

# "Bhuban Majhi has had a profound impact on me"

... Parambrata

SAURAV DEY

Ace Indian actor Parambrata is now in Bangladesh for the shooting of Fakhrul Arefeen Khan's debut feature film "Bhuban Majhi". This is the second time Parambrata is working in Bangladesh. On a fine spring afternoon, this correspondent met the actor at Shilaidah in Kushtia -- where he was playing cricket along with other members of the unit. Post the match this correspondent had an exclusive interview with the unassuming Parambrata at a Bungalow with the luminous full moon gazing down on us.

You've been living in Shilaidah for three weeks now, and it seems like you've gelled in well. What's your take on Bangladesh and its film industry?

Parambrata: As the film industry of Bangladesh is in the making, there might be some shortcomings which we don't see in Kolkata or Mumbai. However, after doing two films here, I think there are certain things in Bangladesh that make up for those shortcomings. The warmth that people of Bangladesh show is unparalleled. I have enjoyed my time thoroughly here. The film media is essentially a collaborative art, and when the people I am working with are warm-hearted, certain shortcomings don't seem to be a problem at all.

What drew you in to do "Bhuban Majhi"?

Parambrata: I knew bits and pieces about Bangladesh's Liberation War, but when I started shooting for "Bhuban Majhi" it required me to learn a lot about the War, especially the pre- and post-Liberation War history of the country. The Liberation War is pivotal in the film, but there is an evaluation of the spirit of the War that the people of this land have in the post-independence era. This evaluation makes the film more relevant. Within this short period, the film has put a profound impact on me.

What's your take on your co-artists and the director? Were you familiar with their works beforehand?

Parambrata: Aparna is playing the lead alongside me. I had never seen her at work before, but I've found her to be a very good actor and an amazing human being. Arefeen is an extremely talented director; I had seen some of his documentaries. We have become good friends, and it inspires me to see the way he loves his country and nurtures progressive thought.

What inspires you to do films?

Parambrata: Maybe it's because I'm not good at any other field except films. I can sing, but I never wanted to choose it as my profession. I have been acting from an early stage of my life, and even studied films in UK later on. I cannot

do anything else (chuckles). And be it acting, directing or art directing -- I need to stick to films.

Do you want to explore further as a director?

Parambrata: Definitely. I have plans to start my directorial venture after returning to India.

Will we ever see Parambrata collaborating in Bangladesh as a director?

Parambrata: I am very much interested in doing a collaborative project. In fact, I have some plans about this, and I hope I can go ahead with that plan in 2017.

How can film, as a form of art influence our mind, or bring a change in the society?

Parambrata: If it were 25 years earlier, I would have said film is the most powerful medium, as it can outreach with great ease. Now Internet

with me for a long time.

You come from the family of legendary filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. To what extent have his films influenced you?

Parambrata: He passed away a few years before I was born. I grew up the same way other boys in Kolkata grow up at that time. And to be honest, Satyajit Ray has more influence on me than Ritwik Ghatak. However, as I watched more and more films I began to discover the relevance of Ghatak's films. He never wanted to make a film for the sake of doing it; he tried to write an epic through his every film. He depicted his time, and I think an artiste should have that approach to represent his time and its history.

Is there any particular type of character you're very much drawn to?



and television have, to some extent, surpassed film. But, film is such an art form that will neither die nor decay. There might be changes in the style of film and its media, but film itself will prevail. There is no other medium as powerful as the visual medium.

You played a diverse set of roles in your life. Is there any role that has influenced your off-screen life?

Parambrata: Being a professional actor we do many films, but not all the films we do are dear to us. However, some films touch our inner artiste, and after doing those films we continue to try to make ourselves better human beings. Films like "Hemlock Society", "Hercules" and "Aparna" have touched me, and made me feel connected with their philosophy. I won't be surprised if the effects of "Bhuban Majhi" stay

I love darker characters. Though I don't do many of them, I have a fascination for it. To me, a protagonist who is an embodiment of right and wrong is superior to a protagonist who has no negative side to him at all. Every individual has an element of darkness in their personality, and one can never be a human without grey shades. That is why grey characters call out to me.

If you are asked to advise emerging actors, what would be that advice?

Parambrata: It is important to choose which medium of acting one is choosing. Theatre is a big platform, but film is entirely different. It requires a sense of film, and knowledge about its language. If anyone wants to be a film actor, they should know more about acting in cinema aside from acting in general.



Maya, an acrobat, practices her craft.

## Magical performers at the Kathputli Colony

KAVITA, New Delhi

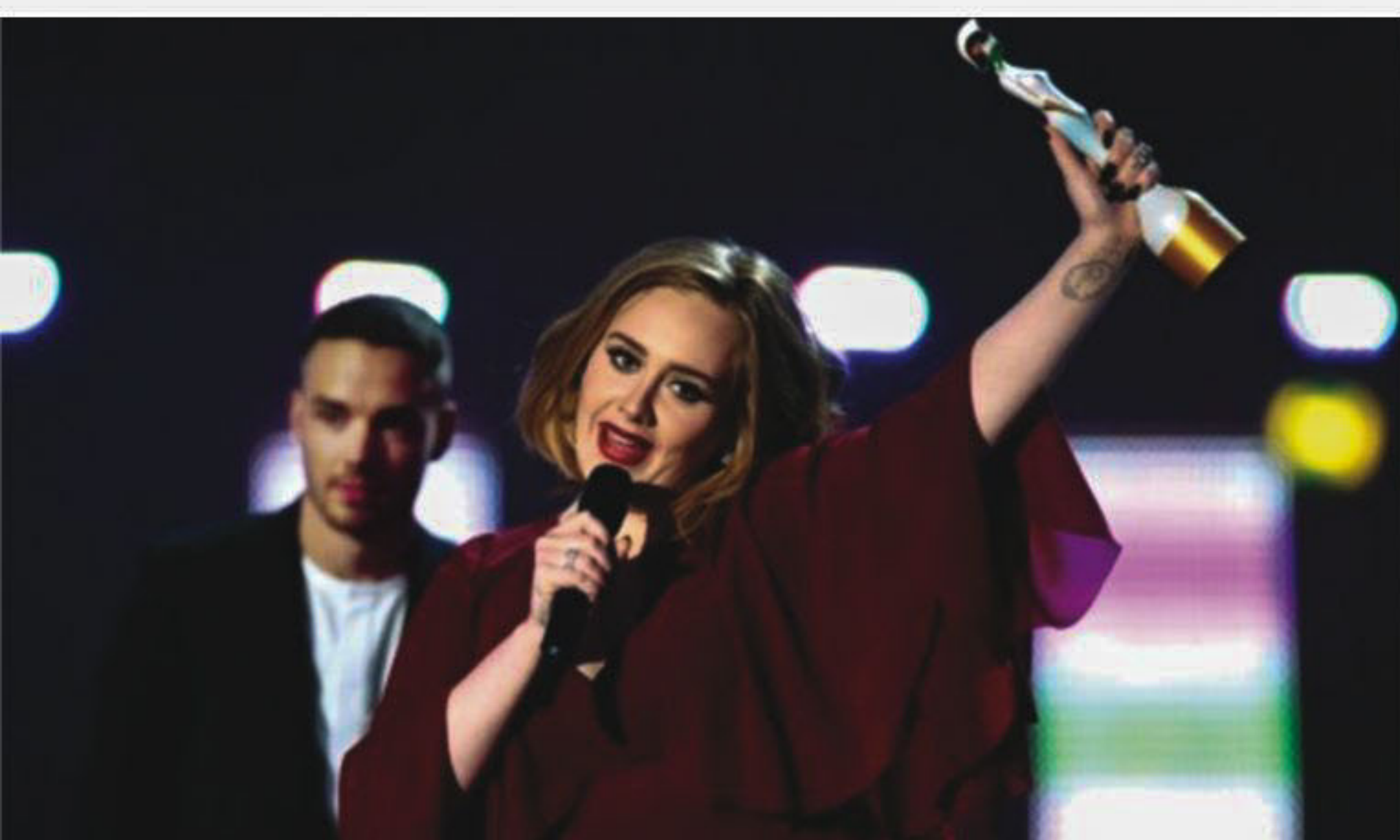
Tucked away in West Delhi is Kathputli Colony; you have to gingerly step over piles of garbage at the entrance only to negotiate your way through narrow alleys and a sea of people. The residents peek at you from makeshift homes. The colony has been immortalised in Salman Rushdie's famous novel "Midnight's Children", while avid foreign journalists often descend on the 50-year-old slum in search of a colourful story. They couldn't ask for a better subject-- the colony is home to some of the finest traditional artists like puppeteers, dancers, acrobats, jugglers, musicians, magicians and storytellers.

Thirty-three year old Mahesh Bhat is a puppeteer-drummer who has come a long way. Though his father Mohan Bhat acquired renown and performed before luminaries like late Indian President Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru, the younger Bhat was hampered by his lack of education -- until NGO Kalakar Trust (that works in the area) pitched in to polish his computer, English and marketing skills. Today Bhat is a freelance event manager with performances in Netherlands, France, Germany and Mauritius behind him.

Agile young Maya Pawar leaps into the air with ease as she shows off her acrobatic skills. Both her parents are acrobats and are often called upon to perform at weddings and festivals. She has performed to awe struck audiences in Netherlands, Egypt, South Africa, among other countries. But she has a grouse. "We give India a good name abroad but the government doesn't bother about us in our country," says Maya who teaches acrobatics at the Kalakar Trust's community centre twice a week.

Accomplished folk and contemporary dancers Ajay Bhat and Bunty say that Kalakar Trust has given them an edge as they have not only received very basic education but learnt to play the dholak, harmonium, tabla and an African drum called djembe. Bhat is expert at not just folk dance but has mastered hip-hop and Bollywood moves. "I have performed in 'Zubaan' and 'Bollywood Diaries'," says Bhat with pride.

Meanwhile Bunty is only too happy to talk about himself. Though he has made a name for himself as a dancer, he is pained by people's reactions when they learn that he is from the Kathputli Colony slum. "It's different in other countries. People only judge us by our art," he says.



## Adele dominates Brit Awards

Adele proved to be the Queen of the Brits, winning four prizes including best British female solo artiste and best album. "To come back after so long away and be so warmly received means so much," she said.

The star, who closed the show by performing "When We Were Young", also received best British single and the Global Success award.

The show also featured an emotional tribute to David Bowie, led by Annie Lennox and his friend Gary Oldman. Lennox called Bowie, who died of cancer last month, "a quintessential visionary" and "the ultimate iconoclast." Oldman then accepted a Brits icon award on behalf of the singer and his family.

Bowie's band then performed a medley of his hits, before New Zealand singer Lorde joined them to sing "Life On Mars". Bowie had once said listening to Lorde was like 'listening to tomorrow', and the fitting tribute was widely lauded, even by Bowie's son (who was strongly disapproving of Lady Gaga's recent tribute at the Grammys).

The ceremony was opened by Coldplay, who gave a colourful, floral performance of their single "Hymn For The Weekend", showering the audience with confetti petals as they played on one of two separate stages at London's O2 arena. They went on to win best

British group - making them the most successful band in the ceremony's history.

Other awards went to James Bay, for best male, and Australian psych-rock band Tame Impala, who picked up best international group.

Justin Bieber, who performed his chart-topping singles "Love Yourself" and "Sorry", won best international male. Other performers included Drake and Rihanna (doing a live version of "Work"), X Factor winners Little Mix, The Weeknd, and James Bay.

One Direction, who are officially on hiatus, also picked up best video for the space-themed "Drag Me Down". One Direction's victory in the fan-voted best video category robbed Adele of the opportunity to become the most-garlanded artist in a single Brits ceremony. Adele became more emotional as the ceremony continued, bursting into tears after accepting the global success prize - which recognises success overseas.

Earlier, the star used her best female victory speech to declare support for US pop star Kesha, who has accused record producer Dr Luke of sexual and emotional abuse.

The ceremony at London's O2 Arena and hosted by British comedy duo Ant & Dec, was broadcast live on ITV.

Source: BBC

# "I have missed out on some of the biggest films"

... Raima Sen

Actress Raima Sen, who is a known face in the Bengali film industry, confesses that she is scared of auditions and she has missed out on some of the biggest films in Bollywood because of her laziness.

When asked the reason why her acting talent was not explored much in Bollywood, Raima says that she doesn't think like that. "I am very lazy. I have never gone to a director and asked to give a movie. I feel if a film is in my destiny, it will come to me," she told IANS. "Also, I have never gone for auditions because I am scared of it. I have never tried Bollywood that much. I get frightened when I go on to the stage. I feel I have missed out on some of the biggest films (because of this)," she added.

Raima will next be seen in Bollywood film titled "Bollywood Diaries".

Talking about her character in the film, she said: "I am playing a girl called Imli in the film. She is very filmy and she wants to be part of Bollywood film. She is full of life and keeps on thinking that when will someone notice her and give her a film."

"Bollywood Diaries" also features Ashish Vidyarthi, Karuna Pandey and Vineet Singh along with debutant Salim Diwan. The film is slated to release on February 26.

Source: IANS

