

‘I am excited to discover what Los Angeles has to offer’

Tahsan on his academic pursuits in music

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Noted musician and actor Tahsan Khan is set to work on his first English solo album. The Black-famed artiste is also looking forward to visit University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in the upcoming year. In a candid chat, Tahsan opens up about his upcoming plans in music, and more.

“I have already lived the dream I had 20 years ago in my homeland. Now, I want to look towards new inspirations and reveries,” shares Tahsan.

He is currently busy with his academic pursuits in music at UCLA. “2022 will be quite a busy and rewarding year for me indeed,” adds the artiste. “Challenges and newness always motivate me, and I am excited to discover what Los Angeles has to offer.”

Tahsan, who has also earned much appreciation for his albums ‘Kothopokothon’, ‘Prottaborton’ and ‘Obhiman Amar’ plans to start working on his first English solo album and release it in LA. “Exposure to new knowledge and ambience will enable me to come up with new ideas for this album,” shares a hopeful Tahsan.

Alongside his musical ventures, his film, “No Land’s Man”, directed by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, is awaiting release in the US. Tahsan will be seen alongside celebrated Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Australian theatre-based actress Megan Mitchell in the project.

“The appreciation this film has garnered till now has been overwhelming and inspiring,” says Tahsan. “We have all put in a lot of effort and hope that it manages to connect to audiences at home and abroad.”

The “Mukh O Mukhoshor Golpo” actor is also in talks for yet another big production. “We are looking to finalise the project, and will announce it as soon as we decide upon its locations,” concludes Tahsan.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

‘I have no personal life’

In an exclusive video interview, film star Arifin Shuvoo opens up with Star Multimedia for ‘Entertainment News of the Week’! Keep your eyes on The Daily Star’s Facebook and YouTube pages for a fun, action-packed interview with Bangladesh’s premiere action hero!

PHOTO: SHEIKHMEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AFD

Abir Abdullah’s ‘Climate Migrants of Bangladesh’ underway at AFD

A solo photography exhibition, titled ‘Climate Migrants in Bangladesh’ by Abir Abdullah, began at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) in Dhanmondi recently. A total of

34 photographs are being showcased at the exhibition. Abir Abdullah is a prolific documentary photographer of the country. He has won many awards, including the prestigious Mother Jones

International Fund for Documentary Photography for his photo essay on Bangladeshi freedom fighters. ‘Climate Migrants of Bangladesh’ will be open to all till November 26.

FERDOUSI MAJUMDAR
The legend returns to stage

One of the theatre arena’s most dynamic performers, celebrated for her exuberant personality and phenomenal talent, Ferdousi Majumdar is well-known for originating memorable characters in films and television as well.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Her portrayal of Hurmoti in the hit television series, “Shongshoptok” was widely appreciated by viewers. Recently, she was honoured with the Aly Zaker Sanman Padak.

After a hiatus of two years, the Independence Award and Ekushey Padak-winning artiste returned to the stage in the 100th show of the play, “Mukti”. The play, directed by Tropa Majumdar, was produced under the banner of the troupe Theatre. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, she spoke about her love for the stage, and more.

You were recently honoured with the Aly Zaker Sanman Padak. How was the experience?

I wish Aly Zaker was here with us today. He was a brilliant stage actor, and we all miss him dearly. I have countless fond memories of working with him. It is the honour of a lifetime for me to receive an

award that is dedicated to him.

How do you feel about your return to the stage after two years?

I was truly nervous, and my heart was throbbing before the show! I would have worked on a number of productions, but everything was halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, over the last two years. I am feeling the pressure and tension, as it has been a while since I have performed on stage. That being said, I am thrilled to be back. Theatre is one of the greatest loves of my life, and I am grateful for everyone’s appreciation.

Tell us a bit about the play, “Mukti”, and the reception to its 100th show.

“Mukti” is about a woman, who has three daughters; her husband has left her. It focuses on the mental state of this woman in her day-to-day life. I have tried to play the role of this woman as sincerely as I could. The response to the play’s 100th show was extraordinary. Theatre means the world to me, and it is truly inspiring when a production is so

well-received by the public.

You are one of the most prolific theatre artistes of our country. How do you find the inspiration and courage to keep going, at this stage of your career?

At this age, I am able to act only because of the infinite grace and kindness of the Almighty; He gives me the courage. In addition, my family, well-wishers, and co-artists have been immensely supportive.

Bangladesh has welcomed quite a large audience for stage plays over the last 50 years. What are your comments on this?

Audiences are the true benefactors of stage plays. I know that my fans and admirers have high expectations from me. They have showered immense love upon me, for my performances on the stage as well as television. They are very accepting and forgiving. It is because of them that I have not left acting till date. I hope that our stage plays and other cultural endeavours continue to thrive.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

SERIES REVIEW

MAYA AND THE THREE
A feel-good fantasy mini-series

FABIHA NOSHIN

“The Book of Life” animator/director Jorge R. Gutiérrez’s long awaited Netflix animated miniseries “Maya and the Three” is about a courageous teenage princess, fighting the evil Gods of the underworld to save the world from destruction.

The nine-episode series is densely rich with mythology, and celebrates culture on an epic scale. “Maya and the Three” is a fantasy adventure series which follows a spirited princess with the heart of a warrior who embarks on a journey to fulfil an ancient prophecy that foretells the coming of three great warriors who will help Maya to defeat the evil Gods and save humankind.

The series is inspired by indigenous cultures, and is set in times of Gods and prophecies. The story is about Maya (voiced by Zoe Saldana), princess of Teca Kingdom wanting to be the great



Eagle Warrior, joined by three courageous warriors in her mission to save humanity from the dark lords of the underworld. She is more interested in becoming a better fighter, than attending her royal duties. The first chapter of the series opens with princess Maya celebrating her 15th birthday, and getting ready for her coronation but everything changes when she learns that she is going to be

sacrificed by the ruler of the underworld. Lord Mictlan (the God of war) wants to sacrifice her for power - and if she does not surrender, than he is going to destroy her kingdom. She also learns about the true prophecy. According to the prophecy, an eagle warrior and three jaguars will one day defeat the dark lords of the underworld. Therefore, she travels across the neighbouring lands (Luna Island, the

Jungle Lands and Golden Mountains) to gather a team of courageous warriors. In her adventure, Maya is joined by Rico (voiced by Allen Maldonado) Prince Zatz (voiced by Diego Luna), Skull warrior Chimi (voiced by Stephanie Beatriz) and warrior Picchu (voiced by Gabriel Iglesias).

“In art school, I met artists from Puerto Rico and Peru and Argentina and Brazil and that became the inspiration for Maya finding all these different warriors from different lands.” Jorge R. Gutiérrez said in an interview. In the movie, the director wanted to have a strong female lead.

Through this extremely courageous depiction of “Maya”, he wanted to honour strong and independent female figures in his life, whom he views as warriors. “Maya and the Three” is an emotional, action-packed, fantasy miniseries that take its viewers to a completely new world. Visually this series is beautiful to watch, and every scene is a feast for the eyes. It is worthwhile watch for kids and grown-ups at the same time.

The author is a freelance journalist.