

The journey of my life is a MIXED MEDIA

-- Khalid Mahmood Mithu

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist and national award-winning filmmaker Khalid Mahmood Mithu's untimely demise through an unusual accident left us in an ocean of grief. People from all walks of life joined in his last adieu at Shaheed Minar, Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (FFA, DU), Bangladesh Film Development Corporation and Channel i office premises to pay tributes to the celebrated personality on March 9. The creative gem was laid to eternal rest at Banani Graveyard on the day.

Four months back, this correspondent went to his residence to interview all the family members of Mithu ahead of three generations' (renowned artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma, her mother Sarat Mala Chakma and her daughter Shiropa Purna) group art exhibition at Athena Gallery of Fine Arts. At that time, Khalid Mahmood Mithu, in an exclusive interview, shared his artistic journey, conscience, vision and diverse facets and expressions of arts. Excerpts:

"The journey of my life is a mixed media. I lost my father when I was only four-and-a-half. I grew up at several of my uncle and aunt's families with new beds, new schools and new guardians. They adored me a lot. I woke up in the morning with songs of Manna Dey, Hemanta Mukherjee and Rabindra Sangeet on



long play. My mother Begum Momtaz Hossain was a school teacher and a popular writer too. The first successful mega serial "Shokal Sandhya" was written by my mother in the '80s. The entire Dhaka city would turn empty as the spectators sat in front of BTV to watch it. Later, she wrote "Shuktara" that also gained great popularity.

"At one point I started living with my uncle Alamgir Kabir, the famous filmmaker. I studied in the storeroom of my uncle. The ambience was like I was circled with 35mm, 60m film cameras and editorial panel.

"I love to study science, while art lies embedded in my heart. At one point I started reading books especially on biographies of great personalities. I was inspired by them and imagined myself in the life sketches of Leonardo Da Vinci, Thomas Alva Edison, Satyajit Ray and others. I discovered my passion, and was determined to learn fine art and filmmaking. My experiences taught me both the happiness and the harsh reality of life. I had a good friendship with the helping hands and the caretakers of the houses. While I was in seventh or eighth grade, I ventured on to outdoor photography. I saw the life of the labourers at the suburb of Dhaka with their struggles and perspiration. The lens has taught me many things. While portraying paintings, I thought of the presentation rather than philosophy. I attached sand, paper and many things to my canvases to

develop my mixed media. When I made a painting with the title 'The Last Creation', everyone thought I had stopped painting... But no. I actually tried to portray the last painting with the waste art materials of Kanak. I thought of making a lively painting with the dead art materials.

"During my stay at DAC (Dhaka Art College) (now FFA, DU), I was a popular students' leader who got elected VP twice and GS once. To remove disparity between the students of Chittagong Charukala and DAC, I initiated a movement to include DAC under the jurisdiction of University of Dhaka. Police sought me at that time as I locked the classroom for three months. I also played a significant role to withdraw duty on the imported colour tubes from UK. For this, I met the then President. The duty-free educational materials flow is still on in Charukala. I was a medium level student in first year. But from the second year onwards, I secured the best results and bagged the first prize in annual exhibitions completing big-sized watercolours.

"Filmmaking, in a true sense, has a long way to go in our country. Bangladesh has found its right place in fine art thanks to the unique efforts of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. If filmmaking, music, literature and other creative faculties were nurtured just after the independence of Bangladesh, our country would shine in all regards."

Sixth anniversary of IGCC Music and dance lined up

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 6th Founding Anniversary, Indira Gandhi Culture Centre (IGCC) is organising a programme of Music and Dance on March 11 at 7pm at the Main Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum.

The programme will be presented by teachers and students of IGCC. Dr. Aparna Pandey, Hindi teacher, and her students will sing a chorus song titled "Itni Shakti Hamein Dena Data". A Qawaali song will be presented by Hindustani classical

vocal music teacher Santosh Kumar Mishra and his students. This will be followed by a Yoga demonstration by Yoga teacher, Dr. Brajesh Singh, and his students. Sankari Mridha, dance teacher, will present a Bharatnatyam dance. The event will conclude with a Manipuri dance titled 'Leichen' by dance teacher Warda Rihab and her students.

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister will grace the occasion as chief guest. High Commissioner of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla will grace the occasion as guest of honour.



TISHA'S big-screen adventures continue

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tisha, the once-frontline TV actress, has shifted focus gradually to the big screen in the last few years, and is going full throttle ahead with her film project.. The actress recently signed two new films - "Doob" and "Tor Namey Likhechi Hridoy".

Under the direction of Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, shooting for "Doob" will start this month, where she will star alongside stalwart Indian actor Irrfan Khan. Regarding the film, Tisha said "I am now busy with its script and costume. I have cancelled shooting for TV plays so as I can my full attention to the film."

"Tor Namey Likhechi Hridoy", a joint India-Bangladesh production, is directed by Anayna Mamun from Bangladesh and Bhuvan Chatterjee from India. Tollywood heartthrob Soham is her co-artist in the

project.

However, Tisha said she was not at liberty to disclose the production's plot and characters right now.

On the other hand, Tisha-starrer "Ostittho" is now awaiting release. The actor hopes that the audiences will receive the film warmly, where she can be seen opposite Arifin Shuvo.

Apart from this, Tisha recently wrapped up shooting for the film "Mental". She co-stars with Shakib Khan in the movie.



To celebrate International Women's Day, Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) organised a function at their head office in Dhaka March 8. Successful women such as Barrister Tania Amir; Rumi Ariyoshi, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh; Mukta Dhar, AC of Victim Police and recipient of Prime Minister's award; Nadia Samdani, president, Samdani Art Foundation and Fahmida Haque Shelley, Senior ASP of Police shared their life experiences with female employees of the Bank. Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director & CEO of EBL is seen cutting a cake with them at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

"I have signed up for action; if I have to break my bones, so be it"

John Abraham's intense Bollywood journey

Being an action hero is no mean feat. It's not just about chases, chainsaws and fists of fury. And it's definitely not for men and women who shudder to break a few of their own bones to show heroic daredevilry on screen. John Abraham, who stops at nothing to pack the perfect punch into his heavy-weight roles, tells India's Times News Network that action needs as much or more mental training as physical power. He has given his 'blood' (literally) and sweat for his role in his upcoming film "Rocky Handsome".

"Action is just the icing on the cake. Director Nishikant Kamat and I were very sure that we wanted hand-to-hand combat kind of raw sequences in the film. We wanted to make the audiences' jaw drop. I had to learn a special art form called Aikido and Hapkido, for which I had to be trained in Thailand."

The actor stayed there in a shanty, and travelled by Tuk-Tuk (local transport) to the training ground where top fighters would come in from Germany, Austria



and USA. He explains, "There I wasn't John Abraham, the actor; I was like anybody else learning an art from a teacher. I would train for 14 hours until I dropped. During my rehearsal, I shot some sequences, and when I showed those to Nishi (Nishikant), he was shocked. There are eight unbelievable action sequences in this film.

We couldn't benchmark it with any other film, because we haven't seen action like this in our movies."

For the kind of bone-cracking action he does, how many of his own bones have Abraham broken? "Many," he exclaims with pride and excitement. "While shooting in Budapest for 'Force 2', I broke

my knee, but I didn't want to stop shooting. I went to the hospital, where they did a procedure on my knee. My blood type is such that I don't react to local anaesthesia, and I tried explaining that to the doctor in Hungary. But due to the language problem, I guess he didn't quite get it. So when he cut my knee open, I could feel the excruciating pain. After six days, I was put on morphine, and sent off with a drain pipe on my knee. I had three surgeries on my knee, I have broken both my legs, I suffered a hairline fracture on both my arms, and I have broken my wrists, and cracked my skull." The hunky actor exclaims that he takes all this in his stride as the role is always paramount for him. John says, "Whenever anyone tells me that they feel sorry for me, I tell them... I have signed up for action, if I have to break my bones, so be it. I love this space. For a brilliant role, I can bulk up, lose weight, or break some more bones, if I have to."

Source: TNN