

ACTORS REAP the reward for hard work

Even though Blender’s Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards looks to promote artistes both behind and in front of the camera, there is no denying the star power that lead artistes bring to both your screens and the event that they grace. We talk to 5 standout artistes who won big at the ceremony.

BY SHARMIN JOYA AND RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

OTT has elevated the film industry as well: Afran Nisho

“It is a childlike feeling to receive awards for your work. Particularly when people vote for you,” said Afran Nisho on winning the Best Actor Award for Vicky Zahed’s web film *Redrum*. The actor was also nominated for Tanim Noor’s web-series *Kaiser*. In the last iteration, Nisho won the award for playing the negative role in the web-series *Morichika* directed by Shihab Shaheen. In his career of two decades, he has dedicated each award he received to the legendary Humayun Faridee. “Whenever I receive an award, I always think of one person, and that is Humayun Faridee. I want to dedicate my achievement to Faridee bhai each time, because I feel despite of being such a great artiste, he was underappreciated.”

OTT is a blessing for the entertainment industry, and agreeing to, this Nisho shared that this medium has vastly helped the audience to grow and local industry is in a phase of being able to compete in a wide-open field with international competitors. “The narrations have changed, and audience have become more tolerant and matured that they can accept strong and dark stories. This medium has brought upon a variation of storytelling. At the same time, since OTT has high budget, thus directors can represent good stories in proper way.”

“OTT has played a great role in elevating the film industry as well,” concluded the actor.



It was a team effort: Mehazabien Chowdhury

Mehazabien Chowdhury earned the nomination for *Redrum* (film) and *Sabrina* (series). The actress bagged the award of Best Actress for her web-debut film *Redrum* directed by Vicky Zahed.

“It feels good for getting recognition, and it has only been possible for my team,” she said. “It always motivates me to do better. It mentally prepares you to do better in the future.”

What makes this award different from others is that it has so many categories for the technical sides, and it is very important to celebrate them who work so hard behind the camera, because they work really hard for a project to make it better and make it best. However, there are two sectors which could have separate categories: Art Direction and Costume, then it would be a full package, and no one would be left behind.

Artistes usually look forward to awards like National Film Award, and Meril Prothom Alo. Blender’s Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards has now established itself as another favourite.

