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Cosmos to hold open studio tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Gallery Cosmos is going to organise an open studio with a group art exhibition titled 'Line of Ages' at Cosmos Atelier 71 printmaking studio in Malibagh, Dhaka. The exhibition is based on the outcome of the four-day special print workshop recently conducted by promising Japanese print-artist Toshihiko Ikeda.

The inaugural ceremony will take place at 5:30 pm on April 20. The exhibition will remain open till 8:30 pm.

Both prominent and promising artists -- Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Kalidas Karmakar, Biren Shome, Rokeya Sultana, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Dr. Hira Sobahan, Nagarbasi Barman, Asharful Hasan, Biswajit Goshwami, Mohammad Rezaul Sadat, Nityananda Gaine,

Zahangir Alom, Nevine Sultana, Farzana Rahman Bobby, Sourav Chowdhury, Juton Chandra Roy, Khalequzzaman Shimul, Nayeem Zaman, Kamruzzoha, Rashida Akter, Sakib Salim, Raju Ahmed, Sushmita Das Dewan and Md. Shahed Hossain -- participated in the workshop and exhibition.

Toshihiko Ikeda was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1980. He graduated from Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan in 2003 and obtained his Master's degree from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 2005. He served as an assistant teacher at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music from 2005 to 2009 and at the Yokohoma University of Arts from 2010 to 2012. He also served as an academic and lecturer in several art institutes in Japan from 2016 to 2019. Ikeda has held numerous solo

and group exhibitions at home and abroad. His artwork has been published in many prestigious art publications in Japan and abroad. Currently he is working as a professional artist and educator at Art Village Shirakino, Minamishimabara-shi, Nagasaki, Japan and a part time lecturer at the department of printmaking in Nihon University.

Cosmos Atelier 71 printmaking studio was set up in 2009 and has since made significant contribution toward popularising the medium of printmaking. The studio contains state-of-the-art facilities and it aims to break new grounds by acting as an incubator for the emerging graphic art scene in Bangladesh. To that end, it focuses on encouraging young printmakers to develop their craft and present them with pathways for a future in printmaking.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Tauquir Ahmed on his 'Feluda' web series

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Over four decades ago, award-winning writer and filmmaker Satyajit Ray introduced Feluda, the charming detective, to Bengali Literature. Since then, numerous films have been made based on this character, which have attained immense praise from viewers and critics alike. Noted Bangladeshi actor and director Tauquir Ahmed, who is still basking in the success of his latest release, *Fagun Hawaii*, is now set to direct a web series based on Feluda, with actor Ahmed Rubel in the lead role. Tauquir Ahmed opens up about his latest venture and more in a recent chat with *The Daily Star*.

Tell us a little about the web series based on Feluda.

We will begin shooting for the series from April 21 and it will be shot in Nawabganj and Chattogram. The series is set in modern-day premises with Feluda's character at the centre of the storyline.

Growing up, were you a fan of Feluda?

Absolutely. In fact, I have watched film adaptations of the *Feluda* books multiple times throughout my childhood and I enjoy watching them even today. I think that the character is one of the most

extraordinary creations in Bengali Literature.

How challenging is it for you to create a series based on such a popular character?

Several renowned directors before me, including Satyajit Ray himself, have made screen adaptations based on *Feluda*. So, I know that I have high standards to live up to. There are certain limitations that come with directing a web series, but I hope that the audience will like our work.

What made you choose Ahmed Rubel for the role of Feluda?

Ahmed Rubel is one of the most successful actors that we have. He is renowned for his work not just in cinema and television, but also in theatre. I have faith that he will pull off this role with ease.

This is your first time directing a web series. What do you think about the popularity of web-based projects these days?

The internet provides plenty of opportunities to creators and directors and we must apply that in a positive and practical way to our industry. We must modify our ways with the changing times in order to stay relevant. These days, the audience prefers the web as opposed to television and it is great that many directors in our country are catering to that medium.

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MINUTE PLEASE

AHMAD ASHIK

Spontaneous, self-deprecating, erratic and politically incorrect comic, Ahmad Ashik is regarded as one of the finest stand up comedians in the scene right now. His journey began in 2010, while pursuing his higher studies in the UK. Let's see if the spontaneous comedian holds his own on this week's One Minute Please!

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Name three of your inspirations in comedy.

Dylan Moran, Dave Chapelle and Chris Rock.

What's the worst part about being a standup comedian?

It's when people don't laugh at your jokes. I don't remember that feeling though, as it didn't happen for the past 3 years. (Laughs)

What is one word you would use to describe yourself?

Spontaneous!

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I wanted to be a veterinarian.

Where do you want to see yourself in 5 years?

I want to take the art of standup comedy to a bigger audience here, and help it become mainstream.



PHOTO: COURTESY

MOVIE REVIEW

'Shazam' balances humour with genuine sentimentality

SHABABA IQBAL

Shazam is about a teenage boy, Billy Batson, who becomes a powerful superhero whenever he says the word 'Shazam'. So, like Tom Hanks in *Big*, you have a young boy grappling with being in an adult body. But he also has to fight a supervillain and several dastardly CGI beasts that represent the seven deadly sins. Billy also gets separated from his mother at a young age and is placed at a group home run by Victor and Roza Vazquez, a couple who have five other foster children.

Noted actor Zachary Levi pulls off the predicament of a teen trapped in an adult's body with ease and is likable, so much so that it might just be a career-defining role for him. Asher Angel as young Billy and Jack Dylan Grazer as Freddy Freeman, Billy's foster brother, are also brilliant.

Many eyebrows were raised when it was announced that David F Sandberg would be directing *Shazam*. Before this, his films were strictly in the horror genre, having made his debut with 2016's *Lights Out*, followed by *Annabelle: Creation* in 2017. As such, he seemed like a strange choice for DC Entertainment's family-friendly superhero offering. Yet, *Shazam* is tremendously joyous and goofy, while still delivering some solid scary scenes, when appropriate. With *Man of Steel* in 2016, the new direction



taken by DC Entertainment and WB Films proved to be a divisive one. Whether you enjoyed the early offerings of the DC Extended Universe or not, there is no denying that they weren't exactly kid-friendly. From the first teaser of this film, however, it became abundantly clear that the makers were aiming to do something different with *Shazam*. It is a sweet family movie that wears its heart on its sleeve. While the film has scenes that make the viewers laugh, it also offers some genuine emotional moments. Although it gets a bit

over the top and cheesy at times, for all its silliness, *Shazam* is a crowd-pleasing film that does well with its grounded premise, that of a troubled foster kid finally finding a place to belong. Some fans might be understandably concerned that the film would lose itself in its own absurdity and kid-friendliness. Thankfully, *Shazam* strikes a good balance in that it is funny and light-hearted, but it also conveys a strong message about brotherhood, friendship and acceptance.



Renowned musicians from all over the country got together at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in a 'Dowa Mahfil' to pray for the musicians who left the world over the past few years, as well as to wish good health for the ones who are suffering from illness.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED