



CREATIVE WORLD

It felt like to live in N Korea: Anurag Kashyap



MUMBAI, JUNE 8 /-/- Anurag Kashyap, one of the producers of "Uda Punjab", has compared the ongoing censorship regarding his upcoming film "Uda Punjab" to the dictator regime of North Korea. The "Bombay Velvet" director said there is no sense of freedom here. "I always wondered what it felt like to live in North Korea... Ab to plane pakadney ki bhi zoroot nahin...", he posted on Twitter.

The 43-year-old filmmaker's tweet came after Censor Board had purportedly raised certain objections regarding references to Punjab following which the movie may have to go through some changes. "Uda Punjab", starring Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt and Diljit Dosanjh in a pivotal role, deals with the substance abuse in Northern part of the state and its effects on the youth. "There is no film more honest than UDA PUNJAB... And any person or party opposing it is actually GUILTY of promoting drugs," Kashyap added. Directed by Abhishek Chaubey, the film is slated to release on June 17. Kashyap urged political parties to stay away from his censorship battle.

"I request Congress, AAP and other political parties to stay out of my battle. It's my Rights vs the Censorship. I speak only on my behalf." The "Gangs of Wasseyapur" helmer, who often faces the brunt of censorship, says his fight is not against the Censor Board. "It's my fight Vs a dictator man sitting there operating like an oligarch in his constituency of censor board, that's my North Korea," he said. "Rest of you go pick your own fights. I will fight mine. So please don't colour my fight with any political affiliation because there is none." (PTI)

Reality TV not scripted, says actress Sunny Leone

MUMBAI, JUNE 8 /-/- Sunny Leone has been a part of reality TV shows like "Big Boss" and "Splitvilla" and the actress says they are not scripted. The "Mastizadee" actress says some of the headline-grabbing moments on reality shows are as much a shock for the people on the set as they are for the audience. "I love reality television. I know a lot of people think it is all scripted, it is not. Some of the most outrageous moments, we have no idea that they are going to happen," Sunny told PTI in an interview. "We don't know the choices people are going to make. The choices end up shaping a lot of what the show turns out," she said.

Sunny is returning as the host for the upcoming ninth season of "MTV Splitvilla". The show will have 15 boys, as warriors, trying to woo six girls who will be princesses. The theme of

the show this time is "where women rule". "I thought the concept was really great. I am a pro women anyway. It has been interesting to see how the boys on the show responded to these powers. We also did have moments where we thought the young ladies were taking advantage of their powers," she said. This is Sunny's third season as the host of the series.

The "Ragini MMS 2" star recalls that during her debut on the show she was a bundle of nerves. "The first year I was really nervous, I didn't understand how it works. I enjoyed following the show but getting used to certain things, like the way you say a few things in Hindi, that part was a little unnerving." The season nine will premiere on June 11. The show, based on American dating reality series "Flavor of Love", will also feature actor Ranvijay Singh as Sunny's co-host. (PTI)

Anupam Kher attends Woody Allen's concert

NEW YORK, JUNE 8 /-/- Anupam Kher is on a trip to New York and the actor says the biggest highlight of his visit is the Woody Allen concert he attended. The 61-year-old took to Twitter to share his excitement with fans.

"Excited and looking forward to The Woody Allen concert... #CinemaGenius #NewYork #TheCarlyHotel," he tweeted. The veteran actor then shared a video of Allen performing. "Watching Woody Allen live is one of the highlights of my stay in New York. Here is a clip of a concert for you all," Kher wrote. (PTI)

Scientist artist's solo show explores life's journey

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8 /-/- New York-based Indian visual artist, scientist and entrepreneur Sukant Khurana in his first solo art exhibition here attempts to present a commentary on the journey of his life both in the US and in various parts of India. Titled "Making Via Unmaking" the show is a collection of about 60 works of art, which "are mostly mixed media, with acrylic on canvas being a dominant component, closely followed by spray paints and the use of fire." The display, which began at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society on June 3, according to curator Aakshat Sinha, represents a full celebration of pain, pleasure and joy in a brutally honest way.

Khurana's art pieces, says Sinha, involves "painting and repainting, tempering and weathering of works with elements of nature and beyond." The artworks are distinctive that they have been put out in ice and rain, molded by fire and tempered with knife and then brushed up to heal. Some works bear marks of bullet shots while some other canvases carries up to 70 layers of paint. The Delhi-born artist, who grew up in India

before moving to the US for a Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2003 says through the process of art and creative writing, he continues to explore "life's journey, previous experiences of getting stuck in futile efforts, making via unmaking, breaking free from loops, correcting mistakes, and finally finding direction and joy."

Khurana's display has been broken down into themes he has titled - "Circling While", "Fake Smiles" and "Breaking Free". "This exhibition is meant to perturb more than please, provoke more than cater to aesthetic needs. Most of these paintings were made in the US but some in India too, with some works taking years to complete," says the artist. "In general, my art is a response to the human condition. It does not create an alternate reality or provide born-again romanticisms of escape back to family, community and cozy feelings of belonging," says Khurana. The artist who teaches concepts of statistics, artificial intelligence, and data visualisation, in addition to neuroscience to biologists describes his art as an "emotional reality of modern urban chaotic selfish life."

"At best a twisted mirror of reality or a simple mirror of a very twisted reality. I work to create better realities or seek better realities and my art reflects that too just as it reflects inner and outer struggles. Instead of being tied to a style, my work is a new synthesis of media and styles to capture my ongoing feelings," he says. In the first part of the series, 'Fake Smiles' Khurana attempts to capture the fake smiles sported by "almost everybody" in a materialistic and artificial life.

In the second part, he explains "Path of life is rarely linear and we keep going round and round in circles till some of us momentarily break free". The third part, 'Breaking Free' are simpler celebrations of artwork that are put into a washing machine and reworked again to represent the uncaring attitude of the isolated modern man "who keeps dying everyday". Apart from the physical exhibition the artist says the exhibition is planned for over 100 plus digital works on same themes.

The exhibition of Khurana works which are on permanent exhibit at McGovern Center, Beijing is scheduled to go on here till June 9. (PTI)

Prince Harry smitten by Ellie Goulding

LONDON, JUNE 8 /-/- Britain's Prince Harry is reportedly smitten by the famous and well known singer Ellie Goulding.

The 31-year-old royal has been friends with the "Love Me Like You Do" hitmaker for several years now and the pair was said to have eyes only for each other at a recent party, reported female first. "It turned into a real party late into the night and there was a complete ban on taking pictures so Harry, Harry and Ellie only had eyes for each other," a source said.

Harry is believed to have shown interest in Goulding, 29, after she performed at his brother William's wedding reception in 2011. (PTI)

'History, the real hero of 'Shovabazar Rajbari Andarmahal'

KOLKATA, JUNE 8 /-/- Filmmaker Satrupa Sanyal says history is the real hero of her short film based on the position of women in a royal household of Calcutta during British rule. Titled "Shovabazar" Rajbari Andarmahal, the 28-minute film portrays the journey of late Kamala Devi Bourani, who entered the Dev family a prominent princely family of 19th century Calcutta, as a child bride of her giving up her studies. "It is the universal tale of women as being nowhere in history with their condition and situation seldom highlighted or referred. Their history is not chronicled," Satrupa told PTI.

The script is based on Kamala Devi's memoirs available with present day researchers which depict the lives of women in those times. About not taking any celebrity face, the director said, "I have sought to show the subject as the true hero of this film. So I have consciously avoided using any star so that the subject does not lose focus. I have used professional actors to portray the character of Kamala Devi and others to show how she evolved as a housewife, who played a key role in planning the rituals and customs of the centuries old Durga Puja, and how women



played an important role in running the family but had no outside exposure or apparent say in the domain of men."

When asked about the reason behind choosing a short film format, Satrupa said the subject demanded it.

The topic, she said, was such that it "can't be turned into a lavishly mounted period feature film even with higher budget". The director has extensively shot the film inside famous Durga Dalan, Chandi Mandop, Nachghar Natmondir. About sourcing the materials, Satrupa said, "I have

British Museum can send heritage texture to Assam

TEZPUR, JUNE 8 /-/- The 16th century Vrindavani Vastra of Assam now owned by British Museum London can be sent to the state for exhibition if the Assam government takes responsibility of its safety, security and insurance, said a curator of the Museum. "If the Assam government takes the responsibility of safety and security and the insurance of the Vrindavani Vastra, the British Museum Authority would send it to Assam for exhibition here," Thomas Richard Blorton, Head of the South Asian Section, Department of Asia, of British Museum told media today. Blorton said this to a query at an interactive session following his power-point presentation on Vrindavani Vastra in Tezpur University this evening.

The "Vrindavani Vastra" is a drape woven by Assamese weavers during the 16th century under the guidance of Vaishnavite saint and socio-religious reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva. The large drape illustrates the childhood activities of Lord Krishna in Vrindavan, Blorton said. Starting parts of the original "Vrindavani vastra" are presently owned by Victoria and Albert Museum in London and Musée Guimet (the Guimet Museum) in Paris, he said the piece of cloth demonstrates the skillful weaving methods developed during medieval times and survives today, rarely seen in present day Assam. "Assamese silk weavers depicted scenes from Bhagavata, Mahabharata, mainly of the childhood days of Lord Krishna on silk cloths under the supervision of Saint, scholar, and poet Srimanta Sankaradeva and his disciple Srimanta Madhavadewa during 16th Century," said Richard who has conducted active programmes of contemporary collecting, most notably in eastern and north-eastern India. (PTI)

Katie Price to release book on husband's betrayal

LONDON, JUNE 8 /-/- Former glamour model Katie Price has opened up about her husband Kieran Hayler's extra-marital affair, in a book. The 38-year-old star is spilling all after discovering her husband cheated on her with her best friend Jane Pountney in 2014, reported Female First. "I'm going to use my experience from what I have learned with Kieran cheating on me with my best friend," she said. "I know Jane had changed and I truly she fancied Kieran. Why didn't I say something instead of saying how great she looked and all that? I wish I had clocked it before," Price added. (PTI)

Mohit begins 'Half Girlfriend' shoot

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8 /-/- The shoot of Arjun Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor-starrer "Half Girlfriend", which is being directed by Mohit Suri, has begun here today. The film is based on the novel of the same name by Chetan Bhagat about a Bihar boy in quest of winning over the girl he loves. "Finally, the story comes to life. Big day as #HalfGirlfriend begins shoot!" @mohit1481 @s r j u n k 2 6 @ShraddhaKapoor Let's Play! Suri's wife, former actress Utdia Goswami tweeted, "So, finally the day is here we start a new life for the next few months where you live breathe #HalfGirlfriend. (PTI)

7th World Flute Fest to propagate global peace



NEW DELHI, JUNE 8 /-/- Over 40 Indian and international flautists, including legendary flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia will come together for the upcoming 7th edition of the annual Raasrang World Flute Festival here with the aim to propagate the message of global peace.

The 5-day-long festival, set to begin on September

21, also celebrated as International Day of Peace, will also usher in the United Nations 12-day peace campaign here. "This year the Flute Festival will take place in the first few days of the 12-day campaign. The flute is the proto instrument of the UN's sustainable goals. A simple bamboo reed has converted human breath into music. "The flute which is celebrated in Indian culture in many regional variations, is also a pan-Indian instrument apart from being a global instrument. It links and binds this nation with its sweetness and brings together the human, spiritual and divine elements in a way that is unique and so beautiful," Rajiv Chandran, currently heading United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan (UNIC) here, said. 27 flautists from Italy, Slovak, Latvia and Afghanistan will form the international component of the festival. Major attractions will include Riga Saxophone Quartet from Latvia and Arcadio Baracchi from Italy among others. Besides Chaurasia who is also patron of the festival, other Indian performers include Pandit Pravin Godkhindi, Pandit Ronu Majumdar and Pandit Chetan Joshi. "The festival has evolved

in terms of the scale. I now have on an average 7 countries coming in. When I started off with only two. Now, we have also started becoming more demanding on the genres of music. I want flute on jazz, flute on tango, flute on classical etc," Arun Budhiraja, convener of the festival, said. Parallel to the main festival are several ancillary events including an exhibition on the languishing wind instruments of India and a series of workshops where yoga and flute will be combined to create relaxing and healing effects. There is also an initiative to connect professional musicians to the National Brain Research Centre in Gurugram to participate in a research study and investigate on "Structural and Functional correlates of Hindustani Raga Music in Professional musicians". Budhiraja said,

"The other layers of the festival are also very important to us like the Banswari, the restoration of the old flutes, and the healing. These are very mass developmental projects for us."

According to organisers, a "Flute Contest" is also underway across 180 schools in Delhi-NCR, where 10 selected students from each category of 'below 12years' and 'below 20 years' of age will receive scholarships for residency programmes under the mentorship of the music guests of the country. The festival will see three music concerts each day, besides talks on peace by a score of noted speakers from India and overseas. "The finalists of the Flute Contest will be performing. Sangest Natak Akademi will be sponsoring the teams for villages, who will come to the mainstream on the world platform," Budhiraja said. (PTI)