

CENTRE STAGE

Mahfuz Ahmed

Mahfuz Ahmed has starred in several TV dramas and films in his career of around three decades. He has won multiple awards, and even has his own production house, 'Nokshikatha'. In this week's interview, the actor talks about what it is like being an actor and what it takes to be one.

Tell us something about yourself.

If I had to say something about myself, I'd say that I'm a very simple and emotional person.

Can you describe your journey into acting?

My journey into acting was very long. While I was studying journalism in university, I was introduced to Imdadul Haq Milan, who offered me an acting role. Later, I also got introduced to Humayun Ahmed. He offered me a role in one of his projects as well. That's how my journey began.

Who was your biggest inspiration?

That's quite a difficult question to answer. There were many who inspired me, and inspire me to this day. If I had to choose one, it'd be Afzal Hossain. He is incomparable.

What is your favourite work-related memory?

I don't know whether this can be considered as a work-related memory, but it's one I cherish a lot. My mother called me after watching my film, *Srabon Megher Din* in *Modhumita* cinema hall, and told me that I did well and that she was proud of me.

Did you plan on becoming an actor since your childhood?

I never thought I'd be taking acting as a profession. I never even dreamed of it. My family never used to participate in any cultural activity, be it music or dance. I didn't grow up in an environment which nourished these forms of art, so being an actor was beyond my imagination at that point in my life.

What is the life of an actor like?

What people think the life of an actor is like is quite misinformed and incorrect. Most have no idea what's it like being an actor; they have strong misconceptions. So, they believe these misconceptions, causing the reality of the situation to be hidden. A lot of negative news about actors is shared on social media; a lot more than positive news. That's what reaches the audience. This is how an actor has to live with all the fabricated news surrounding them.

What qualities are required for an upcoming actor?

All the aspiring actors out there need to have courage, patience and the drive to succeed. They have to be able to tell themselves that they can get what they desire. They also have to have the ability to imagine. Don't be afraid to dream. Be a dreamer, and be able to turn your dreams into reality.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

When I think about myself in five years, I see a photograph of my family, with my wife and children beside me. I see us happy.

Do you have any upcoming project the readers should look forward to?

I'm currently not involved in any project. This is mainly because I don't find joy in my work anymore. Moreover, the current state of our entertainment industry does little to draw my excitement. So, I'm not working at the moment; I'm just waiting and preparing for the future.

Any message for the readers?

Give honest criticism of projects. If it's bad, it's bad. If it's good, it's good. There are both good and bad projects made in our industry, so it is wrong to call all projects bad. Please praise the good projects as it will encourage the makers and increase the number of similar projects.

Amina Hossain

