

MUSIC IN ALL ITS GLORY

TELEVISION OF A LIFETIME



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[Continued from last issue]

The rich history of magazine program in Bangladesh television is quite prominent. Even if now a survey conducted among the audience as to which show in Bangladesh television is still popular among the mass then undoubtedly the name "Ittyadi" will be dominant. "Ittyadi" the show which is hosted by Hanif Sanket sees more audience than Bengali movies and weekly dramas. The same thing can also be seen during the Eid programs, the most persisted name that appears among the audience is none other than "Anondomela".

The program "Anondomela" which was aired in Bangladesh television was initiated by Professor Abdullah Abu Sayed. At that time there was only one occasion that was considered special i.e. the auspicious occasion of Eid. At that time this was considered a big risk putting a magazine program instead of airing drama. And the audience accepted the program "Anondomela" whole heartedly. Unfortunately in the festivities of Eid in television the word "Anondomela" remained stationed there. Later on the program was not able to keep up its popularity.

Later on the program Anondomela went under a lot of experiments. In an anchor based program producer Firoz Mahmud created the program "Anondomela" without any anchors. Producer Riazuddin Badsha one time produced a version of



Anondomela with various artists participating in the program to host some of the segments of the show. Although the program was experimented in various ways but it still failed to gain any audience response. When package program was started in Bangladesh television, a law was regulated that no package program would be aired in special days.

Anondomela program which was one of the most popular program in

Bangladesh television lost out on its popularity due to lack of proper planning. But back in those days, whenever national award used to be awarded the name of Anondomela was adamant. Many years ago in the weekly newspaper Jay Jay Din used to give out yearly awards to television programs. In one its survey in the newspaper, two of the hosts from "Anondomela" got the best award for hosting and they are Forhadur Reza Probal and Kumkum

Hasan.

In the Prothom Alo newspaper, the Meril Prothom Alo Awards are always given to "Ittyadi" program every year.

As there is a fair case of success in terms of magazine programs, there is also a fair share of failures that comes with them. There is a huge collection of package programs that are either popular or scrutinized. In case of drama and music programs, the rate of experiment that could be done was much greater than those that can be done in magazine programs. But even so there has been lots of magazine programs in television, but the ones that has gained more attention are the entertainment magazine programs. In Bangladesh television, people like Fazle Lohani, Abdullah Abu Sayed, Afzal Hossain, Hanif Sanket, and Abdun Nur Tushar who has produced remarkable magazine programs, small portions of the programs is responsible for the production of popular magazine programs in Satellite televisions. Even the production of shows in abroad with artists from our country, is also an outcome from magazine program's modernity and extravagant hosting. In various talent searching program, the touch of Bangladesh television magazine program is quite significant.

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GREEN LIGHT FOR XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS



When the plug was pulled on the hit TV series Xena: Warrior Princess, legions of fans were left with only the hope of TV reruns and DVD box sets. Sure, there was the odd book or video game tie-in, but those who really just wanted to see Lucy Lawless continue her pursuit of "the greater good" were out of luck. Xena was gone and the fact that the series had consistently ranked among the top in syndicated American TV drama for the duration of its six seasons wasn't going to make any difference. As the years passed, Xena's popularity refused to die – fans continued to celebrate her legacy and hope for a time when their hero could potentially return to the screen once more. Ted Raimi, who played

Joxer the Mighty in the series, recently, said that people responded to Xena: Warrior Princess because of characters who were just trying "to muddle their way through as best they could in a bad situation." This is perhaps the perfect summation of not only the show's success, but also the dedication of fans in the fifteen years since the series was cancelled. For those die-hard fans, Xena was never put to rest and because of this, their patience and commitment is about to pay off. For some time, rumours continued to swirl about the possibility of NBC rebooting Xena for a new generation. We now know that this is no longer a rumor – and things have gotten a little sweeter for Xena fans,

now that Variety is reporting that Emmy winning producer/writer Javier Grillo-Marxauch (Lost) has signed on to write the new series. Grillo-Marxauch will also executive produce, alongside Rob Tapert and Sam Raimi, both of whom executive produced the original Xena series and currently executive produce the Ash vs Evil Dead series for Starz. Aside from an initial tweet denying that a Xena reboot was a sure-fire thing, Xena herself (Lucy Lawless) has stated that she would not be a suitable candidate for a return to the role. Lawless currently stars in Ash vs Evil Dead, alongside former Xena co-star Bruce Campbell.

Whether or not Lucy Lawless, or

any of the original cast return for the Xena reboot is anyone's guess at the moment. NBC seems to be holding their cards close to their chest on this one. Little by little we learn more about what's in store and any fan with high hopes for this reboot should be genuinely pleased to learn that Javier Grillo-Marxauch is on board. A strong writer is central to any successful project – especially a strong writer armed with the degree of experience that Grillo-Marxauch has. The fact that so many of the original creators are returning to this reboot also bodes well, as no one knows quite what to do with Xena: Warrior Princess like the people responsible for its rise in the first place.