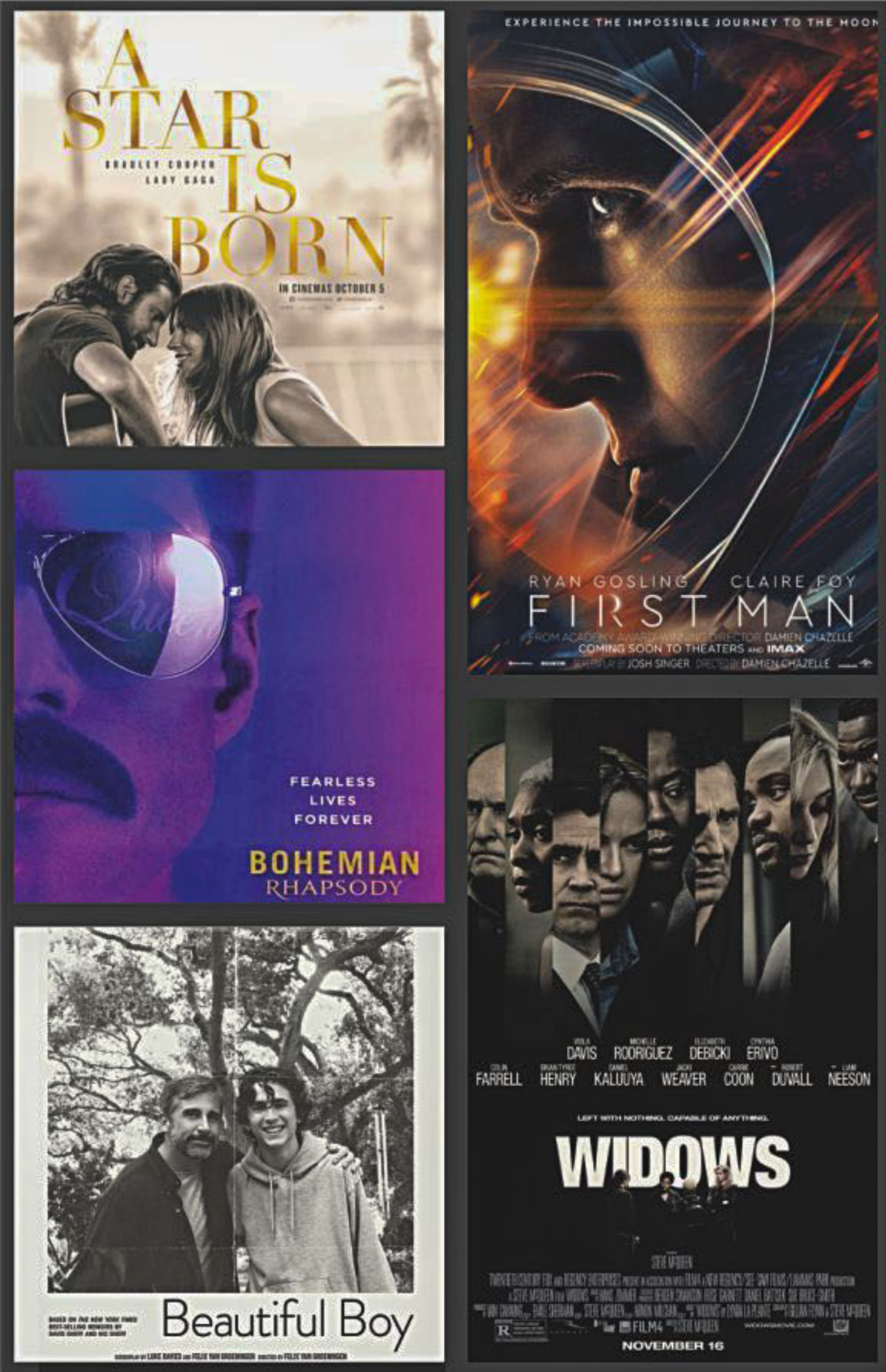


LS PICK

Let's talk Oscars!



As the curtains of 2018 are drawn, speculations for the Academy Awards are on the way. The year 2018 has seen a diversity of films being released, and some that will, with utmost certainty, etch a mark in film history.

From 'Black Panther' and 'Crazy Rich Asians' to 'A Quiet Place' and 'Hot Summer Nights' — films this year have truly attempted to bring back both old school filmmaking, and break the boundaries of Hollywood prejudice. However, although these films, which reigned supreme in the summer box office, are great for a night out with friends; this award season packs a punch with films that will make you cry, hold onto your seats, and go through self-reflection like no other.

Perhaps the season's most hyped up film 'A Star is Born', starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper like you have never seen before. The film is a remake cubed, but 4-time Academy Award nominated Bradley Cooper succeeds in giving the audience not only a story of a person's rise to fame, but also a story of profound love and the pain inflicted on one's soul when that love departs. Having gained much critical acclaim since its release, this not-so-cliché, cliché film with an incredible soundtrack is most definitely a front runner in the Oscar race.

For the next contender in the Oscar race Ryan Gosling is back, this time, to tell the tale of man's first landing on the moon as the one and only Neil Armstrong in Damien Chazelle's 'First Man.'

The dynamic Oscar duo returns this year to give the audience a story, not of

scientific success, but rather that of a man who overcomes the insurmountable to become the first man on the moon. Chazelle departs from his indie comfort zone for this movie, and instead, allows the camera to harmoniously guide him through, resulting in a picture that is quite stellar.

With an extraordinary supporting cast consisting of Claire Foy, Corey Stoll and Kyle Chandler, this is a movie you cannot miss, regardless of whether you are a science nerd or not.

In continuation of this biopic season — 'Beautiful Boy,' starring Academy Award nominated Timothée Chalamet and Steve Carrell, and 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' starring Emmy Award-winner Rami Malek both leave the audience with rattled emotions.

Chalamet once again graces the screen this Oscar season with yet another raw, real, and captivating performance, playing a 9-year sober Nicolas Sheff who got addicted to methamphetamine as a teenager. Besides Chalamet, Carrell serves no lesser than a strikingly heart-rending performance as Nic's father David Sheff.

The film chronicles the horror of meth addiction and recovery through the eyes of a father watching his son struggle. But more than anything, disproving to be another cliché film which glorifies teenage drug abuse, this film is able to tackle and display the issue with utmost care and honesty — making it a painful yet powerful story you will not mind watching more than once.

Contrary to the life-struggles of an

anxious, yet successful teenager, is the story of the rise to fame of a musical superstar in 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

This film almost perfectly encapsulates the meteoric rise of the band with their eclectic sound, and the persona of Mercury, who defied stereotypes and shattered convention to become one of the most beloved entertainers of his time.

'Bohemian Rhapsody' can claim to be one of those films where one enters the theatre with excitement and leaves the theatre with plans to see it again.

This foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their ever-green music, and Mercury, is undoubtedly a winner, whether it gets nominated for Best Film or not.

Finally, diverging from biopic award buzz, and wrapping up the must-see list this year is 'Widows' — a nefariously captivating heist film from director Steve McQueen (12 Years a Slave), and an impeccable ensemble cast, starring Viola Davis, Liam Neeson, Michelle Rodriguez, Cynthia Erivo, Colin Farrell, Daniel Kaluuya, and Robert Duvall.

A story of four armed robbers who are killed in a failed heist attempt, only to have their widows step up to finish the job, with Davis excelling as the lead character, is a thriller that gives 'A Quiet Place' a run for its money. Meticulously directed with great performances, this film is undeniably one to be reckoned with this award season.

By Shayeza Nawar Walid
Photo courtesy: Shayeza Nawar Walid

NEWSFLASH

Nakshi Kantha: Bangladesher Nandito Shilper Smarok

In an endeavour to retell stories of one of the quintessential art traditions of Bangladesh, Maleka Khan — activist, researcher, and author — penned 'Nakshi Kantha: Bangladesher Nandito Shilper Smarok.'

Claiming the late afternoon of Monday, 5 November, 2018 for the launch of this very book, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro of the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, dedicated to enlighten and plant progressive ideas in the minds of Dhakaites, proved to be the perfect venue for the occasion.

Household names in the world of arts, crafts and literature were keen participants of the event and the shining stars included National Professor Anisuzzaman, former cultural affairs secretary Aktari Momotaj, Bangladesh National Museum Director General Abdul Mannan Ilias, Tasmima Hossain, editor of The Daily Ittefaq and Anannya, the fortnightly magazine that took the initiative to publish the book, and others.

While introducing Maleka Khan and her book, artist Hashem Khan said, "The book is a true testament of the effort given and commitment shown by Maleka Khan to revive an ageless tradition of the lands of Bengal. Just like a rural woman would spin every stitch with a thread and a needle upon old saris and cloths lying around the house to make one grand embroidered quilt, Maleka Khan

carefully penned every word with clear depictions of the age-old craft to eventually culminate into one wholesome book that you can now purchase from bookstores."

The book, truly, but metaphorically, Maleka Khan's very own nakshi kantha, depicts tales of the magnificent quilt in history, folklore and literature, and even chronicles its glorious evolution from one district to another, and from one decade to the next.

Nakshi kantha is a timeless craft, embedded deep into Bengali culture, where old clothes like saris, lungis, and even dhotis are sewn together with various motifs and designs at the leisure of rural women of Bengal to make a quilt during cold winters, or just to express creativity.

With Maleka Khan later taking centre stage to express thanks to her patrons, especially to Tasmima Hossain, applauding her involvement in women's development, the ceremony soon led way to a musical soiree by popular Lalon singer Farida Parveen.

The evening spent with a spirited discussion and live music only paved the way for curious enthusiasts to take in one of the historical stories of rich Bengal through Maleka Khan's successfully finished nakshi kantha for a price tag of only Tk 1,500.

By Ramisa Haque

Grand finale of Navana LPG recipe contest

The grand finale of Navana LPG Meat Master Recipe contest was held on 7 November, 2018 at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka.

The contest started earlier in the year, during Eid-ul-Adha, in search of the best recipes of beef and mutton as a social media campaign. Hundreds of chefs and cooks shared their delectable recipes from around the country. The selected top 16 were part of a live cooking competition. Out of them, eight winners received Singapore, Bangkok and Cox's Bazar trips for two, as prizes.

Celebrity chef Nahid Osman was present as the judge.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/NavanaLPGLimited



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CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST & BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST
Cell: 01611-640538 (SMS), 01735-788746 (CALL/SMS) email: nurulazeem@gmail.com
Web Site: www.colonelazim.com, Facebook: Colonel prof dr. Nurul Azim Retd.

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