

“Sharing your ideas is what counts”

– Partha Mazumder

ELITA KARIM

Partha Mazumder prefers to stay out of the limelight. However, the music he produces and the tunes he composes, speak his heart out. He spent a few minutes with the A&E team, talking about the industry, new projects and the people he misses.

You have been involved in the music industry for many years now. The present situation is a lot different than before. What are your experiences so far?

Everyone was much more involved back then. It didn't matter who was doing what; we were always helping each other out. For example, if I was working on something, Bacchu bhai (Ayub Bacchu) would come and suggest that I should do something differently. Great artistes like him, James and Niloy Das were all open to opinions from other musicians.

In music, sharing your ideas is what counts. We now tend to create music in the confinements of our homes, not sharing as much. As a result, 8 out of 10 songs tend to sound the same nowadays. Everyone works on a grid now and no one is willing to go outside it. Having said that, I must say that many people are doing excellent work

nowadays. The underlying reason is their understanding of the need to share their music and grow, and their willingness to experiment with various chords and tones.

What are the projects you are currently working on?

I am working with Bappa on a project. I am collaborating with some newcomers as well.

You worked as a groomer for singers in a reality show recently. Can you tell us a bit about it?

I was working as a judge at the show in the beginning stages. They later asked me to take over the whole production, and that is when I started to groom the singers. I had a lot of fun doing so!

You recently started a music school with Partha Barua. Tell us about it.

The school's name is G-Sharp, we started it last year. It was a sudden decision. Partha was reminiscing about our struggles of learning, and he wanted to help others with our experiences. We needed a governing body, helping hands and then many of our well-wishers came forward to help with the school. We are starting with guitar, piano, tabla, and classical songs. Milon Bhattacharya will be giving tabla lessons,

Partha Barua, Bappa Majumdar and myself, will be giving the guitar lessons. We are not doing this for money. We want to do this for people who are enthusiastic about learning so that they don't make the same mistakes we made. We plan to expand this school.

Can you tell us a little about your involvement in the band scene?

I am currently working the bass player of Dhrobotara. I was one of the founding members of the Bangladesh Musical Band Association (BAMBA). Then I founded ARK with Ashiquzzaman Tulu. I founded Face to Face in 2005, later on with Humayun Ahmed's suggestion, we changed the name to Dhrobotara.

The younger generation is familiar with doing shows in cafes or indoors. You used to do shows outdoors and that experience is different from our generation. How was that experience?

We performed in all the 64 districts of Bangladesh. There were places with no electricity, and we performed with our own generators. We once did a show in Bangsha, Kustia, and more than 500 motorbikes went with us. We were able to truly feel the people's love, these experiences are timeless.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



New Mutants



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Black Widow

'Black Widow' and other blockbusters' release dates delayed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As the world deals with the coronavirus pandemic, gatherings of any sort are canceled until further notice. Movie theatres and multiplexes are shutting down indefinitely.

Amidst all this, Disney announced the postponement of three more films recently. *Black Widow*, originally due to hit theaters May 1, has been delayed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic. The movie features Scarlett Johansson's hit character Black Widow aka Natasha Romanoff and is the first female lead superhero movie from Marvel Cinematic Universe.

The Personal History of David Copperfield, scheduled for release on May 8, and *The Woman in the Window*, scheduled for May 15 has also been delayed indefinitely.

The New Mutants -- The *X-Men* spin-off was set for release on April 3, but will now be rescheduled for later in the year.

Produced by Guillermo del Toro, *Antlers*, was originally supposed to open on April 17. The horror film starring Keri Russell will be rescheduled for later this year.

Lionsgate pulled the *Saw* franchise movie *Spiral*, Janelle Monáe led *Antebellum*, and Sarah Paulson thriller *Run* from the release schedule.



Antlers

STAR Cineplex closes down due to coronavirus concerns

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

All branches of STAR Cineplex will be closed down, due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. According to a press release, the closures will be effective from today till April 2. Although previously the management of STAR Cineplex took different preventive measures for combating the virus, they took this decision, keeping public health at the forefront. "Thinking of the risk factors, we felt that only taking necessary measures is not enough. This is why we have taken this decision to close down our halls," says Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Senior Manager of Media and Marketing, STAR Cineplex.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TV shoots to shut down

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Owing to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, the shooting of all tele-fictions will shut down from March 22 to 31. The Ovinoy Shilpi Shongho, Directors Guild, Television Producers Association and Natyakar Shongho held a meeting recently in this regard.

Noted artiste and the President of Ovinoy Shilpi Shongho, Sahiduzzaman Selim said that they have made this decision, taking public health into account. "It is a worldwide crisis and out of uncertainty and concerns, we had to take this step," added Ahsan Habib Nasim, General Secretary of Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho.

The daily wage earners, including make-up artistes, assistants and set workers, will face the hardest times during this crisis. "Preventing the spread of the coronavirus is more important than anything else at the moment, and we have to take all possible measures urgently," said Masum Reza, President, Natyakar Shongho.

General Secretary of Directors Guild, SA Haque Olike shared that 13 organisations came forward to battle this situation, and do what is good for the masses.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED