

Pavel brings globality to your 'living room'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It is rather hard to overstate how difficult it is to find your place amidst our concurrent musical landscape in the age of 'content': an overproduced, commercial and sometimes soulless plethora of constant gratification. While musical shows like Gaan Bangla's *Wind of Change* and Coke Studio Bangla greatly refreshed our earbuds, there was still an unfulfilled niche for something far homelier, easier on the ears.

This is where *Living Room Sessions* kicks in, using the musical, philosophical and spiritual energy of industry veteran Pavel Areen. You might know him as the drummer for Chirkutt, but Pavel has been especially prominent in the music industry as a music producer, dominating the ad film market and lending his talents to films like *Saturday Afternoon*, *Television*, *Doob*, *Piprabidya* and more.



PHOTO: MARUF RAIHAN

"This is a culmination of my two-decade career," says Pavel, who was also intrinsically involved in *Wind of Change*. "By the grace of the Almighty, I have received a lot in my career, and I see *Living Room Sessions* as a way of giving back." Pavel's enthusiasm and passion mirrored the first two episodes of the show, the latter of which was released on Thursday, featuring folk artiste Kajol Dewan. "All my life, I've had the fortune of meeting some extraordinary people, and they all have helped me out in some way or other with this project."

AOL Sessions was a big inspiration for the project. "We wanted to shoot it in a musical studio first, but we weren't getting the 'big' feeling. We wanted something big, and finally landed on this theme," notes Pavel, who is also the owner of Butter Communication.

The first episode of the project featured Kona, who lent her voice to the

soothing rendition of Rabindra Sangeet *Bhalobeshe Shokhi*. "I think I played it safe with the first episode, since Kona *apu* is such an accomplished singer. At first, she was reluctant about lending her voice to a Rabindra Sangeet. During recording, she made sure that she had given it her all." What came out was simple elegance, accentuated by Maruf Raihan's stellar work behind the camera.

"The extensive details that Maruf included, being an architect himself, was a driving factor in *Living Room Sessions*' identity - so I am grateful to him for that." The artiste also thanks Kallol Group for their patronage of this project. "They have been nothing but kind to me; they believed in me first, and this is why I have refracted many offers from other sponsors who were willing to pay more."

Pavel's arrangement might be themed around a 'living room', but it has had a touch from all over the world. "We consulted with musicians from Coke Studio Pakistan and India, collaborated with a quartet team from London, members from the world-renowned Dallas Horns also pitched in."

While the artiste lives his best life, balancing his band, commercial projects and *Living Room Sessions*, it wasn't always smooth sailing for him. "When I was in grade 5, my father's business collapsed," he reminisces. "Ever since that, I did whatever I could, played *kheap* (commercial) shows, sessions and whatever I could find - I call that a survival mindset."

Insisting that his spirituality guides him through most sets of circumstances, Pavel elaborates on his intricate relationship with it. "Whenever I am in musician's block or in need of some creativity, I just go to the other room and pray; I ask Him for guidance and plead to Him so that He gives me the solution."

Evidently, it also propels Pavel Areen through new heights, as seen in his willingness to overcome his propensity to work behind the scenes, and come forward as one of the driving forces of the industry.



PHOTO: M R RANA

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
Spaceman



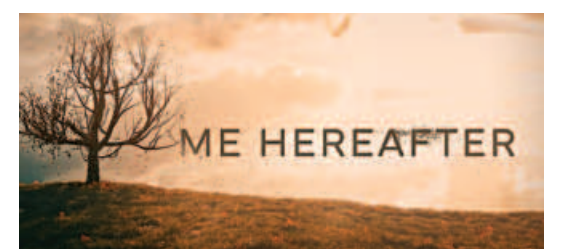
Amazon Prime
Poor Things



Apple TV+
The Completely Made-Up
Adventures of Dick Turpin



Hulu
Me Hereafter



HBO
The Regime



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Hajar Bachhor Dhore: Part 2
March 8 | 5:30pm - 9pm
Bishwo Shahitto Kendro



Inspire Her Wellness: Dhaka Flow Women's Day Festival
March 8-9 | 10am - 5pm
Baridhara Lakeside Park



Riturongo 2
March 9 | 8pm
Chhayanaut Cultural Centre

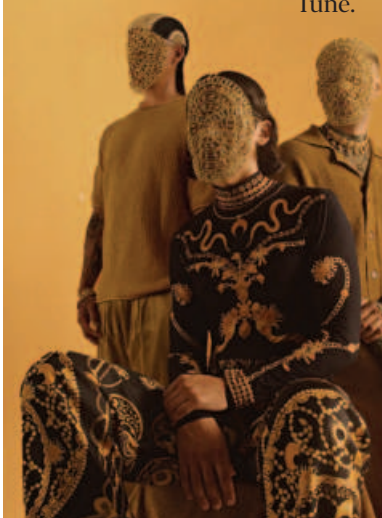
WHAT'S PLAYING

MAHAL

Glass Beams, the masked Melbourne trio, makes their highly anticipated return three years after the *Mirage* with their new song *Mahal*, the title track of an upcoming EP on their new label Ninja Tune.

Mahal is a three and a half minute-long immersive instrumental piece with a hypnotic, mystifying groove. The track effortlessly blends elements of Middle-Eastern vibes, funk, jazz, and hints of hip-hop, creating a unique sonic landscape reminiscent of a vivid DMT experience.

Having established themselves as masters of cultural fusion with their debut album, Glass Beams continues to defy genre boundaries. With *Mahal*, the trio demonstrates exceptional musical synergy, weaving a minimal arrangement into a deep, engrossing, and melodic creation.



1 MINUTE REVIEW

Standout rom-com soars to success

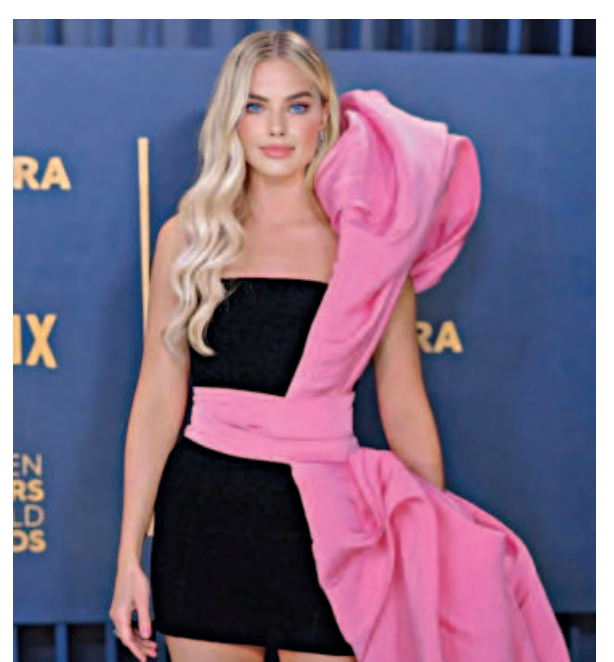


Crafting a satisfying romantic comedy in today's skeptical climate is no easy task, with countless meet-cutes and grand gestures already explored on screen. Yet, *Upgraded* manages to breathe new life into these tropes.

Initially seeming like a typical rags-to-riches story, it surprises with fresh twists. Director Carlson Young and screenwriters Christine Lenig, Justin Matthews, and Luke Spencer Roberts infuse relatable realism into the film to create a charming and meaningful experience.

Ana (Camila Mendes) battles in a low-level trainee program at a prestigious NYC auction house, yearning to open her art gallery and break free from her cramped living situation with her sister and brother-in-law. Despite facing constant disdain from her boss Claire (Marisa Tomei) and elitist assistants, Ana's luck is bound to change.

Camila demonstrates her acting prowess with undeniable chemistry and fantastic comedic timing alongside her talented co-stars. Particularly noteworthy are her interactions with her brother-in-law and best friends, whose quirky characters add a special edge to the film.



STYLE STATEMENT

MARGOT ROBBIE

Fashion Icon Margot Robbie shines once again with her impeccable style, stealing the spotlight at the 2024 SAG Awards in Los Angeles. Her latest appearance was a masterclass in style, as she effortlessly rocked a stunning pink ensemble reminiscent of the '80s. The eye-catching outfit, a black-and-pink mini from Schiaparelli's Fall 2020 couture collection, was elevated with the addition of a Barbie pink fabric wrapping, creating a dramatic train that stole the show. Despite the bold statement piece, Robbie's overall look remained elegantly understated, with the exception of a diamond anklet that added a touch of extra glamour to her ensemble.