

"I prefer simple storytelling" ... Arif Khan

SAURAV DEY

After a long career in journalism, Arif Khan ventured into television direction in 2004. Ever since, his stars have been on the ascendant. So far, Arif Khan has directed around 60 single-episode plays and four drama series, besides directing numerous music programmes on television channels. He believes it is quality that makes a work special. The Daily Star recently caught up with him. Excerpts from the interview:

How did you venture into television direction?

Arif Khan: During my career as a journalist, I used to work with Arun Chowdhury and Faria Hossain as chief coordinator of their plays. After working with them for around six years, I ventured into direction with single-episode play "Chhaya" which was telecast on BTV as part of its Eid programmes. As a newcomer, it was a great achievement.

You were a cultural journalist for many years; what do you think are the differences between the television plays of then and now?

Arif Khan: At earlier times every one, starting from scriptwriters to actors, would give of their best simply out of love and passion for the medium. There was only one channel and plays would reach a larger audience. Nowadays, a whopping number of plays are being made, but their quality is questionable.

How do the artistes of the previous

generation compare with their contemporary counterparts?

Arif Khan: Acting was guided by love and passion in the past. Despite all that adulation, actors worked with complete dedication and sincerity. Actors like Afzal Hossain and Subarna Mostafa are unmatched. But most of the artistes of this generation are restless; on the shooting sets they wait for the day to end. Most of them lack sincerity. A large number of young artistes don't get emotionally involved with their work.

What is the most important element of a play?

Arif Khan: Definitely the story, but you need to know how to narrate it. A good story, good casting and simple presentation -- that's my way of making a play. Starting from Humayun Ahmed to Masum Reza, Faria Hossain, Badrul Anam Saud, I have worked with many veteran and young scriptwriters.

Your biggest achievement as a director?

Arif Khan: I have worked with some of the biggest names in the industry. Be it singers or actors, I worked with a-list stars. That's my biggest achievement as a director.

What's the ultimate dream?

Arif Khan: My ultimate dream is to make a film. However, the scope of cinema is limited in our country. If an opportunity arrives of making a film on the big screen, I will make one. Otherwise I wouldn't do it.

NEWSbytes

"Star Trek" TV series to debut in 2017



"Star Trek", the venerable outer-space adventure, is boldly going where it's been before, but hasn't been seen in more than a decade: back to television. The science-fiction programme that chronicled the voyages of the Starship Enterprise and its intrepid crew will return to TV in 2017, network CBS said on Monday, in a new series that will be introduced on the network but will be shown primarily on its digital subscription video service.

This series will focus on "new characters seeking imaginative new worlds and new civilizations, while exploring the dramatic contemporary themes that have been a signature of the franchise since its inception," CBS said in a news release. It will be executive-produced by Alex Kurtzman, a writer and producer of the rebooted 2009 "Star Trek" movie and its 2013 sequel, "Star Trek Into Darkness".

The original "Star Trek" series, created by Gene Roddenberry, ran on NBC from 1966 to 1969 and introduced audiences to heroes like the hot-blooded Capt. James T. Kirk (played by William Shatner) and his serene half-alien officer, Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy).

Source: NY Times

Delhi Photo Festival 2015 Photography in the 21st century



KAVITA, New Delhi

The third edition of the biennial Delhi Photo Festival (DPF) is on in full swing at the sprawling grounds of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). Themed "Aspire", DPF 2015 steps out of the conventional gallery space to bring together works of some of the finest talents in the world of contemporary photography -- from stalwart Raghu Rai to late Kishor Parekh, one of the pioneers of Indian photojournalism, to French photographer Olivier Culmann and Dutch photographer Rob Hornstra. There is quite a lineup of young photographers too.

Co-directors of DPF Prashant Panjari and Dinesh Khanna are joined this time by a curatorial team of three young photographers who painstakingly put together the mega event. Exhibits apart, there is a cornucopia of workshops, talks, seminars, discussions, gallery walks and performances.

A panel discussion on "What is Photography in the 21st century?" couldn't have been better timed in an age when photographers have stepped out of the darkroom to confront digitisation, online galler-

ies, photojournalism, populism and commercialism. "My advice for photographers is to assume the worst and hope for the best," said the articulate David Campy, British artist, writer and curator. One of the hazards of the profession, he pointed out was the yawning chasm between popular and populist culture. The former that was rapidly taking over was represented by figures such as media-corporates like Rupert Murdoch, the "lowest common denominator that were manipulative, shallow and populist." On the other hand the real hope lay in popular culture that was informed by a democratic philosophy.

The other conundrum that exercised speakers was whether photographers should adopt a Do It Yourself philosophy or continue to have their work circumscribed by writers, publishers, photo editors, galleries and curators. Increasingly photographers are becoming aware that they need to assume all roles to break free of limitations on their work. "I am in favour of a Do It Yourself strategy," said noted photographer Rob Hornstra from Netherlands who sees a photographer's role akin to that of a film

director.

Meanwhile Regina Anzenberger, artist, curator and founder director of Vienna-based Anzenberger Agency gave a rundown of her agency and gallery's work. Photography books she demonstrated are an art form by themselves. "Self published books are the most interesting," she pointed out.

Devika Daulet Singh, founder of the NewDelhi based- PhotoInk Gallery sounded a note of warning about the future of galleries. "I sense that galleries are ceasing to be as important as they used to be 15 years ago. Collectors visit galleries less frequently while people scout the internet for information, photographs and research. The day has arrived when photographers themselves have to take on the role of curators and writers."

However, Campy quoted Marshall McLuhan, Canadian communication theory expert as saying, "New media don't make old ones obsolete..."

The discussion was well moderated by New Delhi-based Rahaab Allana curator of Alkazi Foundation and editor of Pix Quarter.



Arif Khan (L) with actors at a shooting spot.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Registration for Bengal Classical Music Festival opens

A CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Classical Music Festival, the biggest classical music festival in the world, has been growing in popularity over the last three years. Audiences have swelled in great numbers to enjoy the performances of the greatest artistes of Indian Classical Music. This year, the fourth edition of the festival will see performers of the likes of Pandit Balmurali Krishna, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Guru Karakudi Mani, Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Ustad Rashid Khan, Ustad Shujat Khan, Dr N Rajam, Vidushi Shubha Mudgal, Vidwan Radha and Raja Reddi and Vidushi Alarmel Valli, amongst many more, take stage at the Army Stadium in Dhaka from November 27 to December 1.

Registration for the festival is now open, and is possible online as well as by SMS. Like previous years, admission is free for all but registration is a prerequisite. Anyone can log on to www.bengalfoundation.org and fill up a registration form. Upon filling in the form successfully, an e-Ticket will be generated and sent to the appli-



cant's email ID. To register via SMS, participants need to type Bengal and send an SMS to 6969.

There will also be offline registration booths at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi from 11am to 7pm every day, and at Lucknow restaurant at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani from 12pm to 10pm every day.

Registration will be open until optimum capacity is reached, and there will be no registration at the venue.

BBC's Int'l radio playwriting competition underway

Writers from around the world, including Bangladesh are invited to submit their scripts as the 25th International Radio Playwriting Competition has been opened for entries, says a press release.

The global competition, hosted by BBC World Service and the British Council, in partnership with Commonwealth Writers and co-producers The Open University, offers a unique opportunity for playwrights to use the medium of radio drama to reach an international audience.

The competition has two first prizes -- one for writers with English as a First Language and another for writers with English as a Second Language. Both winners will attend an award ceremony in London and see their plays recorded for broadcast on BBC World

BBC
WORLD
SERVICE

Service.

A third award -- the Georgi Markov prize -- celebrates the most promising script from the competition's shortlist in honour of BBC World Service journalist and writer Georgi Markov (1929-1978). The winner of this prize will travel to London for the award ceremony and spend two weeks with BBC Radio Drama and BBC World Service.

The International Playwriting Competition welcomes scripts from Bangladesh, whether established or new writers. The dramas need to be 53 minutes long and can be on any subject. The closing date for entries is on January 31, 2016. Detailed rules and procedures of participation are provided at www.bbcworldservice.com/radioplay.

Dazzle this festive season.



Hazooril
BY SANDEEP NARANG

SPARKLING SINCE 1952

Greater Kailash I, M - Block Market, New Delhi | T. +91 11 41734567/45257700

www.hazooriljewellers.com | Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [b](#) [i](#)

Now also open at: ITC Maurya - Shopping Arcade, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi-110021