

A chat with the leads of 'Mayaboti'



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The much anticipated Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Yash Rohan starrer 'Mayaboti', will hit theatres today, nationwide. The Arun Chowdhuri directorial received a green signal from the Film Censor Board of Bangladesh without any cuts, earlier. The plot of the film revolves around Maya, a young girl who faces many hurdles in her life. The Daily Star caught up with the two lead actors recently, to find out more about their film.

What are your expectations with your latest film, 'Mayaboti'?

Tisha: The expectations are rather high, because if the story is intriguing, it is meant to attract the audience to the cinemas. Besides, the stellar cast gave their very best in this film, making it a true work of art.

Yash: Apart from having a fascinating story line and an amazing cast, the director did not leave any stones unturned. We have all worked really hard for this project, hence the expectations are high.

Does the film give out a message to the audience?

Tisha: It surely does, but I would not like to disclose it at the moment. That is for the audience to discover once they reach the cinema halls. All I would like to say at the moment is, every human being has the right to disagree, and we must all respect that.

Yash: Likewise, I would not like to spill the beans as of now. However, I would like to add that one will surely find the film entertaining along with its message.

How was the experience like shooting at the infamous brothel of Daulatdia?

Tisha: I visited the place thrice for shooting. The workers were very welcoming, which in turn was helpful for our team. Some of them told us stories, while others danced and sang. Their friendly behaviour turned the atmosphere rather favourable.

Yash: It was a first-time experience for me and I had

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so many memorable moments. I felt the workers there were helpless. However, we did not face any trouble, in fact, they enjoyed our presence.

Could you both describe your respective characters in 'Mayaboti'?

Tisha: I play the character Maya, a simple girl from the village who likes to sing. The plot mostly revolves around her. She will face extreme hardships, through which she fights to see the light of day.

Yash: I play Iqbal in the film. My father is a law enforcement officer. I have my fair share of troubles with my family, and at one point, come across Maya. This role helped me rediscover myself.

What would you like to convey to the audience?

Tisha: A lot of hard work goes behind making a film, and we do all that for the audience. We would like them to go to the cinemas to watch the film.

Yash: On a similar note, I would like everyone to go to the theatres with their friends, families and loved ones to watch *Mayaboti*.

What are you two currently busy with?

Tisha: I am currently busy with the promotion of *Mayaboti*. I will start shooting for Dipankar Dipon's *Dhaka 2040* in the near future.

Yash: I am shooting for two films recently. One is called *Adom* and the other is *Poran*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED



The team of Hat Bakso.

Hat Bakso: Projecting Bangladesh worldwide

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Bangladesh is a land of natural beauty, with many heritage sites and fascinating architecture. We have the world's longest sea beach in Cox's Bazar, and the largest mangrove forest of the world -- the Sundarbans. On the other hand, we have historical architecture, including the likes of Ahsan Manzil, Curzon Hall, National Parliament Building, among others.

Hat Bakso, a Bangladeshi designing and manufacturing firm, has taken the initiative of projecting Bangladesh globally through producing miniature replicas of popular tourist spots, historical sites and architectural beauties of the country. Having started its journey in 2015, it came to market in 2017.



after intensive research and product development. Besides miniature replicas, it also produces fridge magnets, key rings, thematic wall frames, bookmarkers, paper weights and other traditional decorative products.



Hat Bakso is administered by five Dhaka University Alumni -- Md Shafat Kadir, Founder and CEO, Md Robiul Hossain Jewel, Founder and Creative Head, Md Morsalin Anik, Supply Chain Head, Md Khairul Bashar Sazal, Admin



PHOTO: COURTESY

Head and Tanzina Tareq Nitol, Head of Communications.

"Despite having some beautiful historical and architectural beauties, no initiatives were taken to design their miniature forms," says Robiul islam Jewel, "That's why we took the initiative. We developed miniatures of prominent structures like the National Parliament Building, National Memorial, Shaheed Minar, Aparajeyo Bangla, Lalbagh Fort, Curzon Hall and Ahsan Manzil."

Currently, Hat Bakso is selling their products through their Facebook page. They have already received bulk orders from different ministries, universities, hotels, resorts and corporate bodies. The company plans to open an outlet soon.

FUAD
opens up about the
FOBANA Convention

SHARMIN JOYA

The 33rd Convention of the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA) was held at Nassau Coliseum, USA, recently. Fuad and Friends (FNF) performed at the event for the first time. In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Fuad talks about his experience at the event.

Tell us a little about your memories of the FOBANA Convention.

I first participated in the convention in 1989. I was nine at the time. We were a part of a set presented by the Bangladesh Society of New York. My brothers, Rahat and Nicky, and my father, Al Muqtadir, were with me. However, this time, the experience was different, as our



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

band, FNF performed at the convention for the first time. We were a part of the headlining act.

What was special about the FOBANA Convention this year?

It was historic because Nassau Coliseum has never hosted a Bangladeshi event before, and that too, a two-day programme. The credit for this goes to Drama Circle, headed by Abir Alamgir and Nargis Ahmed, and the title sponsors, Town-MD and Utshob Group. More than 65 organisations from 22 states were a part of this event. Tapan Chowdhury, Riza Parvin, Suvera Dev, Samina Chowdhury, Fahmida Nabi, Baby Nazneen and Miles were among the performers.

How did the audience respond to FNF's performance at the convention?

My brother, Rahat's rendition of Nazrul's *Bidrohi*, was the only performance that got a standing ovation from the crowd. We also featured Laboni for the first time in an FNF show. Shuvo was brilliant too. We arranged a three-piece brass segment, which was both challenging and exciting for me.

What are some upcoming projects of FNF?

We have a few more shows this year in the USA and Bangladesh. FNF is also working on a project that I cannot talk much about. The audience will have something special from us soon.



Marking the 95th birth anniversary of the legendary art maestro SM Sultan, a four-day festival, titled 'Sultan Festival' was organised by the District Administration, Sultan Foundation, SM Sultan Shishu Charu and Karukala Foundation, at Sultan March Square, Narail. The festival will conclude with a traditional boat race to be

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held at Chitra River, Narail.