

AZRA MAHMOOD – MODEL AND CHOREOGRAPHER

Average height, dark skinned and chirpy, that might not sound like your usual depiction of a super model, especially in the context of Bangladesh. But she has made it far beyond, with a sensationally photogenic face and soaring self-confidence, no one could ever stop Azra Mahmood from realising her dreams.

"I have always wanted to be a model!
There is nothing in the world that I would
want to be as an alternative. I love my work
and not a single day feels like I am bogged
down by it. I am extremely lucky to have

found my true calling," says the evergreen prima donna.

Hearing her comment so positively about a profession that is often looked at with some doubt, especially in a highly conservative society, it might seem slightly perplexing to some.

Mahmood believes otherwise.

"The fashion modelling industry in Bangladesh has grown tremendously over the past 10 years. Compared to when I started, there are way more female models today. More people are getting interested in this field and surely plunging in. In due time, I would expect more models to turn into choreographers or show directors as well."

Azra Mahmood, after a long standing and fascinating era as a model, turned into a fashion show choreographer, and shares her viewpoint as an experienced professional in the field.

"Directing a show is a different ball game all together. It might seem easy, yet it's not. It's a lot of work. And on top of that there is no way of learning the craft other than from one's own personal experience. I am trying to hire models as my assistants hoping to train them to become future choreographers." Mahmood had one more word to say to the future aspirant models - 'Patience!' The diva depicts that usually aspir-

ing models had the necessary dedication and were willing to work hard but they also needed to have a lot of patience and a strong mindset to ever make it to the top.

These are only few inspirational stories about successful women who proved themselves worthy only because they believed in themselves. There are million more stories like theirs; of women who thought differently and finally made it to the top. Let's make a pact to read more about their encouraging life stories and draw inspiration from their efforts to sketch a similar inspiring life for ourselves.

By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury

