

From 'girl next door' to multifaceted star: 10 YEARS OF SAFA KABIR

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From *@18: All Time Dourer Upor* to *Parul*, Safa Kabir evolved from 'the girl next door' to portraying multidimensional characters that captivated audiences. The tenacious actor, who has completed a decade in show business, wanted to be a fashion designer growing up.

The gorgeous actor dropped by The Daily Star office to share her childhood dreams, projects, and more.



Is Anatoney Kelly really your name?

This name holds a special meaning for me- my grandfather wanted to give me a foreign name as my father was living abroad. However, my dad was keen on naming me Safa Kabir, and thus I decided to keep both of them.

You looked gorgeous in 'Barbie' premiere. How did it inspire you? Growing up, I had only one Barbie doll and I really loved making her

dress all by myself. This inspired me to become a fashion designer; however, destiny had other plans and I ended up becoming an actor. At the premiere, I wore a pink fluffy dress which fully embodied my bubbly spirit. It was really nice seeing real life artistes portraying Barbie on the silver-screen.

Another challenging part for me was going to Shapla Chottor, and taking people into bus and delivering my dialogues. We had to take raw shots as we didn't have any set - so we had to improvise according to what people were doing.

Sometimes you are seen selling newspapers; other times you are working as a bus conductor. Have you fallen on hard times?

Haha! That's my part time job. Jokes apart, those are my characters- it was really challenging to portray the harsh realities of a hawker and a bus helper as they have to work hard under such tiresome conditions. I am really grateful to my directors for bringing such unique stories to me and for being confident enough to

select me for these roles.

What was the most challenging part in 'Parul'? I think portraying *Parul* itself was very challenging. However, the most difficult part was the makeup. As I have a pinkish skin tone, they had to darken my skin colour, which used to come off easily due to heat and sweat. I had to constantly redo my makeup.

Another challenging part for me was going to Shapla Chottor, and taking people into bus and delivering my dialogues. We had to take raw shots as we didn't have any set - so we had to improvise according to what people were doing. People were looking at the camera which made it difficult for us to shoot. We faced a lot of hurdles while shooting the bus scenes but at the end, we were happy with the result.

Do you think its hard to makes friends in showbiz?

I really don't understand why do people have these misconceptions regarding showbiz- I have a close knit group of friends whom I have known for 10 years. I first got to meet Tawsif during my debut project *@18: All Time Dourer Upor*, after 1 year I started a serial called *University* with Jovan. I also worked in an airtel tele-film called *Bhalobasha 101*, from where I got to know Toya and Siam. Our friendship wasn't built in a day; it was a beautiful journey which took almost ten years to bloom.



PHOTO : SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
The Wife



Chorki
Virus



Hulu
Rye Lane



Amazon Prime
Made in Heaven (S2)



Disney+
Guardians of the Galaxy
Vol 3



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



135th WFMP: Smells Like Teen Spirit
August 11-12 | 4-8:30 pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka



Tareque Masud: The Adam Surat of Cinema
August 13 | 5-8:30 pm
Bangladesh Film Archive, Agargaon, Dhaka



First Poetry Slam Contest in Bangladesh
August 25 | 6-9 pm
Songskriti Bikash Kendro, Dhaka

WHAT'S ON THE GRAM SOBHITA DHULIPALA

Captured within a frame of garlands, Sobhita Dhulipala rejoices the second season's release of her acclaimed web-series *Made in Heaven*. The series dropped on Amazon Prime last Thursday, adding to the excitement that had already been brewing since the announcement. Prior to the release of the series, Sobhita took to her Instagram in monochrome white sweats and sneakers, to announce the release of the project that had previously propelled her to fame.



WHAT'S PLAYING

HABIB

Ekhoni Nambe Brishti

For those who grew up in the 2000s, Habib Wahid's third album *Shono*, serves as the background score of many core memories. During the era when Bangladeshi music was at the cusp of blending tradition with modernity, *Ekhoni Nambe Brishti* served as the perfect blend. The beautiful Tabla and Sarod accompanied the modern sentiments of longing.

Ekhoni Nambe Brishti is the perfect song to listen to, while you're scouring the flower shops for the season's first *Kodom* or simply, falling in love. The song was never released as a single or with an accompanying music video, but it has still managed to retain its place among neo-Bengali pop fans.



A timeless take ON GIRLHOOD

Judy Blume's classic pre-teen tale *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.* finds new life on the silver screen, delivering a heart-warming, gentle, and surprisingly impactful portrayal of a 12-year-old's inner struggles with puberty and growing up.

Rather than modernising the story with contemporary elements, Kelly Fremon Craig's adaptation remains an authentic historical piece set in 1970, a choice that raises questions about the representation of diverse identities during that era.

The carefree days of a summer camp in New Hampshire give way

to the vibrant hustle of 1970s New York City, and finally settle into a picturesque suburban tableau reminiscent of New Jersey.

Whispering a heartfelt plea to God - "Please don't let New Jersey be too horrible" - Margaret Simon, played by Abby Ryder Fortson, expresses her hopes for the transition of her life.

Craig's rendition doesn't merely unfold as a coming-of-age narrative; it delves deeper into the lives of women and the intricate dynamics of building families, particularly through the lens of Barbara's character. While the film occasionally struggles

with maintaining coherent integration between Barbara's personal journey and Margaret's, its emotional exploration remains commendable.

Starring Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, among others, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.* stands as a heart-felt cinematic journey. The nuances of girlhood and emotionally resonant depiction of complex family dynamics elevate the film above the majority of modern films grappling with similar themes.

BASED ON THE JUDY BLUME BOOK LOVED BY MILLIONS
STARRING RACHEL McADAMS, ABBY RYDER FORTSON, KATHY BATES

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.



WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN AND DIRECTED BY KELLY FREMON CRAIG
PRODUCED BY JAMES L. BROOKS
IT'S FINALLY THAT TIME
04.28.23
ONLY IN THEATERS