

MAD GENIUS

## TAREQUE MASUD

(6 December 1956 – 13 August 2011)

Tareque Masud was one of the brightest filmmakers of Bangladesh who as an independent filmmaker, stood out from the crowd and set the stage for a new era of filmmaking. He looked deeper into his subjects and began a sophisticated film movement, a dire necessity against the declining standards of our film industry. Masud's greatest strength was that he made socially relevant films which viewers could relate to.

His notable productions include "Sonar Beri" (1985), "Adom Surat" (1989), "Muktir Gaan" (1995), "Muktir Kotha" (1999), "Matir Moyna" (2002), "Ontarjatra" (2006), "Runway" (2010) and the unfinished project "Kagojer Phool" (2011).

Masud was the first Bangladeshi director to receive the Critics Award at the Cannes Film Festival. His "Matir Moyna" ("Clay Bird") received the International Critics' Award (Fipresci) for its "authentic, moving and delicate portrayal of a country struggling for its democratic rights" at Cannes 2002. In the film, Masud shed light on the complexities and diversities of life in Bangladesh, along with its conservative religious norms and its impact on common people.

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## BLURRING LINES

A young boy, who works as a domestic help, plays football with us in our apartment complex. Unbeknownst to us, the manager of the complex was observing this scene for quite a while. One day, during one of our neighbourhood matches, the manager went to the boy and forbade him to play with us. The manager rudely told the boy that he was merely a help and should not be playing with other children. The boy picked up a fight with the manager, and left the place in anger. The next day he came to play with us as usual. When the manager saw him, he left the place without another word. When we asked the boy about what had happened, he told us that the manager had visited the house where he worked the previous night and complained about the boy to his employer. The employer surprisingly lashed out against the manager, telling him firmly that the boy was like her son, and he had every right to play with other boys in the complex. Hearing this, the manager felt embarrassed and left the place in a hurry. I was really pleased to hear this. It proved that there is still humanity left in our society.

Ryaan Sadat  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## AN UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER

The bus was crowded to its fullest capacity. Thankfully, I got a seat at the back of the bus. At one of the several bus stops, an elderly passenger got on. I saw that a teenage girl, who sat in one of the seats reserved for women and the elderly, scrambling to vacate her seat. I thought that she might be hurrying because her stop was next. But to my surprise, she offered the elderly man her seat. He was shocked at this gesture but accepted her offer with a smile on his face. The girl did not mind standing for the rest of her journey.

Alvi Hasan  
Kochukhet, Dhaka

## SPOTLIGHT

# 10 SONGS THAT INSPIRE

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



At the advent of a new dawn on December 16 in 1971, the people of Bangladesh had something to be proud of -- a country of their own, an identity as a liberated nation. For months together, stories of atrocities committed by the Pakistani soldiers and the collaborators were flowing in from all corners of the country. However, many tales of victory poured in as well, having their heads held high. Many of these stories were written down in the form of songs -- the desires of the people, words of encouragement and the sheer beauty of Bangladesh. On the next two pages we have listed 10 songs that inspire the people of Bangladesh, no matter where they are, even today.

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