

THROUGH THE EYES

AZAD ABUL KALAM

A leading actor, director and writer, Azad Abul Kalam is a well-known name in the theatre arena of Bangladesh. He is also one of the honorable founders of the theatre troupe "Prachyanat", which was set up on February 21, 1997. He is a multi-talented theatre and television personality who started his journey with 'Aranyak' in 1985. His debut on stage was in 'Nanoker Pala', directed by Abdullah Hel Mahmud. Moreover, he acted in a huge number of television dramas. 'Kittonkhola (2000)', 'Phulkumar (2002)', 'Lalon (2004)', 'Meherjaan (2011)', 'Guerrilla (2011)', 'Brihonnola (2014)', 'Krishopokkho (2015)' and 'Khacha (2017)' are some of his remarkable works. He has achieved several prestigious awards including the prestigious Meril Prothom Alo Award for Best Playwright.

INSPIRATIONS

My first inspiration is my family. Thankfully, I hail from a fairly sound cultural atmosphere. My parents were very motivational in flourishing my interests in acting and writing. Also, my brothers and sisters were very inspirational. Additionally, my wife and children have become my life-time inspirations. Moreover, "Aranyak" is another wonder that happened in my life which has been my inspiration behind my introduction to the era of theatre. Apart from these, my co-workers and my audiences have always been my inspirations.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of an artiste is to live with arts and culture. I love to wear the grace of arts. Acting is a great process to represent a person's happiness, sorrows, anger, fear -everything by an artiste who is playing the character of that specific person. Moreover, a person's life can be reframed by good acting and that's the beauty of it in my opinion.

VIEWS ON HIS PROFESSION

Theatre is a lifestyle, it introduces an artiste to a new dimension of life as well. My passion for writing, directing and acting on stage is eternal. I love to work on both theatre and television. To become a successful and sustainable artiste, there is no alternative to practice. I always welcome and inspire new theatre artistes so that they can be confident at their workplaces. The senior artistes and the organizers, along with the government should take necessary initiatives to motivate the young generation artistes in practicing arts and culture. It's a matter of regret that some of our young generation artistes are interested to go through some shortcut ways, but it can never bring success. Rather, for being a genuine artiste, one has to be passionate, sincere and dedicated.

BOOKS

Literature itself is a universe; so there is no boundary in case of reading books. *South of the Boarder, West of the Sun* by the Japanese author Haruki Murakami is one of my most favorite books.

Additionally, a recently read story, *The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night-time* by Mark Haddon has become my favorite. I like reading science fictions and also the books of Hasan Azizul Huq.

FILMS

I love to watch movies of different languages. Specially, the Italian and Japanese movies are my favorites.

MUSIC

Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and Kabir



Suman are some of my most favorite singers. I also love listening to the songs of James and Pink Floyd.

FUTURE PLANS

Theatre has always been my loyal companion which never left me alone. Therefore, I always remain busy with my theatrical activities. Though, I have no specific plan for future, I may share only

a few of my concealed aspirations. I would love to continue writing and acting on stage. I have a plan to write some unique stories for television dramas and films also. It was one of my agendas to make films for the children of our country.

IDOLS

I have so many idols in my entire life.

Undoubtedly, my parents are my idols. Additionally, my uncles are my idols. Moreover, I admire the ideologies of some of my honorable teachers and instructors. Also, some of the writers, directors, senior artistes and my co-artistes have become my idols.

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By Shawreen Rahman