

COVER STORY

On Endurance And Changes



Rokeya Prachy first made a name for herself with the film 'Dukhai'. Since then, the versatile and talented actor has ventured into acting in movies, television, and theatre, and even worked as a director. She has acted in several renowned movies, such as 'Matir Moina', which received praises internationally. Previously, in an interview with Rafi Hossain, she discussed the current state of the entertainment industry and her thoughts on bringing positive changes to it.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to *Uncensored* with Rafi Hossain. Today, we are here with Rokeya Prachy. Thank you for giving us your time. You have had many ups and downs in your life. Could you tell us about your journey?

Rokeya Prachy: I have had to face a lot of struggles, especially when I was young. My sister, my father and my husband had passed away in the span of a few short years. During that time, my brother was my pillar of strength, but he soon left to go abroad as well. I was left alone with my four-year-old daughter. I was young and timid, but I had hopes and dreams that I wanted to accomplish. I soon realised that I could either dwell on the past or keep moving forward. I had no familial, social, or financial support, but I was brave, and I decided to take a risk. I wanted to be in control of my own life; I believed even if I did not succeed at doing what I loved, I would have no regrets as I had pursued my passion.

Rafi Hossain: There was a lawsuit regarding your husband's murder. Were you happy with the outcome?

Rokeya Prachy: Those who were involved with the crime were mostly convicted and punished accordingly. I was satisfied with the court ruling. However, when it was over, I felt lost. I would worry about what would happen to my daughter if I had a similar fate to my husband's. I wanted a family and a home, but I never managed to have that.

Rafi Hossain: How did you feel when your second marriage did not work? Are you both still friends?

Rokeya Prachy: To me, this is quite normal. We were different people, and we decided to end the marriage. There is no dispute or hate between us, but we are not friends either. However, he is a good father to my daughter.

Rafi Hossain: What would you say is your outlook on relationships and marriage?

Rokeya Prachy: I believe these things happen naturally. I love having a family and I am not opposed to the idea of love. Like any other person, I want to love and care and have that feeling be reciprocated. However, because of my way of life, I have never made such choices myself. Even in my first marriage, when my late husband, Ahad, told me he wanted to marry me, I asked him to discuss the matter with my family first. After our families gave us their blessings, we would often meet during our theatre work. I never had any relationships, but I do not feel any regret because of that.



Rafi Hossain: I am sure many people who have faced similar situations in life will be inspired by your story. What would you say to them?

Rokeya Prachy: I still have that appreciation for life as I did when I was young. Many people feel frustrated and become hateful when they have to struggle constantly. I rather feel content and happy. I believe that being alive means loving and appreciating the small things.

Rafi Hossain: On the work front, however, you were quite lucky, wouldn't you say?

Rokeya Prachy: Yes. By the time I was completely alone with my four-year-old daughter, I had already made a name for myself with my work. I had won several awards in both film and theatre, and I felt accomplished. I found my calling and fell in love with my work. For instance, because of Tareque Masud, I got to work on *Matir Moina* which took us to the *Cannes Film Festival*.

Rafi Hossain: Could you tell us more about your journey into theatre?

Rokeya Prachy: My journey began with Liaquat

Ali Lucky when I attended a workshop. I worked on a few plays after that. My last work was with Juboraj (Khaled Khan) before he passed away. I switched from *Prachyanat* to *Nagorik Natya Sampradaya* during this period because I wanted to explore and broaden my horizons. However, we are still very close to one another. Shahidul Mamun will always be my mentor.

Rafi Hossain: What is the current state of the theatre industry in your opinion?

Rokeya Prachy: To develop the state of our theatre, we need to show the actors that they can have a future in this industry. If they need to work elsewhere and focus on other jobs alongside theatre to lead a good life, the quality of our work will never improve.

Rafi Hossain: From what I have observed, previously, there were many more excellent plays being created by several theatre directors. Why is it do you think that changed?

Rokeya Prachy: Back then, theatre was one of the few sources of entertainment available. Moreover, the directors would solely focus on theatre. Nowadays, there are more television channels and media to work on, and so, the focus has shifted onto other platforms as well. Our country needs to improve its entertainment sector. If that happens, I believe theatre can be pursued as a full-time job as well.

Rafi Hossain: What are your thoughts on the entertainment industry?

Rokeya Prachy: The producers nowadays try to make a name for themselves, rather than considering the benefit of the industry. I think that the people who are in charge of the filmmaking industry should unanimously make a decision on how films should be made. This way, the focus will be on the betterment of the industry. For instance, whenever Tareque Masud would talk about a project, he would always think about the industry and its policies. He selflessly cared about the industry. However, I trust and believe that those who are in charge are foresighted and wise, and they'll bring some changes soon. Similarly, if I ever achieve a position of authority, whether it is in politics or the entertainment industry, I will surely try to introduce and implement some changes.

Rafi Hossain: Thank you for giving us your time today, Prachy.

Rokeya Prachy: Thank you having me.

Transcribed by Shreya Shomoyeeta

GRAPEVINE

Kornia's indoor concert

Singer Kornia did a thirty-minute concert at home by playing five popular songs on the harmonium. The songs were: Tagore song *Borisho Dhora Majhey Shantiro Bari*, Nazrul Geeti *Piu Piu Birohi Papiya Bole*, Shahnaz Rahmatullah's *Khola Janala*, Mitali Mukherjee's *Keno Asha Bedhe Rakhi*, and her duet song with Asif Akbar *Ki Kore Toke Bojhai*. The video for the songs has been released on the digital platform *Bongo*. Aside from that, she also gave voice from home to singer Kishore's directed song, *Elo re Elo re*, along with other artists. Regarding Eid, Kornia said, "I cooked all favourite dishes for Eid with my mother and sister and spent the day with my family. I really want everything to go back to normal soon."



Puja's eid celebration



Just like all the other actors, rising star Puja Cherry has also remained indoors following government's order. Her two new films — *Shaan*, directed M Rahim, and *Jinn* — were supposed to be releasing this Eid. However, due to the pandemic, both of the releases were halted. Puja said, "I am very upset about everything happening around. I cannot foresee when this crisis will end, but I am eagerly waiting for better days. Regarding Eid celebration, the actor said, "I celebrated Eid with my family. I cooked a special meal with my mother that day. I also spent rest of the day watching old Bengali cinemas."

Roshan's eid at home

This Eid, promising actor Roshan had many new releases lined up, among which his film, *Makeup*, directed by Ananya Mamun, was supposed to be a unique one for his followers. Due to the current crisis, the movie releases are at a halt, and he had to stop shooting of many new projects midways. He has been

home quarantined for nearly over two months now. Regarding his Eid celebrations, the actor said, "For Eid, I placed an online order for clothes for my family members. I did not buy anything for myself. I spent celebrating Eid at my home with my family doing different activities. I pray this crisis comes to an end soon."



GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?

HINT: A BLONDE WHO ENROLLS FOR HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"KRISTEN STEWART"

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



Taj Mahal 1989

Taj Mahal 1989 is a Hindi comedy-drama series on *Netflix* written and directed by Pushpendra Nath Misra, produced by Divyaa Iyer, and stars Neeraj Kabi, Geetanjali Kulkarni and Danish Husain, among others. The story is set in 1989, around Lucknow University, and follows the lives of different couples who discover love through marriage. It was first aired on February 14, 2020.

Solar Opposites



Solar Opposites is an animated comedy series, first aired on May 8, 2020 on *Hulu*. It was created by Justin Roiland and Mike McMahan, produced by Sydney Ryan and J. Michael Mendel, distributed by *20th Television*, and stars the voices of Justin Roiland, Thomas Middleditch and Sean Giambrone, among others. The plot follows the life of an alien family who take refuge in America and debate where life is better — here or home.

Hospital Playlist

Hospital Playlist is a South Korean medical-drama series, directed by Shin Won-ho, written by Lee Woo-jung, distributed by *tvN* and *Netflix*, and stars Jo Jung-suk, Yoo Yeon-seok and Jung Kyung-ho, among others. The storyline follows the lives of five doctors who have been close friends since medical school. It was first released on March 12, 2020.



THE BIG FLOWER FIGHT

The Big Flower Fight is a reality TV show on *Netflix*, following ten pairs of florists, garden designers and sculptors who compete against each other to build the best garden sculpture. The show is hosted by Natasia Demetriou and Vic Reeves, produced under the banners of *Albert+Sustainable production* and *MultiStory Media*. It was first aired on May 18, 2020.

Amina Hossain

