

Fashion, passion and ambition with Azim Uddula

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From the river of Cannes to the runway of Paris Fashion week, Azim Uddula has conquered it all and continues to stride his way into international stardom with his brooding eyes and Greek-god like features.

A popular face in the South-Asian fashion scene, Azim has showcased his aptitude in modelling by doing photo shoots and ramp work in India, England and South Korea.

Azim Uddula who won the award for International Star Award at Cannes also walked at the prestigious Paris Fashion Week 2021 this month.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the busy model talked about his experience at Paris, his clothing line AZ, and whether he will debut in silver screen or not.

"My experience at Fashion week 2021 was simply wonderful. The organization and my favourite designer Grace Moon invited me to participate at the festival. The American designer only chose 3 male models and I was one of them," mentions Azim.

Grace Moon and Azim met during a show and the American designer felt that Azim's clothing line had huge potential. Earlier this year, Azim and Grace Moon collaborated on a fashion show held at hotel Amari in Dhaka.

"I walked the rampway on October 6 and after that I had a tight schedule doing photoshoots for Korean cosmetic brands and a legging company," adds Azim.

He has also received the International Star Award, which he could not receive personally in July due to Covid-19 restriction.

"There has been no proper run-ways since pandemic has hit our country. It is not possible to highlight an entire collection properly through photoshoots. Through proper safety protocols and rapid antigen Covid test kits, we can ensure that the audiences and clients will feel safe to enjoy our show," mentions Azim.

The model also emphasised on how there are lack of systematic structure and model agencies in our country.

"We are mostly doing freelancing works and if anything goes wrong then there is no one to guide us through the whole process," adds Azim.

Azim Uddula is a prominent face in the world of commercials where he worked for big brands such as Oxy face wash, Banglalink, Hyundai and American Express.

The popular model also acted in a music video for Tahsan's song "Mon Karigor".

"I have received a lot of offers for web-series and movies. The only problem is that I did not like the script much so I decided to not work on it. I am currently looking for a good script to debut in the silver screen," mentions the model.

The renowned model also learned acting from noted theater troupe "Prachyanat" for 2 years.

"Due to my busy schedules I had to drop out from the theater school but I am really happy that my whole experience there has improved me as a model. As I got to work hard on improving my expressions and body language for walking with the rhythm of music. Even in photoshoots, you need to use different expressions to produce a quality production".

Azim Uddula also owns his own clothing line called "AZ" in 2019. Currently, the brand has an outlet in Banani and its collections have received a good response from clients.

The model is also in primary discussion with a Paris brand to launch his own set of Perfume line for men.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DWIP GALLERY



Special guests at the exhibition.

Manan Morshed's dual solo exhibition 'Shut out of site' underway

FARAH KABIR

Prominent artist Manan Morshed's dual solo exhibition, "Shut out of Site", is currently taking place at Dwip Gallery in Lalmatia and the British High Commission Residence Project Space in Baridhara. Curated by art critic and artist Mustafa Zaman (for Dwip Gallery) and artist and organiser Teresa Albor (for British High Commission Residence Project Space), the show, which commenced on October 22, will continue till November 6, 2021. Sculptor, painter and architect Hamiduzzaman Khan inaugurated the exhibition at Dwip Gallery in the presence of contemporary artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed, executive director of Dwip Gallery Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo and British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson, among others.

Born in 1976 in Naogaon, Manan developed an interest in art since he was in the seventh grade, expressing his thoughts through satirical pieces on magazines, murals, and political posters of the 1990's autocratic regime in Bangladesh. This indulgence in art and publication led him to complete a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, in 1999.

For more than two decades now, Manan has been working as an artist, illustrator, activist and entrepreneur. He is also a skilled photographer and graphic designer. Manan worked at The Daily Star for 19 years and is the Art Director of the art magazine, "Depart". He founded Dwip Gallery in 2018 to promote modern and contemporary art, curatorial practices and facilitation of recent knowledge on art and society. He has been providing art consultancy to Steps Towards Development and other NGOs since 2000.

In the process of all the work he did for others, Manan felt the need to showcase his own art. He realised that his previous paintings were directed at a certain set of audience, and left no room for development of his own style of expression.

In 2018, Manan began to break out of these structures and develop an abstract style, guided by his unconscious. This is evident from the lines of some of his paintings that are irregular but grant freedom to the ink in the mix as it pleases, which

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imitates the involuntary action of switching from one thought to the other. Some also accompany fluid brushstrokes and many even have abstract and semi abstract figures.

Although Manan had been busy with his professional and other commercial enterprises since the start of the pandemic, he dedicated some time to painting. When he had a good collection, Mustafa, Apurbo and Salahuddin insisted on

having his own exhibition, which resulted in two of them. He has displayed acrylic, oil, and water based paintings in "Shut out of site".

They represent his past life, his surroundings and his mental state at the time he began to rebuild his relationship with painting.

His paintings explore topics of the unfamiliar. They are based on a non-spatial matrix, which can be better explained as a space that we can or cannot imagine, but can create an image of it in our minds.

This image, however, does not look like the spaces we have occupied or would occupy, and it does not matter if we are in or out of space. Such an experience of the supernatural in a journey across the spatiotemporal reality is however not as special as the image, which has denied every kind of identification. It is non-communicative and can even signify the world before visual communication began, thus paving a way to return to the point of origin.

Such an image is non-referential and non-negotiating, where all knowledge-seeking processes are left to concentrate on the doing, which is, creating images. It may also offer some solutions to the problem of self-referential images in the art's historical context.

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"Shut out of site" is open to the public from 4 pm to 9 pm at Dwip Gallery every day except on Mondays, while its parallel show in Baridhara is available by appointment.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Chumki channeling her inner artiste

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Farzana Chumki began her career in showbiz with the "Lux Anandadhara Photogenic" pageant. Theatre was the actress first stepping stone into the world of small screen. Chumki is associated with one of the renowned theater troupe "Dhaka Theater" and together they have performed a lot of plays.

In a candid interview with the Daily Star, the talented artiste reveals her love for theater and her upcoming ventures.

You are very active in theatre, which is rarely seen among artistes today. What is the reason for that?

Theater holds a special place in my heart and I have been working in this field for more than 20 years. I am truly fortunate that I am associated with renowned troupe "Dhaka Theater".

My first project with them is called 'Haat Hadai' and my last project with them is named 'Ekti

Loukik Othoba Oloukik Steamer' which was staged during the coronavirus pandemic. The play has been written by Anon Zaman, and directed by acclaimed actor Shahiduzzaman Selim.

When Covid-19 cases was at its peak, we used to rehearse in zoom calls but when the Covid-19 cases got lessen, we started doing in-front rehearsals. During such rehearsals some of us got infected with Covid-19 but such was our love for theater that we couldn't keep ourself apart.

What are your recent projects in television?

Currently I am working in two mega-series- one of them is "Smiritir Alpona Anki", which airs on ATN and another one is daily series "Gulshan Avenue Season 2". We are currently shooting for the tele-fiction in Gulshan. I was also working in two other projects but they were shelved due to Covid-19. I want to lessen my appearances on television.

Why is that?

It's impossible for me to do characters that I used to do early onwards in my career. Now, I have

to do roles according to my age and that is why I prefer to do fewer roles. I only want to do roles that will satisfy me as an artiste. I prefer quality over quantity anytime when it comes to work.

You have acted in only one movie throughout your illustrious career. Why is it that?

In the beginning of my career, I used to get a lot of offers for mainstream movies, but as my family didn't want me to do it, I had to decline it. The only movie that I have worked right now is Giasuddin Selim's "Paap Punno", which is yet to be released.

Nowadays a lot of story-based movies are being made and I want to be part of it. I want to do good movies so I am being selective for my roles.

What do you think about recent tele-fictions?

A lot of good works are indeed being produced on television. We have a good set of artistes and directors who are making wonderful projects. Even though some works are going unnoticed, we are certainly producing quality works.

1 MINUTE PLEASE

MASHA ISLAM

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The young and talented Masha Islam took YouTube by storm when she first started, and is now on the playlist of all modern Bangla music lovers. The girl with the golden voice joins us for One Minute Please, where she only has a minute to answer the questions!

Thanks for joining us. If you weren't a musician, what would you be?

I think I would be a doctor, or I would be in development.

If you wrote a song, and could pick any artiste to sing it, who would they be?

If it were an international artiste, it would be Jessie J. In Bangladesh, I would be Shahrukh Kabir.

What is your hidden talent?

Not many people know that I dance very well. I am also a good cook, if I may say so myself! (Laughs)

If you could learn any instrument in a second, what would it be?

Definitely the violin! What is the worst thing about being a musician in this day and age?

The fact that I can't just focus on my music, as there are various other factors that determine one's success.

