



"It has been quite overwhelming" ...Apuurbo

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Following its release during Eid ul Azha, "Boro Chele" has been at the tip of everyone's tongues. Within a few days the play has racked up over 3 million views on YouTube. In the play, Apuura plays the role of the titular elder son, and in a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the actor talks about the drama and its aftermath.

Why do you think "Boro Chele" became such a hit?

Apuurba: I believe the play's owes its success to the solid, compelling script. The story is everyone's story, and recounts incidents that have happened to most of us at some point in our lives. The narrative focuses on a middle class family, thus focusing on a major population group. In such families, the elder sibling often has to make a lot of sacrifices for the better interests of others, which is highlighted in the story.

How does it feel to receive all these praises for the play?

Apuurba: It has been quite overwhelm-

ing, because it's after quite a while that a television play is generating such a response. It goes to show how receptive our audience is to quality work. This also would not have been possible without the collective efforts of the entire filming unit, and Mehazabien has done a tremendous job in playing her role.

What were your thoughts on the play after first receiving the script?

Apuurba: When the director, Mizanur Rahman Aryan, first handed me the script I could not help but feel emotional after reading it. I have been in a lot of plays, but this one stirred something within me.

How does it feel to know the television film has had over 3 million views on YouTube?

Apuurba: I would say this is a new record for us, there are over 60 thousand views adding up every hour, and there are over 15 thousand comments on the page. As an artiste involved with the project, I cannot be happier than I am now.

Do you have a message for your fans and viewers?

Apuurba: I would like to request their never ending support, and to keep watching our work. There are a lot of excellent dramas and TV plays being produced in

our country. Another message is that, "Boro Chele" will be aired, without commercial breaks, on Channel 9 for three days from Friday- Sunday. This has been done to meet the viewers' requests.

What are your plans now?

Apuurba: I have never followed a plan throughout the course of my career. I live like there's no tomorrow and focus all my energies on the present.

Have you begun shooting after Eid ul Azha holidays?

Apuurba: I have begun work for a new drama series, and after completing its filming, I will move on to work on a single episode play.

"Bollywood influence is not the problem..."

In conversation with Sohel Rahman

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Classical dance as an art form in Bangladesh is kept thriving due to the contributions of a number of dedicated artistes, and Sohel Rahman's is one of those names that emerge when looking into the classical dance scene in Bangladesh. His performances in dance-dramas such as "Chitrangada" and "Badal Borishomey" to name a few have been highly lauded. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the artiste speaks about his dancing roots, future plans, and more.

When did you begin dancing?

Sohel Rahman: I can safely say that my eyes opened to the world of dance when I was still in the cradle; my mother was a passionate dancer who was never able to pursue it due to constraints imposed by her in-laws. Whenever I cried, she would lock the door and dance for me in secret. As I grew older, she began giving me proper lessons. My father was a doctor, and we had to move houses regularly when he was transferred to various regions around the country. After settling down in Dhaka, my parents enrolled me into Bullial Academy of Fine Arts. My guru was the great Rahiza Khanam Ithnu. After completing my training, she suggested I begin teaching at the academy under her guidance, and now today I am the head of the dance department at BAFA.

As a dancer trained in various forms, which dance form are you most fond of?

Sohel Rahman: I have been trained in Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and even Manipuri, and have completed courses in contemporary dance forms such as modern ballet. My main focus regarding performances is folk dance dedicated to the seasons in Bangladesh. I am not rigid in dance practice; the choreography has to be tailored according to the songs being performed to, whether classical or contemporary.

What are you currently working on?

Sohel Rahman: At the moment, my troupe and I perform during special events and festivals. I have been mostly occupied with various stage shows that are arranged by organisations or corporate firms. But currently, we are working on scripts for new dance drama productions, which I hope to take to stage by the end of this year. There are three potential scripts, one based on "Cinderella", one based on the 1952 Language Movement, one on the Liberation War. Rehearsals are set to commence soon as we finalize a script.

Many dancers lament that Bollywood influences are distorting the way dance is presented in the mainstream media. What is your take on the matter?

Sohel Rahman: I don't think Bollywood influence is necessarily a bad thing, because as artistes we must cater to the desires of the people. What I do object to is the absence of trained dancers in the mainstream media, as televised shows place more priority in giving models and actors - most of who do not come from a dance background - more exposure. Most trained dancers end up losing heart and giving up this path because of the frustrations we have to come across.



Special fundraiser staging of "Rarang" today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) has arranged for a special staging of Aranyak Natya Dal's popular theatre production "Rarang", as part of their initiative to raise funds for medical treatment of theatre artistes and activists.

The staging will take place at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 7pm.

The play, written and directed by eminent thespian Mamunur Rashid, sheds lights on the rebel-

lion of Santal community - an indigenous minority group living in the country's northern region - against the oppression of the British Regime. The play depicts the Santal Revolt that took place in 1855 against the British Raj and the feudalism prevalent in the 19th century.

"Rarang", a Santal word that means "a call to rise", narrates the life of great Santal leader Alfred Soren who died a valiant death fighting against oppression.

The play casts popular stage actors including Tamalika Karmakar, Mamunur Rashid and others.

Vidya Balan fine-tunes her voice in "Tumhari Sulu"



Vidya Balan, the Bollywood actress who refuses to be put in the proverbial box, is back with her next film, "Tumhari Sulu", and it seems to have the makings of another fantastic film.

In the first "Tumhari Sulu" teaser released Wednesday, Vidya Balan is living a dual life: that of a traditional young woman by daytime who transforms into a sensual diva as she sits behind the microphone at a radio station. She plays the titular Sulu, a late-night Radio Jockey keeping people awake with her sultry voice and magnetic aura, shedding the skin of her everyday woman.

Directed by ad filmmaker Suresh Triveni, "Tumhari Sulu" also stars Manav Kaul, Neha

Dhupia and real-life RJ Malishka in supporting roles.

This, however, is not the first time Vidya is playing an RJ. She took on that role in Sanjay Dutt-starrer "Lage Raho Mumbaikar" (2006).

Vidya has reportedly also learned hip-hop dance for a few scenes in this film. Talking about her role of the actor earlier said, "Tumhari Sulu" is a fun film. It will unleash the naughty side of me."

The slice-of-life film, produced by Bhushan Kumar, Tanuj Garg, Anil Kasbekar and Shanti Swaran, is set to hit theatres on December 1.

Patty Jenkins confirmed to direct "Wonder Woman" sequel



Jenkins with Gal Gadot at the "Wonder Woman" premiere.

Patty Jenkins has closed a deal to direct the sequel to the summer hit "Wonder Woman". Gal Gadot has already signed on to return in the title role. The film is slated for release on Dec. 13, 2019.

Variety was first to report that Jenkins was already working on a script for the sequel with Geoff Johns, who oversees the DC film universe along with Jon Berg for Warner Bros. "The goal is to make another great 'Wonder Woman' film," Johns said at the time.

While an exact number could not be unveiled, sources say the number is in the \$8 million dollar range to write, direct and produce making her the highest paid female director of all time. A substantial backend of box office grosses is also included in the contract.

"Wonder Woman" has been a megahit for the studio, grossing \$409 million at the domestic box office and \$813 million worldwide. The film is the fourth installment in the studio's DC Extended Universe, which launched with 2013's "Man of Steel" with an opening weekend of \$116.6 million. Followed by last year's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" with \$166 million, and "Suicide Squad" with \$133.6 million. "Wonder Woman" — made on a \$150 million budget — is critically acclaimed, with a 92% "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Besides the "Wonder Woman" sequel, Jenkins is also developing a TNT TV series with her "Wonder Woman" star Chris Pine, inspired by the autobiography of Fauna Hodel.

Source: Variety

BFFS opens call for Oscar submission

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) has formed a nine-member Oscar Bangladesh Committee to select a Bangladeshi film to compete in the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 90th Academy Award, according to a press release. Film personality Habibur Rahman Khan is the chairman of the committee.



The committee has called for submission of films, made in Bangladesh by Bangladeshi filmmakers, and subtitled in English. Films released after October 1, 2016 and screened at a theatre continuously for a week will be eligible to apply.

The forms and detailed rules of submission are available at Hasan Holding, 9th floor, 52/1 New Eskaton, Dhaka. The films should be submitted by September 20.

Source: Hindustan Times