

The visionaries BEHIND THE CAMERA



Vicky Zahed



Mohammad Touqir Islam



Kajal Arefin Ome

From envisioning a project from its inception to its final execution, directors are the engine of any project. They not only curate the narrative but also ensure it is well-defined, with the hope that their vision will be relatable to the audience. Their exceptional talent has been recognised with esteemed accolades at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

Audience's support made this win possible: KAJAL AREFIN OME

"I sincerely thank Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards for nominating *Osomoy* in multiple categories and honouring me with the Best Director (Series) award in the popular category for my web series *Chokro*. For the OTT industry, this award has become a benchmark for everyone behind and in front of the camera, and it reflects Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards' continued commitment to fostering healthy competition. Although I couldn't attend the ceremony due to unavoidable circumstances, winning this award after *Redrum* (2022) is an indescribably special feeling. It has given me renewed confidence, encouragement, and energy to tell more stories in the future.

Winning an award for such a work is beyond words: MOHAMMAD TOUQIR ISLAM

Receiving the award for *Sinpaat* feels extra special because it was such a

challenging project for me and the entire team. The lead role of Sohail Sheikh, a real-life criminal, and much of the plot was inspired by his personal stories. Delving into those accounts was extremely difficult—raw, intense, yet layered with unexpected colours. They shaped the entire show and, in many ways, added depth to our own lives, making us realise so much about the world and ourselves. Winning an award for such a work is beyond words.

This award renewed my confidence and encouraged me to tell more stories: VICKY ZAHED

An award always inspires an artiste and motivates them to excel. I am thankful to The Daily Star for honouring me with the Best Director (Series) award in the popular category for my web series *Chokro*. For the OTT industry, this award has become a benchmark for everyone behind and in front of the camera, and it reflects Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards' continued commitment to fostering healthy competition.

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Receiving nine nominations was a huge honour: KAZI ASAD

Above all, the team and I are over the moon because Mosharraf bhai won Best Actor in the popular category. He invested immense time and energy into this project and gave everything to pull off his roles. Since it's an anthology series, he played three different characters across three episodes! On top of that, most of our shoots were at night—including one entire 24-hour stretch—so it was definitely hectic. But in the end, all the hard work paid off.

Interviewed by Sharmin Joya



Kazi Asad

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED/COLLECTED



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