

An hour with Ghaazee Ambassador



We had a wonderful time with Mr. Hussain Ali, a Maldivian writer and journalist. At the age of 21, he had released his maiden book on poetry titled, 'The Secret We Share'. He spent about an hour sharing his past experiences and memories in an interactive session called 'Ghaazee Ambassadors' which was organized by the department of English last week. It was really stirring and rewarding when he opened his mind to us. We fired him with several questions and this is how he answered us.

What drew you to writing?

Well, basically when I lost my sister, I needed a way to let all my stress out as she was my all and her absence put me in seclusion. So, I wrote a poem for her. Yes, that's how I started my career as a writer.

What do you think about emotions? Does it really help you as a writer?

Strong emotions enrich your writing. However, if you have a creative mind, you don't need your emotions to produce a good writing.

Is there anything memorable that happened in your life journey?

I published my first book on poetry, 'The Secret We Share' on my 21st birthday, and obviously, it is a memorable achievement. It was really a stressful job and I had been through thick and thin till I got my first copy. Even though, it had invited a lot of

criticism from the society, my book was sold out quickly, so I felt accomplished.

You said that you had worked as a professional photographer. Can you tell us what is important for a photographer?

What I have learnt from my experience is that, marks and grades do not matter to work in this career, but it's your flair and willingness that do matter. A good photographer must be very ambitious, creative and willing to explore possible opportunities. Sometimes it could be challenging and adventurous too. It all depends on the field you select.

How successful is your career as a graphic designer?

I started my career as a graphic designer two years ago at the age of 20. I took an interest in Photoshop and started learning about graphic designing. I have been doing Dhunya Maumoon's posters and I'm currently the director of a graphic designing company.

We came to know that you were a student of Ghaazee and we are very proud of it. So could you share something about your school days here and how enjoyable it was?

We were the first batch of Ghaazee School, and we had almost nothing that you guys have now such as the bus service, the canteen, etc. I was also a prefect and I loved participating in almost every activity or event conducted by the school.

Do you get support from your friends and family?

Support, yes! Without my friends and family this won't be possible, because it's really stressful at times. My friends inspired me a lot and it helped me to achieve my goals. Well, that is apart from my family and their never ending support. I wouldn't be here without my friends and family!

What would you say about making friends worldwide?

About friends worldwide, it's the best thing ever! I've more internet friends than real ones because somehow those friendships are stronger. We manage to maintain communication always regardless where we are, and that's putting an effort. My closest friends are from Germany, Australia and France and they are a lovely bunch!

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How often do you use the social media, and how far does it help to build up your career?

Social media is very important. To build an international audience, Twitter and Instagram are a must. It's helped me attract audiences from different countries and among my top countries (audience wise on all social media platforms) USA, Brazil, UK, India and Maldives are included. I use social media all the time because it also helps me stay connected to my lovely friends and anyone who wants to chat. It also helps to build a reputation and promote my business in all areas of the world.

What are the most important things you have learnt from your work experience?

Diplomacy! I started off my career as a fairly young person at the age of 17. I had to work with people of all types of ages and personalities which also meant that their ideologies clashed with mine all the time. I wanted to say things and stand up and rant and call out these things that are wrong in our system. But I learnt that diplomacy will get you places in your life and that you have to learn to work with all kinds of people in order to be a great leader.

Could you give some advice to people who want to choose this profession?

I'll say it's one that comes with hardships but the fruits are way better. There are so many of us who can reach international platforms and even get recognition internationally. You just need a strong willpower and dedication to do anything. Writing is a gift that you should sharpen by continuous practice.

Shahuba Hameed

Arsh Hassan Shujau

Reem Habeeb