

Arthy Ahmed

wants to break cultural barriers through Bharatanatyam

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

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Cultural barriers can be transcended by transplanting a form of art like Bharatanatyam, which is about 200 years old, into a different region of practice. There are dancers in our country who have been relentlessly working to break this cultural hurdle and give a new dimension to the practice of classical dance in Bangladesh. One of them is Arthy Ahmed, who is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer. Arthy recently came back

to Bangladesh after completing her Diploma in **Teachers Training** (Bharatanatyam) with a first class from Tamil University, Chennai. Being trained

in a place where Bharatanatyam originated, Arthy noticed differences in the styles of dance forms taught in both the countries. "I did my BA (H) Dance and MA in Bharatnattiyam from Rabindra Bharati University under ICCR scholarship. From Kolkata to Chennai, the more I moved towards south, the more I saw variations in the basic forms," says Arthy.

The dancer now aspires to instill the pure form of this art into the new generation. As a teacher of Kolpotoru and a performer of Shadhona, she feels grateful to have a mentor like Lubna Marium who is reaching out to an international audience with our dancers. In Kolkata, Arthy trained under Smt. Sujata Ramalingam. With the lessons she learned from her gurus, she now tries to spread the beauty of Bharatanatyam.

"Bharatanatyam is my kind of prayer, through which I connect to God and express myself," adds Arthy. When a Bharatanatyam dancer comes to the stage, it is hard for the audience to take their eyes off them. This form of dance is not only charming, but it also makes people disciplined. To reach a level of perfection, a Bharatanatyam dancer must be disciplined and hardworking. It also gives lessons of life. Hence, Arthy thinks Bharatanatyam has many purpose rather than just to entertain people.

In 2018, Arthy Ahmed was the first in the country to perform a thirtyminute solo Varnam, which is the most critical item of Bharatanatyam Margam, in the event Rongoprobesh 2018, choreographed by Kirti Ramgopal. Artistes from South India were present in the event to perform live orchestra on which Arthy performed her solo performance. She also thinks there are talents all over the country and as artistes it is important to nurture them. Besides teaching students of Dhaka, she now teaches students in Chittagong in every weekend.

Bharatanatyam has helped Arthy connect to audience from different languages and cultures. It has made her grow as a person, and this is exactly what Arthy wants for the future generations.



Imran Mahmudul and Tanjin Tisha shoot 'Amar e Mon' in Ladakh

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Singer Imran Mahmudul has finished shooting his new music video titled Amar e Mon. The song is written by Robiul Islam Jibon and composed by Imran himself. Popular actor and model Tanjin Tisha will be seen opposite Imran in the video. They were the first Bangladeshi artistes to film in Ladakh. The song will release this Eidul-Adha, under the banner of Gaanchill Music.

'Crazy Rich Asians'

An all-Asian cast movie after 25 years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Crazy Rich Asians is the first Hollywood movie with an all-Asian cast in a quarter century. The romantic comedy is based on the popular book of the same title by Kevin Kwan. The story is set in Singapore. It centers on a young woman who finds out her boyfriend belongs to a wealthy family.

Asian representation in Hollywood is bleak. Out of 1,000 films in 10 years, only 3.4 percent had an Asian director. Also, none of the top 100 films in 2015 had an Asian lead. Asian actors also find themselves being cast in stereotypical roles. Research has shown that negative racial stereotype in media where linked to social judgments about that race. Given these points, it's quite exciting to have a movie with an all-Asian cast to look forward to!



MINUTE PLEASE

Avishek Bhattacharjee



SHABABA IQBAL

For years, music and photography have been the two prime passions of Avishek Bhattacharjee. He describes himself as someone who likes to explore different art forms and cultures. The multi-talented artiste had some interesting answers to our quick-fire questions in this week's "One Minute Please!"

Tea or coffee?

they be?

Tea. Rong cha, to be more precise.

The top three songs you are listening to at the moment? Deform to Form a Star by Steven Wilson, Futile by Porcupine Tree and Choitrer Kafon by Mohiner Ghoriguli. If you could meet three people - dead or alive - who would

John Lennon, Bob Marley and Ustad Ravi Shankar. If you had a spirit animal, what would it be? A wolf.

The best piece of advice you have received?

I always ask my mom why she doesn't compliment what I do. She once told me that what your family thinks of your work comes later. Feedback from other people matters more. What is something you would like to do more of in the future?

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