

A Melodious BOND



Since the beginning of her career, Mitali Mukherjee has left a lasting impression on the people of both Bangladesh and India. With her melodies, she has changed the music industries of both countries. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about her family and 'Ghazal' music.

COVER STORY

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to *Uncensored* with Rafi Hossain. Today, we have with us a very special guest — Mitali Mukherjee. Mitali, we are very happy to have you here with us.

Mitali Mukherjee: I am very happy to be here. I would like to thank both The Daily Star and you, Rafi, for having me here.

Rafi: Your son, Amandeep is also a musician, right?

Mitali: Yes, he is a musician as well. He plays the electric guitar, and he even worked on the title track for the movie, *Dangal*. Amandeep also composes, and his work has appeared on both Bhupinder's and my albums. He has also worked on the tracklist for the movie *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*. Now, he is taking online courses, and since he is very interested in jazz music, he is working on that.

Rafi: At one point, 'Ghazal' music had a lot of avid listeners. Now, it seems that not many people listen to it. Do you think so too?

Mitali: I would not say that the number of listeners has decreased by much. It is just that *Ghazal* music does not get publicity on platforms like television. If you look at the industry in Bombay, all music is film-oriented. So, all the music that gets promoted is mainly from movies.

In the past, along with the films' songs, other songs used to be promoted, but, unfortunately, the other songs do not get as much publicity as they used to. So, you do not get to see genres like *Ghazal* getting publicity on television. But, the music style is still very popular. A lot of people come when we do shows.

Rafi: You have made quite a number of songs with Alauddin Ali if I'm not mistaken.

Mitali: Yes, I worked many times with him. I have worked numerous times with Ali bhai, Anup Bhattacharya and Sheikh Said bhai. Many of my hit songs came from

working with Ali bhai.

Rafi: Growing up, your family was very invested in music. Am I correct?

Mitali: I consider myself very fortunate that my parents were very supportive of whatever I or my siblings wanted to do. I have seven siblings, and all of us were involved in music or dance. My late elder sister was even a gold medalist for *Kathak*

in both East and West Pakistan. My elder brother, Deepak, was an amazing *Tabla* player. He would listen to all kinds of Bangla songs, and then have me sit with him and sing. Unfortunately, in 1988, he was suffering from kidney disease, and after a kidney transplant, his body rejected the kidney and he passed away. He was very young when he died, and I cannot express how badly his death had affected me. One of my most popular songs, *Keno Asha Bedhe Rakhi*, was dedicated to him. I composed the tune for this song and my brother had actually written it. Whenever I sing this song, his face comes to my mind.

Rafi: Did you compose the tune for more songs after this one?

Mitali: I actually composed all eight songs on that album. I had also composed *Ghazals*, and composed one of Gulzar Saab's *Nazm*. While I was working on that

album with him, I used to say that he is more partial towards Bhupi, and that he would not give me anything. He then told me that he will give me a *Nazm* one day where I will be the voice for all of womanhood. For many years now, women have been forced to obey men, and they had to face discrimination just because of their gender. The *Nazm* was about that.

Rafi: Thank you Mitali. I had a really great time talking to you.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

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GRAPE VINE

Newly wed Kornia

Vocalist Zakia Sultana Kornia has recently tied the knot with SOS band founder and keyboard-player, Nabil Salauddin. Nabil has previously worked with many renowned bands, namely *Prometheus* and *Ark*, as well as artists like Kaniz Suborn and Mehreen Mahmud. The wedding, which was set to take place in March, had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The akht finally took place on July 27, 2020, with only a few of their loved ones present. Kornia said, "Ours is not a love marriage, but one that our families arranged. The wedding was scheduled to take place on March 26, and the reception on April 1, but we had to delay it due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I spent the first day of this Eid at my in-laws' place, and had an invitation to my sister-in-law's house the next." In terms of her career, Kornia first appeared in private television music show, *Power Voice*, in 2012, where she became a runner-up.



Shreya Shomoyeeta



Puja Cherry in 'Hridita'

Actor Puja Cherry recently signed up for a government grant film, *Hridita*, directed by the duo Ispahani-Arif Jahan. Starring opposite her will be Dhaka Attack famed actor ABM Sumon. The film is an adaptation of the story *Hridita* by Anisul Hoque. Puja said, "The duo Ispahani-Arif Jahan is one of the best directors in our industry. This will be the first time I am going to work for a storyline adapted from a novel. I will try my best to portray the character Hridita just as the book and reach the hearts of the audience. Aside from this, Puja Cherry's *Shaan* and *Jinn* is still awaiting their releases.



CHANDNI'S first song

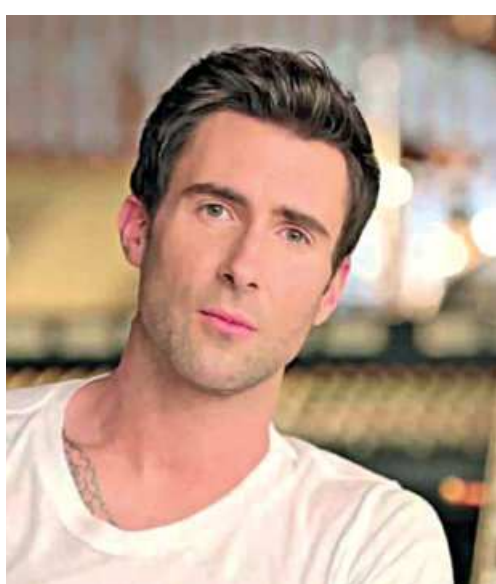
National Award winning actor and dancer Chandni has given her voice for the first time to a song. The song, titled *Janina*, has been written by her mother, Fatema Begum. The tune of the song and music direction have been done by the Farhan Labib Ahmed from the band *The Rockchild*, while the musical arrangement was done by Zahin Rashid. The music video was made by Tuku Khandokar. Chandni said, "Although acting and dancing run in my veins, I love music. Previously, I had sung *Dhono Dhanno Pushpe Bhora* for a dance, but this is my first-time giving voice to a song." *Janina* was released on her own YouTube channel, *Chandni Tube*.

Amina Hossain

GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?

HINT: BRING BACK MEMORIES



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"BRAD PITT"

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.

STRANGERS FROM HELL



Strangers from Hell, also known as *Hell Is Other People*, is a South Korean TV show, initially released on August 31, 2019, on OCN. It was written by Jung Yi-do, directed by Lee Chang-hee, produced by Kim Woo-sang and Kwon Mi-kyung under the banners of *Woo Sang Film* and *Studio N*, and stars Im Si-wan and Lee Dong-wook in the leads. The story, which is based on the eponymous webtoon series, follows the life of a writer who moves to a suspiciously cheap apartment in Seoul where mysterious and dangerous residents live.

2GETHER: THE SERIES

2gether: The Series is a Thai TV show based on the eponymous 2019 novel by Jitti Rain. It was directed by Weerachit Thongjila, and produced under the banners of GMMTV and *Housestories 8*, and stars Metawin Opas-iamkajorn (Win) and Vachirawit Chiva-aree (Bright)



in the lead. The story follows the life of university student who starts a fake relationship with a classmate to make an admirer leave him alone. It was first released on February 21, 2020 on GMM 25 and LINE TV, but can now be watched on Netflix as well.

LOOTCASE



Lootcase is an Indian dark comedy film. It has been directed by Rajesh Krishnan, and produced by Fox Star Studios and Soda Films, under the banner of *Disney+Hotstar*. The film stars Kunal Khemu and Rasika Dugal in the lead, alongside Vijay Raaz, Ranvir Shorey and Gajraj Rao. It tells the story of a man who accidentally finds a suitcase full of cash, and has to decide what he to do with it next. It was released on July 31, 2020.

Amina Hossain & Shreya Shomoyeeta