

WHEN DHAKA STANDS STILL

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If you have never had to travel in Dhaka after a (not so) heavy shower, I envy your life. The purpose of this article is to tell you what happens if you dare to go to Dhanmondi from Motijheel on such a day.

6:00pm, Motijheel

If I'm lucky, I might be home by 7:15. The radio's on and if we manage to cross Kakrail within the next 15 minutes, an hour should pass easily.

6:15pm, almost Paltan

I don't think we have moved over a 100 yards and I'm being optimistic. But it's not too bad. I could have been standing in a bus whose inside smells like onions and is more crowded than a Pahela Baishakh rally.

The beggars seem very disappointed. They've already asked us a few times and have realised they need a new batch of vehicles and people to make more money. It does not seem like that'll be happening



PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

any time soon.

6:45pm, Kakrail

We've stopped again. Maybe if I take a short nap, we'll have reached Science Lab by the time I've woken up, or better yet, home.

7:15pm, still Kakrail

A loud but indistinct scream woke me up and the first thing I blurt out is "Are we there yet?" Nope. Haven't moved an inch. The commotion, turns out, was coming from the two buses next to us.

Apparently, one of them brushed against the other and now the drivers were saying all sorts of unprintable things about each other's ancestors. With these, came terrifying threats of what one would do if the other manned up and came out of his bus. However, neither showed any signs of doing that.

7:30pm, Motshyo Bhubon

WHY ISN'T SHE SHUTTING UP AND PLAYING MUSIC? No one cares about your day, woman. I tuned in to listen to

music; I have better qualified sources to get moral lessons from. And what is it with the people texting her?

There were at least five people saying, "Apu, you have a beautiful voice." Yeah, that was kind of a job requirement, idiots.

I jab my finger at the off button when she starts replying to the ones that asked for relationship advice. I've had enough.

8:00pm, Shishu Park

Exhausted.

Starving.

Broke.

Approximate distance from destination: Multiple light years.

8:30pm, Shahbagh

I'm positive that the traffic police forgot about us. That can be the only explanation.

8:45pm, Elephant Road

Whoah, that was fast. We hit 40kmph when the Shahbagh signal cleared and I feel dizzy. It's all very exciting.

9:10pm, Science Lab

Did we just stop AGAIN? You know that feeling when you concede a goal at the 90th minute when you're playing Fifa? That is exactly what I feel now.

9:35pm, Dhanmondi

This is something I never thought I'd say.

I'M HOME.

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To Watch or Not to Watch Trailers

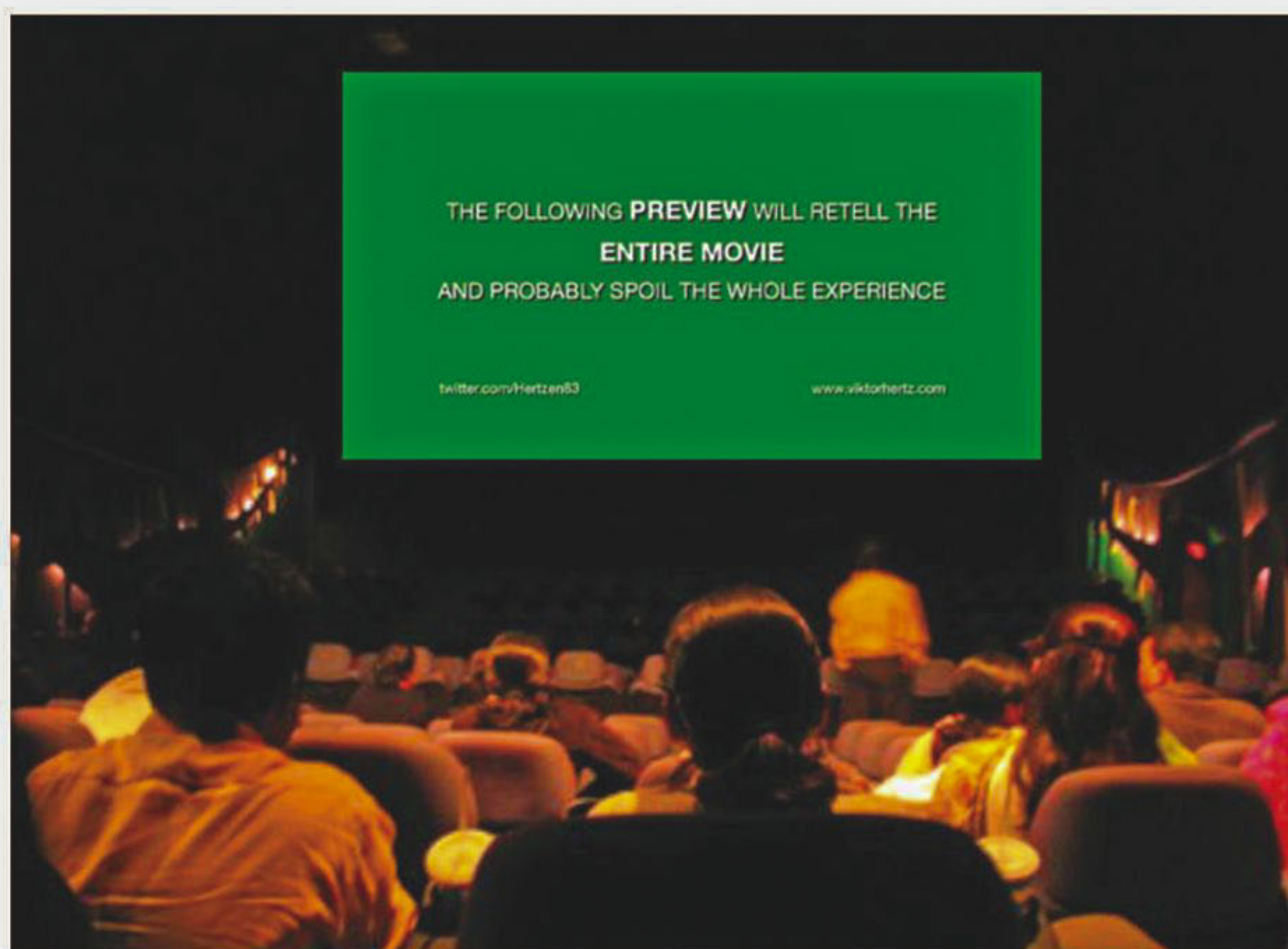
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A movie trailer is essentially the basic feel of the movie wrapped up in about 2-3 minutes. This insight into the movie does help the audience decide whether or not they want to sit through it; however, in many cases, this preview may cross the fine line between being a trailer and a spoiler.

Take for example the trailer of *Cast Away* (2000). The movie is about a man, played by Tom Hanks, who survives a plane crash and gets washed ashore onto a deserted island. The trailer not only gets that point across, but also goes out its way to answer the most pressing question in the movie: "Does he get rescued?"

Unfortunately, the trailer (read: spoiler) of *Cast Away* is not an anomaly in the film industry. There are countless other trailers like it that give away the plotline almost completely. The trailers of *Free Willy* (1993), *The Island* (2005) and *Insidious* (2011) to name just a few, do exactly that and ultimately ruin the excitement of the whole film.

In other cases, where the trailer does manage to not ruin the plot, it consists of some of the best scenes of the movie. It makes sense that the trailer should include those scenes – after all, the whole purpose of a trailer is to attract viewers, and what better way to do so than by



showcasing the best the film has to offer? However, since you already see it beforehand, once it plays in the movie, it is somewhat robbed of its wow factor.

This usually proves to be less problematic for action or super-hero movies, where the best scenes do not necessarily give up crucial storylines. In these cases, the trailers are perfect. After all, who

wouldn't get hyped up seeing that car drop scene from the trailer of *Furious 7* (2015), or our favourite super heroes making their stand together in *The Avengers* (2012)? The aforementioned case of trailers poking into the plot, however, is most prevalent in horror movies. The trailer of *The Conjuring* (2013) is terrifying – absolutely bone-chilling. Yet it is so at

the expense of ruining almost half the scares in the movie. If you watch the trailer before the movie, you can easily pick up when some of the horror elements are going to make an appearance.

On the flipside, watching a trailer is convenient. It's easier than reading online or magazine reviews or watching video reviews that are generally longer than the trailers. You also get to know significant aspects of the movie, hopefully "non-spoilery" features like the basic theme and an idea of how it looks, which act as deciding factors on whether it truly is a movie worth your time. It's better to withstand a three minute ordeal than a three hour one.

Then again, let's say, you see the trailer, you love the actors in it, the cinematography is appealing and the plot seems interesting. However, what would you do if by the end of it you realise that everything that is about to happen has been neatly summed up with nothing left to curiosity?

Bottom line: watch trailers at your own risk.

With a keen eye and a broken brain to mouth filter, Mahejabeen Hossain Nidhi has a habit of throwing obscure insults from classical novels at random people who may or may not have done anything to warrant them. Drop her a line at mahejabeen.nidhi@gmail.com