



Shameem Akhtar



Mostafa Sarwar Farooki



Suborna Senjutee Tushee

Star
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Amitabh Reza



Nurul Alam Atique

DIRECTORS RENDITION

With the zeal to bring forward unique stories and offer audiences with remarkable films, top filmmakers like Nurul Alam Atique, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, Shameem Akhtar, Suborna Senjutee Tushee, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon and Animesh Aich have been working relentlessly to take our film industry to overarching glory. Today, we have all of them under one roof, to not only celebrate the 50th birthday of Nurul Alam Atique, but also indulge in an intimate conversation with Rafi Hossain, sharing their viewpoints on the intersection of modern culture, technology and film, and the struggles young filmmakers are currently facing in the film industry.

COVER STORY

NURUL ALAM ATIQUE:

When I started off working in the industry, directors shared a unique bond. We used to meet-up a lot and communicate with each other. In recent times, directors don't have that bond which we did back in the day. Another thing that significantly changed is how people view the job of an assistant-director. In the past, whenever I was chosen as an assistant-director, I used to be happy to have been given the opportunity. No matter how hard or tiring the job was, I would happily do it. I had a deep love for my work. Presently, many newcomers in the industry think that being an assistant-director is beneath them because they believe that they know everything about filmmaking. But, not everyone shares the same mind-set; some strive to do better by offering great projects to audiences. If I have to talk about the young directors, I saw some short films on YouTube a few

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years ago, and I was taken aback. Aside from that, I loved *Pata Jhorar Din*, by Redoan Rony and *Bikel Belar Pakhi*, by Adnan Al Rajeev.

I also feel that today, technology has made filmmaking both simple and complex. When I began my career, technology was a very new concept for us; we needed to learn and get used to it. The new directors don't have that issue as they are used to having technology for a long period of time. Even if they don't know something, they can learn how to do it very quickly. But, utilising the technology to fit their story is the complicated part.

MOSTAFA SARWAR FAROOKI:

I think that the upcoming generation is far ahead of us. They are exposed to a lot more information and knowledge than we even were. With each generation, people continue to evolve. A child growing up using *Facebook*, *Instagram* or any other social media platform is bound to have a

different view of the world than someone from a previous generation. So, when these people came into the industry, they helped us adapt. The industry is going through a very positive change right now. We have a lot of potential, and soon, we will have a lot of great stories. We simply have to keep on pushing ourselves and working harder. Soon, good storytellers will get the opportunity to showcase their talents. But, with cinema halls being closed down, we are losing the platform for showing our films. If we plan on shifting to online streaming platforms, we should take into account how *Netflix* does it. When it comes to working on online streaming platforms, age is not a factor. We have a lot of promising new directors in Bangladesh, but I don't want to name anyone. I see many directors completing the shooting for a forty-minute drama in two days. I never would have been able to do that. However, I don't see how people can expect a lot of good stories coming out of the place our industry is headed towards. For instance, if I was

to tell Sumon to change the industry in two days, he won't have been able to do it. Finishing a shooting in two days is possible, but creating an impact that way? Not so much.

AMITABH REZA:

Every single director is very eager to make their films. However, eagerness isn't enough. A big cohesive team – assistant directors, producers, actors, and a crew – is required to make a film. They are the lifeblood of our industry. I would have to say that Tanvir is the best director from the new generation; he is a great storyteller, who also understands film direction very well. I also enjoy Abrar's work. Although directors like Shaoki or Rabbi aren't that popular, I still love their work. If given proper support, I believe that they can achieve great heights. However, there is something about young directors that I do not endorse: many of them are not watching enough movies or not learning all the ropes of filmmaking. You need an extensive

knowledge of filmmaking to make good films. Even though I didn't study in any prominent university, I spent a large portion of time gathering knowledge in the public library. If a director learns a lot about filmmaking, they won't come up with vague storylines.

SHAMEEM AKHTAR:

I'm very optimistic about our film industry. Young filmmakers are making many good films. I believe that if we give them enough opportunities, they will be able to make great projects. I have faith that they will bring a positive change in the industry. They have already been able to make an impact, and I'm sure they will continue to do so. We have to give our best in our work and all work as one. If someone asks me to help them out with a project, I'll do so without any hesitation. I always try to look out for others in the industry. I have recently been working as a jury for some film festivals, and I must say that there are good projects,

but not many have left a mark on the film industry. We have quite a number of talented new directors. Among them, I like the work of Sumon.

MEJBAUR RAHMAN SUMON:

In the past, directors used to sit down together and discuss about films quite often. We used to talk about which projects were good and what we should do to improve our films. Directors don't do that anymore. I think that if everyone communicated more, it would greatly improve the industry. Even now, whenever I see Amitabh or Animesh's work, I feel that I have a lot left to learn. People aren't very vocal about films on social media, and that really bothers me. They put social media on a very high pedestal, but comparatively films aren't given enough value, despite being a very big part of our culture. In our society, directors don't get the recognition they deserve. When we were