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All for art-house cinema

Rahul Bose in Dhaka

Jamil Mahmud



Photo Courtesy: Khaled Sarker

Indian actor Rahul Bose said that he would prefer an art-house film with little chance of attaining popularity to a commercial one. The actor, who made a short visit to Dhaka yesterday, said that art-house films reflected reality and the layers of life.

“Everyone knows James Bond is not going to die in the end. Then why should I see a 007 film?” -- said Bose. He shared his opinion that wide acceptance of quality films, particularly films that are capable of doing well at international festivals, would increase if more such films were made.

Bose's performances in Kolkata films have been lauded as well. The most recent project, “Shesher Kabita” (directed by Suman Mukhopadhyay), has generated much buzz. In the film, he plays the protagonist Amit Roy. Asked about his role in the film, Bose didn't divulge much, but asked all to see the film and form their own opinions.

His other recent work “Midnight's Children” (directed by Deepa Mehta) has been in news because of the controversy it generated in India. Bose informed that the controversy is all about the author Salman Rushdie, and that the film has had a great response in India.

The reason behind his visit to Dhaka was to attend and give lecture at the 8th Convocation of BRAC University (held yesterday). As a social activist, every year Bose visits around 40 schools and colleges across India. He thinks it is the best possible way to know about his country, about the young. He attended the BRAC University programme to learn about the youth in Bangladesh.

“When BRAC authorities invited me to join the convocation, I agreed because I thought it would be a chance to know Bangladesh through the eyes of the youngsters,” said Bose. He also said that his other social activities ranged from generating awareness in climate change to gender violence.

Twelve years after making his directorial debut with “Everybody Says I'm Fine!” (2001), Bose is going to make another film. The film “Moth Smoke” is in its initial stage at present. Bose informed that his friend and filmmaker Anurag Kashyap is the producer of the film.

Rahul Bose was born in 1967 in Kolkata. Time magazine named him “the superstar of Indian art-house cinema” for his work in films like “English, August” and “Mr. and Mrs. Iyer”.