



Kabori

## Ei Tumi Shei Tumi

### Kabori's incomplete project

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Noted actor Sarah Begum Kabori passed away on April 17, 2021, leaving behind an iconic legacy of work.

She made her mark as a director for the first time with the film, "Ayna" in 2005. After fourteen years, she returned to the director's chair with "Ei Tumi Shei Tumi". Kabori had been working on the film since March 2020. She had written the story, screenplay, and dialogues of the movie.

"Ei Tumi Shei Tumi" will showcase the Liberation War period and the modern times. Kabori and Sohel Rana will play pivotal roles in the film, alongside newcomers Riyad Rayhan and Nishat Nawar Salwa.

The film's production started at the beginning of March 2020. Unfortunately, the shooting was postponed after two days, due to the restrictions induced by the



Gazi Mazharul Anwar

pandemic.

After a break of five months, the cast and crew had resumed shooting in September last year. They recently wrapped up shooting, and dubbing for the film is underway.

Renowned singer Sabina Yasmin turned music composer for the first time on this film, upon Kabori's request.

"I worked with Kabori in the 70s. We were great friends. So, when she requested me to take up this project, I couldn't refuse," shares Sabina Yasmin.

The film will contain four songs, one of which is voiced by Sabina, and pictured on Kabori. The song, "Duti Chokhe

Chhilo Kichhu Nirob Kotha", written by Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, was recorded last year.

The second song, titled "Tumi Shotti Kore Bolo", is sung by popular vocalists Imran Mahmudul and Somnur Monir Konal.

The lyricists for these songs are Gazi Mazharul Anwar, Mohammad



Sabina Yasmin

Rafiquzzaman, and Kabori herself.

"I collaborated with Kabori multiple times when she was a regular actor. When she approached me to write the lyrics to one of the songs for this film, I cooperated with her," says renowned lyricist Gazi Mazharul Anwar. "We both got busy with other projects afterwards, and then one day, Kabori called me and told me that she had finished recording the song. After a while, I heard about her illness. Her demise is a grave loss for our film industry."

"Kabori showed me the lyrics to one of the songs from the film one day, and asked me my opinion. I thought it was an amazing song," shares Sabina Yasmin. "Eventually, she admitted that she was the lyricist of the song, and it was a huge surprise for me."

"I asked her why she didn't tell me about her songwriting skills before, and she had just brushed it off and joked about it," says Sabina. "Kabori was always keen to learn new things, and she used to read a lot during her spare time."

The 'mishti meye' (sweet girl) of the silver screen, Kabori is immortalised through her many films. The beloved star will remain a legend, inspiring generations of actors.

# Co-stars reminisce Kabori

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Legendary actor Sarah Begum Kabori ruled over the silver screen with her simplicity and sweetness for over 3 decades, starting from the 1960s. The "Nil Akasher Niche" famed actor has garnered her career with prestigious accolades, including the Bangladesh National Film Award for Best Actress for her role in the film "Sareng Bou" (1978) and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

She later went on to become an elected member of parliament from the



Ujjal

Narayanganj-4 constituency as an Awami League politician in 2008, and served until 2014. The beloved actress recently passed away due to Covid-19 at the age of 70. Walking down the memory lane, Kabori's peers commemorate the journey of one of the finest actors of the golden era of Bangladeshi cinema.

"Kabori was a self-made artiste"

- UJJAL

I had shared the screen with Kabori in my debut film "Binimoy". I was a complete newcomer back in those days, and had only appeared in television dramas and some plays staged at the University of Dhaka. Director Subhash Dutta had given me this break. She was a big star already with a huge fan following.

Our first shoot was set in an outdoor

location and I had reached the set a little earlier. As soon as I reached the set, I could hear people chanting 'Where is Kabori? Is she here yet?' The whole crowd was mesmerised as soon as Kabori stepped out for her first shot.

We soon became friends and as time went by, we only grew closer. I was cast in lead in her production "Bokala Mon", a film directed by Subhash Dutta. I still treasure the memories from the sets of this production.

Kabori's persona greatly radiated the essence of being a simple Bangladeshi girl who would always remind you of the



Babita

never willing to compromise on her performance.

"She was one of the prettiest faces on the silver screen" - BABITA

I was eagerly waiting for Kabori to come back to us in good health. Many I know have managed to survive and return even after they have been put on life support. The news of her death has left me completely heartbroken.

We share endless and priceless memories together. We had last shared the screen in Gazi Mahub's Raja



Sohel Rana

simply beautiful girl living next door. Kabori was a self-made artiste who never failed to please the audience with her grace and ease.

"Kabori was no less than a legend"

- SOHEL RANA

Kabori was no less than a legend. She was unparalleled. With her roles, she had become the personification of the term 'Bangali Meye'.

I still remember how she welcomed me with her warm smile when I approached her for my directorial debut "Masud Rana". Her words still echo in my ears. "I will take up this challenge and work opposite you in your first directorial venture," she had said.

The film had become a super hit and we went on to pair up for her productions as well. She was a very keen learner and



Tariq Anam Khan

Surja Kha in 2012. We had a great time together shooting for the film at BFDC. I used to cook for her often and carry it to the sets where we spent long hours together.

We had also visited the Moscow International Film Festival together with Razzak and Khan Ataur Rahman. The trip was one of the best ones I have ever had.

She created history and today the history will remember Kabori as one of the prettiest faces on the silver screen.

"Kabori will live forever in our hearts"

- TARIQ ANAM KHAN

Kabori was my co-actor for my debut film "Lal Shobujer Pala". Director Syed Hasan Imam suddenly asked me to become a hero, that too opposite Kabori. This had left me in shock and anxiety.

All my fears disappeared on my first day of the shoot as Kabori sweetly said, "Come here! This is how you do this action and try and emote while saying your dialogues."

In the later years, while we were shooting for the tele-fiction "Maatir Kole" she shocked me with her compliment. "You are a pretty good actor I must say..."

Kabori will live through my memories, and never fade away from the hearts of her fans.



PHOTOS: STAR

## Revisiting memorable roles of silver screen's 'Mishti Meye'



Kabori, the "Sweet Girl" of Bangla cinema

SHABARA IQBAL

We recently lost one of the most celebrated actors of the country with the demise of Sarah Begum Kabori. Born on July 19, 1950, she started acting in films from the age of thirteen, with the Subhash Dutta directorial, "Sutorang". The film was a blockbuster hit, and won accolades at the Frankfurt Asian Film Festival in 1964. Over the years, the actor played an array of memorable roles on the silver screen. Although Kabori's importance in the world of Bangla cinema can be talked about for days on end, her greater legacy is that of a graceful artiste, whose passion for her craft was unparalleled. That being said, let us take a look at some of the notable movies that Kabori was a part of, and which have been crowd favourites for decades.

Known as the 'mishti meye' (sweet girl) of Bangla cinema, the National Film Award-winning actor was featured in hits like "Moynamoti", "Nil Akasher Niche", "Sujon Shokhi", "Sritituku Thak", "Sareng Bou", "Bodhu Biday", "Motimohol", "Rongbaaz" and "Shat Bhai Champa" among others.

Kabori played a key role in "Titas Ekti Nodir Naam", directed by Indian filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. The World Cinema Project (WCP) took the initiative to preserve and restore this film with great effort from Ritwik Memorial Trust and National Film Archive of India. However, the WCP had said that the original negative was incomplete and few reels were severely damaged. The film explores the lives of the Malo community, whose existence is intertwined with

the Titas River, in Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.

"Sujon Shokhi", directed by Khan Ataur Rahman, is a trendsetting romantic film, starring Farooque and Kabori. It received critical acclaim, particularly for Kabori's performance. The chemistry between her and Farooque in the film is brilliant. "Sareng Bou", another movie starring the pair, was



Titash Ekti Nodir Naam

also well received by cinemagoers. The film is based on the novel of the same name by Shahidullah Kaiser. Furthermore, Kabori played the character of Parvati beautifully in "Devdas" (1982), opposite Bulbul Ahmed.

"Rongbaaz", starring Nayak Raj Razzak and Kabori, is considered one of the most successful Bangla films till date. Razzak and Kabori were seen together in more than twenty films, including "Abirbhab",

"Je Agune Puri", "Dip Nibhe Nai", and "Nil Akasher Niche", among others. "Tumi Je Amar Kobita", a romantic track from the film, "Dorpochurno", featuring the two actors, is popular among listeners even today. In 2019, Kabori was honoured with the Nayak Raj Razzak Award from the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce, in Kolkata. Her on-



Devdas

screen chemistry with him made them one of the most beloved duos, during the 1970s. "At times, Razzak improvised a dialogue and I responded in a way as if I knew what he was going to convey, and it was all on-the-spot and instantaneous," she had said in a 2018 interview with *TheDailyStar*.

Kabori's films truly resonated with the masses, and showcased how effortlessly she could portray different characters.



Dip Nibhe Nai

Sareng Bou

Sutorang