

# WORKING BEHIND the scenes in Hollywood

## Bangladeshi youths make a mark



ANTARA RAISA

"I used to sit in front of my computer for at least 16 to 17 hours every day, for a year. I just wanted to be the best, and this was my last hope," said Kamrul Hasan Jisan, a youth from Laksham who is now involved in making the trailers of some of the most successful film franchises - such as Marvel Studios' "Doctor Strange" and DC Extended Universe's "The Batman".

A few from Bangladesh are working in Hollywood right now, behind the making of some of the most amazing Hollywood film franchises. While some of these individuals work in the production part of the films, others are creating magic with graphics and VFX (Visual Effects).

The Daily Star talked to some of these young talents, who shared their experiences in Hollywood and talked about the differences between the Bangladeshi industry and Hollywood.

Wahid Ibn Reza is one such individual, who has made a name for himself by working on several superhero films as a production manager, including Marvel Studios' popular film "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

He was associated with "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" as a project coordinator. During his time at Method VFX Studios, he also worked on "Captain America: Civil War" (2016) and "Doctor Strange" (2016) from Marvel Studios.

Wahid worked with the visual effects teams of "Furious 7" (2015), "Fifty Shades of Grey" (2015), "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb" (2014), HBO's "Game of Thrones," and "Angry Birds 2" (2019), among other projects. In 2017, "Doctor Strange" was nominated

**"The main problem in the Bangladeshi entertainment industry is not the technology, rather the arrogance of directors and producers, who cannot take constructive criticism."**

KAMRUL HASAN JISAN



Kamrul Hasan Jisan



Mazharul Islam Shuvo

for the Academy Awards for Best VFX, making him part of an Oscar-nominated team.

Before moving to North America, Wahid was a familiar face in Bangladesh's entertainment industry. He played the lead in several television films and a couple of television comedy series. He was also the writer and director of the animated short film "Surviving 71."

"Our industry is quite small, and we don't have specialised people for different sectors. That's why one person has to do different things at the same time. In Hollywood, the picture is different. They are quite organised, and believe in specialisation," said Wahid.

According to Wahid, Hollywood rewards effort and perseverance more

so than Bangladesh, where many obstacles prevent the personal growth of artists and technicians.

However, he also thinks that things are changing in Bangladesh, as the OTT industry is making waves with high-quality content. Wahid praised the commendable work of young director Nuhash Humayun, who earned critical acclaim from abroad with his projects, "Pett Kata Shaw" and "Moshari."

"I think what Bangladesh can do to develop its entertainment industry is create various platforms to bring out the young talents in different fields, such as graphics, animation, production, and costume," said Wahid.

Since Kamrul Hasan Jisan watched "Lord of the Rings" in his teenage days,

he wanted to work in Hollywood. He wanted to create such visuals on the screen through his work. So, eventually, he started learning graphic design online. However, the road to Hollywood was not so easy, and he struggled a lot to achieve it. After moving to the USA, he tried to continue a job in a newspaper, but that did not satisfy him.

"I always knew that I wanted to work in cinema. The thirst to work in cinema brought me to Los Angeles in 2017. It was when the Covid-19 pandemic took over the world that I left my current job to find luck in Hollywood," said Jisan.

"During the lockdown, I began pursuing my dream because there was nothing else keeping me busy. I started watching tutorials and movies and also reading articles about graphic design."

Finally, Jisan landed a job at his current company, Wild Card Creative, in November 2021 as a motion graphic designer after being rejected by more than 30 production companies.

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