

Heads Above Water

Afra Nuarey

I chose to make a documentary about the hijra community because I have always been curious about their identity and facade's complexity growing up in Bangladesh. Studying Gender Studies in my undergrad made me even more intrigued about everything from how they dress to the politics of their semblance attitude. As I started to integrate into Bangladesh society in 2019, I was not satisfied with how the media portrayed the community. This compelled me to pursue my hidden passion as a storyteller and ensure that the film I make aligns with my perspective of the Hijra community.

I wanted to be a detached observer in the film. Creating this film pushed me to understand the dynamic and the struggles faced by the community, which often is not found in a textbook or known internationally or even locally! It is my way of introducing the socio-economic realities of the transgender and intersex communities in Bangladesh, which is comparatively different from the west.



<https://www.nowness.asia/picks/heads-above-water>



Afra Nuarey is a multimedia documentary storyteller based in Dhaka and London. She focuses on bringing a humanistic lens to social issues such as transgender rights, migration, and women's rights through print and digital media.