

Pushpo O Mongol Int'l
Theatre Festival
Organiser: Aranyak Natyak
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Oct 22-28, Time: 7pm

পুষ্প ও মংগল
অভিন্নাত্মক
নাট্য সপ্ত
২০১৭
১১ মেলাৰ - ২৮ পৰোৱা

Dance Drama
Tasher Desh
Troupe: Shantika
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Oct 27, 2017
Time: 7pm



Cultural Programme
Chhobhitto
Organiser: Marchhona - BUEI
Venue: BUEI Auditorium
Date: Oct 31
Time: 5.30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Layers
Artist: Fahad Hasan Kazmeen
Venue: Kala Kendra,
Mohammadpur
Date: Oct 27-Nov 22
Time: 5pm-8pm



Theatre
"Bioscop" and "Keramatana"
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Oct 27-31
Time: 7pm



DOOB

A heart-wrenching tale of family, love and loss

FAHIM FERDOUS

The extent of how hotly-anticipated Mostafa Sarvar Farooqi's "Doob" is became clear on Thursday afternoon when I had to resort to pulling some strings to secure a first day first show ticket for it. For all its international acclaim, Farooqi's films typically have not caused a ticket crisis, and that this film was at the centre of such whirlwind anticipation owes largely to what transpired with it before release. There was considerable buzz when it was announced in March last year that Irfan Khan, one of the most high-profile actors of the sub-continent was not only starring in the Bangladeshi-India joint production, but also co-producing it. But the explosive news that a newspaper in Kolkata in November last year that the film was based on the life of the late Humayun Ahmed, the most iconic novelist of contemporary Bangladeshi literature, did things heat up. Despite Farooqi clearly stating that it is not a biopic, the film's no-objectection certificate by a government committee was revoked a day after issuing it in February, and by the time it got clearance back at home the film had already gained some momentum in the international film festival circuit. Quite a few festivals, an award and some rave reviews later the film finally opened yesterday in theatres in the country, as well as in India and Australia.

One of the biggest challenges for a filmmaker (or any storyteller) is to make a fictional story involving the audience's real-life, and other willingly wills the dangled-edged sword of crafting a story out of incidents that hit close to the late wordsmith's controversial later life that is not only believable, but also familiar. As I sat in the theatre I heard murmur from around me drawing direct parallels of the on-screen happenings to real-life events. So, to answer the question is "Doob" Humayun Ahmed's story? No. But is it closely inspired by it? Quite safe to say that it is.

The film is as advertised: A touching separation drama with love, loss and family at its core. The events that happen in the film line up to Humayun Ahmed's life, but

this film is not about the events; it is about the feelings, emotions and the reaction of the characters in it and that is where "Doob" excels. Despite Irfan Khan (playing filmmaker Javed Hasan) being the epicenter of the film, for me it is Nasrat Imrose Tisha (as his daughter Saberi) who steals the show. Her portrayal of pain, conflict, weakness and strength are incredible, often without uttering a word. Irfan delivers an impeccable performance as a flawed, tormented soul torn between family and newfound love, while Rokeya Prachi (as Javed's wife Maya) is also formidable in her stoic, reserved character. Nitu, Javed's muse and the catalyst in the family tearing apart is played by Parine Mittra with commitment and

rushed and not done with as much care as the ones where the characters are interacting in sincere personal moments (like when Javed calls up a newspaper editor, or in his and Nitu's TV appearance).

While Javed's death calls back to his philosophy on death that he utters early on in the film, it is brought about without any explanation and it is a bit of a jerky transition in the narrative. Lastly on the list of things I didn't love is the young boy who plays Javed's son Ahsir; a character somewhat wasted in poor acting and not having enough to do.

My biggest gripe with the film however is that neither Maya nor Nitu's characters are rounded enough to be the central pillars in such a limited-characters story. While the only sequence where Nitu and Javed spend some alone time is utterly brilliant in its subtlety and undertone impact, there is not nearly enough that substantiates Saberi's complaints against Nitu trying to live in Javed's life. We also never get to really know Maya as a person, and it leaves the audience hanging in the dark a little bit. What Farooqi did with the characters played by Irfan and Tisha are great, but whether that came at the cost of the other characters' development remains a nagging question at the back of my head. Also, Javed is termed a filmmaker the entire time but there is no real evidence of it, what is established by the newspaper reporter, a TV interview and some autograph seekers I feel could be helped a great deal even in a brief moment of him behind a movie camera.

Overall, Farooqi's choice of subject material (or inspiration, however you see it) is bold, he sticks to his guns to deliver a sensitive story expertly delivered in understated expressions without pandering to the lowest denominator of the audience, and it makes for some classic cinematic moments. Personally, I did not see Humayun Ahmed on screen; I saw Javed Hasan's helplessness as he goes through his innermost struggles. That his life trajectory is reminiscent of Bangladeshi's most-loved author occurred to me, but didn't bother me.

But is the film flawless? No. While the format of shooting it in 'chapters' instead of a chronological continuous events is essential for the story Farooqi tried to tell, it runs the risk of losing the general audience a little. Some events serving as plot devices also seem a little

verbose. Sheikh Rajibul Islam's cinematography is smart and constrained, with some typical Tarek (shots like panned indoor and conversation shots instead of cuts, and out-of-frame dialogue) stamping the helmer's signature on it. The scores by Pavel Areen is also all kinds of amazing, and the lone song oozing melancholy (by Kirtukut) fits like a glove in the movie.

Is the film flawless? No. While the format of shooting it in 'chapters' instead of a chronological continuous events is essential for the story Farooqi tried to tell, it runs the risk of losing the general audience a little. Some events serving as plot devices also seem a little



"Justice League" gives closer look at villain

With Warner Bros.' Justice League less than a month from release, more details about the DC superhero team movie are slowly emerging, and the movie's villain, Steppenwolf, finally shows up onscreen for more than two seconds. Hollywood Reporter says the villain makes his proper debut at the opening of the movie's

new Chinese trailer, where it turns out that he's really not into the idea of showing mercy to anyone because they have a family. That might be an entirely appropriate response, perhaps, given that his comic book incarnation is traditionally the uncle of arch-villain Darkseid.

The trailer also reveals more

snarky dialogue between Aquaman and Batman, and suggests that there may be more Alfred Pennyworth (played by Jeremy Irons) in the movie than was expected.

The Justice League soundtrack will be released digitally November 10, with the movie following a week later.

Source: THR

Celebrating Life Gala today

The Daily Star & SCB's initiative in 10th year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The awards ceremony of Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2017 is all set to take place this evening at the International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital.

Celebrating Life, The Daily Star's initiative to discover talent in the fields of film, photography and song lyrics in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, steps in its 10th year.

Three prominent personalities in the country's cultural arena - actress Suchanda, photographer Nasir Ali Mamun and singer Sabina Yasmin will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards for their monumental contributions to

Film, Photography and Music respectively.

The gala event will include Celebrating Life Photo Exhibition featuring winning photographs of this year's contest, along with the awarding of winners of the film, photography and lyrics contests on this year's theme "Celebrating Diversity in Bangladesh".

Rewzana Chowdhury Bannya, Shafi Mondal, Dola and Xerif will

perform at the grand event, which will commence with a flute recital by Murtaza Kabir Murad.

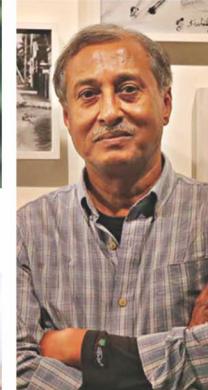
Information Minister Hasanul Haque will be the chief guest at the ceremony. Mahbuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, and Abrar A. Anwar, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Bangladesh will also be present as special guests.



Sabina Yasmin



Suchanda



Nasir Ali Mamun



Every piece,
a Masterpiece

H.
Hazoorilal

BY SANDEEP NARANG

SINCE 1952

GREATER KAILASH I, NEW DELHI

Greater Kailash I, M- Block Market, New Delhi-110048 | T: +91 11 4527700/4173457
ITC Maurya, Shopping Arcade, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi-110021 | T: +91 11 41359552

DLF Emporio, 305, 2nd Floor, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 | T: +91 11 41755565

hazoorialjewellers.com

