

"Theatre still calls out to me"

In conversation with Sushama Sarkar

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sushama Sarkar started her career as a theatre artiste, but has made the successful transition to the small screen. She has been involved with theatre troupe Desh Natok for a long time, and besides acting in TV plays and telefilms, she has also ventured into cinema. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the actress talked about her professional life and more.

Excerpts:

Tell us about your career on theatre. What plays for Desh Natok did you work in?

Sushama: I have acted in "Jonome Jonamantor", "Nityopuran" and "Birsha Kabbo". I worked in theatre for years, and although it is now tough to manage time for the stage, theatre still calls out to me.

You have portrayed a wide array of characters on stage. Which is your favourite of them?

Sushama: The role I played of a mentally challenged woman named Tepi in "Jonome Jonamantor" based on a story by eminent playwright Shahidul Zahir, and an elder in "Birsha Kabbo" were critically acclaimed. Those are probably my most memorable roles.

Which modeling assignment marked a turning point in your career?

Sushama: My first assignment on violence against women brought to me spotlight. I subsequently did a number of TV commercials.

What was your debut TV drama?

Sushama: That was "Sada Megher Brishti" directed by Giasuddin Selim. Mosharraf Karim was my co-artist in the project. Nurul Alam Atique's "Jadur Sohor" and Sayed Awalad's "Nandini" were also major landmarks of my career.

Tell us about your work in films.

Sushama: I appeared in the films "Doob-Satar", "Chhuye Dile Mon" and "Badsha". I want to continue acting in films besides TV plays. On the other hand, "Bhubon Majhi" is now awaiting release. Recently, I also completed shooting for "Payerar Subatash" directed by Nurul Alam Atiq.

Have you anchored TV programmes?

Sushama: I did a show named "Binodon Karkhana" on Ekattar TV, just to get a feel for it. I really enjoyed the work.

What are you working on currently?

Sushama: TV plays "Cinemawala" on ntv, "Baranday Roddur" on Desh TV and "Rupali Prantor" on ATN Bangla are being telecast. Besides, I'm working on a daily soap named "Tobuo Bhalobashi".



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Deepika, Vin Diesel arrive in India For "xXx: The Return Of Xander Cage"

Thursday was a good day for Deepika Padukone's fans. Deepika and her Hollywood debut "xXx 3: The Return Of Xander Cage" co-star Vin Diesel arrived in Mumbai yesterday morning, amidst much fanfare. They spent the day promoting the film, which will also have a premiere here.

Deepika features in the third installment of the "xXx" franchise where she plays lethal secret operative Serena Unger, while Vin Diesel returns as the specially-trained government operative Xander Cage. Earlier this month, Deepika sent an invitation to Vin he could not refuse. In a tweet in Hindi, Deepika wrote: "India is frantically waiting for you. We'll meet soon on January 12 and 13," and it all fell in place.

Deepika and Vin walked out of the airport hand-in-hand, also accompanied by the film's director DJ Caruso, where they were welcomed with an 'aarti' performed by a group of women dressed traditionally in Maharashtrian attire.

Deepika and Vin's Mumbai schedule included a press conference at their hotel in the evening, followed by a premiere of "xXx: The Return Of Xander

Cage".

January continues to be a busy month for Deepika Padukone, who attended the European premiere of her Hollywood debut on January 10 in London, represented her film at a Golden Globes after party before that and celebrated her birthday at the Mexico premiere of "xXx 3" on January 5.

After Deepika Padukone is done with her duties for "xXx 3", she will resume filming her next Bollywood project, the Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed period film "Padmavati". She plays the protagonist - the titular Rajput queen - with Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh cast opposite her.

Deepika's last Hindi film was 2015's "Bajirao Mastani", also made by Bhansali and co-starring Ranveer.

"xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" also stars Ruby Rose, Nina Dobrev and Tony Jaa, and releases in India on January 14 while its international release date is January 19.

Source: NDTV Movies



SHISHIR'S "GOPON" AT INT'L FILM FEST NEPAL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashraf Shishir's feature film "Gopon - The Inner Sound" has been selected in the international competition section of the International Film Festival of Nepal, and is set to be screened today.

The film was recently awarded best film in the "Across the Border" section at the recently-concluded Delhi International Film Festival.

"This film's acceptance and honours at

international film festivals is a testament of our Bangladeshi filmmakers' works gaining a reputation abroad, and the hopes and possibilities that it gives rise to," Ashraf Shishir said in a statement.

The film delves into the story of a family - a father caught up in underground politics, his lost wife and their only daughter, and how a popular writer's psychological helplessness comes together with a director of a flop film, and what it concocts into.

The film's cast includes popular Indian novelist Kaberi Roy Chowdhury, Sumona

Shoma, Imran Imu, Anon Zaman, Labonyo Katrina, Abul Kalam Azad, Serajul Islam and a staggering 400 theatre actors.

Rafayet Newaz has done music for the film, with one song done by India's Niladri Banerjee and sung by Shirsho Roy. The film is produced by MediaAid Bangladesh, Canadian Media Entertainment and DigiSugar LLC.

Another film by Ashraf Shishir, the Impress Telefilm-backed "Amra Ekta Cinema Banabo" is currently in post production.

A blast from the past

90s musicians coming with new original songs in "Abar"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashik Music, a company working to preserve Bangla music by building a digital library of previously un-archived music, is bringing out an album next month that promises to be a big dose of nostalgia for young music lovers of the '90s. A double-disc mixed album titled "Abar" will come out February



(a blast from the past) Omar Khalid Rumi speaks at the press conference.

21, featuring 24 new songs of prominent musicians from '90s Bangladeshi bands.

The announcement was made in a press conference at the capital's Thirty3 café, where most featured artists of the album were present. Omar Khalid Rumi, the founder of Bangladesh band, Feedback member Foad Nasser Babu, Labu Rahman, Ali Akbar Rupu, Saif, Reshad, Mezbah and Romel Khan attended the event and spoke about the

project. Other veteran musicians present at the event included Mamun (Sterling), Atiq Helal (Winds), Nasir (New Eves), Iko (Teerhak), Mahmud Jewel (Northern Star), Kajol (Pulse) and Torun Munshi (Torun).

The album will come in a physical double disc and digitally on International Mother Language Day (February 21), informed founder of Ashik Music, Gohar Ashique.

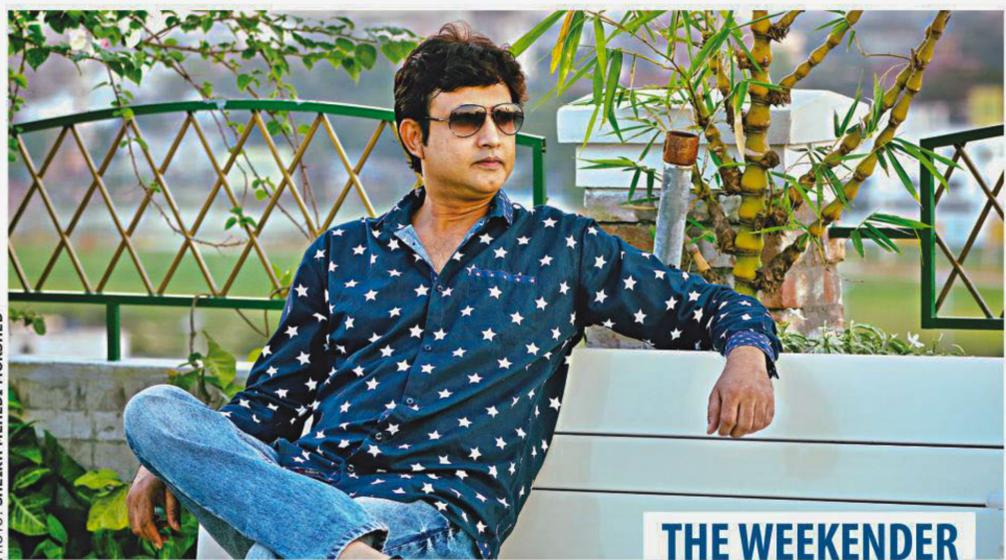


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

THE WEEKENDER

"The purpose of going on holiday is to relax..."

Amin Khan

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

With acting credits in over 200 films and numerous television plays and telefilms, Amin Khan's popularity has held over the decades. The Dhallywood hero is also a loving father and husband, and he shared with The Daily Star stories of how he spends his time off with family.

How do you usually spend your weekends?

Amin Khan: Very early on Friday morning my wife, kids and I like snuggling together under our large blanket and stay warm against the cold. We emerge around 11am to have breakfast and go out somewhere close by until Jumma prayers. After that, we usually have lunch together and then take a nap. At night we usually go out, either for dinner or visiting family. I look forward to these days all week when I am busy

with work.

What is the last film you have watched?

Amin Khan: Yesterday on TV, I saw "Bodhu Boron" was being aired. What was even more surprising was three channels were airing films I have worked in; sometimes when an artiste is ill or is recovering from an accident, multiple TV channels air the artiste's films to show their support. This incident happened to me once before as well, and a relative called me asking if I was alright.

What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

Amin Khan: Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of going on holiday is to relax, and for me it is important to have transportation, hotels, and a wide array of restaurants within reach without having to commute too far. Bangkok is also a place where you can enjoy your-

self without having to spend too much. Since it's just a two or three-hour flight away, it's ideal for families with young children.

For aspiring actors looking to get involved in the film industry, what obstacles can they expect to face and how can they overcome them?

Amin Khan: You must work extremely hard and learn to act in order to sharpen your skills. There is no end to learning, and you must constantly look for ways to improve your methods to have a sustainable career in the industry. You have to look within yourself and see what qualities you have to offer that no one else can. To become a star, however, is not possible without a healthy dose of luck; there are many talented actors who have not made it to stardom, and there are many stars who aren't very skilful actors.