

Not by design

In conversation with Aneela Haque

NIVEDITA RAITZ VON FRENTZ

"INSPIRATION is momentary. Children inspire me; compliments inspire me; they help me stay positive. You build your own inspiration and inspire those around you. Perseverance is very important if you want to achieve anything in life." She describes herself as a "positive bomb" and, certainly, bubbly fashion designer, Aneela Haque lives up to that reputation!

Convent school educated, Aneela led a conservative life, but that did not prevent her from having a wide range of interests, from Indian classical music to art. Born into a culturally oriented family, Aneela's passion for Urdu poetry and ghazals stemmed from her father. "Poetry and music are also an inspiration. I get carried away, get lost in the emotion". From her mother, she inherited a love of Bengali literary classics by Sarat Chandra, Bankim Chandra and Rabindranath.

Aneela was always keen that fashion studies figured in her future, but was caught in the "female dichotomy" dilemma. Persuaded by her brother, Aneela's parents let her study abroad. Her final destination was to be the specialised Stephens College in Missouri, an all-women, fashion, performing and fine arts college. "You could feel theatre, dance, music, on the campus. It was too arty, just brilliant!"

Initially registering for a fashion degree, Aneela changed her major to fine arts. She has been painting since she was eight, mostly without



Aneela Haque

guidance, but remembers taking lessons from the late Anwar Jahan. Her sketching and oil painting

techniques were honed by calligrapher Saiful Islam of the Cezanne Art School. To broaden her hori-

zons, Aneela spent a summer at the Paris branch of the Parsons School of Design and also visited the main New York campus before returning to Dhaka in 1991.

Soon after, Aneela fell into advertising work on children's issues with UNICEF. This paved the way to working with BRAC. More freelance work followed and a further feather in Aneela's cap was an assignment for Nobel Laureate, Professor Mohammad Yunus, for high profile meetings with Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela. Exposure to different development agencies and her mentor, UNICEF's Dr Sharad Sapra were the catalysts for starting her own advertising agency, "with fashion on the side". So, *AnDes* came into being in 1995.

Graphic design and unusual scripts on fabric make the "Aneela brand identity" incredibly strong. "I've transposed my travel experience, romance and poetry onto fabric. I introduced the concept of mix and match". Materials are bought locally, browsing in Chandni Chowk or directly from weavers. Her pioneering work of transcribing excerpts of Tagore's romantic poems and Jibanananda Das' nature poems on to fabric is very distinctive. Substantial training is involved and Aneela is indignant at the theft of some of her block-cut designs; now, all work is done in-house.

While she continues working on international UNICEF projects, with her designing work gaining the upper hand, Aneela concentrated less on advertising. *AnDes* is a major undertaking, with three shops at the Radisson Hotel, at

Rangs Anam Plaza in Dhanmondi and at Z N Tower in Gulshan 1. With so much going on, Aneela's painting fell by the wayside, "I've poured my heart into fashion; the sari is my canvas."

Travelling is an integral part of her life and Aneela has picked up fashion tips from all over the world. In 1994, she held her first solo exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy, exhibiting parts of her diary, "Travel Journal". Works in mixed media, oil, drawings and photos were on display.

The fashion show calendar has been hectic over the years. She participated twice in the exclusive "Paris Comes to Dhaka" show, most recently earlier this year. In 2006, she helped the SAARC Women's Association raise money for visually impaired children through a solo effort. She has also been a regular at the "Bridal Asia" fashion show, a popular event for sub-continental designers.

Amazingly, Aneela is a black belt in karate and the school is like a second home; she is grateful to her karate mentor, Sensei Kais. "Wado karate is my guide, my stabiliser; it helps me to be a better crisis manager and reflect in solitude." The latter is her biggest strength. She has also taken a leaf out of Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet* to help her achieve life's balance.

Relieved that in fashion she does not have to worry about corruption, Aneela is still sore about the copycat work, destroying the myth that imitation is the best form of flattery.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Eid special

"Pratichchhaya" on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play *Pratichchhaya* will be aired on Ekushey TV as part of their five-day-long Eid special programme. Written by Kamrul Hasan and directed by Abu Sayeed, the play will be aired on October 16 at 9:30 pm.

The play follows Mahtab and his sons. Mahtab has established his business through integrity and hard work. He is contemplating retirement and wants his sons to take over. However, his indolent and lying sons disappoint him. They don't even bother to go to the office regularly and watch TV all day long. Adding to Mahtab's worries, his son in law comes to stay with the family after quitting his job. To create a diversion, Mahtab buys a snake and lets it loose.

Casts of the play include K. S.



A scene from *Pratichchhaya*

Firoz, Afroza Banu, Zahid Hossain Shobhon, Ahsan Habib Nasim,

Elora Gauhar, Nazneen Chumki, Dihan and Majnun Mizan.

"Atimanab" on BTV



Rahi, Dolly Zahur and Zahid Hassan in the TV play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of *Eid-ul-Fitr*, BTV will air a special drama *Atimanab* written by Imdadul Haque Milan and directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

The story revolves around Shama, daughter of a late Freedom Fighter. A local hoodlum insists on marrying her and has made her life a living hell. Her schoolteacher mother sees no way out and is stressed. Shubho, son of Shama's father's friend, comes to her rescue. He at once tries to change the situation by generating public opinion against the thug. He also motivates Shama to be courageous and confront the difficult situation.

Zahid Hassan, Rahi, Dolly Zahur and Masud Ali Khan play the lead roles.

ALL TIME GREATS

Rainer Warner Fassbinder: A truly (and repeatedly) dangerous filmmaker

Rainer Werner Fassbinder, one of the most important representatives of the New German Cinema, was a filmmaker prolific to the point of being a workaholic. From 1969 to 1982 he directed over 40 productions, most of them feature films, a few TV specials and one huge 931-minute TV mini-series *Berlin Alexanderplatz*. These films were nearly all written or adapted for the screen by Fassbinder himself. He was also the art director of most of his early films, editor or co-editor of a lot of them, and acted in nine of his films as well as for other directors.

His films give an incisive picture of the post-war Germany, at first through ironic and nearly plot-less deconstructions of Hollywood genre cinema with a formally experimental and astute provocative political edge, remaining relevant to urban life in contemporary times and human relationships. Some of the films are also endowed with a decidedly dark and sardonic sense of humour.

There are three distinct phases to his career. The first ten or so movies (1969-1971) were an extension of his work in the theatre, shot with an almost always-static camera and with deliberately unnaturalistic dialogue. The second phase is the one that brought him international attention, with films that use victims to explore how deep-rooted prejudices about race, sex, sexual orientation, politics and class are inherent in society, while also tackling his trademark subject of the everyday fascism of family life and friendship. The final batch of films, from around 1977 until his death, were more varied.

Two of the best works of earlier period are *Beware of a Holy Whore* and *The American Soldier*, the former a dark comedy, the latter quite possibly the best of his gangster films.

In 1971 Fassbinder met Douglas Sirk, and the second cycle of his work was initiated. After *The Merchant of Four Seasons* came *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*. The latter works remarkably well as an exposé of the lies that relationships can

be founded on, especially the lies in those idealised cinematic representations of relationships people often take for truth. It also says a lot about the way individuals let themselves be abused by others in the hope of gaining their love, or out of fear of being alone.



Following *Martha*, his Sirkian abstraction on the cruelty of a bourgeois marriage, and the famous immigrant drama *Fear Eats the Soul*, came *Fox and his Friends*. The film is notable for its then controversial but now revelatory presentation of gay relationships to be not that different from straight ones.

In *A Year with 13 Moons* tells the story of a transsexual, Elvira / Erwin, and uses strange lighting effects and often fragmented and dark compositions. The film is considered to be one of Fassbinder's most experimental films, and is a harsh and sincere investigation of minority urban life.

His biggest international success, *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, came in 1978 centring on women in World War II and its aftermath. The film offers careful analysis of the social make-up of those years in terms of dissidence and the changing and unchanging nature of Germany through that period.

Fassbinder's seething politics was never far from view in all his films; he hated liberal compromises.

His masterpiece *Berlin Alexanderplatz* shows, through great performance, cinematography and direction, how a man through his personal faults and an unmerciful society is unable to fulfil himself.

Shortly after finishing *Querelle*, Fassbinder was found dead in his Munich apartment. It was not, as had been reported, suicide, but his suicidal lifestyle had finally caught up with him -- cocaine and alcohol abuse in particular had caused his heart to fail at the age of 37.

Fassbinder remains a remarkable figure for both his unwavering commitment to a socially aware cinema and his rare capacity to use the packaging, the form and, to some degree, the content of Hollywood cinema to produce passionate artistic and political statements. Fassbinder was that rarity -- a truly (and repeatedly) dangerous filmmaker.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

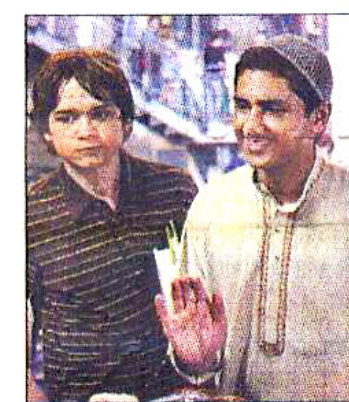
"Aliens in America": New TV show lampoons post-9/11 prejudices

Neither Raja Musharraf's first name nor accent are Pakistani, and his behaviour in the new TV show *Aliens in America* on CW is a little too perfect.

But that was about the extent of the quibbles with the comedy's central character, a Muslim foreign exchange student, after a recent screening at the Islamic Center of Southern California.

"The key word in my mind is that he was likable. It's just so refreshing to have a character who is Muslim and who's likable," says Omar Haroon, who enjoyed the screening.

A spoonful of comedy also is a great way to educate viewers, he says. "The great thing about the show is because it's so much fun, it will open up people's minds." Fun is at the top of the agenda for *Aliens*' creators Moses Port and David Guarascio, but they're pleased that their story has turned into an attention-getter. "What intrigued us was a character who was spiritual and grounded, coming into a family lacking those things and holding up a mirror to them," Port says. That it would be a Muslim, "certainly, in the post-9/11



Dan Byrd and Adhir Kalyan in *Aliens in America*

world, it made more interesting." In *Aliens*, Raja comes to Wisconsin to live with the Tolchuck family, which is looking for a friend for their resident "alien," son Justin (Dan Byrd). "Justin is just as much of an outsider as Raja," Port says. Raja's "perceived infallibility" in the pilot contrasts with his dysfunctional hosts, but his flaws will be revealed as relationships develop, Guarascio says. Adhir Kalyan, who plays Raja, says the

character's failings make him more appealing.

Aliens' creators, neither of whom are Muslim, and Kalyan, a Hindu from South Africa, say they've done extensive research. And they've sought advice from experts, including the Muslim Public Affairs Council, which has provided accuracy assistance to series such as *Saving Grace* and *24*. *Aliens* has staff expertise, too: One of its writers, Sameer Asad Gardezi, is Muslim.

Source: Internet



ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Dolls House
On ATN Bangla at 11:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bonna Mirza, Intikhab Dinar



The Office
On Star World at 9:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Steve Carell, Jenna Fischer

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
Late Night News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 12:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

ntv
News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV
News (Bangla) 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTV

11:15 Documentary Programme
11:40 *Ongona*
12:05 *Man O Shishur Kotha*
12:30 *Bhabbar Bishoy*
01:00 *Nitir Taley Taley*
01:30 *Shukhi Poribar*
02:15 Agricultural Programme
03:30 *Olivi Shalider Astor*
03:05 *Carbon*
04:05 *Sangeeta*
04:30 *Apon Bhumi*
05:10 Documentary Programme
05:15 *Make Ramjan*
06:15 Entertainment Programme: *Iyadi*
07:00 Computer
07:50 Drama Serial: *Heiraphul*
08:45 Drama of the Week: *Pilotir Angti*
10:30 *Phele Asa Din*

ATN Bangla

10:30 ATN Commentary Box
11:05 Drama: *Urai*
12:15 *Shurir Madhur*
12:45 *Shodapoti*
01:30 *Nari*
02:30 Drama Serial: *Dolte House*
03:10 *Shesh Ondhokar*
04:20 Quiz Programme
05:00 *Ganir Ganir Khabor*
05:10 *Khokhey Quran*
05:30 Islamic Programme
06:20 *Hamid-Nath*
06:25 *Murji*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*
08:45 Drama: *Khujer Beral*

Tarey

Drama Serial: *Amader Nurali Huda*
Drama Serial: *Doll's House*
12:00 GramaenPhone Lead News

CHANNEL-1

09:30 Selected Programme
11:05 Selected Programme
12:30 *Cityzeli Tarokathar*
01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 Selected Programme
02:40 Selected Programme
03:05 *Hidoye Masi O Manusher Daak*
04:05 *Mukhtijudho Preldin*
04:30 *Eid Anondo*
05:20 Islamic Programme
06:05 *Snoshtar Shakhhor*
06:20 *Cookery Show*
07:50 Fashion dot com
08:20 Drama Serial: *Abhutorey*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Konush*

10:00

Drama Serial: *Darwin*
Drama Serial: *Aste*
11:30 *Aste*
12:00 GramaenPhone Aykar Shongbadpala

ETV

08:00 *Ekusher Shokal*
08:30 *Deshjurey Shonglap*
01:30 *Drishit*
02:00 Drama Serial: *Bondhon*
04:00 *Dhinak Dhinak Ta*
04:30 Drama Serial: *Biprotip*
05:15 *Shangskrit Shalidin*
05:45 *Ekusher Shondha*
06:30 *Desh Jurey*
07:30 *Nishi Kutum*
08:30 *Ta Na Na Na*

ntv

09:30 *Ekusher Shomoy*
10:30 *Ekusher Chokh*
11:45 *Reporters File*
08:55 *Ajker Shokal*
09:05 *Siddique Kabir's Recipe*
10:05 *Gaaner Shomoy*
10:30 *Drama*
12:10 *El Shomoy*
01:05 *Japan Video Topic*
02:30 *Chokkor*
03:15 *ntv Shokei*
03:50 *Hidoye Ramjan*
04:25 *Chetoney Islam*
06:05 *Jibon Gorar Ashor*
06:45 *Horicks Ponbar*
Bangladesh 2007

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