

NEWSbytes

Bowie

approved his "Twin Peaks" return

Phillip Jeffries, the mysterious FBI agent portrayed by David Bowie in the 1992 film "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me", returned in the recently concluded "Twin Peaks: The Return". In a new Reddit AMA, Sabrina Sutherland, the executive producer of "The Return", clarified that, prior to his death Bowie knew Jeffries would return in the reboot of the series. Sutherland confirmed that Bowie "did give us permission to use his clips in this season." Sutherland was referring to the doctored footage of Bowie's scene in "Fire Walk With Me" that appears in episodes of "The Return".



Philip Jeffries had a much bigger role on the new series beyond the 'clips'. He also returned to give cryptic advice to two versions of Dale Cooper as a large teapot with a metallic Southern accent. There's been no word yet about whether the plans for Jeffries' transfiguration were generated before or after Bowie's death, or whether Bowie knew about them.

Source: **Billboard**

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Over the last few years, Blues Communications has established itself as the premier event management company of the country, specialising in grandiose musical and cultural programmes. From being the event manager of the monumental Bengal Classical Music Festival (BCMF), the world's largest classical music festival, to organising ground-breaking events like Jazz & Blues Festival and Sufi Music Festival, they have facilitated fusion, ghazal, theatre or contemporary world music events in Dhaka. The company has also organised international events at prestigious venues.

Now, Blues Communications is all set to present a four-day South Asian Music Festival at the MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. The event will feature Bangladeshi stalwarts like Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Luva Nahid Choudhury and Shama Rahman, as well as legends of Indian Classical Music -- Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Birju Maharaj and Dr. L. Subramaniam.

The CEO of the organisation, Farhadul Islam shared with The Daily Star various aspects of contemporary world music, their current and upcoming events and the organisation's dedication to organise world-class music festivals both at home and abroad. Excerpts:

"During the maiden BCMF, there was no existence of Blues Communications. I worked for Bengal Foundation to organise it. Following the successful festival, we figured out that tasteful events are in high demand. We launched Blues incorporating young minds. Our basic idea is to introduce Bangladeshi audience with different flavours of entertainment in high standard. We used to produce shows in different parts of the world. Since 2013, we have produced shows at global venues like Wembley Arena, different venues in Singapore, Sydney Opera House and Royal Albert Hall."

"The audience wants new experiences every time and Blues tries to produce

Blues Communications scaling new heights

In conversation with Farhadul Islam



PHOTO COURTESY: WASIM NIR

unique things at every event. Without the right technical facilities, whatever an artiste performs, it bears little fruit. We have brought state of the art equipments for our concerts that are used at the biggest concerts in the world."

"The success of any festival comes with addressing as many artistic parameters as possible. The logo that we designed for the last year's BCMF by ikigai - which is a Bangladeshi design collective, earned us A' Design Award, one of the most prestigious design awards in the world."

"Blues believes in providing the Dhaka audience with the different taste and flavour of international standard music and presentation. We are trying to provide a strong platform to our Bangladeshi artistes in Singapore where renowned Bangladeshi artistes will share the stage with living legends. We are trying to introduce the cultural heritage of our own to the world. The festival is taking place at a city where alongside South Asian Music, the music of Pan Asia and the world is welcomed. In the near future, we hope to tour with this South Asian Music Festival around the world."

"We have a handful of events coming up soon. Jazz & Blues Festival Dhaka will be there, and we're planning on some surprise elements for the next episode. We are keen on organising a theatrical performance on October 25 titled 'Kaifi Aur Main' showcasing Indian poet, lyricist, screenwriter Javed Akhtar alongside Shabana Azmi. We are also planning a grand event to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh."

"In recent times, we have executed and witnessed some amazing events like Digital World, Power & Energy Week, Global Forum for Migration & Development, DPAICC, World T20 Opening Ceremony and many more. I believe it's probably the best time for our Honourable Prime Minister to encourage more incentives into the event management sector, since it will help this industry flourish and build up the country's image. If we are allocated a big venue for holding such festivals, we will be obliged. It's very important for us to engage the youth in entertainment and culture, so that the young generation does not get derailed."

Mim has her hands full

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bidya Sinha Mim began her career after being crowned Lux-Channel i Superstar in 2007 and in the last decade has well and truly grown into that title. The model and actor is one of the busiest people in the show business, and has a variety of projects on hand.

Mim left the country for Oman for a quick trip, to do a live show there, and on her return will shoot a TV commercial for Lux, who she is a brand ambassador of. "Amitabh Reza is making the TVC. I have worked with him, and he always does something new and exciting," Mim told The Daily Star.

After that, Mim will resume shooting for her film "Ami Neta Hobo", opposite Shakib Khan. The film has already completed half of its shooting schedules, the actress informed. This is Mim's second film with Shakib, the first being "Amar Praner Priya". "My first film with Shakib created quite a buzz. I hope this one will be even better," she said.

Meanwhile, Mim has completed shooting for two other films, "Dulabhai Zindabad" and "Daag", in both of which she is paired with Bappy. About her big screen commitments, Mim said "I am focusing more on films. I'm trying to be choosy with my work, and do as many good films as I can."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



"My innocence is intact"

... SANJAY DUTT

He has fought battles with drug abuse, faced a jail term and has had a tumultuous personal life, but Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt says that there are many lessons he has learnt and that his "innocence" is intact. Sanjay, who made a rollicking debut in Bollywood with "Rocky" in 1981, put his personal life in jeopardy through drug addiction, and his life took a turn for the worse when he was arrested for illegal possession of weapons and was convicted.

What has he learnt from the dark years of his life? "A lot... I learnt a lot. I was innocent then, I am still innocent, but there are some life lessons learnt," Sanjay told IANS in an interview ahead of the forthcoming release of Hindi film "Bhoomi", his first after being released from jail last year.

The 58-year old actor was arrested for illegal possession of arms in a case related to the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, in which over 250 people were killed and several hundred were wounded.

A father of three, Sanjay says the present times are frightening for parents who constantly have a reason to worry about the security of their children. "Bhoomi" has a father-daughter theme, and Sanjay expressed concern about how vulnerable he feels as a parent considering the rise in the number of crimes against girls.

Known for movies like "Naam", "Sadak", "Khalnayak", "Vaastav" and "Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.", Sanjay has a daughter named Trishala, whom he had with his first wife Richa Sharma who died of brain tumour in New York in 1996. He also has twins -- a boy named Shahraan and a girl named Iqra -- with his third wife Maanyata Dutt.

Directed by National Award-winning Omung Kumar of "Mary Kom" fame, "Bhoomi" features Aditi Rao Hydari as Sanjay's onscreen daughter. "The film talks about the special bonding of a parent and a child. It's a special story about everything that I believe in -- women's empowerment and gender equality. And Omung is a fantastic director, Aditi is a very good actress... The whole shooting was superb," he said.

Source: **Hindustan Times**

No green screen in "Dunkirk", says Nolan

Christopher Nolan's drive for authenticity with "Dunkirk" led him to bring the cast and crew of his World War II epic to the very beaches in France where Allied forces snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. Even though the fighting ended decades and generations ago, there were still land mines and other live explosive devices lining the shoreline and the harbour.

"Every time we'd need to do one of our explosions, we'd do a controlled explosion first to see if it would set off anything," Nolan said during a question and answer session at the Toronto International Film Festival. "When you think about how long ago it is, it was very sobering in terms of the lingering impact of these kind of events."

Nolan was on hand to celebrate IMAX's 50th anniversary (the drama is shot using the company's cameras). The event comes, as the director and Warner Bros., the studio behind "Dunkirk", are in the midst of the film's Oscar campaign. The picture was a box office smash, earning nearly \$500 million globally. It also received some of the best notices of Nolan's career, with buzz mounting that the director behind "Inception" and "The Dark Knight" could land his first Best Director Academy Award nomination.

Nolan's demand for authenticity



didn't just extend to his locations. He also outfitted real tankers, putting his actors in the kind of ships they would have been on as they tried to cross the English Channel with Nazi forces at their back.

"You could make a period perfect CG version [of a ship], but it wouldn't feel as real," Nolan said. "We felt that the matchup, the patina that computer graphics have is a very poor match for this kind of imagery from World War II."

Nolan believes that his job as a director is to try to recreate as closely

as possible what it must have been like to be in the thick of battle. It benefits the performances, he said. That meant that when actors like Fionn Whitehead and Harry Styles are hovering under aerial bombardment, they're not doing it in the comfort of a studio.

"When those boys are out there on those beaches and explosions are going off, they're going off," said Nolan. "There's no green screen. They're in it."

"Dunkirk" is an experiential epic. It spends little time dissecting the

political and military situation that led to evacuation. Instead the film plunges viewers into the heat of battle as they accompany scores of young soldiers in a desperate struggle for survival. Nolan felt that the best way to achieve his desired impact was to avoid getting bogged down in exposition.

The film also plays with time in unique ways. One section unspools over the course of a week and follows English soldiers as they wait for transport. Another is set on a ship, over the course of a single day, as English volunteers from across the country sail out to help rescue troops. The last section follows a pilot (Tom Hardy) as he flies out to shoot down Nazi planes and give the English troops cover to evacuate. That final section is set over the course of an hour.

The distance nature of the film's pacing is central to its appeal, he maintained. "We all want to see interesting and exciting things in movies," Nolan said. "We all want to see a story that's a little bit different from what you saw last week in a movie theatre. I've carved out a little freedom for myself to do that within the studio system. I feel a great responsibility to always be pushing boundaries."

Source: **Variety**



Scholastica's drama and dance troupe has recently won the Excellency Award for their performance of William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" at the 25th International Theater and Dance Festival 2017, held in Cuttack, Odisha, India.