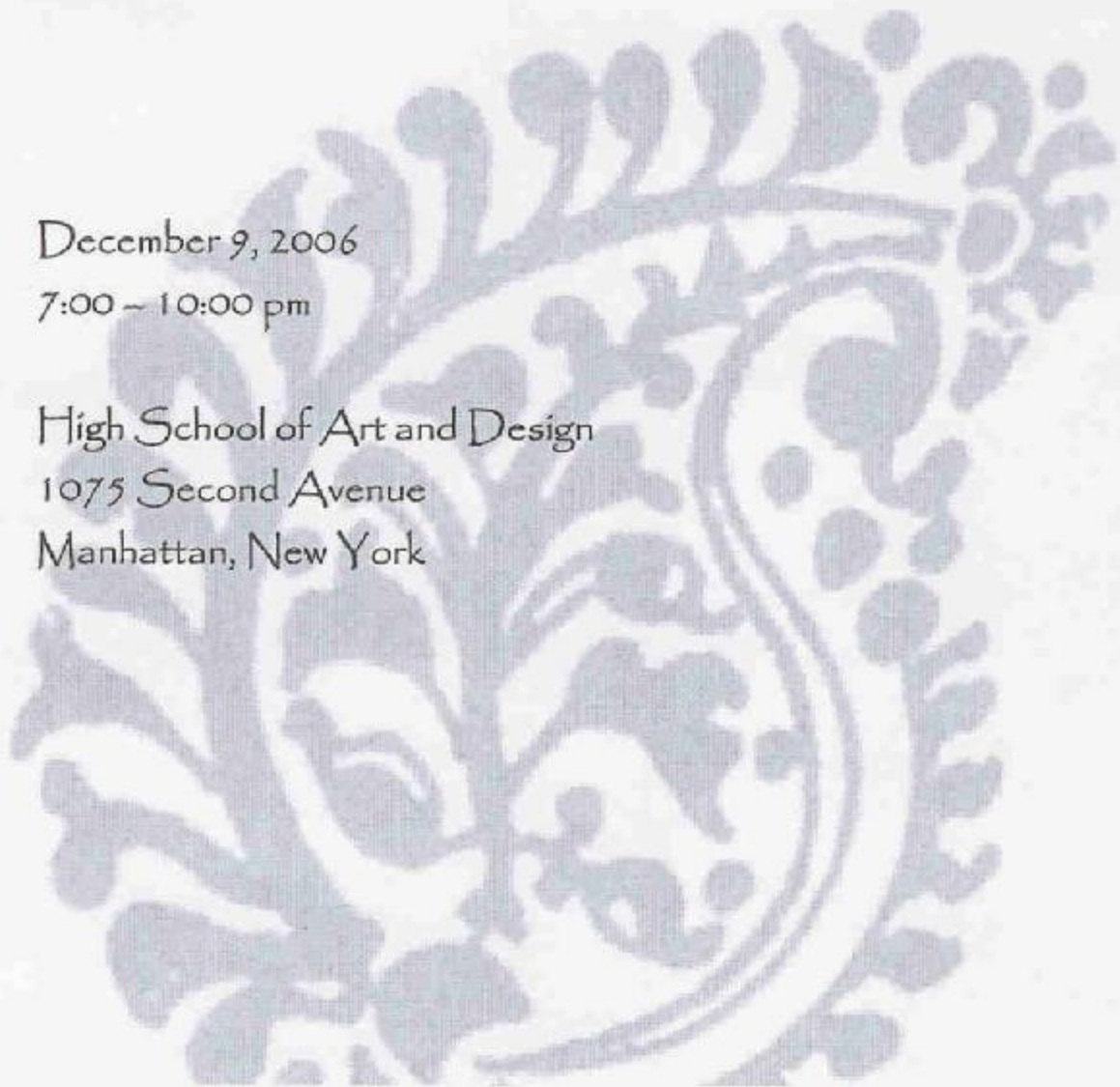
December 9, 2006

7:00 ~ 10:00 pm

High School of Art and Design

1075 Second Avenue

Manhattan, New York



About the Organizations

Drishtipat

Drishtipat is a non-profit, non-political expatriate Bangladeshi organization committed to safeguarding every individual's basic democratic rights, including freedom of expression, and is opposed to any and all kinds of human rights abuses in Bangladesh.

SHEBI

SHEBI - Society To Help Education In Bangladesh International - is a non-profit organization focused on education for underprivileged children in Bangladesh.

Acid Violence

Since 1967 in Bangladesh, acid has been used as a weapon. It is usually thrown at the victims face or on the body. It is mainly used against women, often when they refuse the sexual advances of men, or an offer of marriage. In recent years it has also been used as a result of land disputes. The Acid Survivors Foundation in Bangladesh began helping victims in 1999, and now runs a hospital in Dhaka that provides medical help to the victims. The Government has recently made acid attacks punishable by death in an attempt to stop its use but no death sentences have been carried out yet.

Program

Introduction

MC's: Sadia Syed and Sayeed Islam

Amra Kojon

Amra Kojon: "A Few of Us" is a group of Bengali music lovers and performers from both Bangladesh and West Bengal (India). Amra Kojon has organized and performed a number of shows in the United States.

A few of music enthusiasts have met and come together in Boston to help spread the charm and beauty of Bangla music and cultural heritage to our peers, colleagues and friends in the international community that we reside amid.

In Feb 2003, a culmination of our endeavors brought 1000 years of Bangla music, through the collective voices of 100 amateur bangla music lovers. Imagine -100 young men and women, singing "O Amar Desh er Mati, tomar por'e thekai matha" (oh my native land, I bow my head to you), from one platform, putting aside our individual differences of beliefs, ideologies and values.

Script

This is the story of how people paid the ultimate price for freedom. The country Bangladesh officially came into being through a people's liberation war in 1971.

But her story of sacrifice spans more than 200 years of battle and bloodshed -- from British colonization to Pakistani oppression. Etched in her history is her bloody defeat to the East India Company in a battle at Palashi in 1757, Bengalis' first revolt against their British rulers at the sepoy mutiny of 1857, their fight for their language Bangla in 1948, war against Pakistani army (West Pakistan at that point) that began on the night of March 25, 1971 and lasted till Dec. 16, 1971 when Pakistani troops surrendered. After years of oppression and tremendous sacrifice, an independent Bangladesh was finally established with Bangla as its official language, on the lives of millions of Bengalis who died for it.

Amra Kojon presents Abdul Latif's freedom song "Daam Die Kinechhi Bangla" or "We paid a price for my Bangla" that immortalizes the struggle and sacrifice of millions of Bengalis in a poignant freedom song.

Bengali Folk Dance

Music: Bondhu Tin Din (It's been 3 days, my friend) by Runa Laila
Dancers: Labiba Ali, Nadia Huq, Selina Huq, Faika, Devi Huggins,
Sawsan Eskander
Choreographed by Ishrat Hoque (Rakhi)

Poetry

by Farooq Azam

Slide Show on Acid Violence

by Shafaq Islam & Faika Farzana

Intermission 8:30 – 8:50 pm

Skits

Performers: Sawsan, Sabik, Labiba, Arefeen, Seefat, Itrat
Narrator: Ruhana Hafiz
Dances Choreographed by Arefeen Syed and Ishrat Hoque (Rakhi)

The love story of M&M - Mokhles and Morgina

Performed by Sawsan & Sabik

Mokhles is a sylhetti guy dating a non-sylhetti girl, Morgina, who are new in the US and they are both trying hard to blend in with the American culture. Their story portrays the contrast of a sylhetti - non-sylhetti couple and ends with the frustration between the two of them due to marital pressure from the girl's mother.

Hridoy & Poppy's Tale of West Meets East

Performed by Labiba & Arefeen

Hridoy, an NRB (non-resident Bangladeshi) returns to the motherland to look for the perfect Bangladeshi wife where he meets Poppy, our heroine. Come join us on Hridoy's journey of '*West meets East*' and see if he succeeds in finding his 'hridoy'.

Jazz and Abdul's 'lobh ishtory'

Performed by Seefat & Itrat

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful ABCD girl on the island of New York. A fobby FOB from Bangladesh arrives at the shores of the island. One day, FOB meets ABCD at a club. FOB and ABCD are polar opposites but are drawn to each other like a moth to a flame. Love begins to brew. Marriage ensues. FOB gets his "pepars" - the Blue Book to the Universe. FOB and ABCD live happily ever after.

From New York to Dhaka

Written and performed by Mushfik Nabi

Inspired by his experience as a socially and politically conscious Bangladeshi American.

Acapella

by Nova

Mian Azmy and Kyle Mason

STITCH

Excerpt from Collaborative Movement Project

Music: Kirwani by Jolly Mukherjee

Dancers: Ishrat Hoque (Rakhi) and Dina Denis

Adhunik and Folks Songs

by Forhad

StillWaters

Band Members: M. Rahman Shovon, Wafi Sattar, Niaz Hayder
Munif Chowdhury, Arif Rahman

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