

The words 'pride' or 'achievement' does not really cut it when you get to fill a parent's shoe. Being able to 'be' them and carry on their legacy is a feeling indescribable and unfathomable. One young man on such a journey is none other than Ariq Anam Khan- the son of theatre and on-screen legends Tariq Anam Khan and Neema Rahman.

During his childhood, Ariq visited shooting spots often when his father would be directing. "I remember, back then, whenever someone would ask me what I wanted to be, my answer would be 'director'. I would even carry a fanny-pack around like the Assistant directors did!" says Ariq. "That desire to be like my father stayed with me."

During his mid-teenage years, his interest in films grew. He began raiding his father's collection for famous films by great names like Satyajit Ray or Akira Kurosawa.

"After finishing my A' Level examinations, I enrolled myself into NSU for BBA. No other ideas came to mind. I probably should have studied English. But still, no regrets," says Ariq. "I decided to work on my acting skills. I explained to my father that I didn't want to be an actor, per se, but just really wanted to learn. He, in turn, wanted to see if I was serious and told me of the things I needed to improve. My mother helped me out a great deal especially with my speech."

At the end of 2008, Natyakendra, a Dhaka based theatre group, began recruitment. "I was always involved with the group since my father was always involved. He leads the group. That year, I applied for recruitment as an actor and began their workshop."

Ariq's first show was the revival of an old production- *Aroj Charitamrito* - on February 13, 2009. Overly critical of himself, Ariq didn't make much of it and took it as a learning experience. In November 2009, he landed an important role in *Mrito Manusher Chhaya*. "That was the first time I was acting with my mother and father. I remember crying the day before the show. And then I realised that there was no way I could fall short. I simply could not goof up! I was so hesitant that I went to speak to my father. I remember him saying exactly these words, which were more than enough for me to boost my confidence again -- 'I don't put anything or anyone below standard on stage. If I put you there, it must mean there is a reason you gave me to do so.'"

Eventually, Ariq was called to audition for television productions but



Ariq playing 'Chairman' in *Bondukjuddho*.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## CARRYING ON A LEGACY

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



Ariq Anam Khan

### STAR PEOPLE

somehow they never worked out, until in 2012, when director Animesh Aich asked him to book a date for his next schedule. That phone call resulted in Ariq's first television drama fiction- *Polatok Shomoy*, which was aired on Channel i.

Ariq's debut short film -- *The Smile* -- which he directed was also something that Ariq was initially critical of. "I was very apprehensive about it and didn't even show anyone until a year later." This short-film made its way to the Moviyana film-fest in Shilpokala Academy where it received good response. This year it has been selected for an online screening of Asian short-films.

In April 2015, Ariq's biggest learning experience came to town -- when he worked in the crew for *The Avengers, Part 2*. "I realised then that there is a reason Hollywood is Hollywood and there is a reason it is where it is. The amount of hard work they put into every single detail is unparalleled and like nothing I have ever seen-before. The director was so inspiring, would always be on his toes, always the first to wake up, always the last to leave. That experience grew my knack for filmmaking."

The year 2015 was also his turning point as an actor when he landed his first main character in the theatre play- *Bondukjuddho*. This character got him praises from the likes of Aaur Rahman and Nasiruddin Yusuff Bachchu.

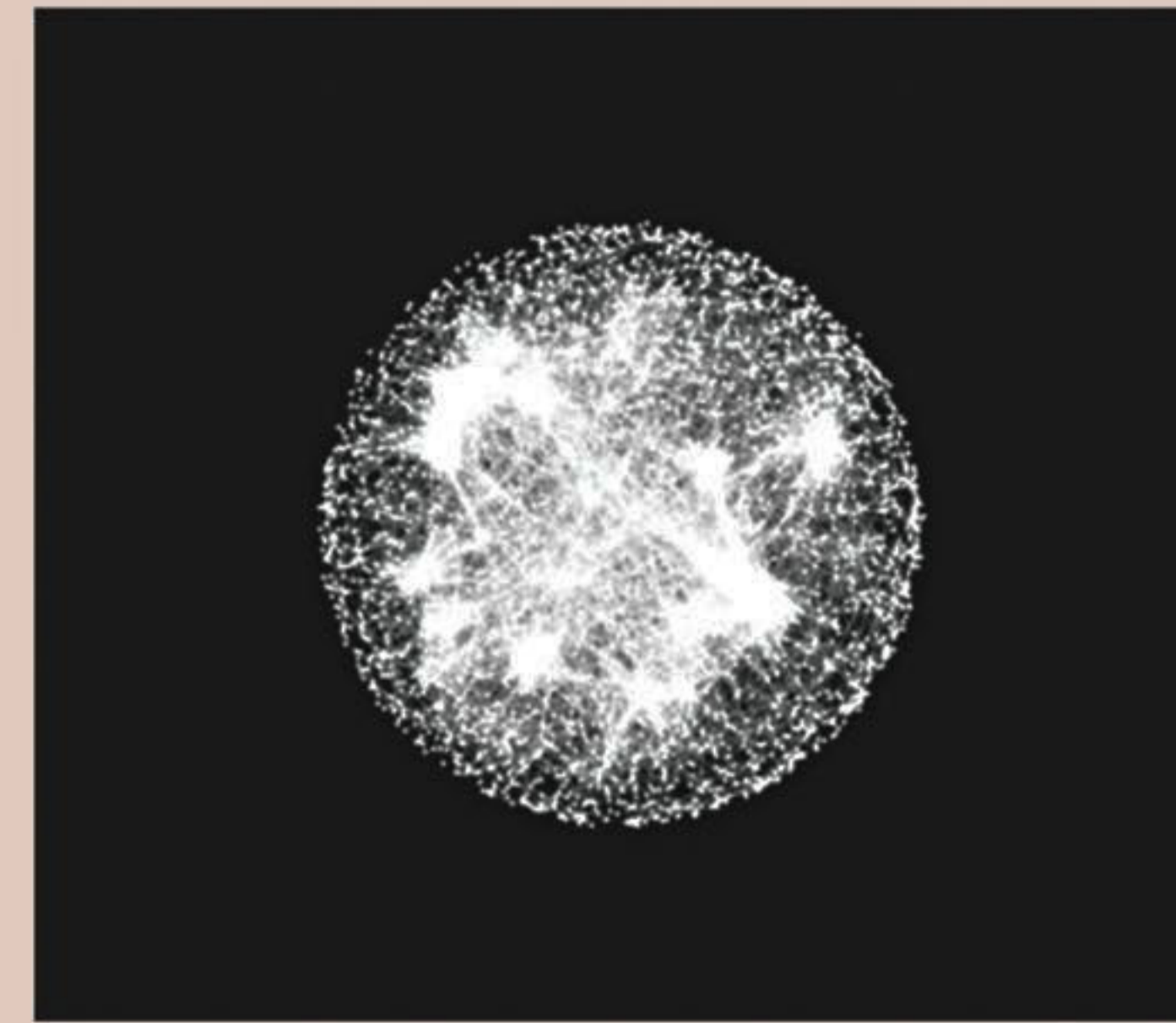
He had also become more regular on television by then, having done some episodes for *Fright Night* on GTV and around 50-60 radio ads through voice overs. "That is when my career goals started to take shape." In May 2016, he got the lead for another play, and English one this time- *An Inspector Calls*.

Recently, Ariq did a drama-fiction -- *Hiyar Majhe Lukiye Chhili* -- sharing the screen with superstar Zakia Bari Momo, where the duo played the younger versions of the characters of Suborna Mustafa and Tariq Anam Khan. He also has another television serial coming up in a new channel- Bangla TV- called *Tokkor*.

"My future, well, I suppose is now quite ready to be embarked upon. While I always wanted to go abroad to study filmmaking, this desire was reinforced when I realised quite recently that I am not cut out to be an actor. That is specifically because I think like a director. My mind works in different sectors and that I believe is more suited for me. So my plans are pretty much ready to launch, but let's see what happens!" ■

### QUIRKY SCIENCE

## GENETIC WRITING OF CELLULAR LIFE



The new map breaks away from the old way of studying genes one at a time, showing how genes interact in groups to shed light on the genetic roots of diseases. Researchers at the University of Toronto's Donnelly Centre have created the first map that shows the global genetic interaction network of a cell. It begins to explain how thousands of genes coordinate with one another to orchestrate cellular life.

The study was led by U of T Professors Brenda Andrews and Charles Boone, and Professor Chad Myers of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. It opens the door to a new way of exploring how genes contribute to disease with a potential for developing finely-tuned therapies. The findings are published in the journal *Science*. "We've created a reference guide for how to chart genetic interactions in a cell," said Michael Costanzo, a research associate in the Boone lab and one of the researchers

who spearheaded the study. "We can now tell what kind of properties to look for in searching for highly connected genes in human genetic networks with the potential to impact genetic diseases."

The study took 15 years to complete and adds to Andrews' rich scientific legacy for which she was awarded a Companion of the Order of Canada. Just as societies in the world are organised from countries down to local communities, the genes in cells operate in hierarchical networks to organise cellular life. Researchers believe that if we are to understand what 20,000 human genes do, we must first find out how they are connected to each other. Studies in yeast cells first showed the need to look farther than a gene's individual effect to understand its role. With 6,000 genes, many of which are also found in humans, yeast cells are a relatively simple but powerful stand-ins for human cells.

### STRANGE PROFESSIONS

## PROFESSIONAL MOURNERS

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

It is a very common and popular culture in Bengal to sing eulogies for the dead. Especially in the rural area, the relatives and neighbours of the deceased, irrespective of their past affairs with the deceased, or the other family members are seen crying breathlessly for the departed and chanting long, traditional eulogies seeking mercy for the departed soul. This culture of mourning is popular all over the Indian subcontinent and also in the Middle Eastern countries. However, this gesture of kindness showed by one's neighbours, relatives and well wishers has been taken to a new height by the modern day corporate houses. In the age of social media, where one can have more than a thousand friends online and almost zero in practical life, these corporate houses have come to assure you that you will get a funeral full of "friends and neighbours" who will bid you farewell by chanting about your goodness towards them and the community. However, you have to buy these "friends and neighbours" with a good amount of cash. Yes, they are, indeed, professional mourners. A lot of these "Rent-a-Mourner" services are sprouting out in many developed countries where solemn, traditional funeral ceremonies attract very few people. The professional mourners are the people who attend the funeral ceremony and perform the last rites with proper respect and solemnity for the people who expect few people to mourn for them.

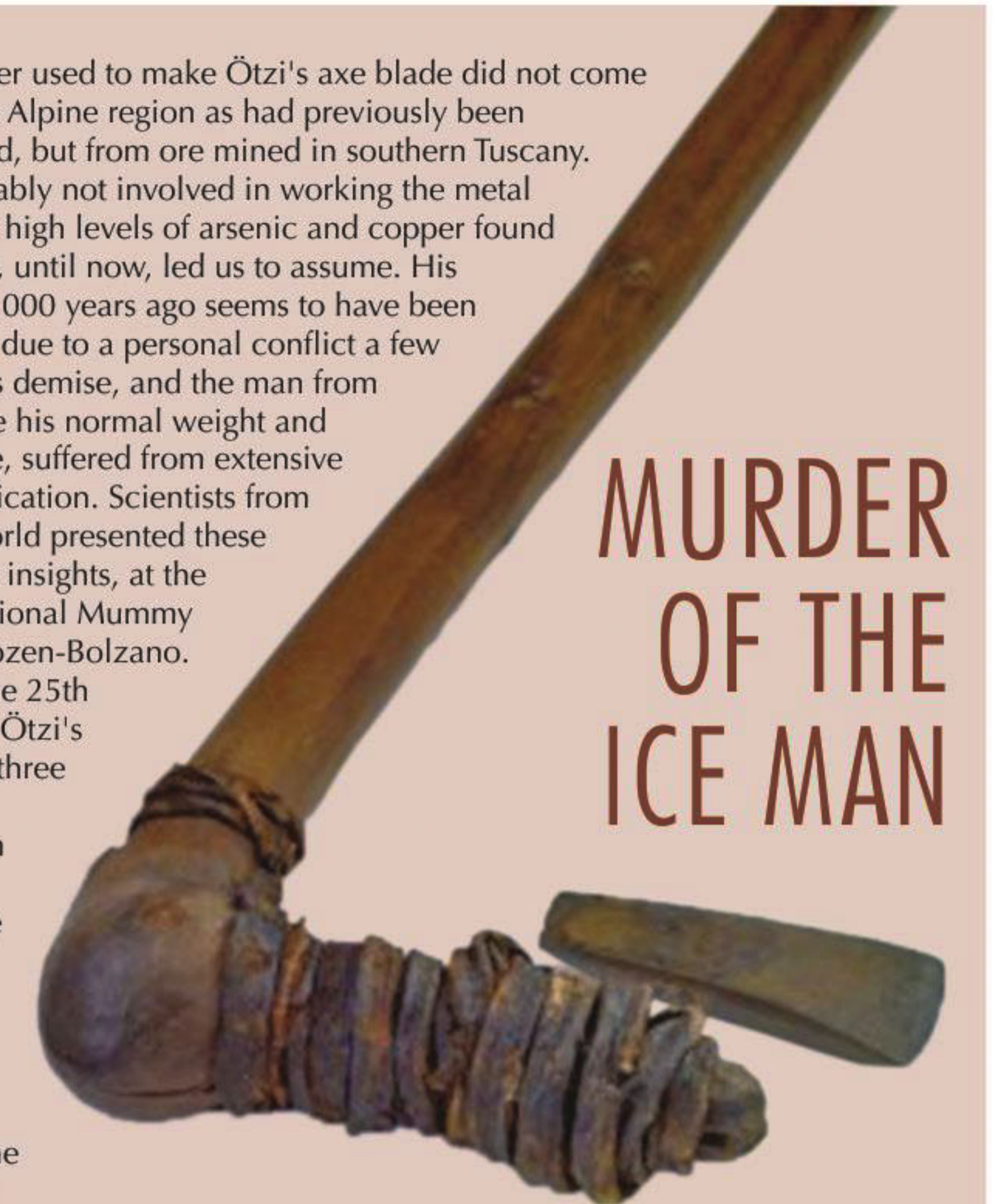
The copper used to make Ötzi's axe blade did not come from the Alpine region as had previously been supposed, but from ore mined in southern Tuscany.

Ötzi was probably not involved in working the metal himself, as the high levels of arsenic and copper found in his hair had, until now, led us to assume. His murder over 5,000 years ago seems to have been brought about due to a personal conflict a few days before his demise, and the man from the ice, despite his normal weight and active life-style, suffered from extensive vascular calcification. Scientists from all over the world presented these and other new insights, at the recent International Mummy Congress in Bozen-Bolzano.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ötzi's discovery, the three days of the Congress, from 19th to 21st September, are all dedicated to the man from the ice.

Since the man from the ice came on the scene on 19th September 1991, he has not ceased to fascinate scientists from all over the world. No corpse has been more thoroughly investigated. "In terms of his significance for science, Ötzi is not simply an isolated mummy discovery. He could be seen as a typical European from earlier times and is precious for this reason alone," explained the anthropologist Albert Zink from EURAC Research, the scientific leader of the congress. "Ötzi is so well preserved as a glacier mummy and through this alone, he serves us researchers as a model for developing scientific methods which can then be used on other mummies," said Zink. "What concerns us most these days is to know who the man from the ice was, what role he played in society and what happened to him in the last days of his life. Sophisticated procedures, now available to scientists, are continually supplying us with new evidence," said Angelika Fleckinger, Director of the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology which helped to organise the Congress.

Source: Sciencedaily.com



## MURDER OF THE ICE MAN

