

The rise of Rizu

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RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

"If you ask me to perform an action scene, I'll do it; if you want romance, I'll do it. I'll even portray a sweeper if the role demands it. I'm willing to take on any challenge, depending on the director's vision," stated the emerging talent Rizvi Rizu. The young actor has been winning over audiences with his diverse range of characters — from playing the lovable Parkes in *Hawa*, to a devoted husband in *Priyo Maloti*, the fierce Kaiser in the *Waqf* episode of *Dui Shaw*, and a courageous, down-to-earth refugee in *Feu*. With each new role, he continues to push his limits, showing no signs of slowing down.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the actor opened up about his love for acting, the challenges he has faced, and much more.

While working as an assistant director, Rizvi Rizu caught the attention of Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, who cast him as the lively Parkes. The character instantly resonated with audiences, marking a turning point in Rizvi's career as he discovered his passion for acting.

With no theatre background, he fully immerses himself in his roles. "Letting go of Parkes was one of the hardest things I've ever done," he admitted. "I transformed everything — my appearance, body language, even my hair — to become him. My friends were scared of the person I had become, but the love I received for that character made it all worthwhile."

However, the showbiz industry is notorious for typecasting, when asked if he fears being offered supporting roles,

the actor replied, "I never felt like I was playing a supporting role — every character I've portrayed has felt like a main one. I have no problem playing a lead or a supporting role that adds depth to the story. As long as the character is versatile, I'm happy. Being born and raised in a village doesn't limit me to playing a village boy — I can just as easily be a tea stall owner, a chairman, or even an MP, as long as the role challenges me as an artist."

The name Polash seems to have an uncanny connection with Rizvi Rizu, as he has portrayed characters with this name in both *Priyo Maloti* and *Feu*. Interestingly, both versions of Polash share a similarity — they are grounded, kind-hearted, and devoted husbands. In *Priyo Maloti* he was allowed him to showcase a softer, more nurturing character. "Polash's

death scene in *Priyo Maloti* was particularly challenging for me, because of the emotional depth and the mental strain I had to face while wearing prosthetic makeup," he reflected.

During the death scene, Rizvi had to wear the prosthetic makeup for 22-23 hours which was an insane amount of time. "All credit goes to my prosthetic artiste, Sworna Bhoumick," he shared. The makeup process began at 3am and wasn't completed until 8am the next day. After filming, it was finally removed at around 1:30am.

The biggest challenge was eating — he could only consume liquids through a small hole in the prosthetic. To eat some solid food, the team had to trim the upper part slightly. "The extreme heat and humidity caused sweating and itching, but I didn't want to remove the prosthetic makeup, as it would have taken hours to redo and delayed the production," he explained.

In the process of getting into his character's skin Rizvi Rizu often pushes himself to the limit, even to a point of injury. "In *Feu*, I had a fight scene where I had to run at full speed through a forest, and the sharp leaves pierced my feet. In *Waqf*, I severely injured my thumb while holding a saw incorrectly. My thumb was on the body of the saw, and when I switched it on, it started moving and tore into my skin. I suffered for 15-20 days, and everyone was terrified," he recalled.

When asked if screen space matters, Rizvi Rizu replied, "I don't worry about it — if I'm on screen for one minute, that minute should leave a lasting impression. If people make a meme of my dialogue, I'd welcome it as a reflection of my acting skills."



PHOTOS: ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
Apple Cider Vinegar



Apple TV+
Love You to Death



HBO Max
The White Lotus



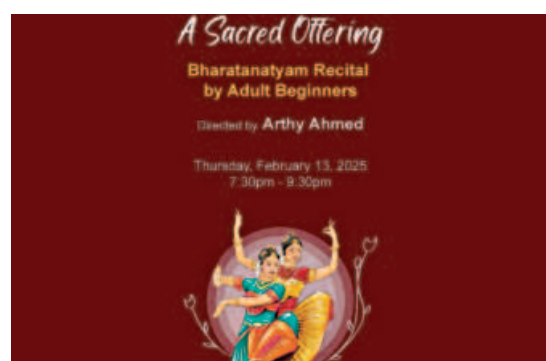
Amazon Prime
Newtopia



Chorki
Priyo Maloti



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Play: 'Pakhider Bidhansobha'
February 7-10 | 7:30pm onwards
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Kaaktaal's 'Totodine Deri Hoya Jay'
February 11 | 5:45pm - 8:45pm
Bangladesh Military Museum



Dance Recital 'Arpanam'
February 13 | 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Satori Academy of Arts

'Not Like Us' by KENDRICK LAMAR

Kendrick Lamar's *Not Like Us*, which recently swept five Grammys during this year's event, is a fierce and unapologetic statement, packed with sharp lyrics and relentless beats.

The track is a West Coast hip-hop piece with strong hyphy influences. Produced by Mustard, it features samples from Monk Higgins's 1968 rendition of *I Believe to My Soul*, incorporating violins, piano, and brass instruments to create an urgent atmosphere.

Not Like Us has been described as a cultural touchstone and one of the most significant diss tracks in recent memory. It has sparked discussions about race, cultural appropriation, and authenticity in hip-hop. Some critics view the song as a critique of individuals who have shifted hip-hop away from its roots in Black and Brown communities. The track has also been interpreted as a rallying cry against cultural exploitation within the music industry.

Lamar employs a distinctive tempo throughout



the song, adding a unique vocal texture to the composition. The artist's confident flow and razor-sharp wordplay make the track both personal and commanding.

1-MINUTE REVIEW

'Moana 2': A delightful sequel that expands its predecessor's legacy

Moana 2, the sequel to the 2016 superhit Disney movie *Moana*, finally arrived last year as an answer to the anticipation of many. This follow-up, though it has shortcomings, panned out to be a delightful expansion, honouring the legacy of its predecessor.

Set three years after the first film the story explores how Moana's newfound fame impacts her. As the newly appointed master wayfinder, she is entrusted by her people to confront a looming threat. The plot is both complex and straightforward —



on one hand, it involves uniting an island chain and battling an unseen supervillain; on the other, the main

characters are clear about their roles and expectations.

While Moana (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho) assembles a new team alongside her loyal sidekicks (also known as Maui's "boat snacks"), her best friend, the magic hook-wielding demigod Maui, is held captive by a strange sea creature.

Even though the sequel was not meant to take place, the final scene in *Moana 2* serves as an ambitious lead-in for a potential third chapter. It is like a clever, promising, and well-crafted preview for the next film.

STYLE STATEMENT

Sabrina Carpenter

The *Espresso* singer Sabrina Carpenter turned heads at the 2025 Grammys on February 3, not only with her stunning look but also by securing two Grammy wins.

She appeared on the red carpet of one of the most glamorous and prestigious music awards in a baby blue halter gown with a peplum and a floor-length skirt hem adorned with plumes.

The stunning design, crafted by Jonathan Anderson (from the brand JW Anderson), dipped low to her rear, embellished with a string of 19 carats of diamonds. For accessories, she opted for pear-shaped diamond earrings and an oval brilliant diamond ring.

Carpenter embraced her signature blush-toned makeup, paired with minimal eye makeup and a rosy nude lipstick, while her blonde updo as a vintage French twist completed the flawless, polished look from head to toe.

