

# Star Showbiz IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS!

Do you have a flair for writing and are you interested in the world of showbiz in Bangladesh?

Do you wish to work for the highest circulated English newspaper of the country?

Are you able to work under pressure and meet deadlines?  
If yes, then we could be looking for you!

Star Showbiz is looking to recruit a few regular contributors and a full-time writer.

## INTERESTED?

Please send (i) your resume and a (ii) 600-word writing sample (on a topic relevant to show business) to

showbiz.tds@gmail.com by 20th January 2015.



## ON POSITIVE CRITICISM

With the start of Star Showbiz, people from all sectors of the media have made a common request: to do more critical analysis and constructive criticism for any sort of production in Bangladesh; be it music, film or television or artists themselves. Recently, we even had a roundtable discussion with the leading men and women of the media. Despite being gathered for a different subject reason, the subject of criticism came up nonetheless. Now that a platform such as Star Showbiz exists from The Daily Star, we have a powerful tool to uphold the culture of Bangladesh.

Sadly, despite asking for constructive criticism, we just don't have the openness to stomach it. And this applies to all sectors of Bangladesh, not only the media. People of Bangladesh want only their good sides to be written about. Criticism that is fueled by grudges or jealousy is a different matter altogether. We at Star Showbiz are talking

about constructive criticism, something that benefits both the artist and his craft. The problem with this though, is that when we criticize, however constructively, the end result is always the opposite of progress. This isn't good for anyone.

If we are constantly praised, it becomes very difficult to judge the quality of any production, and thus difficult to judge progress. Our recent production quality, be it music, TV or film, has fallen drastically. If anyone thinks that this is because of lack of knowledge or education, then I must strongly disagree on this because I won't, for a moment, accept that we have a lack of creativity or knowledge. The problem lies either in the communication stream between audience and media people or somewhere deep inside the system. Constructive criticism plays a vital role in helping artists and people involved in the media to improve with vital feedback. For constructive criticism to work though, people, from both sides, need to be

more open-minded. If I recall my experiences when I visited the Cannes Film Festival, after the screening of the opening film 'Grace of Monaco', journalists from all over the world and the stars of the film along with directors and producers sat down and discussed the film. The openness of the conversation and the criticism that was brought up in front of the stars was thorough. If that were to happen here, a fight would ensue in the first five minutes! This kind of openness will open the doors to reforming the Bangladesh media. We at Star Showbiz are going to positively criticize Bangladesh's productions this year and by the end of the year, we will host an Achievement Award Ceremony to award deserving productions. We invite our readers to join in as well.

Send us your thoughts, on what you like and what you don't, and why, so that we can narrow the gap between the artists and the audience.

Rafi Hossain



## PLAYLIST of the week

### 1. Ki Ghor Bandhimu Ami

**Singer:** Shubirnondi & Moshir Rahman Rinku

**Lyricist:** Chondra Chowdhury

**Music:** Nokib Khan

### 2. We Love Bangladesh

**Singer:** Fahmida Nabi & Samina Chowdhury

**Lyricist:** Tanvir Ahmed Tomal

**Music:** Foad Nasser Babu

### 3. Kothay Tomar Bari

### Singer:

Shakila Zafor

**Lyricist:** Gazi Sadikur Hoque

**Music:** Bappa Mozumder

### 4. A Farmer of my motherland

**Singer:** Mizan

**Lyricist:** Romana Afroz Shila

**Music:** Shajib

### 5. Shobdo Ekti Shobdo

**Singer:** Fahmida Nabi

**Lyricist:** M. Mohon Sinha

**Music:** Taposh

The Daily Star

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## PENNY DREADFUL

For lovers of supernatural and horrors shows, Penny Dreadful has been the best production of 2014. Penny Dreadful is a British-American horror TV series created for Showtime and Sky by John Logan who also acts as executive producer alongside Sam Mendes. It first aired on television on Showtime in May 2014. The first two episodes of the series were both available on demand before the respective episodes were broadcast over the air. The title refers to the penny dreadfuls, a type of 19th-century cheap British fiction publication with lurid and sensational subject matter. The series draws upon many public domain characters from 19th-century Irish and British fiction, including Dorian Gray from Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Mina Harker and Abraham Van Helsing from Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and Victor Frankenstein and his monster from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

The cast is the show's best asset. Eva Green steals the show as Vanessa Ives, an enigmatic, composed, driven heroine who ignores zeitgeist and proves herself a force to be reckoned with. Reeve Carney plays



Dorian Gray, a confident, entrancing, yet lonely, self-isolating man who cannot die. Timothy Dalton is Sir Malcolm Murray, a hardened explorer of the African continent, on a deeply personal quest to find his kidnapped daughter Mina. Rory Kinnear plays Caliban, a reanimated corpse brought to life and abandoned by Frankenstein who tracks down his creator

and demands that Frankenstein create a mate for him. The show also brings back Josh Hartnett to television after a long time, as Ethan Chandler, a charming, brash, daring American man of action with uncanny marksmanship, who detests violence and is more complicated than he likes to admit.

After a slightly shaky start, (perhaps

trying to encapsulate the stories of Frankenstein and his monster, Dracula, Dorian Gray, not to mention a rip-off of "The Exorcist", with a werewolf thrown in for good measure, might have been going a creature or two too far), "Penny Dreadful" turned out to be one of the year's more pleasant, as well as nastiest, surprises. Unlike the pretentious, art-house gore-fest that is "Hannibal" this was imaginative, fast-moving, just the right side of silly when it needed to be and intelligent, (and suitably gruesome), in just the right proportions, adhering very much to the spirit of the originals if not to their text. It was also very well acted by a decent and starry cast, (as a young Victor Frankenstein and his creature both Luke Treadaway and Rory Kinnear were outstanding while even Josh Hartnett acquitted himself quite well this time round), written and directed.

The first season aired in 2014, and on June 4, 2014, Showtime renewed Penny Dreadful for a ten-episode second season to air in 2015.

By Showbiz Desk