

tête-à-tête

Not interested to act in films right now

...Riaz



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Riaz Ahmed has come a long way since he gave up a career in soaring through the skies (as a pilot) and embraced the wonderful world of show business. He made a name for himself with massive hits on the silver screen, and is now making a mark on the television front. The Daily Star caught up with the actor during a shoot for an upcoming tele-film, (opposite Sadia Islam Mou), where Riaz talked about an array of issues. Excerpts:

How do you account for your great popularity?
Riaz: I consider it as God's gift. I love my audience. I'm a very ordinary man and I am not qualified for such popularity. So I don't think people love me for any one specific reason.

What's your greatest achievement as an actor?
Riaz: Truly, there is no significant achievement. But for the last few days I've begun to feel that the people of Bangladesh love me from the core of their hearts which is rare for any artist. That is a great achievement for me.

You recently forayed into the big screen after a long time. Tell us about your experience of "Krishnopokkho".
Riaz: After watching the film, many people came to my restaurant and told me that I had brought tears to their eyes. In my view it was Humayun Ahmed and Shaon that made them emotional. I just tried to give my best performance as an actor.

Will you be acting in films regularly from now on?
Riaz: It will depend on a strong plot, a good script and skilled director. But I'm not interested in acting in films right now.

So will you be regular as a TV actor?
Riaz: I'm now acting in TV plays and I love to do them. Yes, I do some assignments purely for financial stability because it is a matter of survival.

Do you have any regrets?
Riaz: Yes. Artists have to work in an unfavorable environment in the present time. Those who want to do something worthwhile are denied a congenial atmosphere for work. We can't fully concentrate on our work. Despite all the adversity, we have to work day after day, and it's sad.

To what extent does an artiste have to be socially responsible?
Riaz: An artiste should have social responsibilities because many people take their cue from artistes. At the same time society should have a responsibility to the artiste. In the present scenario of our country, we are failing on this count.



APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Nrityanchal has been one of the leading dance companies in Bangladesh for over a decade. To celebrate their success in the dance firmament, the troupe organised a three-day festival, Nrityanchal Utshab 2016, from April 27-29, which happens to be International Dance Day.

The curtains were raised on the first night of the festival with a set 'Kathak Sandhya' at the National Theatre Hall Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), to a soulful guru vandana, presented by what seemed like an incalculable swarm of dancers adorned in serene blue and white costumes. The vandana was followed by a welcome speech presented by the directors of the festival and co-founders of Nrityanchal, Shibli Mohammad and Shameem Ara Nipa. They were joined on stage by the coordinator of Nrityanchal, Muhammad Jahangir, as well as the chief guest for the evening, Bharatanatyam virtuoso Leela Samson and special guest, artist Mustafa Manwar. Subsequently, the director duo paid homage to Gurumata

Rahija Khanam Jhunu for her countless contributions to dance over the years.

The first performance of the Kathak Sandhya was a pure classical segment, presented by a group of eight senior students of Nrityanchal, covering tukra, tehai, paran, amad, gat nikas and lari amongst others on teentaal, accompanied by live musicians. Following this, a solo thumri was performed by Monira Parveen Happy, which personified Radha-Krishna's activities during a Holi festival. The show progressed with a number of pure classical pieces including a tarana and a gat bhao named "Makhan Chor". Next, the performers presented a rather unique routine combining several Bollywood dance items, which were originally Kathak choreographies, taken from movies ranging from "Mughal-E-Azam" to "Bajirao Mastani". The last performance, entitled "Pathshala", brought to stage 200 students of Nrityanchal performing fragments of Kathak, such as tukra and tehai, in subdivided groups. The evening concluded with the two directors joining the students on stage for a footwork finale.



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Kathak Sandhya was choreographed by Shibli Mohammad and dedicated to his guru, Kathak legend Pandit Birju Maharaj.

On the second day of the festival, Srishiti Cultural Center, in collaboration with Nrityanchal, staged their production

"Badi Bandar Roopkotha", which is based on the story "Alibaba O Chollish Chor". The final set of the festival will be performed today by underprivileged children as well as children with special needs at the Nandan Mancha of BSA.



STAR FILE PHOTO

BNSS' Int'l Dance Day celebrations close today

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), in accordance with their long-held tradition, organised a week long dance festival and fair (April 23-29) at BSA in the run up to International Dance Day 2016 today. The festival was inaugurated by director general of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky, and renowned cultural personality Kamal Lohani amidst dance performances by troupes World Vision and Angikam.

Subsequently, the cultural fair was launched at the National Art Gallery Plaza (BSA) by seven distinguished senior dancers. The dance festival and fair continued at the National Art Gallery Plaza till yesterday (28th April), with performances every evening from 6pm-9pm, presented by dance companies from all across Bangladesh.

The closing day's festivities, however, will be special. The day will begin with a 'Mongol Nritya' at 7am, followed by the International Dance Day celebratory rally at 9am around the BSA grounds. Next, there will be a seminar entitled "Banglar

Shekorer Sangskriti O Bangladesh-er Nrityacharcha", where dance researcher and anthropologist, Dr. Sheikh Mehedi Hasan will be presenting the keynote paper. To conclude the festival and commemorate the day, a dance programme will commence at 6:30pm at the National Theatre Hall Auditorium, comprising of performances by a number of leading dance companies of Bangladesh. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be attending the event as chief guest, alongside the chairperson of the Dance Department at Dhaka University, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, who will grace the event as special guest. Gurumata Rahija Khanam Jhunu and senior dancer Golam Mostafa Khan will present welcome addresses for the evening. Dr. Enamul Haque, founder director general (retired) of Bangladesh National Museum, who has written and directed several dance-dramas, will receive the lifetime achievement award. Dancer and choreographer Niloufer Wahid will be host of the evening. The programme will be presided by Liaquat Ali Lucky, in collaboration with president of BNSS Minu Haque and general secretary Mahfuzur Rahman.

Nothing better than a letter to confess your love

... Ishana



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ishana has a face that lights up many a TV play and TVC. The artiste recalled her very first love letter, in a conversation with The Daily Star:

"I was a fifth grade student when I received my first love letter. This was soon after we had returned to our hometown Comilla from Dhaka. What was surprising was that my brother's friend had written it. I was taken aback as I was a mere fifth grader and had to keep it a secret from everyone.

"Though love was well beyond my understanding as a young girl, I burst into laughter when I read the letter. Later, I received a few more love letters from the boy but I never replied to them. However, he became my friend later though we are not in touch anymore.

"When I was older I fell in love with a boy who used to write love letters to me frequently. This time I used to be euphoric whenever I received them.

"However, I never replied to those letters and it hurt him sometimes. At one stage, I wrote four or five letters to him which made him really happy.

"Love letters may seem outdated in this internet era, but for me nothing can replace a letter as a way of confessing your love to them."



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Oliver Stone, the master of political drama is back after a hiatus, and with the help of Joseph Gordon-Levitt, is sending chills down the spines of viewers in the first trailer of "Snowden". The oft-delayed film, about one of the biggest whistleblowers in recent history, has been in the production for two years, and the first teaser was released nearly a year ago. After being pushed back twice, the film is set for a September release, and by the looks of it, is going to have people talking.

As it claims in the trailer, "Snowden" is based on true events, and follows Edward Snowden, the soldier-turned CIA agent-turned NSA operative, who released information about the NSA's surveillance programme that collected all sorts of data from all citizens without their notice, to the world. Joseph Gordon-Levitt brings out his method-acting best in the titular role, and doesn't just look like the real-life Edward Snowden, but has his voice and accents nailed down to fine details. He is also portrayed as a genius who rises through the ranks, but then has to go on the run as he leaks out classified documents

from a secure facility, as the authorities go hell-bent on stopping him.

Zachary Quinto plays Glenn Greenwald, the journalist Snowden first trusted with the information, and Shailene Woodley as his supportive girlfriend Lindsay Mills. Nicholas Cage is also seen in the trailer, as an angry government official.

The film, co-written by Stone and Kieran Fitzgerald, based on the novels "The Snowden Files" by Luke Hacking and "Time of the Octopus" by Anatoly Kucherena (Snowden's Russian lawyer), is set to hit theatres September 16.

First "Snowden" trailer is tense and intense



RUPKOTHAR MA on Ekushey Television

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Rupkothar Ma" will air tonight at 9.30pm on Ekushey Television. Based on a novel written by Saratchandra Chottopadhyay, the serial is directed by Anjan Aich.

The story shows the story of 'notun ma', her reflections of her past with Brojo babu, the reasons she left him for Ramani and her later regrets of doing so. And the suspense carries on with the death of one of her tenants and her sudden purchase of a new house.

The cast includes Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Sadia Islam Mou, Faruk Ahmed, Tutul Chowdhury, Ahsan Kabir, Shamol Mawla and many more. The serial goes on air Wednesdays through Fridays.