

PARSA EVANA
Fit for
SHOWBIZ

Looking forward to Valentine's Day (February 14), Parsa Evana is going to work on two projects *Love Buzz* and *Dukkhito*, both directed by Kajal Arefin Ome. The actress recently shed a significant amount of weight and shared her journey with *The Daily Star* alongside her upcoming projects and more.



SHARMIN JOYA

There is a notion that you don't work without Ome and the 'Bachelors team', would you like to clear the air?

That's not really true! I am comfortable working with Kajal Arefin Ome and the team, which is why we collaborate often. However, it is not possible to keep on working with only one director or team for a long time. I want to work with everyone, it is just that I am selective about a good story and script.

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Marking Valentine's Day, you will be seen in two projects, directed by Ome. Tell us about those.

Love Buzz is the sequel to the previously released *Good Buzz* and *Bad Buzz*. It features the same cast as the previous dramas, just set in a new story and location. Another project is titled, *Dukkhito*, one of the short films from the series *Short Love Stories*, produced by Bongo. This story has been adapted from Bishwajit Chowdhury's book *Sholpodhoirgho Premier Golpo*. In this project, Ziaul Hoque Polash will be my co-artist.

In your nine-year career in the television industry, do you feel that the quality of productions has deteriorated over time?

It could be due to budget issues, lack of variation in plot and story, or it could be because the same crew is working over and over again. I believe that an artiste is for all, and they should get the opportunity to work with different filmmakers, and explore their talents in every possible way. Also, it is our responsibility to present a wide range of productive works to the audience. The audience always welcomes good projects.

Particularly, the directors are more in control of bringing the change, thus they need to have the guts to be more confident about their work. Sadly, the directors, who are supposed to be the 'captain of the ship', are depending more on their male leads.

Being a gold medalist in Bharat Natyam and

champion of Shera Nachiyé (2014), are you honing your craft enough?

In the last six months, I haven't done anything with dance. My mother always keeps pushing me to do so. Having been a classical dancer for so long, I have thought of doing something trendy now. I have recently come in touch with my friend Ruhul from Dhaka Dance Company, and I approached him if I could practice at his studio. I posted some 'reels' from my practice session, and people loved it. Although I don't get much time for stage performances, however, whenever I get time, I try to do experiments.

You have shed quite a significant amount of weight. What pushed you to do this?

I was feeling that I needed a change in my look. I felt, that if I wanted to experiment with my work, I needed to be fit as an actress.

It is true that since I started working in the industry, I was chubby and for that reason, I was body shamed multiple times by different people. We live in such a society where people criticise you no matter if you are skinny or obese – they even criticise people who are fit!

Interestingly, when people used to talk about my physical appearance, I used to eat more as a coping mechanism. I felt like no one should tell me what to do.

The journey wouldn't be so easy if the people I surround myself with were not cooperative and inspiring. During the pandemic lockdown, I made up my mind thinking it is high time that I have to bring a change in myself – to become more confident. Beauty and confidence are important elements in the showbiz industry, and confidence begins when you feel fit!

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix

American Nightmare: Season 1



Amazon Prime
Expats



Bongo
Oshomoy



Disney plus
A Real Bug's Life



HBO
Sort Of



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Live2web Records: Playlist Live
February 9 | 2pm - 8:30pm
Liberation War Museum



Dhaka Roast War
February 9 | 7pm - 9pm
Naveed's Comedy Club, Gulshan-2



Bangladesh Youth
Photography Exhibit S02
February 9-10 | 10:30am - 4pm
Liberation War Museum

A maestro's odyssey

The film *Maestro* narrates the tale of an artistic visionary from a conventional perspective, utilising familiar conventions and a straightforward narrative typical of a traditional biographical film.

Taking on the roles of both director and lead actor as the iconic composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, Bradley Cooper produced a technically impressive yet emotionally unsatisfying film. The screenplay, co-written with Josh Singer (*Spotlight*), adheres to a



familiar and episodic structure: events unfold in a chronological sequence, presenting a series of occurrences.

Maestro presents a portrayal of the artiste as a complex individual, exploring the enduring connection between Bernstein and his wife, actress Felicia Montalegre (played by Carey Mulligan). The biopic is well-executed and benefits from Mulligan's strong performance and Cooper's remarkable, award-worthy acting.

WHAT'S PLAYING

LUST

Puma Blue's *Lust*, released six years ago, is a journey through velvety R&B landscapes, draped in a suave jazz-tinged arrangement. Jacob Allen's languid vocals, the sultry half-time groove based around a loop that ebbed and flowed from a few repeated chords, is reminiscent of Erykah Badu's *Didn't Cha Know*. The artiste's introspective touch shines through, describing the song as a seductive exploration into the realms of imagination.

Accompanied by a visually captivating video directed by Do Not Entry, paying homage to Wong Kar-wai, *Lust* encapsulates a haunting narrative of letting go. Inspired by Wong Kar-wai's masterpieces, the video beautifully pieces together a final encounter, echoing the essence of films like *Happy Together* and *2046*.



WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor

Popular actress Alia Bhatt, accompanied by her husband Ranbir Kapoor, graced the 69th Filmfare Awards in Gujarat, India. Alia looked elegant in a custom-made white ensemble by Anamika Khanna, featuring a demure shade of gleaming gold. The stunning dress showcased a corset-style blouse with lace and sheer panels, layered over a saree gown hybrid – one of the designer's signature sartorial styles.

Ranbir, Alia's husband, looked dapper in a black suit paired with spectacles. Notably, Ranbir clinched the Best Actor award for his performance in *Animal*, while Alia bagged the Best Actress award for *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

