



The Daily Star
OTT
& DIGITAL CONTENT
AWARDS 2023

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Directors are often regarded as the captains of a project, steering the ship toward success and elevating it to remarkable heights. As the 'Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2023' draws closer, the best directors of the year have been recognised for their exceptional contributions to the world of OTT content. Celebrating creativity and vision, these nominations highlight the storytellers who brought captivating narratives to life. The nominated directors shared their thoughts on the honour, reflecting on their creative journeys and the artistry behind their acclaimed works.

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Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2023

DIRECTORS REFLECT ON THEIR NOMINATIONS AND CREATIVE JOURNEYS

Ashfaque Nipun

The Daily Star has shown consistency and neutrality over the past two years in hosting the *Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards*, and I am confident they will uphold this standard again this year. I'm thrilled with the 15 nominations for *Mohanagar 2* across both the Popular and Critics categories. Congratulations to all the nominees, especially the technicians, whose recognition here is second only to the National Film Awards.

Shankha Dasgupta

I'm ecstatic to see *Guti* receive 18 nominations across both the Popular and Critics categories. We poured our hearts into this project, and it's a huge honour to see it recognised in such a meaningful way. We're eagerly anticipating the event.

Shihab Shaheen

I am truly honoured to be nomi-

nated for the Best Director award in the Popular and Critics categories for my web-series *Myself Allen Swapan* and web-film *Baba, Someone's Following Me*. While the series holds a special place as one of my most successful works, the film is deeply personal to me. This recognition is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in these projects.

Vicky Zahed

The *Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards* is one of the most prestigious accolades in the OTT arena in our country. I'm proud to have three of my projects—*Ami Ki Tumi*, *The Silence*, and *Kajoler Dinratri*—nominated for multiple awards. This recognition motivates me to keep pushing my creative boundaries as a director.

Raihan Rafi

This award is one of my personal favourites, and I am immensely

grateful to The Daily Star for continuously supporting us, especially by honouring the behind-the-scenes teams. This recognition takes team spirit to a new level. I'm delighted that my film *Friday* has received multiple nominations in both the Popular and Critics categories.

Mizanur Rahman Aryan

I always strive to create work that resonates with the audience. Receiving several nominations for *Unish20* and *Punormilone* is incredibly rewarding, especially since both projects were well-received by viewers. Congratulations to all the nominees, and I look forward to the event.

Taneem Rahman Angshu

I'm thrilled to receive my second nomination at the *Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards*, especially for *Buker Moddhye Agun*. This project holds immense personal significance

for me, and despite the challenges, my amazing team gave it their all.

Rubel Hasan

Being nominated for *Nikosh* is particularly special, as it marks my debut in the OTT space. I'm also overjoyed that Farin and Mahima have been nominated in the Lead and Supporting categories.

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'FILMS, ONLY FILMS'

Irfan Sajjad on his vision for future

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Celebrated model and actor Irfan Sajjad made his cinematic debut with *Bhalobasha Emoni Hoy*, directed by Tania Ahmed, followed by his second release, *Mon Jane Na Moner Thikana*. This November 29, his latest film, *Voyal*, is set to premiere in theatres, with several other projects awaiting release.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the actor shared, "I have spent a decade working in television dramas, receiving immense love and appreciation from the audience. Now, I am focusing more on films, with my sights firmly set on cinema. Over the past one and a half years, I have significantly reduced my work in dramas."

Discussing his upcoming release, Irfan said, "My latest film, *Voyal*, is set to release on November 29. The storyline is unique, as is the character I portray. I play a village youth, and I genuinely enjoyed working on this project. It has turned out to be an excellent piece of work."

He added, "The film was shot in the Khasia village of Sreemangal. I am confident the audience will appreciate *Voyal*. The director has put in meticulous effort, and my co-actors have delivered remarkable performances."

When asked about his current projects, Irfan shared, "I have worked on three films consecutively. At present, I am prioritising cinema and am hopeful that another new film will hit the screens next year."

One of his upcoming films, *Ali*, is also directed by Biplob Hayder, the director of *Voyal*. Speaking about the project, he said, "*Ali* is entirely different. The audience will see a new side of me in this film. I've put in my

utmost effort to ensure the project turns out well."

Additionally, Irfan has completed work on a new film directed by Anam Biswas, which is now awaiting release. "Anam Biswas is an exceptionally talented and skilled director," he remarked. "I thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with him. The story of the film focuses on the 1971 Swadhin Bangla Football team. I look forward to working with Anam Biswas again in the future."

On his ambitions, Irfan stated, "I want to stay more involved in films. I want to see

myself grow in cinema. I am eager to see how the audience receives me and to what extent they appreciate and accept me in this medium."

When asked about his goals for the coming year, he shared, "Films. Only films. My focus for the next year is completely dedicated to cinema."

In the meantime, the versatile actor is actively promoting *Voyal*. "I am visiting different universities, newspapers, and television channels to spread the word," he said. "I want everyone to know that the film has an excellent story and will resonate with the audience."

Explaining the title of the film, Irfan noted, "At a certain point in the story, a terrifying situation develops due to various circumstances. That's why the name *Voyal* was chosen. Everything will become clear to the audience once they watch it in theatres."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



'I can't imagine a more beautiful moment': Buby on her birthday

Yesterday, Shobnom Buby celebrated her birthday with her son, Shehzad Khan Bir, and her parents. She was dressed elegantly in a pastel green saree and radiated charm, while her son looked dashing in a greyish *punjabi*.

The actress posed alongside her son in a heartfelt photo, who surprised her with a bouquet of roses, and together they cut her birthday cake.

She expressed her joy using the photo's caption, -shared on Facebook, stating, "Is there anything more beautiful in life than this? My son watches over me like this, making every day feel like a birthday for me."

Chorki gears up for 'Dui Shaw', the sequel to 'Pett Kata Shaw'



The Chorki Original series *Pett Kata Shaw* by Nuhash Humayun, which debuted in 2022 to great acclaim, is returning for a second season. After months of anticipation, the teaser was unveiled last Tuesday on Chorki's official Facebook page, with the release date to be announced soon.

According to Chorki, the upcoming season, titled *Dui Shaw*, continues the format of the first instalment, as it will feature four captivating stories.

Blending elements of fantasy, horror, and mystery, the stories for *Dui Shaw* were penned by Nuhash Humayun alongside his mother, Gultekin Khan. Notably, this project marks the debut of poet Gultekin Khan as a writer for a series.