

GRAPEVINE



JAYA'S Request

Actor Jaya Ahsan has been in home quarantine for a while due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been urging others to stay home as well. Regarding this, she said, "We will only be safe if everyone stays at home. This is the only way to keep ourselves and our loved ones in

good health. We can do whatever we like at home, like spending time with our family, listening to music, reading poetry and prose, and communicating with loved ones in anyways aside from going outside. We're only closing the door to our homes, not our hearts."

SABNAM FARIA'S Contributions

The world is stagnant because of the pandemic. The nationwide shutdown to contain the spread of the virus in Bangladesh has affected everyone's lives. Our entertainment industry is also going through a difficult time because of the lockdown. Just like other actors, Sabnam Faria has also been home quarantining. She recently shared what she has been doing at home. She said, "I am taking care of my mother. Previously, I did not know how to cook, but I have learned cooking now. I have also been drawing costume designs, and I try to do yoga regularly." She added, "I am trying to help people in need as much as I can, during this unprecedented crisis. I have contributed my one month's salary to the Actors' Equity and took part in director Mostafa Kamal Raz's initiative to help the poor. I also distributed food and basic necessity packages to one twenty families. And I plan to hand out more packages to one fifty families during the first week of Ramadan."



Salma with the People



Singer Salma donated relief materials and children's food both in and out of Dhaka through Safia Foundation. She said regarding it, "Due to the lockdown and scarcity of volunteers, it is very difficult to work outside of Dhaka. Still, Safia Foundation made sure to help as many people as possible. 300 families from Taragonia and Doulatpur received the donations. We plan on providing relief to more families in the future." She also encouraged the people to come forward and help the underprivileged, and also thanked those who assisted in providing the relief to places outside of Dhaka.

Heart-To-Heart with BHABNA

Ashna Habib Bhabna is an emerging actor in the entertainment industry. She is mostly known for her roles in 'Voyangkor Sundor' and 'Borosh'. Aside from that, she has worked in several TVCs, television series and dramas, for which she has received immense praise. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about her love life, career and future plans.



Rafi Hossain: Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we're here with Bhabna. Bhabna, you're always very open during interviews and your answers are spontaneous. Many artists are usually reluctant to share the details about their lives. Why do you think that is?

Bhabna: Artists sometimes feel that the information they share may be misused. I think that is where the hesitation stems from.

Rafi: You yourself were quite private about your love life in the beginning. Now, you have been openly discussing it in interviews. What changed?

Bhabna: I was waiting to settle down and see how the relationship progresses before I mentioned anything to the public. Moreover, there is a stigma in our industry that once you are in a relationship, you will get fewer job offers. Everyone expects female actors to have a certain image, and being single is a part of it. People constantly assume that I only work with Animesh, when in reality, I haven't worked on any project with him for the past two and half years. People are always looking for things to gossip about.



a certain group of people. In the end, it's about their comfort zone and chemistry. This doesn't only apply for actors but extend to the rest of the crew as well. For instance, Tisha apu has acted in a lot of movies by Farooki bhai. However, the characters she played were a perfect fit for her. I especially loved her in *Doob*; it was truly an exceptional film. But, as you will notice, the media focuses on the fact that they are working as a couple, rather than praising her acting skills.

Rafi: I'm sure your fans are eagerly waiting to get more updates on your relationship. Do you plan to get married soon?

Bhabna: I don't know, actually. I do plan to marry him someday, but we don't have any detail planned yet. I am a very romantic person, and I used to dream of destination weddings and an extravagant party. Animesh, on the other hand, is very mature and realistic. I love romantic clichés. I am a huge fan of Karan Johar for the way he portrays love in his movies.

Rafi: What would you do if you ever met Karan Johar?

Bhabna: I would hug him and tell him how big of a fan I am. I would love to work with him. It would be a dream come true. Initially, people were quite judgmental about him as he made romantic movies. Now, he has created various kinds of movies and established himself as one of the best directors in India. He is very successful and everyone wants to work with him. For instance, in Netflix's *Lust Stories*, he worked alongside three unique directors, and they created an amazing project. We need directors and producers like him in Bangladesh.

Rafi: Do you have anything interesting planned for the near future?

Bhabna: I am writing my third novel right now. Other than that, I want to play new and different characters. I definitely want to work on a film this year as well. I also want to focus on my studies alongside my work.

Rafi: Lastly, do you have any message for our readers?

Bhabna: Something that really bothers me are the negative comments I receive on social media regarding my loved ones. My family forbids me from sharing any of their pictures online because of such comments. But, of course, there also many people who shower me with their love and positivity. I am really grateful for that.

Shreya Shomoyeeta



Rafi: Is there any director that you want to work with?

Bhabna: I have worked with Mostofa Sarwar Farooki on many projects before, and I'd like to continue doing so. I want to work with directors who are creative and have a unique vision.

Rafi: Do you think artists here have an issue auditioning for roles they play?

Bhabna: I, myself, have auditioned for several roles. Every actor in *Voyangkor Sundor*, including me, had to audition. I have no issues with that as the director may have a certain vision in mind, and I may or may not be a perfect fit for it. For instance, there will be a new movie on *Bangabandhu*, and actors will want to audition for it as it is a respectable project. But, when it comes to new directors, they don't have the same approach. Acting is our profession, and from that perspective, they should be ready to audition, despite how well established they already are.

Rafi: Do you think directors are more likely to cast their significant others for roles in their movies?

Bhabna: I don't think that's the case. Directors always have a team that they enjoy working with. Even popular directors like Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Satyajit Ray preferred working with

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. America

Mrs. America is a drama television miniseries on Hulu. It has been created by Dahvi Waller, produced by Tanya Barfield and Boo Killebrew, and stars Cate Blanchett, Rose Byrne and Elizabeth Banks, among others. The series focuses on the political movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. It was originally premiered on April 15, 2020.



The World of the Married

The World of the Married is a South Korean television series which has been based on *Doctor Foster*. It has been created by Kang Eun-kyung, produced by Park Joon-seo, and stars Kim Hee-ae and Park Hae-joon, among others. The plot follows a doctor who, after finding out her husband has been cheating on her, begins to plan her revenge. The series premiered on JTBC on March 27, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Find the differences from, "Spies in Disguise"



The Last Dance



The Last Dance is a sports documentary miniseries available on Netflix. It has been directed by Jason Hehir, and produced by Michael Tollin, under the banner of NBA Entertainment and ESPN Films. It revolves around the 1997-1998 Chicago Bulls during NBA season. It was originally released on April 19, 2020.

