

#INFECTED BY ARBOVIRUS

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTO: SHIHAB KHAN

They came, they played, and they conquered! What started out as just two friends jamming with guitars, evolved into one of the most influential rock bands of our country. Like a virus, this band infected hearts and minds of rock-music lovers. We were left in a trance by their heavy sound, mesmerising lyrics and amazing on-stage performance. Over the years, they have gifted us with some amazing and notable rock anthems such as *Omanush*, *Utooradhikar*, *Jalo Agun Jalo*, *Hariye Jao*, *Shohor* and many more. The band now includes five of the best musicians of our country including Asif Asgar and Shuharto Sherif on guitars, Aldane Alam on bass, Nafeez Al Amin on drums and Sufi Maverick on vocals. Today, they are coming out with their third album *Bishesh Droshtobbo*. Keeping all that in mind, as the band gets ready once again to conquer listeners from all walks of life, we, the *Star Weekend*, caught up with the rock and roll legacy—Arbovirus.

Arbovirus has a very humble beginning. Both the guitarists, Asif Asgar and Suharto Sherif, were school friends and started playing the guitar together. "After a series of passion playing, we took the matter seriously enough to form a band," says Asif Asgar. Back then, the band had no permanent bassist, while their friends, Himel and Shovon, were on drums and vocals respectively. Sufi joined the band back in 2003 and interestingly enough, he was introduced to the band by the Artcell bassist Cezanne. "In 2003, after Sufi joined us as the vocalist and we got Jishan as our bassist and Tanim as our drummer, Arbovirus had a solid lineup for the first time." After one year, Arbovirus roared into the music arena with their first single *Aartonad*. "This actually helped



open all kinds of doors for us. We were getting a lot of big gigs. This was the time when the underground music scene took place at the Russian Culture Centre and we almost became a regular performer in that venue," says Suharto Sherif. Between 2003 and 2004, Arbovirus released three singles in total. Later, their debut album *64m 53s* was released in the year 2006. After the release of *64m 53s*, every rock music lover chanted the name Arbovirus. This album gifted us songs such as *Ja Icche Tai*, *Prithibir Sesh Prante*, *Adhar O Ishor* and more—songs that we still have on our playlist. However, soon after the release of the album, Arbovirus faced a dilemma as two of their members, Jishan and Tanim, left the band. "Though some might think we went on a hiatus, the truth is we were always working on our music. We performed on whatever gigs we could find on a regular basis and kept on releasing singles through the ROCK

SERIES mixed album projects coordinated by Iqbal Asif Jewel," says Sufi Maverick. After sometime, Aldane Alam and Nafeez Al Amin joined in as the bassist and the drummer and next, Arbovirus released their second album *Montobbo Nishproyjon*.

What is interesting to note is that, a lot of their numbers, other than a rock sound, also incorporate nu-metal, grunge and funk roots. "This happens because the five heads of Arbovirus have totally different musical tastes," says Nafeez. In most cases, their songs are shaped via jamming

| INTERVIEW |

Since their second album, Arbovirus became one of the best rock acts of the country. They have smashed guitars on stage, painted their bodies and even pranked Bangladesh Television. Each of their performances included surprise elements which left the audience in awe. "Enjoying music on your headphone or home audio system is purely an auditory experience. But when it comes to live performance, it's both an audio-visual experience. So it better match up to people's expectations. If they don't know what to expect, why not set a standard for them?" says Sufi. This rule is applicable when it comes to writing lyrics as well. "Even then, we have always tried our best not to repeat the same lyrics in different songs. The same thing is applicable for the stage acts. We always try our best to surprise our fans, whether it is by smashing guitars, or playing drums via video call." says Nafeez.

sessions, where they play randomly until they find elements which can be made into a song. After three years of the release of their second album, Arbovirus is now ready with their third album. "From the very beginning, our song writing is highly influenced by contemporary issues. From the de-stabilised political phase, school life nostalgia to the emptiness of losing loved ones over time, we have tried to portray them all through this album," says Aldane Alam. From a single word of a song to the guitar tone that was used, Arbovirus has tried to leave a signature mark through the album. Today, as Arbovirus gets ready to gift a glorious New Year present to all of its fans and listeners, we from the *Star Weekend* congratulate them on the release of their third album. May the horns of rock and roll bestow its magic upon the musical virus *Bishesh Droshtobbo*. ■

| TIME OUT |



'SING'

THE PERFECT MUSICAL!

ELITA KARIM

If you are up for old songs and some up beat performances, make sure that you book a ticket to watch the highly acclaimed movie 'Sing' at the Star Cineplex at Bashundhara City Mall!

Sing is a 2016 American 3D computer-animated musical comedy film produced by Illumination Entertainment. Directed and written by Garth Jennings and co-directed by Christophe Lourdelet, the film stars the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, John C. Reilly, Taron Egerton and Tori Kelly and

follows animals that enter a singing competition, hosted by a koala hoping to save his theatre.

The best part about the movie is that it boasts more than 60 classic songs famous artists, and also has an original song by Stevie Wonder and Ariana Grande called "Faith". It was released by Universal Pictures on December 21, 2016 and has grossed \$358 million worldwide to date.

Not only will you be singing along to the popular tunes, swaying to the blues and be mesmerised by the soul-singing elephant and glowing squids – you will also be laughing away!

"Sing is a funny animal jukebox musical cartoon."
— *New York Times*

"Sing is a narratively slight, but energetic animated musical romp that succeeds in staying light on its toes through its running time."
— *Screen Rant*

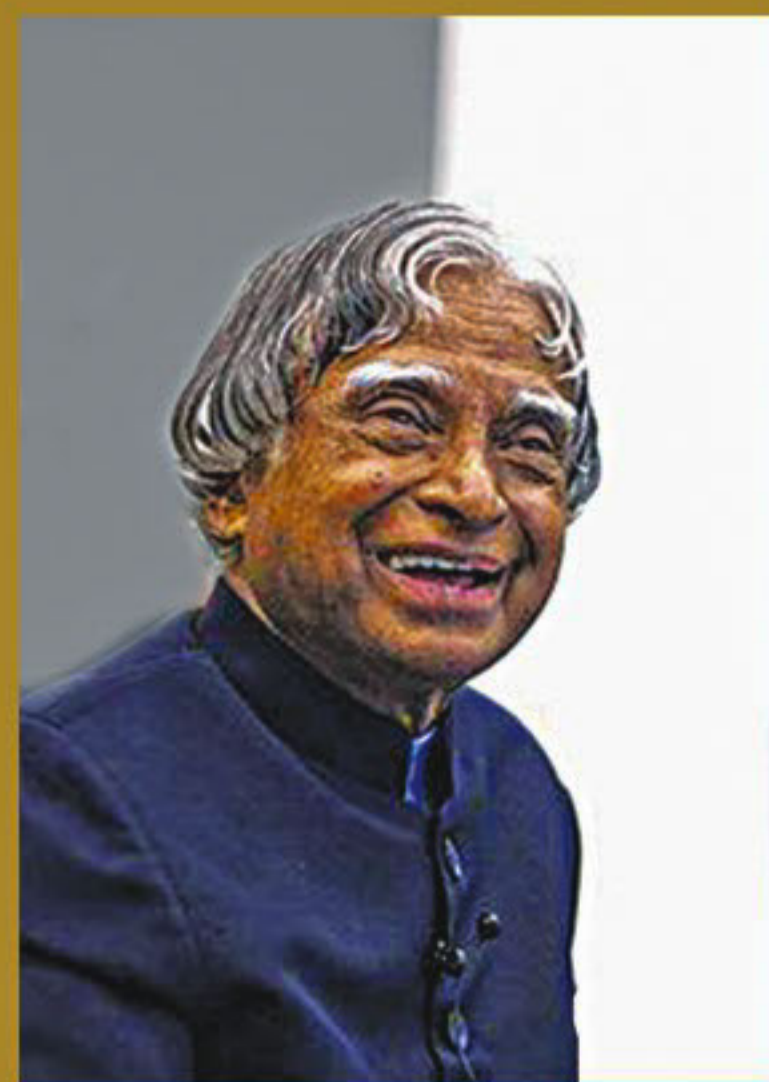


IMDB Rating: 7.30/10

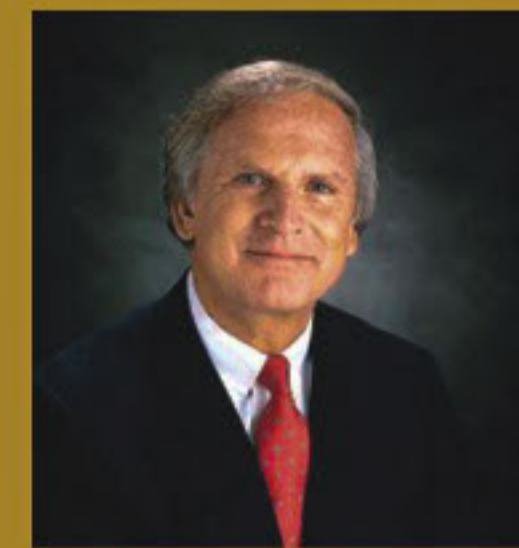
Rotten Tomatoes Rating: 6.5/10

PEARLS OF WISDOM

"LET US SACRIFICE OUR TODAY SO THAT OUR CHILDREN CAN HAVE A BETTER TOMORROW."
A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM
Former President of India



"THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOUR CHILDREN ARE THE ROOTS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND THE WINGS OF INDEPENDENCE."
DENIS WAITLEY
American motivational speaker, writer and consultant



"MY CHILDREN ARE THE REASON I LAUGH, SMILE AND WANT TO GET UP EVERY MORNING."
GENA LEE NOLIN
American actress and model



PHOTO: COURTESY

While checking out an elegant dress in a fashion store, suddenly you notice the mannequin blinking. You go closer to the mannequin and touch the dress, the mannequin starts to explain the quality of the cloth and how good the dress would look on you. Without getting shocked you warmly interact with the 'mannequin' because, they are highly paid models working as live mannequins for the fashion store. In this massive world of fashion where competition is harsh and innovation is the key to survival, the fashion stores have come up with this idea of live mannequins. Through the windows of the stores, these gorgeous live mannequins constantly interact with the customers passing by to promote products. Besides fashion stores, many giant corporations are also hiring live mannequins. Recently Sony Corporations hired a batch of live mannequins to advertise their latest laptops. In addition, these live advertisers are also paid a very handsome amount in return for their work! A professional live mannequin is usually paid a 100 USD every hour, depending on the employer.

STRANGE PROFESSIONS!

WORKING WITH THE LIVE MANNEQUINS

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN