

Even after two decades, Purnima shines brighter than ever

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Purnima is one of Dhallywood's most talented and supremely successful actors. The beautiful actress has also made a name for herself in both modelling and hosting as well.

The popular actress, who has been working in showbiz for more than 2 decades, has received numerous awards and accolades for her work in movies, including the National Film Award.

The vivacious actor debuted into Dhallywood with her movie "E Jibon Tomar Amar". And from that day onwards the actress had to look behind as she continued to get offers for film.

"From the beginning of my career, I was really fortunate that I got to act with such wonderful directors and also got the opportunity to showcase my talent," mentions Purnima.

The turning point in her career began with movies such as "Shuva", "Moner Majhe Tumi", "Hridoyer Kotha". These movies cemented her career as a versatile actor and also made her super famous.

"There are some movies which brought me a lot of popularity, and I am really thankful to the audiences for loving me so much," added the actress.

In her illustrious two-decade career in the film industry, she has acted the most with Manna and Riaz the most. Audiences also loved her pairing with Ferdous and Shakib Khan.

The actress opened up the culture of pairing and how it has an effect on audiences.

"Pairing is something that is quite good for both actors and movie industry. People love an on-screen couple and their pair become super hit due to love and appreciation from the audiences," stated the actress.

After establishing herself in movies, the prominent actor also made an impact in TV with her notable performances in tele-fictions.

The "Moner Majhe Tumi" actress worked in a mega-serial alongside Zahid Hasan in "Laal Neel Beguni" at the height of her success in movies.

"Nowadays, I only work in tele-fictions for special occasions. I only chose it if it's a good script. I get a lot of offers, but I try to be selective of my work," added the actress.

Although the actress works in special occasion dramas, she didn't do any tele-fictions for Eid this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Apart from acting in movies and tele-fictions, Purnima also made a name for herself in modelling. The beautiful actress has worked in quite a lot of big projects till date.

"I started modelling out of hobby. I realized that through this platform I can reach to all types of people," added the actress.

Now that the wave of OTT has started, most of the artistes are moving towards digital platform. Purnima also debuted into the world of web film with Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's "Munshigiri" in Chorki.

"People have really appreciated my characterisation in the web-film. Everybody was bowled out by "Munshigiri's" wonderful plot. I really think OTT has a long way to go and I am getting a lot of offers as well. However, I am being highly selective of my work as well," said the actress.

The actress has returned to movie sets with Noim Imtiaz Neyamul's much awaited movie "Gangchill" and is also scheduled a new celebrity program "Boro Moncher Charokara" as well.

She became even more of a household name by hosting "Meril Prothom Alo" awards, also stole the hearts of audiences by hosting another programme, "Othithi".

"I started hosting out of hobby but pretty soon it became my passion and love. I literally get a different kind of joy hosting in front of a room full of people," added the actress.

"This might sound generic, but I really want to work in movies that are remembered," concluded the actress, when asked about her future in the industry.



PHOTO: SHEKHA MEHEDI MORSHED

Kala Kendra's 'Charcha. Charja. Uddojapon' celebrates institutional art education of Chattogram

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh's independence and institutional art education in Chattogram, Kala Kendra's exhibition, "Charcha. Charja. Uddojapon" showcases the works of selected art graduates from Institute of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong.

The participating artists include Alok Kumar Sarkar, Afsana Sharmin, Abu Naser Robi, Ashraful Hasan, Yasmin Jahan Nupur, Emran Hosen, S M Reayad, Gonshai Pahlavi, Joydeb Roaja, Jayatu Chakma, Jasmin Akhter, Tanvir Parvez, Tasadduk Hossain Dulu, Dilara Begum Jolly, Niazzudin Ahmed Biju, Palah Bhattacharjee, Farah Naz Moon, Fahad Hasan Kazmee, Monir Mrittik, Mujahid Musa, Meherun Akter Sumi, Razib Dutta, Ripon Saha, Shatabdi Som, Sajib Sen, Sanjoy Bikash Das and Sanjib Dutta.

The diverse artworks on display celebrate the individuality of fine art practice in Chattogram. The artists have attempted to shed light on a variety of topics, including gender-based violence, socio-political issues, and the complexities of human nature. "We did not restrict the artists in terms of specific mediums and allowed them to be free with their creations," shared Wakilur Rahman, one of the curators of the show.

Emran's "Tousa" is a fascinating installation created with different food packages.

"I completed this project during the pandemic. Since we could not purchase art supplies due to the lockdown, I started working with things available at home," he explained.

The artworks featured represent the various moods, situations and uncertainty of this period.

On the other hand, Jolly's installation, "Deher Akkhyan", was inspired by violence and abuse faced by women during the pandemic. It is a composition of soft sculptures, with materials such as worn out petticoats and blouses strained with intricate needlework, depicting the women's torture.

Tasadduk's "Celebration of Urbanisations" portrays the unhealthy competition binding our lives, as we often forget to differentiate between right and wrong. "Rural people are attracted to urbanisation, and this lifestyle poses a culture shock. In order to fit into this society, they sometimes indulge in various crimes," he said.

Alok created a sculpture with empty condensed milk cans entirely. Each can represents a human mind, enclosed within the boundaries of fear and resentment. The cans are all connected to each other, showing how human lives are intertwined despite being different.

Afsana's "An ignorant incidence", is based on industrialisation, corruption, and power politics. Through the project, she pays a tribute to the innocent lives lost in industrial accidents. The bones in her work denote the fossils of the workers, who are the foundation of an industrial society. "The workers' lives are neglected



from all aspects. In this case, they were trapped in fire for hours without any sign of a fire extinguishing system. The lost lives also include those of children," she asserted.

Both Joydeb and Jayatu's works revolve around the lives of indigenous communities in the hill tracts. The social, political and cultural issues existing in these regions, along with the impact of development, are brilliantly portrayed through their pieces.

Jasmin's "Muhurto" consists of two self-portraits made with fabric. The work presents her reflections in different situations.

Lastly, Sanjoy's artwork depicts a traumatic chapter of his life as the artist lost his father, the day after his son was born. The work is a part of his ongoing series "My Notebook Page". He primarily used acrylic colours. He also added spray paint to provide texture, and represent his unique style.

The exhibition will be open for all till October 23, from 4 pm to 8 pm.

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PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Artworks from the exhibition.

MOVIE REVIEW



NO TIME TO DIE

A fitting farewell to Daniel Craig's James Bond

SHABABA IQBAL

For me, 2006's "Casino Royale" brought James Bond, the iconic British spy with an eye for the ladies, fast cars, and cool gadgets, firmly into the 21st century. Above all else, Daniel Craig's first film as Bond was a tragic love story, as the spy met and fell for Vesper Lynd, a woman who showed herself to be very much his equal. Her eventual betrayal and death was the catalyst that transformed Bond into the cynical, hard-edged agent we know and love.

The earlier batch of Bond films were very episodic with standalone missions and storylines, where we had the charismatic man with a license to kill in the lead role, but he did not really grow and change all that much. Whereas, Craig's movies tell the story with a complete character arc for Bond, in a world where he is allowed to grow, change, and build relationships with people that matter to him.

"Casino Royale" gave us a backstory that provided credence for the character's cold, heartless ways, as well as an



Daniel Craig in 'No Time to Die'.

emotional depth that we had hardly seen before. The loss of Vesper in that movie also drives the action of subsequent Craig films like "Quantum of Solace" (2008), "Skyfall" (2012), "Spectre" (2015), and most recently, "No Time to Die" (2021). For me, this storytelling technique makes for a much more vulnerable and approachable Bond.

In "No Time to Die", Bond's mission is to track down a kidnapped MI6 scientist, Valdo Obruchev, who has developed a nasty nanobot bioweapon coded to a specific person's DNA. The nanobots can infect anyone with a single touch, but they are fatal only to the intended targets.

The stakes are even higher when we learn that the bioweapon has fallen into the hands of new villain Lyutsifer Safin, played by Rami Malek.

There is no doubt that Oscar winner Malek is an actor with chameleon-like traits, and he gets into the skin of Safin really well for this film. However, in this case, the main threat being executed is far more compelling than the antagonist himself. Safin does not make for a particularly interesting individual, even though director Cary Joji Fukunaga intended him to be one of Bond's most dangerous, intelligent, and worthy adversaries yet.

That being said, "No Time to Die" has all the classic tropes we have come to expect from a Bond film, with plenty of excitement, spectacle, and humour. But rather than attempting to beat all the previous movies in terms of villainy, gadgetry, romantic conquests, and action sequences, it goes into some fresh, new territory.

Thematically, with Bond and Madeleine Swann's love story at the centre, the film is an exploration of past traumas, damaged relationships, and family.

A fitting, emotional farewell to Craig's Bond, it is the most personal and intimate look at 007 we have seen since "Casino Royale".

"No Time to Die" is now playing in theatres. If you consider going, please stay safe, and don't forget to wear a mask.



Ahmad Ashik and Amin Hannan Chowdhury.

Amin and Ashik's Live Standup Comedy Tour hits the road today

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The almost non-existent stand-up comedy scene in Dhaka is kept alive by the endeavours of two gritty comedians - Ahmad Ashik and Amin Hannan Chowdhury, with their ragtag band of funnymen.

The tour, which will include talents like Ananda Mazumder and Rafsan Sabab, will take place in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

The Daily Star talks to Amin and Ashik to know more about their expectations from the tour, the current comedy scene, and more.

Both of you are individual comedians when it comes to performances. When did you decide to form "Amin and Ashik", and why?

Ashik: The mastermind behind all of this is Amin. He had a vision, and I was just happy knowing that someone is passionate about standup comedy as much as I am. This is why we work well together. The name came from a lack of effort but I do regret not fighting for the better name -- Ashik and Amin!

Amin: I think what united us was the lack of ambition we both had. We knew that it would not work out if we kept going like that, because we had real jobs. We just wanted 20 people to show up for our shows at the time. Fast forward 3 years, and we have sold out all 7 shows from this tour.

Tell us about your latest tour.

Ashik: This tour is taking place because the pandemic dried up all our shows and we believe this is the right time to kick-start standup comedy again in Bangladesh.

Amin: This has been on our bucket list for a while now. We have Ananda Mazumdar who is a stammering comic that we met while doing the show, and Rafsan Shabab who is a clean comedian. What I love about the lineup of the tour is the variety. I think we finally have something to offer

for the crowd. We start on the 16th with the first show at Mirpur, then move to Rajshahi, Sylhet and finish the tour in Chittagong, our hometown.

What is the hardest part about being on stage as a comic?

Ashik: - the hardest part for me is when no one laughs, as there is 50/50 chance of your jokes not working on any given day but that is the best way to learn standup comedy too.

Amin: I think in the first minute the crowd decides whether they like you or hate you. The first minute has to be the hardest.

How do you see the stand-up comedy scene in Dhaka?

Ashik: The standup comedy scene here is like Bangladesh Cricket. There is potential and promise, but we are yet to win a major tournament.

Amin: The standup comedy scene here is like Bangladesh football. We all like it, we all want it to grow, but no one shows up at the venue.

You are quite a presence on social media. How much does that help in building a crowd for live shows? Will you say that the industry is completely dependent on it?

Ashik: I think our podcast, "Jus Lyk A Podcast" on our YouTube channel played a major role in bringing in the crowd. We are overwhelmed by the response. We used to do shows for 5 people, and now we are selling out venues around the country.

Amin: In fact, we had to tell people we're not YouTubers, but stand up comedians. I think we were a bit late in the game, but Rafsan and Antik (Antik Mahmud) helped us a lot in understanding how the social media game works. I remember being on call with them constantly on how to create videos and align them with our live shows, so we could bring some crowd.