

"I like to delve between fiction and non-fiction"

Kamar Ahmad Simon on Cannes invitation for "Day After Tomorrow"

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Kamar Ahmad Simon's upcoming project "Day After Tomorrow", was picked up by Cinefondation, a film development initiative of the Cannes Film Festival, to be part of its L'Atelier this year at the 70th edition of Cannes. "Day After Tomorrow" was one of the 15 projects from 14 countries from all over the world chosen, and Kamar will attend this year's festival as an invited guest of the Atelier. Although being invited to Cannes is an epitome of sorts for filmmakers, it's not an unreal jump for Kamar at all. His first film, "Are You Listening!" has traveled to at major festivals like Berlinale, Dok-Leipzig and IDFA and many others in and out of competition, and has won the Grand Prix at the Cinema Du Reel in Paris.

Throughout the year, Cinefondation scouts for film projects it finds promising, gives its makers and producers expert advice and connects them to potential co-producers and funding sources.

The Daily Star caught up with the filmmaker to find out more about the project, and how the selection happened. Excerpts:

"I did not know that this film was being considered for L'Atelier. I recall at last year's Locarno (Film Festival in Locarno, Switzerland), one of the officials of the L'Atelier, his name is Georges (Georges Goldenstern, General Manager, Cinefondation) wanted to meet with the people



behind two of the eight projects in the Open Doors competition ('Day After Tomorrow' eventually won the first prize at the grant competition). So we had a meeting there. That is all the connection I have. And you know filmmakers cannot submit projects for the Atelier. The Cinefondation themselves select these projects. And I did not ask for that meeting; the interest was shown by Georges. Then last month, they contacted me and told me about the selection of the L'Atelier, but told me to not publicise it until March 15. But the announcement was made on Cannes' Facebook page on March 3; I was in Kolkata, for another project, 'Shikolbaha', when I got a call from Dhaka congratulating me," Simon says.

So, what is "Day After Tomorrow" all about? "This thing has been on my mind for a very long time; loosely, I call it the 'Water trilogy'. The first of it was 'Are you Listening!', the second is "Day After Tomorrow" and the third one, I keep telling myself, is 'Till the Last Drop'. If I am healthy and capable, I will finish this trilogy. As for what form of films they are, they are feature films. As a filmmaker, I love to delve between the lines of fiction and non-fiction."

So what stage of production is "Day After Tomorrow" in? That is the next natural query. "I have prepared all the shooting materials, and done the primary photography as well. We can begin with the principal photography at any time. But like with 'Are You Listening!' which took me 20 months to film, this will also take a long time, at least 14-15 months. Because of the build-up of the narrative, I cannot speed that up," says Simon.

The L'Atelier, established in 2005 to support filmmakers from virtually unknown to the established, has had a high success rate in its last 12 years: of the 186 films selected, 146 have been completed and another 14 are in pre-production.

This year's L'Atelier features films that have already been in buzz at the global film festival scene – from South African Jahmil X.T. Qubeka's "Sew the Winter to My Skin," Jahmil X.T. Qubeka to Israeli Yona Rozenkier's "Decompression and Danish helmer Marie Grahø Sørensen's "Teenage Jesus". There are also films from China, Mexico, Mongolia, Palestine, Dominican Republic, Romania, UK, Singapore, Syria and Vietnam.



Richard Crooks conducts the workshop.

"Impressions of Dhaka" opens today

A CORRESPONDENT

An open studio titled "Impressions of Dhaka" will be opened today at the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth in Dhanmondi. A part of Bengal Foundation's Artist Residency Programme with British sculptor Richard Crooks, the show will also feature creative processes along with the outcomes of Crooks' four-week research based residency in Dhaka.

The studio will feature the outcome of a recently-held two-day workshop titled "Creative Interventions", where Crooks collaborated closely with renowned Bangladeshi artist Ashim Halder Sagor. Using ceramic and sculptural processes, students explored their own locations to select a suitable site that requires a sculptural 'intervention'. Adding glazes and other ceramic materials, their sculptures will be fired using a Raku technique live,

during the opening of the show.

Richard Crooks' work adopts observations of the global architectural styles that are absorbed and reinvented within vernacular architecture. Using ceramic casting techniques reminiscent of the concrete casting constantly seen in Dhaka, Crooks has made his recent sculpture out of a variety of materials such as clay, cement and plaster. Some of these will be fired in the kiln yet some

will be painted using thin layers of acrylic with pencil additions. The process can be witnessed at the studio along with some of his photographs, drawings and collages. The show will continue till March 24.

Research conducted during this residency will inform a new body of work that will be exhibited at his solo show 'Transformations' at Pound Arts Centre in Corsham, UK.

"Bhalobasha Bangladesh" launched on GP music



Guests at the music launch.

Grameenphone launched the music video and digital audio of "Bhalobasha'r Bangladesh", a track by up and coming artiste Bushra Shahriar, on March 14, according to a press release.

Directed by Noman Robin, the video is exclusively available on Grameenphone's GP Music platform, presented by Uro Cola and powered by Diamond World Ltd.

The launch event was attended by State Minister for ICT Division, Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak; CEO of Grameenphone Petter Furberg;

CMO of Grameenphone Yasir Azman; Mahmud Hossain, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer of Grameenphone, as well as representatives of Uro Cola, Diamond World, RedOrange Media and communication, João Pedro Principe and more.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak thanked the singer for launching a patriotic song on the month of freedom. He also appreciated the juxtaposition of entertainment and media, and lauded GP Music for ensuring that artistes have a proper platform to share their creations.

"Nobody dared propose to me because my father was a police officer" ... Chaity

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Chaity is now a household name in the small screen. Besides acting in TV plays, she has ventured into modeling. In a recent chit chat with The Daily Star, the former Lux Superstar shared stories of her first love letter.

"When I was a sixth grader, my brother's friend wrote a letter for me. I read it in secret, as it was unacceptable to get love letter in that age. I got very frightened receiving first love letter. I went through heavy stress and passed a sleepless night. The following day, I informed my aunt about the matter. Everyone later learnt it from her. The boy was then asked to come to our home. He later apologized for his action.

"The experience was a bad one for me, and I never wrote a love letter for anyone. I later married the man I fell in love with.

"As I performed dance and songs, I was very popular during my school days in Gazipur. As my father was a police officer, no one dared to express their feelings for me. Many of my admirers sent me gifts, but I did not dare to open the packets, with a strange fear that they might be bombs.

"Once, a boy took my photo and later gifted it to me. I realized that the boy liked me but he did not dare to propose me.

"During my school days, I fell in love with a boy. Our only communication was exchanging glances from each others' rooftops. He later proposed to me through someone, but I refused it.

"I used to be a bright student and was busy with cultural programmes. I fell in love with my now husband Shawon in my university life."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



The much-awaited trailer of arguably India's most-anticipated film, "Baahubali 2 - The Conclusion" released early Thursday morning, and took fans by storm. In quite an innovative move, the trailer was screened in 250-300 cinema halls across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Not surprisingly, fans made a beeline outside theatres on Thursday morning to watch the trailer.

The viewers went wild at Geetha Apsara theatre in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh as soon as the they figured out

the trailer was about to start. They sprung out of their seats and some fans got busy dancing right in front of the screen. Security had to be called to rein in the frantic fans. Even this couldn't dampen their spirits as they whistled and cheered through the entire duration of the two-minute-twenty-seconds long trailer.

In another video that emerged online, the gathered fans outside the theatre can be seen playing drums as part of their celebrations around the trailer's release.

The first "Baahubali", directed by SS Rajamouli (who is also helming the upcoming sequel), starred Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Tamannaah and Anushka Shetty in lead roles, and broke all kinds of Box Office records upon release in 2015. With a Rs. 650 crore collection, it became the highest grossing Indian film within India, the first non-Hindi film to gross over 100 crore in the dubbed Hindi version, and the highest grossing Telugu film of all time.

The trailer itself is stunning – deliver-

Fans go wild as "Baahubali 2" trailer is screened in theatre

ing on all the hype that has surrounded it. With stunning visuals and elaborate war action set pieces, the visual effects and cinematography encompass the fantasy and drama all into one.

The trailer launch marks the official start of the film's promotions. "Baahubali 2 - The Conclusion" releases in four languages - Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam, across cinemas on April 28, 2017.

Source: TOI