

Star Showbiz

VOL 07 ISSUE 33
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020
23 FALGUN 1426 BS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF *The Daily Star*



PLUGGED-IN
AVASH



CHIT-CHAT
SOHANA SABA

The Musician's **MUSE**

PHOTO:
SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

MONTREX

THE BEST WAY
to
PREDICT
the
future
is
to **create** IT

MT 389 TM

TIME ZONE Authorized Sales Centre

Imported by: Kallol Enterprise Ltd. 199 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka, Tel: 58816004

TISHA'S yellow venture

On the 6th of March this year, the Indo-Bengal joint venture film, *Holudboni*, was released. The lead roles in the film were played by Nusrat Imrose Tisha from Bangladesh, and Parambrata Chattopadhyay and Paoli Dam from Kolkata. The shooting for the film started back in 2017, and it was in the works for a long period of time. *Holudboni* was

released in both Star Cineplex and Blockbuster Cinemas in Dhaka.



GRAPEVINE

MITHILA'S Celebration



Renowned filmmaker Srijit Mukherji and actor Rafiath Rashid Mithila recently celebrated their post-marriage reception in Kolkata with friends, family and loved ones from the media scene. The day before their grand reception, the two families had a fun time playing with colours. Prominent personalities and actors, like Prosenjit Chatterjee, Raj Chakraborty, Rituparna, Mimi Chakraborty and Sourav Ganguly, among others, attended the reception party. Even though a few stars from Bangladesh were not able to make it to the reception, they had sent their blessings and wonderful wishes to the couple via the Internet. Mithila and Srijit tied the knot in December last year.

Nusraat Faria on web

Popular actor Nusraat Faria will commence shooting from tomorrow for a web film, *Jodi Kintu Tobuo*. The Shihab Shaheen directed film will also star television actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba, and is anticipated to be released during Pohela Boishakh on ZEE5, a video streaming online platform. A few scenes of the 120-minute-long film will take place in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. Nusraat Faria made her debut back in 2015 with the film, *Ashiqui*. She later did other films, like *Hero 420*, *Badsha - The Don* and *Premi O Prem*, among others. Currently, she is shooting for Dipankar Dipon's film, *Operation Sundarban*. She is also awaiting the release of *Shahenshah*, opposite Shakib Khan.



us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

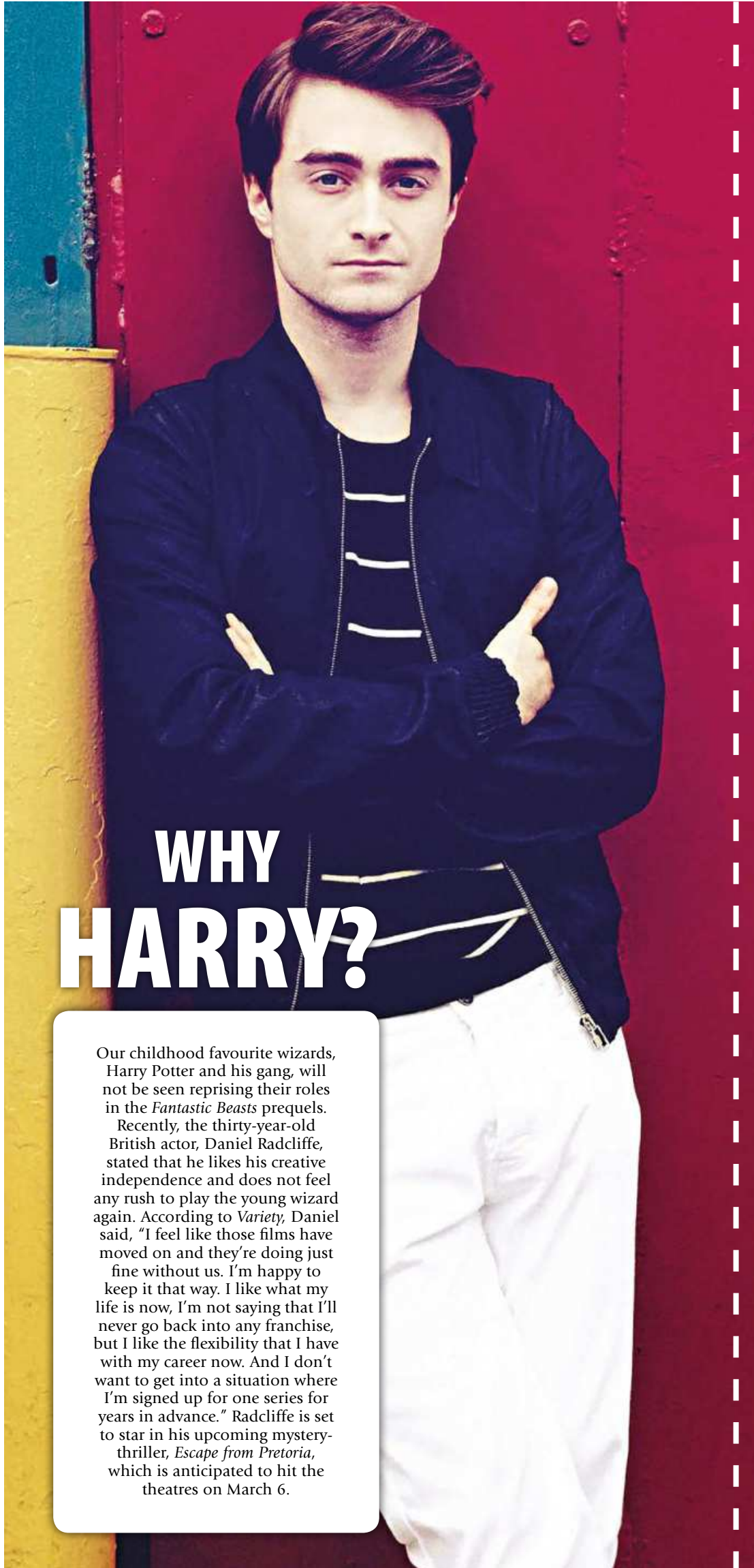
স্যান্ডালিনা সোপ



রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

**KOHINOOR
CHEMICAL**

GRAPEVINE



WHY HARRY?

Our childhood favourite wizards, Harry Potter and his gang, will not be seen reprising their roles in the *Fantastic Beasts* prequels.

Recently, the thirty-year-old British actor, Daniel Radcliffe, stated that he likes his creative independence and does not feel any rush to play the young wizard again. According to *Variety*, Daniel said, "I feel like those films have moved on and they're doing just fine without us. I'm happy to keep it that way. I like what my life is now, I'm not saying that I'll never go back into any franchise, but I like the flexibility that I have with my career now. And I don't want to get into a situation where I'm signed up for one series for years in advance." Radcliffe is set to star in his upcoming mystery-thriller, *Escape from Pretoria*, which is anticipated to hit the theatres on March 6.



YAMI'S self defence

Popular actor Yami Gautam recently got bashed for disrespecting Assamese religious sentiments. A video of the actor went viral, where she was seen pushing away a fan who was trying to put an Assamese *gamosa*, a traditional scarf, around her neck, as a sign of welcome. However, the actor's reaction was just a reflex as she was caught off-guard. Yami wrote on her *Twitter* handle, "My reaction was simply self defense. As a woman, if I am uncomfortable with anyone getting too close to me, I or any other girl has every right to express it. I Dint' intend to hurt anyone's sentiments but it's very important to voice out a behavior, inappropriate in any manner". Yami Gautam last starred in the movie *Bala*, alongside Ayushmann Khurrana and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles.



Pete knew it

One of the most talked about celebrity couples of 2018, *Saturday Night Live* star Pete Davidson and singer Ariana Grande, had a brief romance as the duo spilt within five months after calling it official. Recently, the *SNL* star opened up about the moment he realised the downfall of their relationship. In an interview with Charlamagne Tha God, Pete admitted that watching his ex-fiancee publicly grieve her ex-boyfriend, musician Mac Miller's death was difficult. He said, "She would even tell you this. I was like, 'Listen, I get it, do whatever you've got to do, I'll be here.' I think I said, 'I'll be here until you don't want me to be here.'" Sadly, Pete could not live up to the kind of affection Ariana had for Mac and decided to step out.

The Musician's MUSE

With a career spanning over many years, Dilshad Nahar Kona has made her mark in the Bangladeshi music industry. Aside from making numerous songs and doing many stage performances, she even experimented with acting. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about her reasons for uploading songs on 'YouTube' and about her song in the upcoming film, 'Bishwa Shundori'.



Rafi Hossain: Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we are here with Kona. Kona, you have been releasing hit songs on the regular. Do you release the songs on 'YouTube'?

Kona: YouTube is a huge platform for music, perhaps the only platform. Majority of the listeners come from YouTube, so we have to release songs there even if we don't want to. I started out releasing my song in albums, which was quite an experience. However, I'm beginning to like YouTube as well because music is music, regardless of the medium.

Rafi: There are many artists who aren't gaining recognition for their music like you. What do you have to say to them?

Kona: I wouldn't say that I have had an easy time in this industry. I've always had to work, which is why I'm here today. However, there have been songs that I thought would be appreciated by the audience which ended up not doing so. The converse is also the case: songs that I considered mediocre became super hits. Recognition ultimately depends solely on the audience, not the artists.

Rafi: Are there different audiences for the different kinds of songs you release?

Kona: I would say that my listeners cannot be classified into definite groups. For example, my folksy songs were hits both in villages and in cities, and my semi-classical soft songs were the same. Even if I make a song keeping a certain audience in mind, it might end up being liked by a broader audience. So, as I said before, everything ultimately depends on the audience's tastes.

Rafi: What is the trend of music now?

Kona: The trend is very confusing because we can't predict which songs will be hits. In saying that, one thing I appreciate is that people are listening to music a lot more now. Previously, there have been many trends, like albums, followed by music videos. Now, even if the video is simple, people still like the song if it's good. But, I



feel that the reaching people's souls. songs are not

luck factor. Ultimately, the pairing isn't the most important thing. If it's an audio song, the song is the most important thing, but if it is a film's song, the visuals are also important.

Rafi: What has changed in your life after getting married?

Kona: There have been some changes, like I'm not being asked when I will get married (laughs). I have been asked when I'll be giving treats, but I find that very sweet. I don't think that I've had to face many significant changes. There have been some, but it totally depends on whether or not we see those as good or bad. There are people who are afraid of marriage, but when we accept that both the virtues and vices make a human, and are able to live with the fact that the one we love will have both, it becomes easy to not be afraid anymore. Moreover, we haven't had a ceremony yet, meaning that I'm still living at home. So, there have been only some changes: all sweet.

Rafi: How is the music industry right now?

Kona: I have heard people say that the music industry is going through a really rough phase. I have to say to them that if it's bad now, it was horrific in the past. When CDs went out of fashion, there was a huge crisis regarding where songs will be released. I have been through many changes in my career: from cassettes to CDs to YouTube. The transition from CDs to YouTube was pretty bad since we couldn't get money from it. Now, however, we can monetise those videos and earn from that source, so the companies are investing in artists, unlike previously, when artists had to go to the companies themselves. I am positive about this industry. For those who aren't getting to where they want, I would advise them to be patient. You have to deal with failure, but, as an artist, just keep moving forward and releasing music. I have been lucky in my career as I got to do playback for a number of songs, but I created my identity through the songs I released in my albums.

Rafi: Would you consider acting again?

Kona: I don't really get enough time to consider acting. I'm already so busy with my music. But, when

I did do acting, I really enjoyed it. I got to act and dance in my music videos as well, but I think doing full-fledged acting is really difficult. In saying that, I still do some acting. For example, in film songs I have to sing a certain way, and I also have to act while giving the voiceover and dubbing for TVCs.

Rafi: Would you ever want to act in a music-based film?

Kona: I really don't think so. I have had many offers, but I personally don't have the urge for it. I'm happy with how I am right now. I like the balance that I have in my life.

Rafi: How does it feel when your songs become hits?

Kona: I never even wanted my songs to be hits; I just wanted my songs to reach the audience and gain recognition for my work. I have been able to achieve that, and it's a dream come true for me. I'm truly humbled with the love that I am receiving from the audience. When I see young children listening to my songs, it really makes me happy that something I created can have an impact on people, no matter what the age. I think that my songs can both incite and feel emotions themselves, so I perform them depending on the atmosphere. The lyrics of a song convey the emotions the lyricist is feeling, and composing a song takes a lot of hard work, so I just prefer singing the songs instead of doing the rest.

Rafi: Thank you for being with us today, Kona. It was incredible talking to you.

.....
Amina Hossain





PHOTO: ABIR JILANI

AVASH

Ever since their debut in 2017, 'AVASH' has made a name for themselves in the rock music scene. They have gained a widespread fanbase with songs like 'AVASH' and the recently released, 'Bastob'. In this interview with Star Showbiz, they talk about the band's origin and their expectations from the audience.

Tell us something about the band.

We are AVASH, a rock band from Dhaka, who write and compose music based on our metropolitan lifestyle. We want our audience to relate to our music, which is why we try to

AVASH began with all its members. We officially announced our formation to the media on December 16, 2017. The band was formed by Tanzir Tuhin, former vocalist of the popular Bangla rock band *Shironamhin*, along with our lead guitarist Sumon Monjurul. Former members from *Obscure* — Raajue Sheikh, Razib Imam and Shawon Kaium — are also members of the band.

You released three songs recently. What was the recording process like?

The band has released three songs till date with *Manush-1* being our first single, AVASH our self-title track and our most recent release — *Bastob*. The recording process is a little lengthy. We always prefer doing live recordings. Primarily, we develop a song in the practice pad, where after writing the lyrics, we create the tune and composition. Finally, when the song is created after several changes and experiments, we go for a final recording at the studio.

How has the reaction for the new songs been so far?

We received positive feedback for our songs from both the listeners and fellow musicians, and it has been beyond our expectations. Our debut track was praised by many senior musicians of our industry, and our title track AVASH got very good response, from general audience. It also achieved the highest YouTube view in 2019, and the crowd response is always amazing for that song. For our latest release, *Bastob*, we want take

more time to measure and understand the reaction of our listeners.

Do you have any upcoming album soon?

We are currently working for our next album, which will be released jointly with the collaboration of the creative content provider, *Platform*. We have announced a lyric hunt contest, where we will collect ten songs from upcoming lyricists. We plan to tune and compose ten new songs with those winning lyrics. The selection of the songs will be with the help of the renowned lyricist, Prince Mahmood, and Tanvir Shajib, and of course, *Platform* is taking care of the entire project.

What is all of your favorite memory in music?

Everything that we have done together as a band has been memorable. The shows, practises, recordings and especially the time we spend together to create a song are cherished memories. If I have to be specific, then our first practice session can be considered as our most memorable day. It was that very day we decided to begin this amazing journey.

Do you have any message for our readers?

We make music from our heart. We do it not only for our passion, but to offer our listeners great songs. We request the readers to listen to good music and encourage musicians by supporting new bands and listening to their music. Finally, we would like our readers to support Bangla songs and be with Bangla music.

.....
Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub



PHOTO COURTESY: AVASH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

incorporate everyday lifestyle elements in it. Our aim is to reach out to the masses by creating a new style of music, which is our signature style.

How did the band start?

Back in 2017, the intital journey of

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS



A Game Called Relationship

A Game Called Relationship is a Hindi romance-drama film, written and directed by Vivek Sharma, produced under the banner of *Filmzone Creations*, and stars Mandy Takhar, Kapil Khadiwala and Sharma himself, among others. The plot follows the lives of a celebrity couple who pretend to have broken up to see what their pursuers will do. The film was released on February 14, 2020.

I Am Not Okay with This

I Am Not Okay with This is a comedy-drama web television series on *Netflix*. It has been based on the eponymous comic book by Charles Forsman, directed by Jonathan Entwistle and Christy Hall, and produced by Buddy Enright and Rand Geiger. The series focuses

on a teenage girl who has superpowers, and follows her story as she leads her life. It was originally released on February 26, 2020, and stars Sophia Lillis, Wyatt Oleff and Sofia Bryant, among others.



ONWARD

Onward is an animated fantasy film. It has been produced by Kori Rae, under the banner of *Pixar Animation Studios* and *Walt Disney Pictures*, directed by Dan Scanlon, with the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, among others. The movie revolves around the life of two elf brothers who set out on a quest to find magic and spend a day with their father, who passed away when they were young. It was released on February 29, 2020.



A White, White Day is an Icelandic drama film, starring Ingvar Sigurdsson, Ída Mekkín Hlynisdóttir and Hilmir Snær Guðnason, among others. It was written and directed by Hlynur Pálmason, produced by Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson and Ingvar Sigurdsson, among others, and follows the life of an off-duty police officer searching for the truth about his dead wife's affair. It was initially released on May 16, 2019.

When the Weather is Fine

When the Weather Is Fine is a South Korean television series, based on the eponymous novel by Lee Do-woo. It has been directed by Han Ji-seung, produced by Min Hyun-il and Lee Sung-jin, with Park Min-young and Seo Kang-joon in the lead. The series follows the life of two former classmates who reunite after moving to the village. It was released on February 24, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain



Have you ever wanted to meet your favorite stars? Interview both national and international celebrities and cover news related to entertainment and media? If so, we have the offer just for you! *Star Showbiz*, *The Daily Star's* weekly entertainment supplement, is currently looking for feature writers! Come join our lovely team and live your dream of being a professional entertainment journalist! To be eligible, you must have passed O/A Level from English Medium institutions, and of course, must be interested in the world of show business. You can be a university student or a graduate as well.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
APPLY NOW!

Send in your CVs with proper details and your picture at:
rafi.hossain@thedailystar.net



SOHANA SABA

Can you describe yourself in three words?

I would say I'm intelligent and emotional. However, when I get emotional, I become very unwise.

What is your favourite childhood memory?

There are a lot of memories that are close to my heart. But, the ones that I still cherish very much are spending my vacations at my village with all my cousins. I think that is why I can portray the characters of girls living in villages very well.

If you could have any superpower, what would you choose?

I believe that Bangladeshis are very smart and talented, but they lack common sense. I would want to instill that quality in everyone.

What are the first three items on your bucket list?

Firstly, I would like to walk on every beach in the world at night all alone. Secondly, I want to watch my son grow up to be a good human being. Lastly, I want to create an institution for people wanting to pursue a career in the entertainment field as I had to go through a lot of struggles to get here myself.

If you could work with any international artist, dead or alive, who would you choose?

From the top of my head, I would have to say Al Pacino. I would also love to work with George Clooney as I am a very big fan of his.

What is your favourite place to visit?

Previously, I would say Kolkata. Now, I don't have any favourite.

What is your favourite food?

I love eating all kinds of food, especially chocolate.

Who was your first celebrity crush?

Shahrukh Khan.

What is your favourite movie of all time?

A few films that I love would be *Bicycle Thieves* and *The Pianist*. I also love *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. There are also a few films I love to re-watch whenever I feel down, like *Andaz Apna Apna* and *Hera Pheri*.

What do you like to do during your leisure time?

I usually spend my time organising and tidying my room. I also love to read books and watch movies.

If you could be any animal, what would you be?

I would want to be a kangaroo as I can carry my son with me.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would want to build an old home for all my friends, so that we can spend our last days having fun together.

What is the first thing you do after waking up?

I look at myself in the mirror first.

.....
Shreya Shomoyeeta



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



FIND THE DIFFERENCES FROM "PLANES"

ANSWERS OF THE PREVIOUS ISSUE

- I. SHEEP
- II. TEETH
- III. NOSTRIL
- IV. BELT
- V. SHIRT

Send answers to showbiz.tds@gmail.com. Winners will receive
QUEEN SPA ROOM GIFT VOUCHER
courtesy of

Queen Bella

QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED CORRECTLY