



LOVE LETTERS: A tale of unrequited passion

DOWEL BISWAS

Love, friendship, and intertwined self-explorations between two diametrically opposite individuals, and the bitter-sweet threads of soulful correspondence stretched over six decades – that's what Dhaka Theatre's play *Love Letters* portrayed at Bangladesh Mahila Samity's Neelima Ibrahim Auditorium last Saturday.

“We tried to keep the production as simplistic as possible, without any unnecessary embellishments. My priority was to ensure that the audience could concentrate on the play and the characters rather than a lavish set,” mentioned Tropa.

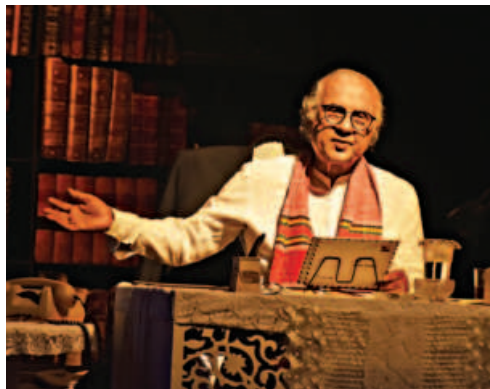
The play was translated and adapted by Professor Abdus Selim from American playwright AR Gurney's Pulitzer nominee-play of the same title. Directed by Tropa Majumdar, the production featured thespian couple Ferdousi Majumdar (Maisha Islam) and Ramendu Majumdar (Ananta Shahed Chowdhury) in leading roles.

Ferdousi and Ramendu had completely molded themselves into the roles of Maisha and Ananta who begin writing letters to each other as children, with thank you notes about birthday party invitations, later becoming more intimate as time passes by.

“This play is very close to my heart because I was chosen by and supposed to do this with the late Aly Zaker, one of my closest friends, colleagues, and mentor. We dedicate this play to him,” expressed Ferdousi, who enthralled the audiences with her witty, playful, and ingenious portrayal of the character.

Tropa Majumdar triumphed with her decision to cast two such brilliant actors in this play that orchestrated an entangled cobweb of an intimate, emotional love story with such intricate details and grace of self-introspection and righteousness.

“We are really happy to see such enthusiasm about a simple play like ‘Love Letters’ among the younger generation despite being devoid of such gimmicks. As for the characters, the two



PHOTOS: ASIF IQBAL SWOPNEEL

of them are polar opposites of one another, and I wanted to make sure that it was evident,” said the director.

Coupled with illustrations by artist Pradip Chakraborty and music by Sourendro and Soumyojit, the set, designed by Palash Hendry

Sen, was given a personal touch – a bookshelf for Ananta, the erudite politician, and painting tools for Maisha, the struggling artist.

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Alongside the actors, set, music and overall presentation, Prof Selim's contextualised adaptation of that narrative was something that stood out. His choice of including Bangladeshi subtexts, and historical connotations made the production relatable to audiences. However, he also made sure that this love story never loses its originality, sweetness, and jovial simplicity.

“We often don't realise the value of something before it's lost to the point of no return. These characters may seem extremely different, but at the end of the day, they gravitate towards each other because they feel a sense of completion with each other, and that was the point I wanted to make through my adaptation,” said Prof Selim.

Love Letters remains a haunting tale of unrequited love and missed opportunities, melancholy, loneliness, and desolation. In its oblique and unaffected way, the play illustrates the universal truth that so much of life, if not all, is a solitary journey, a letter we write only to ourselves.

‘Jawan’ topples ‘Adipurush’ on day 3

Shah Rukh Khan's leading action film *Jawan* was on the same wavelength as *Adipurush* up until its day-two worldwide collections. It, however, toppled *Adipurush*'s gross collection on day three.

Both films amassed Rs 240 crore net after the first two days.

However, within three days, Atlee Kumar's directorial *Jawan* accumulated Rs 350 crore gross at the worldwide box office, whereas its competitor collected Rs 340 crore.

Adipurush received all-around condemnation because of its dialogues and handling of the mythological *Ramayana*. The criticism caused the film's revenue to gradually fall.



‘1971 Shei Shob Din’ first-week ticket sold out in Australia

Hridi Huq's Liberation War-themed film *1971 Shei Shob Din* was released in Australia yesterday. It is currently running in 13 halls across six cities.

Prior to the film's release in Australia, advance tickets for the film were sold out for the first week. The executive producer, Kamruzzaman Ronnie, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

The film, based on the story written by Hridi Huq's father, Dr Enamul Haque, was initially released on August 18. It has been running successfully for four weeks now.

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Let us have a look at the nominations for Best Actor this year

Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star have collaborated to recognise the best of OTT and Digital Media once again.

Nominations for Blender's Choice- The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022 have been announced, and this is your opportunity to vote for your favourite artistes and content makers for their performances in 2022 on OTT and digital platforms.

To vote, visit : ottdcawards.thedailystar.net



The Daily Star
OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2022

Best Actor (Male)



Afran Nisho

CID officer Rashed is a grey shaded character, masterfully portrayed by Afran Nisho. He has a significant role in the film *Redrum*, which unfolds many truths behind a murder mystery.



Chanchal Chowdhury

The actor had to undergo drastic changes for his role in *Karagar*. Dressed in rags, with mystery in his hollow and sunken eyes, the actor nailed the role with his powerful acting skills.



Ziaul Faruq Apurba

Known as the king of romance on the small screens, Apurba plays a calm and polite person in the web film *Mayashalik*, who captivates the audience with his charm.



Mosharraf Karim

The actor gives his best to every character he plays. His brilliant portrayal in *Tin Shoroter Golpo* takes the audience on an emotional ride.



Afran Nisho

The actor secures another nomination for his stellar performance in the web-series *Kaiser*. Nisho amazed everyone with his performance in the project.

Best Actor (Female)



Mehazabien Chowdhury

Dr Sabrina, who is subtle, calm, and reactive where necessary, is brilliantly portrayed by Mehazabien in Ashfaque Nipun's web-series *Sabrina*.



Nazia Haque Orsha

Nazia Haque Orsha has always been consistent with her performance, and that's what makes her unique. In *Sabrina*, she wowed the audience, which earned her the nomination.



Shobnom Bubly

In *Taan*, Dhallywood star Bubly broke off from the mold of her conventional roles and donned the character of Aboni, which secured her the nomination.



Mehazabien Chowdhury

Mehazabien made her debut on the OTT platform with the film *Redrum*. She was widely appreciated for her performance in the project.



Tasnia Farin

Farin's one of the best performances in 2022 was in the web series *Karagar*. Her portrayal of Maha in the series, definitely deserves a nomination.