

Awards, is one of the few that truly acknowledges both on-screen and off-screen talent," said acclaimed director Syed Ahmed Shawki, a multiple-time winner. "Such recognition is deeply motivating, and people in the industry genuinely look forward to it."

That inclusive vision was further realised in last year's expanded technical categories. Director Shankha Dasgupta of *Guti* praised the move, saying, "I appreciate The Daily Star for consistently recognising those behind the scenes—art directors, costume designers, and makeup artists. I trust the jury will ensure that the most deserving talents are celebrated."

This award ceremony has also become known for unforgettable live performances and touching moments between celebrities. From Afran Nisho's heartfelt tribute to Humayun Faridee to Mosharraf Karim's warm gesture towards FS Nayem, it brings together the brightest stars of the industry under one roof to celebrate their shared passion.

Tasnia Farin's heartfelt rendition of *Pakhi Pakhi Mon* and the vibrant energy of *Jhumka*.

But few artistes have matched the sheer energy of Pritom Hasan. A powerhouse performer, Pritom brought the house down with his hits like *Laage Ura Dhura* and *Bondhu Tui Local Bus*. My job is to perform with all the life I have within me," he said. "The audience at *The Daily Star OTT Awards* was so spirited—it made my performance worthwhile." With every beat, he had the crowd clapping, cheering, and dancing along.

The first season kicked off with a dynamic performance by Shohel Mondol, who danced alongside Shirin Akther Sheela. Though new to dance, Shohel gave an energetic show, grooving to *Shada*

partner. Despite a few slip-ups, my colleagues in the front row cheered me on, which meant the world. That year was especially memorable as I also won Best Supporting Actor for *Taqdeer*. I'm preparing hard this year to hopefully return with another performance."

Tama Mirza is winning hearts with her performance in *Amalnama* and *Daagi*. Last year, she gave an unforgettable performance on her song *Pakhi* from *Floor number 7*. "My performance experience was really incredible. And on top of that, if I get to perform for my favourite OTT award show then it's nothing but a good thing for me. It was a different type of experience for me as I got to perform on a dance genre which was completely different from mine. I am a classical dancer, but for the OTT award I had to try western format of dancing. So, it was a good experience overall."

Shahnaz Sumi, known for her OTT projects *Buker Modhaye Agun*, and *Mobaroknama*, opened the



Over three exhilarating seasons, the OTT Awards has witnessed stunning performances. From soul-stirring duets to high-energy dance numbers, the stage has seen it all.

Among the standout moments was the hauntingly beautiful duet by Khayam Sanu Sandhi and Masha Islam, a performance that still echoes in the minds of viewers. Their emotional delivery paved the way for more musical highs, including

*Shada Kala Kala* and *E Hawa* from his film *Hawa*, followed by a romantic duet with Sheela on *Rupkothar Jogote*.

Reflecting on the experience, Shohel said, "This was the first time I danced live in front of an audience. Theatre comes naturally to me, but solo dancing—especially in front of the industry—was a whole new challenge. The choreography by Mofassal helped, and Sheela was a fantastic

inaugural show alongside Mofassal Alif and the Alifia Squad, blending contemporary and classic sounds in a powerful dance medley. "I absolutely loved performing at the OTT Awards," Sumi said. "The choreography, the costume, the entire atmosphere—it all felt so effortless. I gave it my all and enjoyed every second."

Pulling off a spectacle of this scale doesn't happen overnight. It takes nearly six months of