

‘We’re fortunate that the audience loves us together’

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tanjim Saiara Totini, a well-known actress cherished just as much by the younger generation, has appeared in multiple dramas, earning praise from all corners. One particular drama with Totini and Yash Rohan drew significant attention. To date, the duo has been featured as a pair in more than a dozen productions.

At present, the actress is in the coastal city of Cox’s Bazar, working on a drama that is still awaiting its final title. She is acting alongside Yash Rohan, under the direction of Mohidul Mohim.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Totini shared her thoughts on her co-actor Yash Rohan, stating, “Yash *bhai* is an outstanding co-actor and he has an upbeat personality, so working with him feels great. He is my senior and, accordingly, has more acting experience than I do.”

“Yash *bhai* may be a close

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friend of mine, but I never forget that he is my senior. I always give him the respect he has earned,” Totini added.

Talking about their on-screen chemistry, Totini mentioned, “We’ve likely appeared together in about 15 dramas as a pair. The audience’s fond acceptance of our pairing means a lot. Seeing how positively viewers have responded to us as a duo is wonderful. I would say we’re both fortunate.”

When asked about Yash’s strengths, the actress shared, “Yash *bhai* is always punctual on set. He takes his profession very seriously and is highly disciplined. Considering the number of times we have worked together, there’s an almost natural understanding between us during acting.”

“On the flip side, I honestly haven’t observed any negative traits about him. He is a good person and a skilled actor. However, when he’s hungry, he can become irritable. During shoots, if lunch is delayed, everyone notices his frustration,” Totini responded

when asked if there were any downsides to working alongside him.

The YouTube drama *Nayantara*, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz and starring Totini, earned her much acclaim online, with viewers praising her impressive performance.

The actress also captured the audience’s admiration through her role in the drama *Vitore Bahire*, directed by Mizanur Rahman Aryan.

When speaking about her aspirations, Totini said, “I believe I get to learn while I work. The process of learning is never-ending. I aim to keep improving and take on more projects.”

Totini recently wrapped up filming a one-hour drama in Sreemangal and another upcoming project in Sunamganj, with Jovan starring alongside her in both productions.

Two weeks ago, the actress performed in a drama opposite Apurba under the direction of Syed Shakil.

She also appeared in another drama with Apurba, directed by Rubel Hasan.

When discussing her ambitions, Totini shared, “I aim to become a skilled artiste and to reach that level, one needs a deep passion for their craft—something I genuinely possess.”

Totini hinted at the possibility of a new project on an OTT platform in the near future.

To wrap up the conversation, she admitted, “I’ve gained more than I anticipated in my acting journey so far. Despite only being in the industry for a few years, I’ve received immense love from people.”

“I want to continue acting, to remain embraced by the audience’s affection, and to evolve into a well-rounded artiste,” she expressed.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Revised jury announced for National Film Awards 2023

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has revealed an updated jury board for the National Film Awards 2023.

The revised lineup includes actress Suchorita, actor Khaja Naim Murad, music director Maqsood Jamil Mintu, cinematographer Barkat Hossain, singer Nazmun Munira Nancy, and director Saeedur Rahman.

They have joined officials like the additional secretary (Film), who serves as chairperson, and the vice chairman of the Bangladesh Film Certification Board as member secretary.

The reformed jury will evaluate films released in 2023 across various categories.

Notable omissions from the earlier list include Ilias Kanchan, Zahidur Rahim Anjan, Prince Mahmud, and Aupee Karim. No reason for these changes has been provided by the ministry as of today.

IFFI to honour four Icons of Indian cinema at 55th edition



The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will celebrate the centenaries of Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), and Mohammed Rafi at its 55th edition in Goa.

The festival will feature restored classics such as Raj Kapoor’s *Awaara* (1951) and ANR’s *Devadasu* (1953) from November 20 to 28. Each icon will have a dedicated tribute, with discussions and screenings.

Rafi’s songs from *Hum Dono* (1961) will be featured, alongside a *Caravan of Songs* celebrating their musical legacy.

A special exhibition will showcase rare memorabilia and a sand art tribute by Sudarshan Pattnaik will further honour their impact.

Andrew Kishore’s family fights for unpaid royalties

The late singer Andrew Kishore, known fondly as the “Playback King” of Bengali cinema, lent his voice to countless beloved songs throughout his career, many of which remain fan favourites. Yet, his family reveals a painful truth—despite the enduring popularity of his songs, they have not received any royalties from his extensive filmography.

On Kishore’s birthday (November 4), his wife, Lipika Andrew, publicly expressed their frustration with this situation, speaking to Kaler Kantho. She stated, “My husband sang primarily for films, but we haven’t received royalties for those songs despite our claims.”

“We only received royalties for a few audio-recorded tracks. With the Copyright Act of 2023 now in effect, I urge companies to comply with the law and ensure we receive the royalties we are rightfully owed.”

The Copyright Act of 2023 mandates fair compensation for artistes, but the unique structure of film song contracts adds complexity to the issue. Zafar Raza Chowdhury, former registrar of the Copyright Office, explained, “Film songs fall under commercial rights, where ownership typically remains with the producer. Historically, the Copyright Act of 2000 granted producers full rights to film songs.” However, he noted that the law has been revised due to digital platform growth and artistes’ appeals.

He further clarified that the family could still file a High Court petition to claim compensation under the new law.



‘Finely Tiny’: The blend of mathematics and Oriental art



ZAHANGIR ALOM

French artist and mathematician Élise Grosjean’s solo exhibition, *Finely Tiny*, is currently captivating audiences at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). The show, which launched on November 1, began with an artist talk by Elise titled *Mathematics and Art: Exploring the Connections*.

Prominent critic Moinuddin Khaled joined as a special guest, with AFD Director François Grosjean offering remarks at the opening event.

Drawing from her extensive travels across Asia and Europe, Elise’s work is a fusion of mathematical precision and the intricate motifs found in Oriental art. Her admiration for Indian decorative art, Mughal miniatures, and the refined aesthetics of Japanese and Persian traditions infuses her creations with a delicate balance of colour, line, and form. This rich blend of styles reflects the artist’s deep-seated fascination with the decorative languages of these cultures and the ways they can intersect with



mathematical patterns.

Informed by the post-abstract phase in Western art, Elise’s work showcases a multifaceted approach that combines imagery from various cultural sources into a coherent whole. Her colourful, densely patterned canvases demand close attention, with viewers drawn into a world of meticulously crafted details that blur the line between mathematics and artistry.

Khaled, reflecting on her pieces, noted, “There’s a deep understanding of life behind the ornamentation in her work, a sensitivity that resonates with Indian mystical thought.”

Many of Elise’s motifs are tiny, requiring almost microscopic focus from viewers to appreciate each stroke fully. This minute attention to detail—enhanced by her mathematical background—adds layers of complexity to her work.

According to Khaled, her technique is reminiscent of Matisse’s spatial division and Paul Klee’s delicate lines and motifs, but with a unique approach that embraces the folk-art tradition even as it reinterprets it.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AFD

As a young scholar, Elise began her creative journey by drawing with henna on her skin and, later, on paper. To relieve the tedium of school, she covered her notebooks with imaginative drawings, nurturing a passion for art that would eventually shape her professional identity. Despite her artistic inclinations, Elise’s path took an academic turn as she pursued advanced studies in mathematics, earning a PhD and becoming an assistant professor at ENSTA Paris, a prestigious engineering institution. Her research in numerical methods for simulating physical phenomena is a stark contrast to her art, yet both fields reveal a fascination with structure, pattern, and the beauty of complexity.

In her current body of work, Elise finds inspiration in the intricate symmetry of geometric forms, exploring a shared language between art and science. Her pieces *Classroom* and *Roméo & Juliette – Mathematician Version*, both on display at La Galerie, epitomise her commitment to merging mathematical calculation with creative expression. Using diverse techniques—pencils, inks, oils, acrylics, watercolor, henna, and even salt dough—she transforms equations and notations into vibrant, accessible visual compositions.

With *Finely Tiny*, Elise Grosjean invites viewers into an intimate dialogue between mathematics and art, a journey through cultural heritage and personal discovery.

The exhibition is open to all from 3pm to 9pm daily, running until November 9.