

## The audience will get to see me in a new avatar on stage: Azizul Hakim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*Azizul Hakim, having worked in the entertainment industry for more than four decades, is a respected name in the television industry.*

*The veteran actor has enamoured the audiences with his notable performances in dramas such as: "Kon Kanoner Phul", "Shingsoptok", "Somoy Oshomoy", "Din Rattrir Khela", "Nokhroter Raat". Azizul Hakim became a household name with his performances in movies such as "Shonkhoneil Karagar" and "Padha Nodir Majhi".*

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the multifaceted actor opens up about returning to theatre where he first made his name.

**You started your journey in theatre. How does it feel to return to stage after such a long time?**

Theatre is where I belong -- this is my home and this is where I first realised that I have truly become an actor. Due to my busy schedules, I had to stay away from the stage. My last performance with my group, Aranyak Natyadal, was in the drama "Joy Joyonti". Apart from that, I would also occasionally perform with the group for the drama "Ora Kodom Ali".

I will finally be returning to stage once again with a new drama titled "Jonoker Ontrojatra" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Currently we are busy with the rehearsals but we are scheduled to go on stage in December,

added the actor.

The television veteran also shared his excitement on relinquishing his passion for stage once again.

The sheer experience of working in theatre is quite different from working in any other medium. Theatre is the only platform where you can experience audiences' reaction directly. You were infected with Covid-19, and were admitted to hospital. You have returned tele-fictions recently. How did you prepare yourself for coming back to the stage?

It is true that acting in television and theatre is quite different. On stage, you need to deliver the dialogues in front of the audience, and for that, you need to have a strong presence. Thanks to everyone's prayers and blessings, I was able to recover early and come back to acting.

As an artist, I get a sense of satisfaction working in the stage and as I love theatre, I am able to pursue my passion whole-heartedly. I think I am quite prepared to hone that aspect of me again.

**How do you think theatre helps someone become a better actor?**

Theatre acts as a basic medium for you to polish your acting skills. One can truly learn the crafts of acting by working in the theatres. There is no alternative to stage. Just like a student needs to go to school for his education, an artiste can maneuver his artistic skills only in theatres.

**Do you feel like television viewership has dropped over the years?**

Earlier on, people used to watch only one channel. Now we have many options for channels. Most of the channels showcase different kinds of content.

I feel like the viewership has been divided -- and so it feels like the viewership has decreased. However, that's not really the case at all. Viewers are busy watching dramas in different channels, which cater to their choice.

**What does acting truly mean to you?**

Acting is my first love. It is something that runs within my blood, and I think of it has an act of devotion. If you want to become a true artiste, you need to channel all your passion and energy in it.

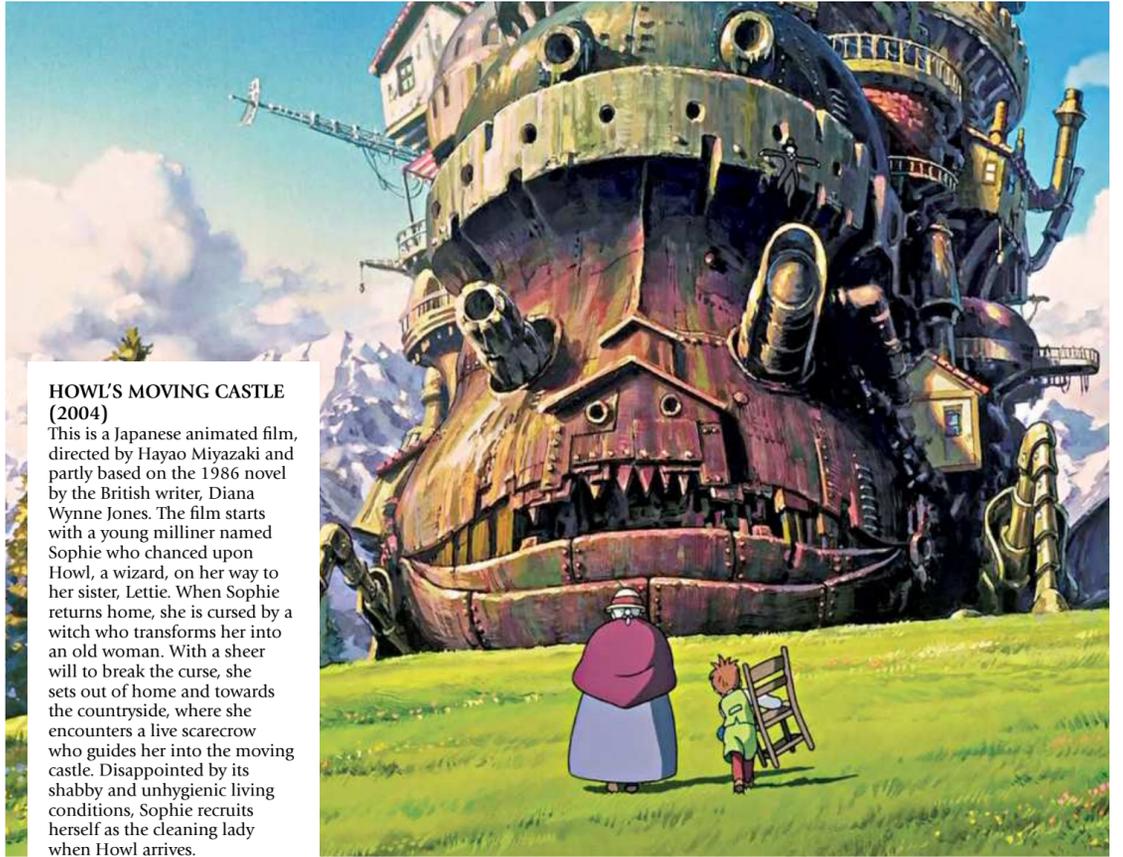
Translated by Rakshanda Rahman Misha



# 5 fantasy novel adaptations that deserve your attention

FARAH KABIR

*Ever since the massive success of "Game of Thrones", fantasy novels have been a valuable commodity. Many well-known books of this genre have already been adapted or reimagined for the screen. We have put together a list of old and latest fantasy novel adaptations that you can watch on Netflix.*



### HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (2004)

This is a Japanese animated film, directed by Hayao Miyazaki and partly based on the 1986 novel by the British writer, Diana Wynne Jones. The film starts with a young milliner named Sophie who chanced upon Howl, a wizard, on her way to her sister, Lettie. When Sophie returns home, she is cursed by a witch who transforms her into an old woman. With a sheer will to break the curse, she sets out of home and towards the countryside, where she encounters a live scarecrow who guides her into the moving castle. Disappointed by its shabby and unhygienic living conditions, Sophie recruits herself as the cleaning lady when Howl arrives.



### THE WITCHER (2020)

"The Witcher" is a Polish-American action adventure drama created by Lauren Schmidt Hissrich, on the basis of the book of the Polish writer, Andrzej Sapkowski. Henry Cavill, Freya Allan and Anya Chalotra are its leading stars.

Geralt of Rivia is a witcher or a mutant who hunts monsters. He is depicted as the balance between humans, who are the real monsters as they are always on the brink of harming each other. One of the key phrases used throughout Season 1 of the show is "the lesser evil", meaning that we are all wicked but it is important to identify who or what poses a lesser threat during conflicts and thus, eliminates the greater evil. Season 2 of "The Witcher" is expected to be streaming from December 17, 2021.

### THE KING: ETERNAL MONARCH (2020)

This is a romantic South Korean TV series, written by Kim Eun-sook. Although the series was released first, it has been converted into a novel duology. The TV series has 16 episodes, with the lead cast Lee Min-ho, Kim Go-eun, Woo Do-hwan, Kim-Kyung-nam, Jung Eun-chaee and Lee Jung-jin. The story revolves around two parallel worlds. The King of South Korea, Lee Gon searches for a lieutenant who saved his life when his father



was killed by his half-uncle, Lee Lim, who sought ownership of the kingdom and a magical flute. The flute was broken into two by Lee Gon, when he held it against the sword with which Lee Lim tried to kill him.



### STARDUST (2007)

A romantic adventure film based on Neil Gaiman's 1997 novel, "Stardust" is directed by Matthew Vaughn. It stars Charlie Cox, Robert De Niro, Sienna Miller, Jason Flemyng and Michelle Pfeiffer. Tristan, a young man from the town of Wall in England crosses a bordering wall to the forbidden magical kingdom of Stormhold to collect the fallen star for Victoria, the woman he is in love with. Upon reaching the site, he discovers that the star is a woman named Yvaine. As Tristan tries to get the star back to his home before Victoria's birthday, his life gets intertwined with a witch who seeks the heart of Victoria which would assure immortality. Stardust will arrive on Netflix in Bangladesh on September 15.

### RAGNAROK (2020)

This is a Norwegian fantasy drama based on Norse mythology, with a modern twist. The show is created by Adam Price. Edda, a town in Norway faces the worst effects of climate change and environmental pollution caused by the Jutul industries, run by a family of giants who are primarily in charge of the town. To stop their activities and prevent an impending apocalypse, Magne, a teenage boy, learns that he is the reincarnation of Thor, the God of Thunder, and fights against



the Jutuls. In a fight to save his brother, Laurits, Magne kills one of the Jutuls. Later, he is deeply stricken by his conscience, and prays for his powers to be taken away. The series currently has two seasons.

## Visualising the present through Anup's art

FARAH KABIR

*Anup Roy is a contemporary artist, adept at painting modern-day objects in his own style. He has completed his Bachelor's in Painting at the Fine Arts Department of Chittagong University, and is currently doing his masters. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the artist talks about his ongoing venture as an artist, and more.*



ARTWORK BY ANUP ROY

**How does your work comment on current social and political issues?**  
An artist will never reveal his true intentions. Different artists grow up in different surroundings and this affects the art they create. I cannot put my art into definition. It all depends on the perspective of the onlooker.

However, I do see myself while painting. When I began exhibiting my works, I had to adapt to the city lifestyle, which was very different from my village.

Despite being busy in the strife of life, I found myself stuck. To compete with recent times, we all make plans of leading a better



PAINTING BY ANUP ROY

life, in a more advanced city. In the process of making these plans, we ground ourselves, which becomes very mechanical. I believe that many others are thinking in the same way. Therefore, mechanical living is the most important theme of my paintings.

**How did you develop your career as an artist?**

I have always wanted to become an artist. When I was in standard two, I used to steal my uncle's paintings and try to recreate them.

This helped me discover that I was good at it, and kindled an interest towards art. My mother has always supported me as she wanted me to become a painter. My teacher

from college named Binoy Sardar, used to motivate me by saying, "Do anything and everything but do not quit painting". I also receive a lot of help from my seniors and teachers in my university, and am still in the process of developing my career.

**Can you tell us about your recent exhibition at EMK Centre?**

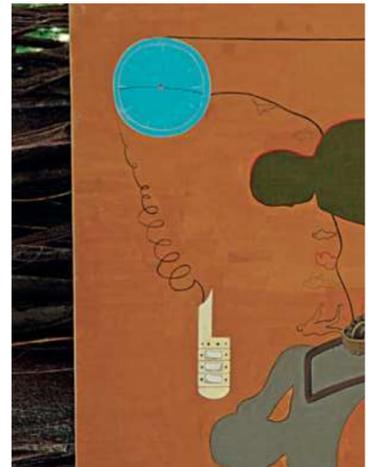
We were a group of four artists who worked on line-based paintings and drawings. I created three pieces. The first was focused on themes of both mechanical life and admission of love or proposal. It had two forms- a woman and a man.

The second was about women's condition in mechanical living, and their fulfilled and unfulfilled desires during these bustling times. The third contained a man and a form of a man with a fox's head seated at a table, and a snake appearing in the backdrop, all wanting to get hold of Aladdin's lamp.

**How do you navigate the art world?**

It is difficult to practice art in Bangladesh. Most of us feel lost after completing our studies, in thoughts about our career, the kind of life we want to lead and about our family. We are pressured to get employed so that we can support our family. This heavily impacts potential artists. Those employed in the corporate sector, do not even have the time to think about creating art, and thus become lost from its world.

Bangladesh also does not have a stable art market to help artists make a decent income. It becomes difficult when we cannot gather art materials, which requires a good amount



PAINTING BY ANUP ROY

of money. Very few artists have overcome their challenges whilst holding on to their passion, although their living standards may not be high.

Nevertheless, artists capture time through their art, which is subject to constant change. Hence, they must be positive about the time they spend, fulfill what is required and pace with it.

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PHOTO: COURTESY