

A YEAR ON THE SILVER SCREEN

In retrospect, 2016 was a successful year for Bangladeshi movies. While some failed to captivate moviegoers, there were many that enthralled audiences and bagged prestigious international awards. Following is a list of some of the major releases of 2016.



SHIKARI

Shikari was the most commercially successful film of the year. It marked a complete turnaround for Shakib Khan as an actor. The film was a joint venture by producers of both Bangladesh and Kolkata, with Shakib representing Bangladesh and Srabonti representing Kolkata. This was one of the most high-budgeted hit films in Shakib Khan's career.



AYNABAJI

Aynabaji made history in cinema halls. This was the first film to not follow the usual formulaic script. There is no traditional "hero" or "villain". In spite of that, the masses welcomed the film with open arms, thanks to the stellar performances by Chanchal Chowdhury and Nabila in lead roles. Aynabaji's strength lies in its story, which is rare for a commercially successful film in Bangladesh. While the general impression is that our films do not have a strong script, Aynabaji marks a turning point in our film industry. The success of Aynabaji has opened the doors for directors to think out of the box and create films with substance.



SAMRAT

Samrat starred the well-known pair of Shakib Khan and Apu Biswas. While the duo have given us a lot of hit films in the past, this one did not live up to its expectations due to an average storyline.



OSTITTO

The premise of Ostitto was interesting with the pairing of Arefin Shuvo and Tisha. The film was directed by Ananya Mamun.

Credit should be given to young director Ananya Mamun for exploring the topic of autism in Ostitto. Mamun is, no doubt, part of the new crop of directors in Bangladesh's film industry who are churning out films that deal with difficult issues that are usually treated with silence in our society.

Ostitto is a rare type of film for Bangladeshi cinema. It sheds light on the lives of autistic people, and their dreams and obstacles. Tisha did an excellent job in the role of Pori—the complex character of an autistic girl. Arefin Shuvo in a lead role also delivered a commendable performance. Unfortunately, the film was a commercial failure and did not manage to lure audiences into the cinema halls.



BADSHAH

Badshah was a joint venture between Bangladesh and Kolkata. The film starred Nusrat Faria and Kolkata's Jeet. However, this film drew more audiences in Kolkata than in Bangladesh.