

# DIVERGING PASSIONS BROUGHT TOGETHER

Fazlur Rahman Babu shares his musical journey

NAZIBA BASHER

One of the most well-known faces on television, Fazlur Rahman Babu has charmed his audience since the beginning of his career through his performances in more than one hundred television plays, along with a number of films. Upon the release of "Monpura" back in 2009, another one of Babu's talents came to the fore: singing. His soulful, baritone voice has since been heard ever so often, in albums and film soundtracks. Babu spoke to The Daily Star about his music:

*When did you first discover your musical talent?*

Fazlur Rahman Babu: It actually began with theatre. In my theatre

group, Aranyak Natyadal, we do a lot of musicals. I usually ended up with the characters who had a lot of singing to do. In one particular play called "Jay Jayanti", I played the character of a kirtan singer. That was the first time the audience saw me as a singer. I suppose that was where I first got my start as a singer.

*How did playback singing begin for you?*

Fazlur Rahman Babu: It was quite sudden, when Giasuddin Selim asked me to sing for the film "Monpura" -- that too, one of the major tracks, "Nithua Pathare". The history behind this approach was when we would all hang out at Rajshahi University, this song was very popular in our 'addas'. I learned about this song there, and perhaps so did Selim. There were also

many times, during after-shooting 'addas' when I would sing for fun. With Arnob's composition, the song worked very well and seemed to have spread across the country amongst people of all walks of life. That was amazing to see. I then went on to sing for many of my other films. In Humayun Ahmed's "Ghetu Putro Komola", I sang most of the playback even though I didn't act in it. Among films I have acted in, I have sung for "Meye ti Ekhon Kothay Jabe", "Nuru Min O Tar Beauty Driver", and the upcoming "Gohin Baluchor".

*You have gone abroad many times to sing. How did that come about and which countries have you visited for this purpose so far?*

Fazlur Rahman Babu: These are just invitations I get purely from the love

of my fans. Many non-residential Bangladeshis scattered across the world organise different events for occasions such as Pahela Baishakh, Eid or Puja. They invite me for such events, to celebrate amongst themselves, and make me a part of the celebrations. I am first and foremost an actor, and I have been invited for that purpose as well. There are many times performers like us are invited for different purposes, sometimes theatre, sometimes music, and sometimes both. For example, recently Brindaban Das, Chanchal Chowdhury and I went to places like Australia, New York, and countries across Europe, for theatre performances, where we also did musical performances. I've been to places like Switzerland and Italy, and more, for such events.



PHOTO: STAR

# Dia Mirza hints possible "Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein" sequel

"Rehnaa Hai Tere Dil Mein", Gautam Menon's 2001 Hindi adaptation of his Tamil film "Minnale", became one of the first cult classics of 2000s Bollywood, after introducing Dia Mirza and R Madhavan in their first major Hindi cinema roles. Now, sixteen years later, Dia Mirza recently told Times of India that a sequel might be in the works.

"This film is special for both Madhavan and me, we are really humbled by the love we continue to get and I am pretty certain that before we get really old, we will definitely do a sequel," she quipped. The former Miss Asia Pacific further revealed that the talks are on for a RHTDM sequel. "It's an exciting and interesting thought that we are thinking of as well," she said.

In the interview, Dia also spoke about her deepening involvement with social services, and how she balances the worlds of films and social work. She also clarified that although she has not been in front of the camera recently, she has been very much involved in the industry as a producer and director. She, however, revealed that she will be seen in a biopic early next year.

Source: TOI



# Live-Action "Cowboy Bebop" in the works

Cult classic Japanese anime coming to US TV

"Cowboy Bebop", a critically and commercially successful 1998 Japanese anime series, is set to be adapted into a live action television series by Tomorrow Studios, a partnership between ITV Studios and Marty Adelstein.

The live action version will be executive produced by Sunrise Inc. — the studio responsible for the original ani-

mated iteration — as well as Midnight Radio, Marty Adelstein, Becky Clements, and Matthew Weinberg. Chris Yost will write the adaptation.

"Cowboy Bebop", which takes place in 2071 in the original version, follows Spike Spiegel and his gang of bounty hunters, also known as cowboys, as they cavort around the galaxy attempting to

capture bad guys and survive some of the most intense dangers the galaxy has to offer. The anime series has been successful in Western markets, and is credited with introducing a new wave of Western viewers to anime. It's also widely cited as one of the best anime series of all time.

"Cowboy Bebop" already received the feature film treatment in 2001 with

"Cowboy Bebop: The Movie", which is set amidst the latter third of the 26-episode anime series and received mostly positive reviews from critics. In the same year, the original series became the first anime series to be broadcast on Adult Swim in the United States.

Source: Variety



## TV WATCH

# Eid Ityadi boasts three musical dramas

A CORRESPONDENT

Each year, popular magazine show *Ityadi* has in store plenty of entertaining and informative segments for its Eid special episode. Consistent to the trend, this year's Eid special episode will have much to delight viewers. Shooting of the episode commenced on May 23, in presence of an audience of 5,000 people, according to source.

Insiders at Fagun Audio Vision recently revealed that they have completed picturisation of three musical dramas by five celebrities. The first musical drama centres on the dilemmas new migrants from rural villages face when in Dhaka for the first time. Starring Azizul Hakim, the segment marks the first instance the veteran actor has lent his singing voice.

The other two musical dramas focus on trips abroad during Eid holidays, and a humorous take on strange recipes prior to Eid. Cast members include Kushum Sikdar, Dinat Jahan Munni, Emon and Nirob. Aside from acting, Kushum Sikdar is also singing in the drama.

*Ityadi* is sponsored by Keya Cosmetics Limited and emceed by Hanif Sanket. The show will be aired on BTV and BTV World on the second day of Eid after the 10pm news.

