

# Taking dance to the small screen

## In conversation with Anisul Islam Hero

A CORRESPONDENT

Eid holidays mean a period of high activity for television stars. However, proponents of other cultural arenas do not take a backseat around this time of the year. Anisul Islam Hero, noted dancer and director of Srishri Cultural Center is slated to perform in a few dance programmes to air during the holidays, and has a number of other projects up his sleeves to be executed later in the year.

The artiste and his troupe are currently working on productions to be aired by Channel i and BTV on Eid. "The dance forms are a mix of classical and modern, and set against popular songs of our country," said the choreographer. Among the songs included in the repertoire are a Habib and Nancy duet and an adhunuk number titled "Phool Photo Phool Jhore" by Samina Chowdhury. Hero added that the costumes are a blend of classical and contemporary.

"My reason for choosing this form above others was to give viewers something relatable

to enjoy, and to differ from the usual Bollywood style of choreography that tends to take precedence in entertainment programmes. Eid is a ritual festival, and therefore it is important to highlight the traditions of our country in the appropriate manner," he explained.

The seasoned choreographer lamented the lack of exposure for proper dancers on TV. "The media has the tendency to use models and actors from the showbiz industry to perform dance numbers, rather than choosing trained dancers. This is a sad scenario for those that have spent years dedicating themselves to this art, and they are usually deprived of offers during this time of the year. I hope that this will change in the near future."

The troupe has also been invited to perform abroad soon. "Around September, I plan to hold a four-day dance drama festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The production work has begun, but we are yet to book a hall and find more sponsors," he concluded.



# Jaya to play Jibananda Das' wife in biopic

A CORRESPONDENT

Jaya Ahsan has been making waves both sides of the border among the Bangla-speaking film audience, and her momentum seems to be growing. After her Kolkata film "Eagoler Chokh" winning the Indian National Film Award in April and work going full-on for the much anticipated Humayun Ahmed-scribed "Debi" under her production house in Bangladesh, Jaya has landed another significant project.

An upcoming biopic on iconic poet Jibananda Das is being made in Kolkata, and Jaya has been tapped in to play Labonyo Das, the poet's wife. The film is set to go on floors this August. Kolkata's Branya Basu will play the titular role in the film, titled "Polotok".

The film will primarily be shot in Kolkata, but may also have some parts shot in the poet's ancestral land of Barisal.

# SRK-Anushka's "Radha" rocks up six million hits in a day

The first song of Shah Rukh Khan and Anushka Sharma's forthcoming film "Jab Harry Met Sejal" was unveiled by the makers of the film on Wednesday. The song, titled "Radha", got a tremendous response from everyone, racking up over six million views on YouTube inside the first day, and was also amongst the top trends on Twitter with the hashtag #ChartbusterRadhaSong.

"Radha", sung by Shahid Mallya and Sunidhi Chauhan, is composed by Pritam. Shah Rukh Khan and Imtiaz Ali launched the film's first song at an event in Ahmedabad in which they invited around 7,000 local women named Sejal. Shah Rukh Khan will be seen portraying the role of a Punjabi man Harry while Anushka Sharma will feature as Gujarati girl Sejal.

Shah Rukh and Anushka Sharma have been actively promoting their upcoming film on social media. They have shared three mini trails of the film to give their fans and followers a sneak peek into the lives of Harry and Sejal.

"Jab Harry Met Sejal" has been shot in Prague, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Budapest and Punjab. The film is about a tourist guide and his love story.

This is Anushka Sharma's third film with SRK, after "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" and "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". According to reports, the duo will be seen sharing the screen space once again in Aanand L Rai's yet-to-be titled film.

"Jab Harry Met Sejal" is scheduled to release in theatres on August 4.

Source: Hindustan Times



The Daily Star



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