



How to Train your Dragon

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Movies to watch with your dad at home

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Most of us will be spending Father's Day (June 21) at home this year, without any decadent outings. Luckily, streaming services have no shortage of family entertainers. Here's a list of movies you can enjoy with your dad at home.

Mayurakshi (2017)

Set in Kolkata, the movie revolves around 84 year-old Shushovan (Soumitra Chatterjee) and his middle-aged son, Aryanil (Prosenjit Chatterjee). Shushovan suffers from a neurological disorder, while Aryanil struggles to maintain healthy personal relationships. Their unplanned reunion sparks a ray of optimism in the latter's life as he travels to his next destination. This award-winning film, available on Netflix,

will definitely make you smile.

Sanju (2018)

Starring Ranbir Kapoor as Sanjay Dutt, *Sanju*, the popular actor's biopic, addresses his struggles with drug addiction and provides insights into his equation with his father, Sunil Dutt (Paresh Rawal). Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, the film is the story of a resilient father-son relationship. It is currently streaming on Netflix.

How To Train Your Dragon (2010)

Currently streaming on Netflix, this animated movie is based on a book of the same name by Cressida Cowell. The protagonist, Hiccup, has a troublesome relationship with his father. As the movies progress, their relationship improves to a great extent.

HowToTrainYourDragon brilliantly shows how the lack of communication often results in misunderstandings between people. Young viewers will be able to connect with the characters easily.

Like Father (2018)

This Netflix movie revolves around workaholic Rachel (Kristen Bell) and her father, Harry Hamilton (Kelsey Grammer). After her wedding is called off, Rachel sets off on an emotional journey with her estranged father on her honeymoon cruise. Although regarded to be a comedy film, the story progresses into certain emotional moments, as the duo reflect on their life choices of prioritising career before family. It is a great story about familial bonds and reconnecting with your loved ones.



Sanju



Like Father



Mayurakshi

"Corruption is at the root of the television industry's downfall"

- 'August 14' director Shihab Shaheen

SHARMIN JOYA

Acclaimed director and screenwriter Shihab Shaheen has gained prominence in the television fraternity with productions like *Romijer Ayna*, *X Factor* and numerous other tele-fictions over the past eighteen years. He made his debut in films with *Chhuye Dile Mon* in 2015. Recently, he directed *August 14*, the Binge series, featuring Tasnuva Tisha in the lead role. It is based on true events. In a candid chat with *The Daily Star*, the creator opens up about the problems in the industry and the popularity of web-based content in Bangladesh.

August 14 was widely appreciated by the audience and critics alike upon its release, for bringing a brave story to the forefront. Particularly, Tasnuva Tisha was lauded for her bold and brilliant performance. However, along with this series, some other productions streaming online have received legal notices, for their controversial content. "We have prepared the project with sincerity, staying true to all facts," explains Shihab. "I think the allegations made were absolutely baseless. I have reflected upon the plot points that were needed to build and understand the psychology of the lead character. I can confidently say there are no irrelevant scenes in *August 14*." Nonetheless, the director believes that everyone has the right to express their opinions and he is willing to respond to any questions accordingly.

According to Shihab, low budgets are a major obstacle for television productions. "Corruption is at the root of the television industry's downfall," he adds. "Some other obstacles include the lack of research and training. No one will go the extra mile if they aren't valued on the basis of their talent. Earning and survival are also necessary for artistes."

He further stressed that the huge number of productions that are usually made round the year are unnecessary. "I don't think a high-quality production can be made with a limited budget. Of course, there are exceptions, but those cannot be examples," he says. "There is no need to produce thousands of tele-fictions in a year. Rather, producing a few tele-fictions and increasing the budgets for each one

can result in excellent content." He also stated that the television channels are too business-oriented these days.

The objective of the television industry to provide entertainment and information, along with advertisement, was disrupted when corporates started dominating the sector. This monopoly feeds more advertisements and less entertainment. As



PHOTO: COLLECTED

a result, people are losing interest in the stories on television and are now leaning towards streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hoichoi, Binge and others. "Some directors have also moved to OTT platforms, where the budgets are higher and artistes have more scope to explore their talent," asserts Shihab. "The television industry needs to reform in order to compete with web platforms." Amid such conflicts, the quality of television projects is getting compromised. "When personal interests get in the way of a professional project, everything from the budget of the production to the selection of the cast, is hampered. The television industry has lost its grip over the content," adds Shihab. The director believes that the production culture can be changed by boycotting dishonest individuals and associations from the industry, who are only concerned about the revenues and not about how to draw the audience back to television through good content. He stressed that it is high time for sincere artistes and creators to join hands and overcome these challenges, otherwise the industry might lose its way in the long run.

"Shortcuts will not win you the love of the fans"

- Tahsan Khan

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

One of the most recognisable faces in Bangladesh's entertainment industry, Tahsan Khan has grown tremendously as an artiste over the past decade. The musician and actor, with his meticulous verbiage and gentlemanly charm, is a role model on conducting oneself as an artiste. The *No Land's Man* star talks to us about his latest projects, future plans and more.

Congratulations on A R Rahman joining No Land's Man as a co-producer and composer. Talk us through how you feel about this.

It is a dream for anyone to be associated with A R Rahman, one of the most sought-after musicians in the world. However, what makes me happy is the fact that after reading our script, he fell in love with

been live-recorded with my band, and the first song - *Protibadi Gaan* - is out now.

If returning to your roots was in your agenda this year, will we see you complete the 'full circle' with a Black reunion? I am definitely up for it. Although the former members might be in a different space musically as of now, we have no negativity among us. In fact, we discussed a Black reunion concert not too long ago.

Some musicians are implementing or condoning 'negative marketing' for their music, even disrespecting their own fans in the process. How do you feel about this kind of strategy?

It is said that anything negative, in any industry, spreads about five times faster than positivity. If artistes publicise their work in this way, it is completely their



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

it and wanted to co-produce the film. Echoing what he said in a recent interview, the film will capture the essence of the world of today.

You have been quite regular with your music, even amidst the pandemic. How do you motivate yourself amongst all the negativity?

This is a critical time for our industry. As artistes, we need to step up, if we have to survive. As for me, I plan out each year differently. Last year, I told you that I was going to focus on my films, which I was able to do. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted everyone's plans, I have decided that I will give back to the band music industry that has brought me where I am today. I have teamed up with Yamaha Music for Tahsan and the Band's upcoming album, *Shobar Jonno Na*. It has

choice. I will, however, say that these stunts will tarnish one's brand value for good, even if it garners them a few headlines in the short run. There is no substitute to hard work and good music, and shortcuts will not win you the love of the fans.

Do you have anything to say to the readers? I would like to request listeners to explore music and give a chance to different genres, so that artistes can go ahead and experiment with their sounds. If we all stubbornly stick to the one kind of music that we listen to, artistes will also become stagnant as they will hesitate to create anything that doesn't pertain to the 'formula' of success. Also, we should all appreciate the frontline workers - doctors, nurses and law enforcement agencies, for the sacrifices that they are making for us in these dire times.

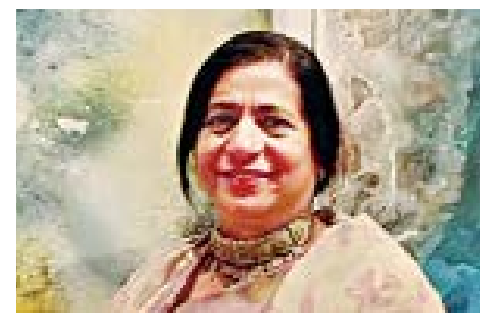
ROKEYA SULTANA

The 'Madonna' of our time

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world" rings true in the artistic journey and pursuits of renowned artist Professor Rokeya Sultana - who has, over the years, created a hallmark of her own. Her vast volume of unique works speaks of that reality. Her art practice is largely focused on her internal life and exploration of the feminine as well as various fluid emotional states and sensual abstract topographies.

Rokeya Sultana completed her BFA in Printmaking from the Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, and MFA in the same discipline from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India. A Fulbright Scholar from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States, she also received the French Government Scholarship. Many prestigious art galleries, museums and private collectors around the world have her works in their collections. For her outstanding contributions to different forms of art,



Rokeya Sultana

Rokeya Sultana has received many awards and accolades worldwide.

The sensitivity of womanhood and the creative power of motherhood have always shone through her artworks. The artist's *Relation* series sheds light on a symbolic meaning, with a deep philosophical connection.

Her *Madonna* series is a strong feminist statement of determined womanhood. In it,

'Madonna' represents the everyday woman, moving around in the world, jostled and always in peril, but, at the same time, carrying a conscientious omnipresence. She protests for safeguarding her own rights.

"*Madonna* is a movement," asserted Rokeya Sultana. "She is vulnerable because although she is a peacemaker, she is prepared to fight. She is a symbol for all women. She changes throughout time, but she is forever performing the same role." Rokeya Sultana explained that 'Madonna' is a symbol of protest against an unjust society. "She is always draped in a magenta shari, because I want to show that she is feminine and rooted in our own traditions," adds the artist. "Her rebellion is deeper. The colour, magenta, is a symbol of transforming negativity through the feminine psyche. Magenta is on the verge of being an aggressive form of red, but it is softer, more playful and more positive. 'Madonna' is every girl and every woman."



Artwork by Rokeya Sultana

