

WHAT'S ON

EXCERPTS
SOLO EXHIBITION
BY ALIA KAMAL

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Excerpts - Solo Exhibition by Alia Kamal
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: November 10
Time: 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Joloi 4 (Aquatic 4) - Streets of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: November 9 - 24
Time: 3 pm - 9 pm (Mon to)

BATTLE BOX BD 2018

Beatbox Championship
Title: BattleBox BD 2018
Venue: Ground Floor, Center Court, Jamuna Future Park
Date: December 9
Time: 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Literary Festival
Title: Dhaka Lit Fest
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: November 8 - 10
Time: 9:30 am - 7:30 pm
Registration and tickets: www.dhakalifest.com

InkTobor Bangladesh 2018

Art Exhibition
Title: Inktober Bangladesh
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: November 2-17
Time: 3:00 pm - 8:30 pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Nandita Das gets candid about 'Manto' at DLF 2018

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Actor-director Nandita Das's *Manto*, the film that took a bow in the Cannes' *Un Certain Regard* section this year, was screened in the AKSB auditorium on Thursday afternoon at the Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF) 2018.

Inspired by the life and writings of the Indian-Pakistani writer of the 20th century, Saadat Hasan Manto, the film has been well-received at both festivals and theatres. It is the second feature film by Das, who is known for her well-sketched portrayals of politically conscious stories. Her first film as a director was *Firaaq* (2008), which was set one month after the 2002 violence in Gujarat, India.

Manto portrays the four crucial years of the Muslim writer's life from 1946 to 1950. The timeline is also significant because it follows the Indian independence from the British rule and the Partition of India and Pakistan, which resulted in the killing of over a million in religious riots and displacement of about 14 million Hindus and Muslims of the country. Manto was heavily depressed and perplexed by the situation. Many of Manto's violent stories sprang from the horrors he witnessed during the Partition. The film also sets the background to his heart wrenching decision to leave his beloved Bombay and move to Pakistan.

After the screening, in the director's cut session with Annie Zaidi, Das shared some insights of the film and her hopes. She used the term "Mantoiyat" which was coined by Manto himself in one of his essays. "Through the film I intend to spread Mantoiyat, which means to have the will to be more honest, courageous and free spirited," she expressed. "It also gave me an opportunity to respond to what is happening around us."

She also spoke about the casting process for the film. Noted actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who plays Manto, resembled the writer astoundingly on screen. Das revealed that she chose Siddiqui because his eyes matches those of Manto. She also said that it was quite a challenge to cast the right person for the role of Manto's wife, Safia, before the team came across actor Rasika Dugal, who she feels gave a brilliant performance.

The intertwining of the writer's biography and his creations along with Das's finesse as a director came through beautifully in the film. According to Das, it was important to add the stories of Manto in the film so as to bring out the man behind it. However, many fans of Manto have commented that the film is far from the gruesomeness portrayed in his writings. Dhaka is the first city to have a public screening of *Manto*.

KHIJIR HAYAT KHAN on 'Mr Bangladesh'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The much awaited film, *Mr Bangladesh*, is set to hit theatres this month. The film, produced by noted actor and director Khijir Hayat Khan, also stars him in the lead role. He shares his thoughts on filmmaking, his insights on the film and more.

Where did you shoot for 'Mr Bangladesh'?
We have shot for the film all over Bangladesh, starting from Dhaka to Madhupur. It was a great experience.

What are your expectations from the film?
We have really high expectations from *Mr Bangladesh* and



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

of course, we are hoping that it is well-received by the audience. We have shed our blood, sweat and tears behind this film. It is created with a lot of affection and honesty.

What would you say is the core message of 'Mr Bangladesh'?
The film tackles the very sensitive issues of terrorism and violence. Through it, we have attempted to convey that the majority of the Bangladeshi people are peace-loving individuals who will never support any kind of violence.

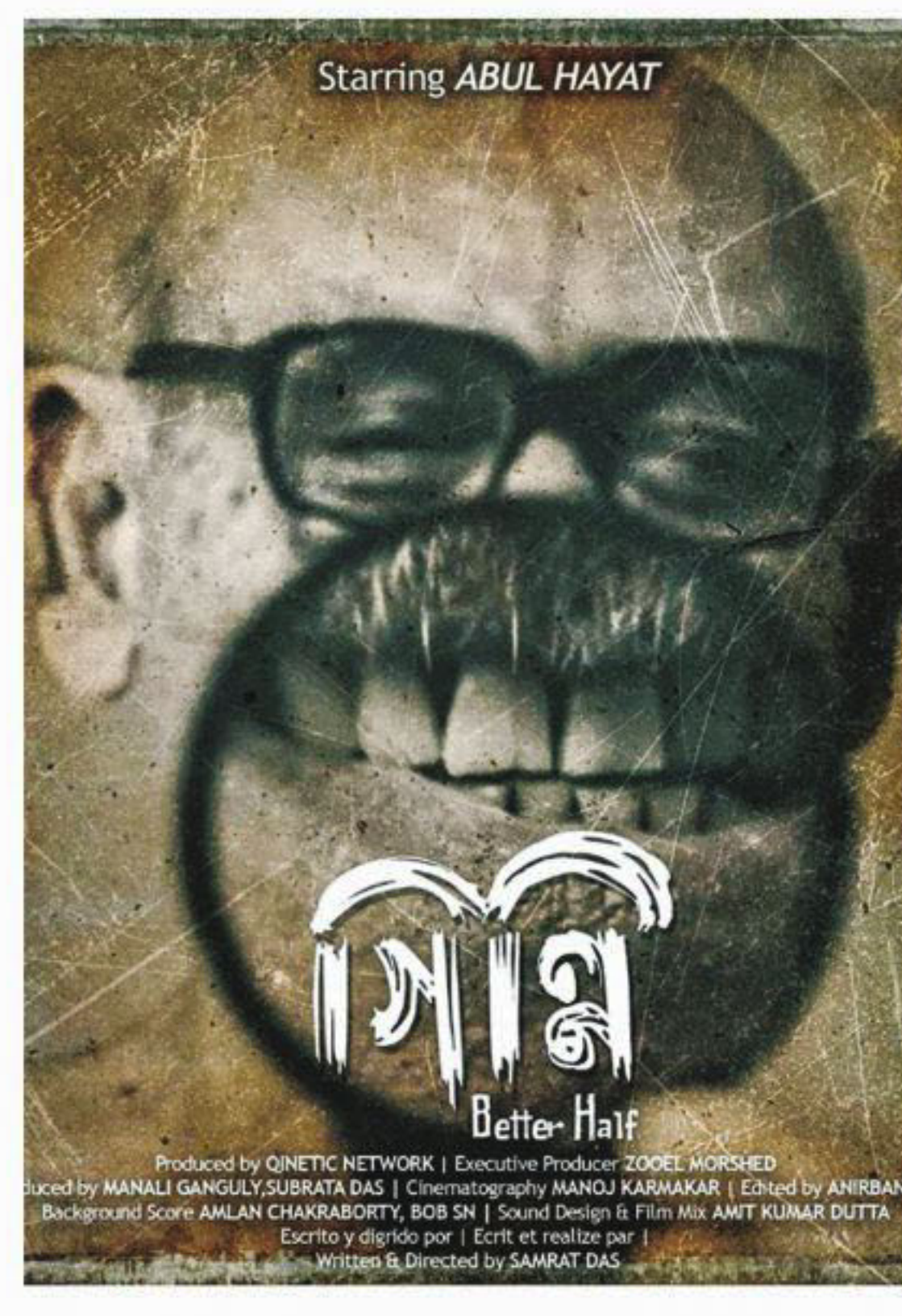
How did you come about the script and why did you choose such sensitive issues as the central theme for the film?
I lost Ishrat Akhond, a very dear friend of mine, in the Holy Artisan tragedy. Other than that, many people I have known over the years have fallen prey to terrorism. This is why I wanted to portray these issues in the film. I also feel an immense sense of responsibility as a filmmaker to tell stories that can educate the viewers and serve towards the betterment of our nation.

Lastly, what can you tell us about the release of 'Mr Bangladesh'?
The film will release on November 16. For a start, we will screen the film in 25 to 30 theatres and then add more shows eventually.

GINNI to be screened at KIFF 2018

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The short film, *Ginni*, starring veteran Bangladeshi actor Abul Hayat, will be screened at the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) on November 12 in the non-competitive category. This is for the first time that Abul Hayat has worked in a short film for Kolkata and he portrays the protagonist, Dipak Babu, who is lonely at an old age. The short film is directed and scripted by Samrat Das and produced by Qinetic Network (Bangladesh). Amlaan and Bob have done the background score for the film. The festival, which begins today, will conclude on November 17.

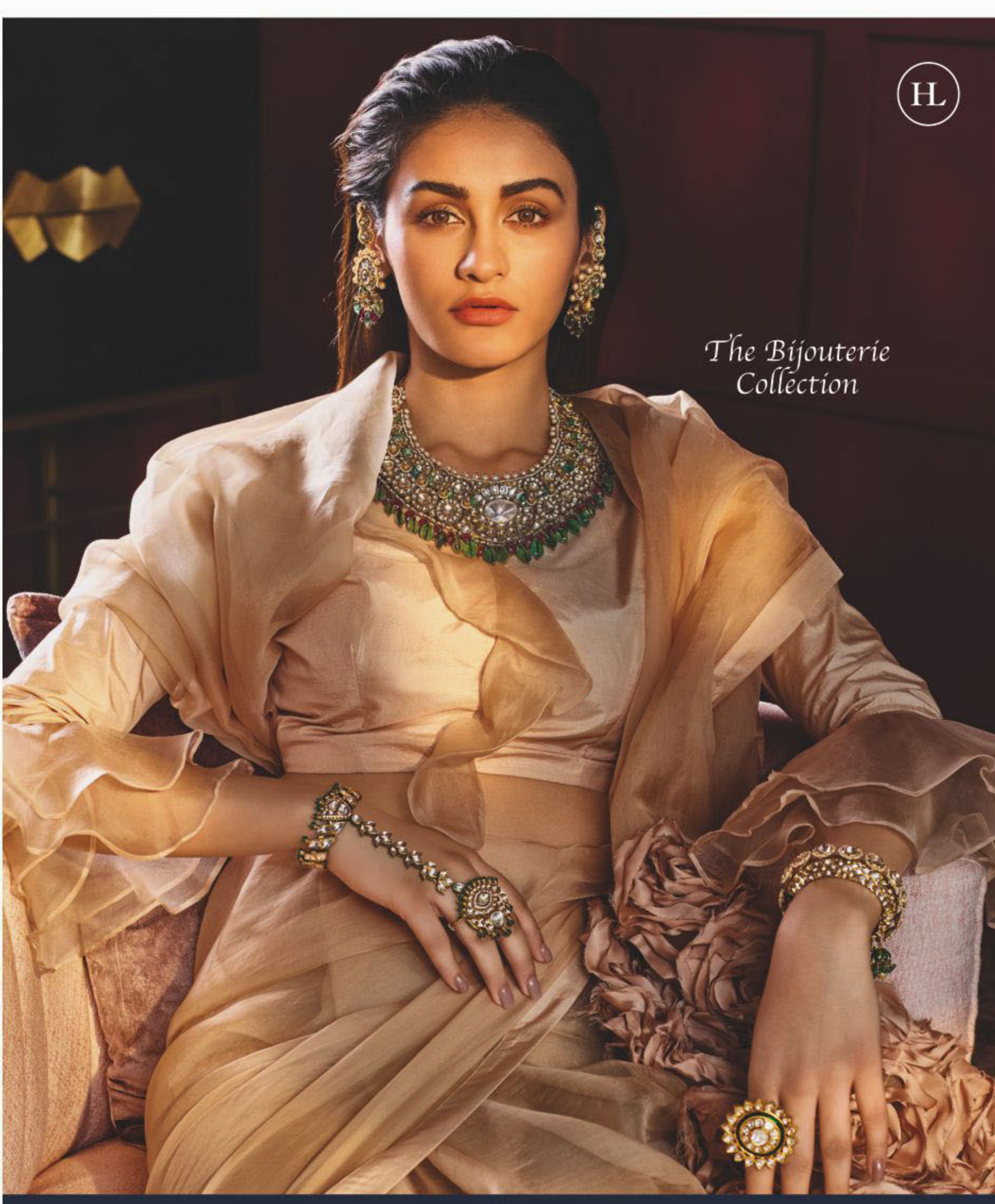


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The adaptation of *'Nutcracker and the Four Realms'* brings to life a scintillating fantasy film with a plot that spreads across strange and mysterious parallel worlds, which is home to Land of Snowflakes, Land of Flowers and Land of Sweets. Mackenzie Foy plays Clara, who enters the Fourth Realm to take on a tormentor called Mother Ginger as well as a gang of mice, who hold the key to her getaway.

Co-directed by Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston, Disney's latest extravagant project features a stellar cast including Morgan Freeman, Keira Knightley, Misty Copeland, Miranda Hart, Eugenio Derbez, Jack Whitehall, Ellie Bamber and others. The film has released internationally and is now screening at Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City.

'Nutcracker and the Four Realms' now at Star Cineplex



Hazooril
BY SANDEEP NARANG

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