

EXPERT OPINIONS ON 'RIZWAN'

The play 'Rizwan' directed by Syed Jamil Ahmed has been a topic of discussion for some time now, both over social media and other discussions. A lot of people have lauded the play for its innovation, while others have had their constructive criticism on it. We would like to thank our honorable Cultural Minister, Asaduzzaman Noor and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for the support behind this production. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is also to be thanked for their unending support, along with its Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky. We would like to urge them to continue this support, as a lot of playwrights will get the courage to try something new and move our theatre forward.

Ramendu Majumdar

Actor, Playwright, Producer

Technically, *Rizwan* is a superb production. The visuals are innovative, and the actors have put in a lot of effort into making this worthwhile. However, I have one question: there was so much money and effort put into it, was that all worth it, content wise? *Rizwan* is a fantastic play, no doubt, but I really hope the effort would be fruitful in the long run. The trend of plays being showcased during Eid holidays has to stay, since I think it is a healthy trend for our theatre.



Bakar Bakul

Actor, Director

I thought *Rizwan* was a refreshing addition to our theatre scene. For a long time, we had been a bit monotonous with the type of productions that we did. Theatre directors were reluctant to experiment. I think we all expect high standards from Jamil bhai, and he did not disappoint with this. It was a completely different experience and very experimental. The production was outstanding. The only things in my opinion that could have been better are, perhaps the acting of the two main characters and the scripting itself. However, the story itself was amazing, and very well presented indeed.

Samina Luthfa Nitra

Playwright, Actor

The fact that *Rizwan* is creating such a buzz on social media is a big thing in itself, partly because it is generating some much needed attention for theatre itself. A lot of people have tried this kind of experimental work, but not with much success. This is why the success of *Rizwan* will be monumental in shaping up the theatre scene in the future. 19 shows in 10 days is a gargantuan task, and the crew pulled it off with great success. I, however, do have a few gripes with the acting in some parts. I felt like the acting in certain places could have been much better. The characters of *Rizwan* and *Fatema* needed a lot time to adapt to, and needed to be felt. I don't think either of them felt the characters. I thought they needed more time to rehearse and perfect it. Besides that, I think that *Rizwan* is a kind of a play that no one has ever experienced in Bangladesh, not even the actors themselves.



Suvasish Sinha

Playwright, Director

Rizwan had fantastic design and choreography. However, I thought there were a few problems with it, one being the script. It could have been developed a lot more, and that would have helped it become a lot better than it already is. For me, the first 30 minutes of the play was a bit haphazard, but it did pick up its pace after that. I thought the acting by the two leads, both male and female was a bit monotonous. Once again, if the characters were better developed, that would not really have been a problem. Aside from these, the production was near-perfect, as we have come to expect from the great director known as Syed Jamil Ahmed.