

CLASSY CRIME

SHAHRIKH IKHTEARS

Peaky Blinders is a TV series which focuses on a crime gang of the same name, set around the time after the First World War in Birmingham, England. The show captures the rise and fall of big business empires and the drama associated with it all extremely well.

The Peaky Blinders are a gang who sew razorblades in the peaks of their caps which they use to blind members of rival gangs, hence the name. Their operations are mainly set in the horse-betting business but they also branch out to various works such as providing protection for shops/pubs, assassinations, etc. Despite being in the same business, they are a stark contrast to the Mafia depicted in various film noir movies/TV shows in the sense that they emanate a sense of raw, disorganized brutality in whatever they do.

The cast is super classy and it's always entertaining to see them elegantly pull off despicable acts of crime. Tommy Shelby (Cillian Murphy) is one of the most cunning protagonists in recent memory. The audacity of his character is testified by his increasingly risky moves against his rivals

in the show. An example of this is when he is seen interacting with his arch nemesis, Inspector Campbell (Sam Neill). The two share a very unique rivalry. On one end, Campbell harbours righteous intentions while making it very clear that he is willing to do whatever it takes to put a stop to crime. This sometimes sees him

bordering on the insane as his corrective measures amplify out of control. On the other end, Tommy is a calculative risk taker who likes to live close to the edge. Think the rivalry between the Joker and the Batman with their affiliations to law and order intact while swapping out the dangerous aspects of their personality.

The setting is brilliantly portrayed through excellent costume design and set creation. The whole series has a colour palette of grey and bottle green which represent the time of the advances in industry and the conflict in society brought about by the existence of various political factions. Law and order is lax and criminals run rampant in the streets without fear of repercussion. It is a very dark twist on the era; however, it is also grounded in reality.

What intrigued me the most is that the show does a wonderful job of highlighting how rapid expansion of organizations can prompt them to crash and burn. The Blinders' overly ambitious plans and how they are counterbalanced by retaliation from other factions who have their own motives is always interesting to watch. I was always second-guessing what mind-blowing strategy Tommy would cook up in his mind to overtake his more powerful counterparts.

Peaky Blinders is a show that has gone relatively unnoticed under the swarm of the industry heavyweights. It truly deserves more attention as it is one of the best TV shows I have ever watched. Do give this one a go.



Limited Edition – All Things Pop Culture

ARMAN R. KHAN

The pop culture scene in Dhaka has been on the rise over the last few years. So to appease the lovers of pop culture, Radio Dhol 94.0FM brings to you a dedicated pop culture show called "Limited Edition" hosted by Kaisar. The show airs on weekdays from 9 pm and runs till midnight.

Pop culture is a continuously evolving genre. Nowadays, beside music and movies, pop culture consists of comic books, TV shows, video games, anime and pretty much everything that appeals to the youth. In Bangladesh, with the advent of comic cons, premieres of sought after movies shortly after their release, anime, K-Drama, K-Pop and such, entertainment opportunities for the youth are more than ever before. A radio show about pop culture, therefore, was the necessity of these times.

That's when Radio Dhol decided to work on this theme and came up with Limited Edition, which first aired in December 2015. The show caters to a large audience base on the various aspects of pop culture, thus offering something or the other to all its listeners. Notable segments of the show include:

- **Soundtracks Unlimited**, where original soundtracks of movies, shows and video games are played
- **Hanging Out with Mr. Jamil** (every Sunday), where Jamil, owner of Jamil's Comics and Collectibles (JCC), talks with the host about trending pop culture
- **Name That Thing** (every Monday), a contest oriented segment with audience

participation

• **Comic Quest**, a segment where origins of comic characters are discussed and fun facts are revealed alongside comic book reviews. Moreover, in this segment, two comic book nerds analyse and argue who would win in a battle between two comic characters

Other popular segments of Limited

Punch Comics and the likes, and also holds discussions on contemporary novels, like those by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Satyajit Ray and Humayun Ahmed. Unmad, Nonte Fonte, Chacha Chaudhary, Tin Goyenda, Masud Rana, etc. also regularly get featured in the show.

The show has received positive feed-

back from the listeners, and has gained popularity in a short time span. "We receive audience feedback mainly through SMS and Facebook comments," said the host. "And so far, the response has been tremendous. In fact, even I get overwhelmed by the amount of listener interaction at times." He added that the

show aims to be the pop culture hub in the radio industry and be a driving force in the advancement of the pop culture scenario of Bangladesh. As pop culture gradually finds more ground every day in our country, Limited Edition keeps getting increasingly active and brings the latest updates to us through the radio waves. It is indeed a



Edition are Anime Quest and The Top 5.

But there's no leeway for you to think that this show only deals with the international pop culture; it does in fact make sure to shift focus to the local pop culture scene whenever possible. Limited Edition sheds light on Bangladeshi comic books by Dhaka Comics, Mighty



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torchbearer for this kind of programmes in Bangladesh.

Arman R. Khan is an engineer, a caffeine addict, a dreamer and a culture enthusiast who takes life one day at a time. Follow him on Instagram @arman_rk or on fb.com/arman.r.khan