

ZAYED AHMED SIDDIKI

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Profiles: [Linked-In](#); [IMDB](#); [MUBI](#); [Filmfreeway](#)



A. PROFILE

Zayed Siddiki is a multi-award-winning Bangladeshi new generation independent filmmaker based in Dhaka; and a dynamic development communications professional. With over 12 years of experience, he brings multidisciplinary expertise in writing, directing, development communications, and knowledge management. He has led and implemented high-impact communication programs for major donors and INGOs such as USAID, USCDC, WFP, UNDP, EU-EIDHR, Save the Children, SDC, SIDA, The Asia Foundation, World Vision, HELVETAS, EngageMedia, and Internews etc. His work in Development communications strongly influenced his thematic choice in filmmaking; steering him toward neo-realism rooted in grassroots narratives. Zayed has directed 9 short and mid-length films, over 25 development and impact documentaries, TV fiction, and contributed to numerous projects in roles like screenwriting and creative producing.

His films have been officially selected at over 50 International film festivals across 4 continents, including major regionally important film festivals like kasan, Kolkata, Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi, Dhaka etc. and won numerous accolades; His latest short **Raven** (2023) has been officially selected to 16 international film festivals, winning **Best Film Award** at 6th Hill Film Festival and a **Special Jury Award** at 10th International Film Festival of Shimla. It also received critical acclaim in 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, Australia; 13th International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA Toronto), Canada; 13th DC South Asian Film Festival, USA; 19th Kazan International Film Festival, Russia; 14th South Asian Film Festival of Montreal, Canada; 12th Indo-German Film Week, Germany; 10th Toulouse Indian Film Festival, France etc. His short documentary **In Expedition to Happiness** (2022) won Best Film at Bangladesh National Academy for Fine & Performing Arts festival in 2022 and screened at 6 international film festivals; His student short **Tale of an Ecliptic Time** (2018) won 3 awards, including Jury Award at Peace Film Festival Bangladesh in 2019, screened at 15 international film festivals, and is available at Asia-Pacific social issue films curating platform cinemata.org. Another notable student short **Colourkite** (2015), won 7 awards including People's Choice Award at Asian University for Women Film Festival, 2017, and Special Mention at International Inter-University Short Film Festival in 2015; it's screened in 22 international film festivals; and available in Viddsee, a Singapore based video entertainment platform.

As a committed social impact filmmaker, his human rights-focused films—**Delta of Despair** (2024), **Big Techs > Big Demons?** (2024), and **Shrinking Civic Space in Bangladesh** (2021) have been widely showcased and critically acclaimed at human rights forums, conferences, and rights networks across Asia Pacific and Europe. He's currently developing his first feature project **NECROPHILE**, a blended genre film inspired by a true event; which was among 10 selected South Asian projects at West Meets East South Asian Screenplay Lab at Dhaka International Film Festival in 2023.

B. FILMOGRAPHY

INDEPENDENT FILMS

- **RAVEN** | Short-fiction | 2023 | 30 mins (Writer, Director, and Producer) [IMDB](#), [MUBI](#), [Trailer](#)
- **IN EXPEDITION TO HAPPINESS** | Short-Documentary | 2021 | 3 mins (Co-Writer, Director, Co-Producer) [Link](#)
- **SEIZED PLEASURE** | Short-experimental | 2018 | 18 mins (Creative Producer) [Link](#), [IMDB](#), [MUBI](#)

IMPACT PRODUCTIONS

- **DELTA OF DESPAIR** | 3-part Documentary Series | 2023-24 | 58 mins (Writer, Director, and Producer) [Link](#)
- **BIG TECHS>BIG DEMONS?** | Short-Documentary | 2024 | 27 mins (Writer, Director and Producer) [Link](#)

- **SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE IN BANGLADESH** | Short-Documentary | 2022 | 36 mins (Writer, Director) [Link](#)
- **LIVES BEHIND GARBAGE** | Short-Documentary | 2013 | 27 mins (Writer, Director) [Link](#)

DEVELOPMENT/NGO FILMS (Selected only)

- **DOCUMENTARY/HUMAN STORY** | USAID | World Vision Bangladesh | 2025 [Link](#)
- **HUMAN STORY-APARAJITA'S JOURNERY** | Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation | HELVETAS | 2024 Story [one](#), [two](#), [three](#)
- **DOCUMENTARY/BANGLADESH- A SUCCESS STORY** | Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom | 2022 [Link](#)
- **SUCCESS STORY/AV-TRISNA DIO- A SUCCESSFUL FREELANCER FROM BANGLADESH** | Huawei Bangladesh | 2023 [Link](#)
- **DOCUMENTARY/ROHINGYA SURVIOR CHILDREN** | BONO & CHANCE SWISS | Rights' Jessore, Bangladesh | 2019 [Link](#)

STUDENT PRODUCTIONS/TV-FICTIONS

- **TALE OF AN ECLIPTIC TIME** | Short-fiction | 2018 | 30 mins (Co-Writer, Director, Co-Producer) [Link](#), [IMDB](#), [MUBI](#)
- **DISAPPEARING ARTISANS** | Short-Documentary | 2018 | 13 mins (Writer, Director, Producer) [Link](#)
- **DREAM LITHE** | Short-fiction | 2015 | 9.3 mins (Writer, Director, and Producer) [Link](#)
- **COLOURKITE** | Short-fiction | 2014 | 15 mins (Writer, Director, Producer) [Link](#), [IMDB](#), [MUBI](#)
- **AYNA MANUSH** | TV Fiction | 2013 | 42 mins (Director) [Link](#), [Trailer](#)

C. MAJOR MASTER CLASSES & WORKSHOPS UNDERWENT

- **Master-class** by **Claire Denis** (Legendary French Filmmaker) at Tareq Masud Filmy Bahas 2015, Bangladesh, Dhaka.
- **Master-class** by **Shyam Benegal** at 13th International Short & Independent Film Festival 2014, Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Dhaka.
- **Master-class** by **Kumar Shahani** at 15th International Short & Independent Film Festival 2019, Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Dhaka.
- **Screenwriting workshop** by **Alexis Karsilovsky**, Professor, Screenwriting and Media Theory & Criticism at California State University, EMK Center Bangladesh in collaboration with International Academy for Film and Media (IAFM), Bangladesh.
- **Master-class** by **Emma Davie**, Scottish BAFTA winning filmmaker as part of 3rd Edition of **Dhaka DocLab** 2019

D. AWARDS & NOTABLE FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

- **Winner-Best Film Award (Raven)**, 6th Hill Film Festival 2024, Bangladesh.
- **Winner-Special Jury Award (Raven)**, 10th International Film Festival of Shimla 2024, India.
- **Official Competition-Jury Prize & Audience Award (Raven)**, 10th Toulouse Indian Film Festival 2025, France
- **Official Competition-Jury & Audience Award (Raven)**, 13th DC South Asian Film Festival, USA
- **Official Competition- Best Featurette (Raven)**, 13th International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA Toronto), Canada
- **Official Competition- Best Short Film (Raven)**, 14th South Asian Film Festival of Montreal, Canada
- **Official Competition- Best Short Film (Raven)**, 19th Kazan International Film Festival, Russia
- **Official Selection- (Raven)**, 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, Australia
- **Official Selection- (Raven)**, 23rd Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh
- **Winner-Best Film Award (In Expedition to Happiness)**, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy three Minutes Film Festival 2022, National Academy for Fine & Performing Arts, Ministry of Culture, GoB.
- **Winner-Judges Choice Award (Tale of an Ecliptic Time)**, 1st Peace Film Festival 2019, Bangladesh
- **Winner-Jury Award (Tale of an Ecliptic Time)**, TFP Film Festival 2019, by Dept. of TV, Film & Photography, University of Dhaka.
- **Winner-Honorary Award (Tale of an Ecliptic Time)**, NSU International Short Film Festival 2020, by North South University, Bangladesh.
- **Winner-People's Choice Award (Colourkite)**, AUW Film Festival 2017, by Asian University for Women, Bangladesh.
- **Winner-Best Film, Best Director- (Colourkite)**, FocAct International Film Festival 2016, Bangladesh

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winner-Honorable Mention (Colourkite), 8th International Inter-University Film Festival 2015, Dhaka University, Bangladesh. ▪ Winner- Best Script (Colourkite), UIU Film Festival 2016, United International University, Bangladesh ▪ Winner-Best Film (Lives Behind Garbage), Development for Film Competition 2015, The Asia Foundation. ▪ Semi-Finalist-(Seized Pleasure), Indie Best Films Festival (Apr-May-Jun Ed, 2018), Santa-Monica, CA, USA ▪ Quarter-Finalist-(In Expedition to Happiness), 10th Annual Widescreen Film & Music Video Festival 2024, Canada ▪ Official Selection-(Tale of an Ecliptic Time), 17th Dhaka International Film Festival 2019, Dhaka ▪ Official Selection-(Tale of an Ecliptic Time), 15th International Short & Independent Film Festival 2019, Dhaka ▪ Official Selection-(Tale of an Ecliptic Time), 2ndSouth Asian Short Film Festival 2019, Kolkata ▪ Official Competition-(Tale of an Ecliptic Time), 6thSiliguri International Short & Documentary Film Festival 2018, India ▪ Official Competition-(Tale of an Ecliptic Time), 12 Months Film Festival (Sep Ed, 2019), Cluj Napoca, Romania ▪ Official Competition-(Seized Pleasure), Salamindanaw Asian Film Festival, Mindanaw, The Philippines 2018 ▪ Official Selection-(Seized Pleasure), 12th Dada Saheb Fhalke International Film Festival, New Delhi, India, 2019 ▪ Official Competition-(Colourkite), 17th Seoul International Youth Film Festival, (2015), Seoul, South Korea. ▪ Official Competition-(Dream Lithe), 5th HAK-IS International Film Festival 2016, Ankara, Turkey. ▪ Official Competition-(Disappearing Artisans), 4th Fiorenzo Serra Film Festival 2019, Sassari, Italy. ▪ Official Competition-(Colourkite), 2nd International Youth Film Festival Langesund 2016, Norway.
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E.	ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSS in Television, Film and Photography from University of Dhaka, 2018 ▪ MA in Graphics Design and Visualization from Loughborough University, UK, 2011
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F.	SPECIALIZATION COURSES
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specialization in Trans-media Storytelling, Commonwealth of Learning on Coursera, awarded by University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, 2020 ▪ Specialization in Creative Writing, Commonwealth of Learning on Coursera, awarded by Wesleyan University, USA, 2020 ▪ Specialization in Writing Feature Script for Film & TV, Commonwealth of Learning on Coursera, awarded by Michigan State University, USA, 2020
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G.	PROJECT LINE-UPS
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NECROPHILE Feature-Psychological dark drama-body horror 2027-Advanced development stage (Writer, Director) ▪ SILENCE OF THE WORDS Feature-Period Drama-Liberation war 2026- Pre-production stage (Writer, Director) ▪ PASSION OF PISCES Feature- Psychological Drama 2028- Early development stage (Writer, Director)
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H.	TECHNICAL SKILL-SET	TOOLS' PROFICIENCY
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Screenwriting and Directing ▪ Production Design ▪ Film and Video Editing ▪ Development Communications ▪ Transmedia storytelling and Copywriting ▪ Strategic planning ▪ Communication strategy design ▪ Technical leadership and Team supervision ▪ Publication and graphics design ▪ Branding, Campaign and Social Media Marketing ▪ Knowledge Management and Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celtax ▪ Adobe Premiere Pro ▪ Final Cut Pro ▪ Adobe Illustrator ▪ CorelDraw ▪ Adobe Photoshop ▪ Corel Photopaint ▪ Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint ▪ Trello
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