GR8!

February 2016 $1.99 | Vol. XIII No.06

VALENTINESPECIAL

AVIKA GOR "does not watch her show

OK with NUDITY -Angad Hasija

how to WOO A GIRL - Shivin Narang

SHAKTI & RADHIKA celebrate the SEASON OF LOVE

What's Inside?



Cover story

Photography: Rahul Jhangiani
Shakti's Gray Suit: T M Lewin
Shakti's White Shirt: T M Lewin
Shakti's Red Tie: T M Lewin
Radhika's Black Dress: French Connection



26

this month, love is in the air

Valentine Special

22



32

"I have great creative satisfaction"

Siddhant Karnick



38

"There was a time when my films did not click"

Akshay Kumar

EDIT & MORE...



The first few signs of an eagerly awaiting spring are slowly but surely emerging all around us… the days are getting longer, the weather's getting milder and the sporadic blooms are all a delight to take in. The Republic Day Parade too, which has almost always taken place under densely overcast skies and slight showers, started with some early morning fog but soon gave way to enjoyable sunshine this year.

The shorter & sharper than usual telecast of the Republic Day Parade… including the new Dog Squad, the French Army contingent march; the women "Daredevils" made it quite a pleasurable watch.

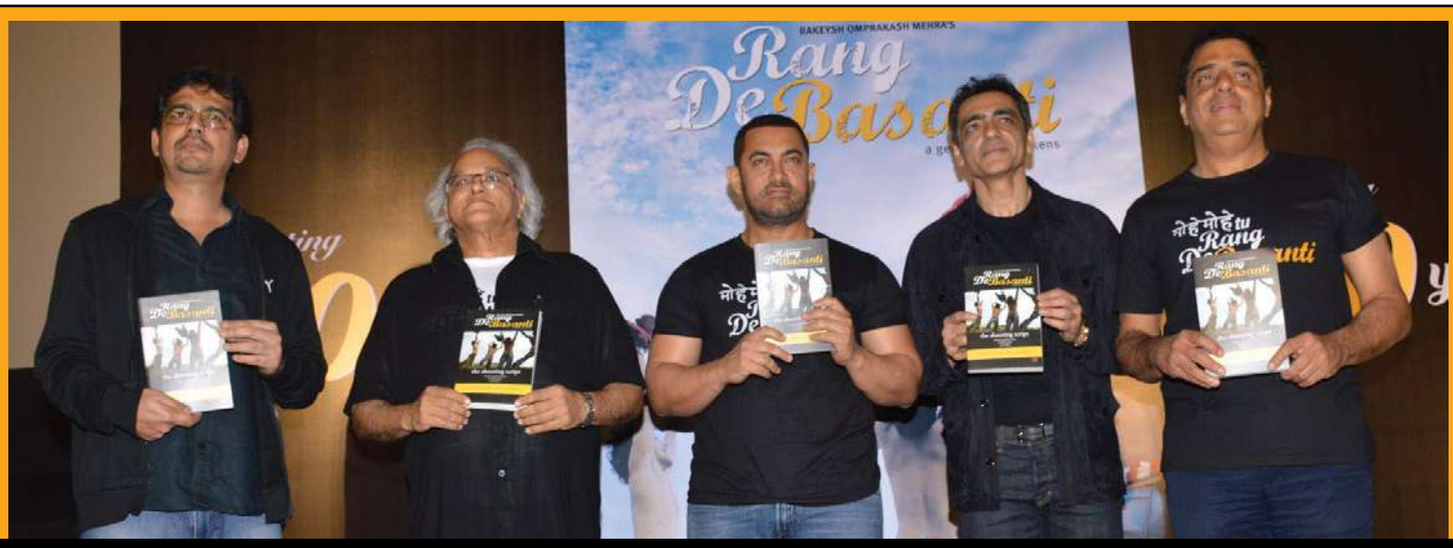
Other than that, in the month gone by, the airwaves were abuzz with debates & deliberations about the pros and cons of odd-even traffic scheme of the AAP government in Delhi, the right for women to pray as and where they wish and the infrequent mentions about the violent episode in Malda (Bengal) - which actually was most conspicuous by it's absence on the airwaves.

Talking about this incident… The fact that this violence in Malda district was not given a communal twist, the fact that no religious sentiments were hurt, the fact that nobody saw any hints of intolerance in it, the fact burning of Police Stations was not considered anti-national, the fact that no awards were returned by any artists or so-called intellectuals and most of all, the fact that no politician from any opposition party found it worth remonstrating & demonstrating over certainly makes it more news worthy for me. No politicizing the issue… Hmmm… Daal mein kuch kaala to hai !

On that curious note, I wish you all a lovely 29 days of February, Happy Valentine's day and Happy reading! See you, same time, same place, next month!

Anu Ranjan

ANU RANJAN
Twitter Handle: @anuranjan1010
Email: gr8mag@gmail.com
For more on Tinseltown's news and updates
find GR8! on Twitter **@GR8tvmag**
Follow us on Instagram at **GR8TVMAG**



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF RANG DE BASANTI

Rang De Basanti movie inspired us in many ways and will continue to do so. As it completed 10 years of its release, the cast and crew came together at PVR Icon on January 25 to celebrate the occasion.

Digangana Suryavanshi awarded by the India's World Records





Digangana Suryavanshi who was last seen in Bigg Boss is on a high. And why not??? The actress, who has been acting since the last 11 years now, has just been awarded by the India's World Records with a medal and a certificate as she is the only actress in television who has never used glycerine to create fake tears. Digangana says," I immerse myself completely in that moment and actually cry whenever required. So, I never had the need of using fake tears or glycerine for myself. And I have been following this from the first year of my career. I've recently been awarded for this and it feels so nice."



Jodha Akbar' fame Ravi Bhatia to be seen in Indonesia TV series!

Actor Ravi Bhatia, who was last seen in Balaji Telefilms's popular show Jodha Akbar made his debut on Indonesia television with 'Cinta Di Langit Taj Mahal' (Love In The Air Of Taj Mahal). He will soon start shooting for his international series which will be shot in the exotic location of different countries. The actor with cute yet macho look will be performing some deadly action sequences in the untitled series and currently undergoing rigorous training and is working hard on building his muscles. Before starting the shooting for the series, he decided to visit Singapore's famous theme park. "I am a diehard transformers fan. I visited the Universal Studios not only to get a visual treat, but to get the feeling of being in a robotic's world," says Ravi.



ALYSON HANNIGAN

Lily is a Kindergarten Teacher and amateur painter who grew up in Brooklyn, NY. From the start of the show, Marshall and Lily are engaged. She left him briefly to pursue her dream of becoming an artist. She returned and confessed that leaving was a mistake. Soon after, she proposed to him and within a year, they got married.

She had two wedding ceremonies. One, her perfect outdoor wedding with only her closest friends, and the other, a fancy over-the-top wedding with her family, in which practically everything that could go wrong, did. Lily is a ''loud chewer'' and as a person an impulsive one in her relationship. She is usually found in the company of men -- her husband, Marshall and friends Ted, Barney.

She's obsessed with designer clothes and boots, and goes into debt for spending too much on her clothing.

Lily Aldrin

from how i met your mother

Excerpts from the conversation with Alyson Hannigan

Not too many sitcoms really last the distance, like How I Met Your Mother has done. What do you think kept it going to new levels of success?

A lot of elements… but first and most important, the writing. From the pilot script alone, it stood out; was the best I had read. It had heart, was funny, and was fresh with the whole way they play with the time element and the flashbacks and everything. It just seemed different and special. Then you add the cast and we all just had that sort of, something you can't explain, it's just great chemistry that was there from the get-go. Every element sort of came together in the right way and we felt it while it was happening, too. Luckily everything aligned and here we still are. But I wish I did sort of know what the secret was, because I'd be a very powerful Hollywood exec. (Laughter)

Awards

In the year 2014, Alyson was nominated in the People's Choice Awards, USA for the TV Gal Pals category with Cobie Smulders (Robin).

Trivia

- Alyson Hannigan was pregnant while filming many season four episodes, but the show-runners were not interested in Lily also being shown as pregnant. Most episodes used time-honored TV tricks to hide Hannigan's pregnancy
- The episode "The Possimpible" showed Hannigan's pregnancy bump in the context of a subplot in which Lily wins a hot dog-eating contest and has a comically distended stomach afterward
- In this show Ted, Lily and Marshall are of the same age, but in real life Josh Radnor and Alyson Hannigan are 6 years older than Jason Segel
- In last forever: part two when the group is sitting at the booth you can see Marshall handing over money to Lily from their long term bet that Ted and Robin wouldn't end up together.







Do you have much input into the direction of the Lily character, or is it sort of 'let the writers have a really good take on it and the script'; how does that work?
I've always been the one to say; hey it's not my job. If there's something that I think is really not Lily, I would stand up for her. But I don't feel like it's my job to go in and sort of pitch things because I'm not a writer, and they are. And they're fabulous. They do such a great job, so I'm not going to, my ideas would be ridiculous anyway. "She should eat more cupcakes in this season!" I'd just be silly.

The Lily and Marshall chemistry is great. And you're very good friends. Is that important?
It is. Obviously as an actor you have to do it regardless, but it's really nice to do it with someone you like. And Jason and I work really well together and we just enjoy it so much, it really helps make it so much easier, so I'm very grateful for that.

What's it like to play a very common family on TV?
It just seems real to me. My husband and I don't have any family that lives out here, so that's exactly how it is. The thing I don't relate to is the big family there; it seems so lovely but that's not my world. That's not how I was raised. I was the only child too, so my friends have always been my family.

Over the 200 episodes do you have a favorite Lily episode or a highlight for your character?
It all seems like one episode to me. My memory goes in moments so I couldn't tell you what the show was about, but that moment at the airport when the orchestra comes in; that's forever in my heart. I was pregnant at the time to so I was highly emotional and then just to be surrounded… it was so lovely!

Satyana (Alyson's daughter) is growing up… So how are you balancing motherhood out with working on the show?
It's wonderful; I couldn't be happier! The people on the show are so supportive. I get to bring her to work every day and I have a nursery set up. My husband comes with us and it just couldn't be a better environment as far as being a working mom. But it is hard to balance, if we have a long day. They have to go home before I do, and I don't get to put her in bed. It's heartbreaking. Luckily that only happens every once and a while.


Cake cutting


Rahul Raj Singh, Manav Bhinder and Pratyusha Banerjee


Barkha Bisht with Indraneil Sengupta



Arjun Bijlani with Neha

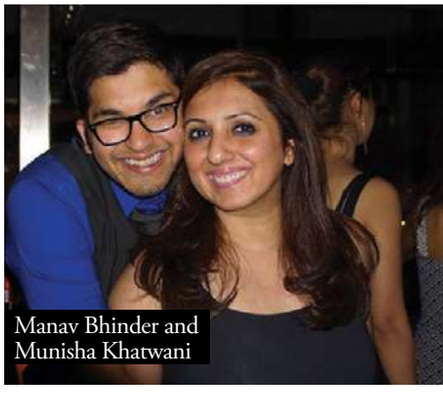

Vishal Singh


Manav Bhinder and Digangana Suryavanshi

DIRECTOR MANAV BHINDER'S SHORT FILM PREMIERE & BIRTHDAY PARTY WAS A ROCKING AFFAIR!

Fun at: Apicious, Andheri (West)
Memories from: 10th January, 2016


Dheeraj Dhoopar and Manav Bhinder


Manav Bhinder and Munisha Khatwani

Director Manav Bhinder's short film 'Ankhahee Baatein' screening was one fun-filled and rocking event. The film stars Manish Raisinghan, Barkha Bisht and Srishty Rode in a guest appearance and Avika Gor turned Assistant Director for this short film. The Naagin of TV, none other than gorgeous Adaa Khan anchored the event.

The event witnessed whos' who of television industry like Adaa Khan, Indraneil Sengupta, Avika Gor, Firoja, Vishal Singh, Vahbbiz Dorabjee, Arjun Bijlani, Manish Raisinghan, Vikas Kalantri, Munisha Khatwani, Barkha Bisht, Ravi Dubey, Arjan Bajwa, Aarti Singh, Kunal Verma, Pooja Banerjee, Delnaaz Irani with Percy, Jayati Bhatia, Ssumier Pasricha, Resshmi Ghosh, Aarif Sheikh, Anand Mishra and Sunny Arora, Kamya Punjabi, Makrand, Digangana Suryavanshi, Amal Sehrawat, Pratyusha Banerjee with Rahul Raj Singh, Srishty Rode with Manish Naggdev, Jayshri Soni, Aarti Singh, Shashi and Sumit Mittal, Rupali Singh, Paritosh Painter, Swapna Waghmare Joshi, etc.



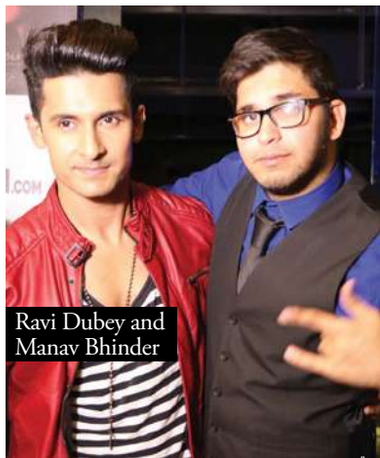
Vahbbiz Dorabjee, Manish Raisinghan and Avika Gor


Pooja Gor, Raj Singh Arora and Manav Bhinder

The landmark of Manav Bhinder's career was working in Agneepath movie as an AD. Then he worked in Hollywood movie Edge of Tomorrow with Tom Cruise. He also got an award for a short film which featured Parineeti Chopra.

He says, "Manish and Avika Gor both are my best friends. Ankahee Baatein also has a unique set of talented people who have worked together. Aarif Sheikh edited this film, Kanish Seth is the music director and Surinder Singh has given background score. Suyyash Rai and Shruti Pathak have sang a song for this film."


Manav Bhinder and Srishty Rode


Ravi Dubey and Manav Bhinder

Valentine

CUTIES KISSES & CARDS...

It's that time of the year again!

Why not have a limerick to describe it... Here goes...
When hearts flutter...
When desires clutter...
When days are *milky* and nights are *butter*...
That's Valentine!

Even though, as a matter of fact, the name Valentine is something of a misnomer. Actually, the one after whom it has been named was a Saint of *Termi* (Rome) and the poor dear was anything but romantic. He never ever started some kind of a movement for the lovey-dovey, which the Valentine has come to be, today. Though he did solemnise marriages between Christians secretly, as the same had been banned by the then Roman king *Claudius II* (infamously known as, *'Claudius, the Cruel'*) as a measure to curtail Christianity on the part of the Romans - he never professed to be a Pole-star of Love!

Predictably, he was beheaded by Claudius!
But how come such a person – err, Parson, actually – became the harbinger of Romance? Well, the legend has it that the day he was beheaded chanced to be the day when *Love-lotteries* were drawn. Furthering this *Gyaan* a bit more, we may tell you that the Love–lotteries were drawn there as part of an ancient custom for a festival, when a boy would pick up a lottery carrying a girl's name from a bowl and whoever she happened to be, would become his mate for the Fête!
This game of Romance must have got somehow intertwined with the freshly martyred St. Valentine and by and by, over centuries he became the Patron-saint of Romance and the day in question became the Valentine's Day!

Surely, if the real St. Valentine was to come back from the 'Departed' today, he would be popping his eyes out at the fuss woven around his name. Indeed, he has become the trigger for one of the biggest *Tamaasha's* of our times and while the stick-in-the-mud, conservative *old fogeys* of this world consider him to be a curse, the young brigade roots for him deliriously, turning him into a symbol of Eros, himself and plunging into his day, i.e. the Valentine Day - body, heart and soul!

And old fogeys be damned!
So it's a Day when pink winds touch rosy cheeks and the blushes make hearts aflutter… when eyes interlock with eyes and lips quiver because of no reason in particular… when guys & gals, beaus & belles, dudes & dolls feel a new swoon for each other…

And it doesn't stop at that…
Even the not-so-young also heave heavy sighs at whoever they take a fancy to - it's a time when even the office Steno can turn misty-eyed at the Boss or vice versa!

Nobody minds nobody - all casts, creeds, tribes and vocations find themselves caught in the vortex of Valentine!

Television is no exception!
Actually, in TVstaan, they take to it like there is no tomorrow! Valentine is the craved cult of the TVzens and they celebrate it to the hilt. Indeed, it is quite a sight to see the Valentine Voodoo sweeping across the TVland like a hurricane!

And hurricane times are here again...
Read on to have word-pictures of this hurricane...

Valentine Wordplay with 'Meri Aashiqui' Jodi

'I'd love my Valentine to gift me a luxurious car'

SHAKTI RADHIKA

'I'd Love my Valentine to gift me Chaat'

words by VIERENDRA BHARGAV
photographed by RAHUL JHANGIANI



On Screen, they are the stuff teenyboppers dream of…
Looking fabulous together, Shakti (Arora) and Radhika (Madan) seem to be so much into each other there that it's nothing but the one-breath-in-two-bodies phenomenon happening before you... They part and pine for each other and then meet to melt into each other and then part and then meet and then… Err, the circle is unending...
But that's the 'Daily' Serial for you…
What matters is that even going in circles like that, this Jodi doesn't lose even an iota of their Chemistry together...
GR8! corners this winsome twosome to talk about - eh, Valentine... What else? Whistle on as you read...



Shakti's White Shirt: T M Lewin
Shakti's Blue Vest: Zara
Shakti's Bowtie : T M Lewin
Radhika's Gown : French Connection



What is 'Love' to you?
Radhika Madan: Something that is unconditional – and no 'ifs' & 'buts' there...!
Shakti Arora: 'Love' is loyalty! It's also 'peace' and 'security', but both of these automatically follow if there is 'Loyalty'!

And your take on 'Romance'?
Shakti: Passion - that's what it is!
Radhika: To me, it is making someone feel very 'special'!

Achha, what do you think is the best instrument to convey 'Romance' - Eyes? Lips? Touch? Or Talk?
Radhika: Eyes & Touch!
Shakti: Eyes & Talk!

Create a wild fancy of a 'Romantic Evening' - where in the world would you love to have your dream 'Date'? And who would be your dream 'Partner'?
Radhika: It has to be 'Water' - like, a Cruise or a Yacht or something! And yes - Candle-lights Dinner with Violins playing in the background - oof, it has to be Filmi to a 'T'! And my partner? Well, he has to be a carbon copy of mine and just as I'm so Filmi, he, too, has to believe in Rose-petals, 'Dancing-in-the-Rains' and all of that Filmi stuff!
Shakti: I haven't really been to different parts of the world - but I know my dream Date would have to be somewhere amongst the snow-capped mountains... and yes, a Dinner in Candle-lights on a Cruise is also a possibility. As for my partner, apart from Neha (Air Hostess/Actress - girlfriend), it has to be Scarlett Johansson!

What is 'Marriage' to you?
Radhika: Oh, it's just a tag - Love & Care is what matters most! But yes, 'Marriage' does mean increased responsibilities!
Shakti: 'Marriage' is an Institution - I believe in it and the fact is that your whole life depends on it!

What about 'Live-in'? Can you go in for it?
Radhika: Yes! If I'm madly in love with a person – then, why not?
Shakti: Frankly speaking, I also believe in 'Live-in', but people out there, then, start looking at you as if you've committed a crime. So I would rather not go in for it - but I do believe in it!

Ok now, tell us, when did you learn about Valentine for the fire ever time?
Shakti: In school!
Radhika: Same here! A boy came up to me with a rose and told me that, 'It's Valentine Day and I love you!'... and being a Tomboy I had no clue as to what he was talking about... I just laughed and then, slapped him off! That's when I asked my Mom about what is this 'Valentine' thing all about?

Who was your first conscious Valentine?
Shakti: In School-days - when it is budding love, where everything is so pure… It was amazing, but even then, I could never convey my feelings - I've always been too shy!
Radhika: I haven't really dated someone as such - I've always celebrated it with my father!

So, what would be the dream gift that you wish your partner gives you?
Shakti: A luxurious limousine!
Radhika: But I love 'Chaat' the most and would wish my Valentine to take me to all the Chaat-corners there are, so that I can wolf down loads of Paapadi, Paani-puri etc.!

And what would be the dream gift that you would love to give to your Valentine?
Shakti: A 'Villa' and a 'Bentley'!
Radhika: Ticket for a World-tour!

Wow! OK - Radhika, tell us what was your instant impression of Shakti when you set your eyes on him for the first ever time?... And don't try to be politically correct, please...
Radhika: Oh, I was so new, you see… so I was wondering, who's he and why is so sweet to me? Then, I came to know that he is my co-actor!

And what about you, Shakti - what did you think of her?
Shakti: Hmmm... So, 'she' is my heroine!

You were two strangers meeting for the first ever time - who broke the ice?
Radhika: He did!
Shakti: Actually, there never was a need to 'break the ice' or something, as we both are Taureans. Besides, Radhika is so very open and bubbly - so there!

And who's the Boss between you two?
Both: None!
Radhika: You see if I sunaofy him, he wouldn't listen and it's vice versa, yoo!

So today, can we say you two are 'Friends' or just two good 'Professionals' working together?
Shakti: Both!
Radhika: Actually, we aren't exactly the best of buddies, who will hang out together after Shoots, but yes - on the Sets we are 'friends' and we have a lot of fun together. In fact, this off-screen bond gets reflected in our on-screen Chemistry. I just look into his eyes and he's my Ranveer and I, his Ishaani. Indeed, then it becomes so very real - tears and all!

Ok - tell us one thing, Radhika that you like about Shakti...
Radhika: He's so patient and so professional!

How about you, Shakti - what do you like about her?
Shakti: It's that air of hers - 'Main Jaisi Hoon, Waisi Hi Hoon', rather than being worried or embarrassed about anything before others!

And one thing you don't?
Shakti: She's too hyper!

Your turn Radhika...
Radhika: Oh, too finicky about his 'beauty sleeps'... LOL!

What would be the one piece of advice you'd give each other?
Radhika: Don't be insecure... go party - have a ball!
Shakti: Try to behave more like a girl - I like you better that way!

Can you, Radhika tease Shakti for us?
Radhika: Uh, that's easy - Shakti, Mera Pack-up Ho Gaya...!

Give us a word to define each other...
Shakti: Radhika is - Chhota-Packet–Bada-Dhamaaka!
Radhika: He is – Patient!

And a word for yourself…
Shakti: Explorer!
Radhika: I'm - Bindaas...!

**Well said!
And the 'Bindaas Chhota-Packet-Bada-Dhamaka' and the 'Patient Explorer' prove to be just the right ones to talk Valentine to us...
They have Love throbbing in their Personas and
are genuine to a fault...
And as they kept shooting the breeze on all things Valentine - we've sat there in sheer elation...
And we're sure, you, too, are the same at this moment...
Pleased as Punch!**


YOU TALK A LOT
NOT NOW. BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND MY SILENCE TOO.

Naved & Sayeeda Jafri

Jo Tumko Ho Pasand Wohi Baat Kahenge, Tum Din Ko Agar Raat Kaho Raat Kahenge,

'Opposites attract each other' and yes, they prove it right. We are all very much aware about the hilarious and droll side of Naved, And Sayeeda on the other side, more scrupulous and unruffled complements him perfectly. And ask about the conversation with them??? It was crazy and full of madness. Here are few beautiful excerpts captured from a candid chat with them…

So tell us the biggest adjustment in your marriage life?

Sayeeda: Ours was an arranged marriage. So not only adapting myself to new family, but also to find my way in this country was a big challenge for me.

Naved: Yes, but I made that easy.

Marriage without bloopers, Sounds boring. Tell us about your favourite funny moment…

Sayeeda: Well, countless with Naved. But yes there was this funny moment. We had some event to attend and I thought it is A.M. flight late in the night. We were all set, even reached airport, took our boarding passes and everything but could not find the Gate No. for our flight. After few minutes of chaos, we came to know that it was early afternoon flight. Oh my god, it was one hilarious chaotic situation. We went home, laughed on it and again reached airport after 10-11 hours.

Naved: And Sayeeda once declared me as 'About to die'. Yes, once we went for a routine health check-up and came to know that my cholesterol was on bit higher side. She started shouting in corridors, 'Naved, you will die, see you will die' and everyone over there were staring at me as if it was a big disease.

One best advice received from your partner

Sayeeda: Naved always tells me that always have a backup. If not plan A, then plan B and if not B then you have plan C. Keep your options open.

Naved: True. Backup is required but please don't think about that concept when it comes to hubby. Lol. Sayeeda always tells me not speak when I am mouthful.

One marriage myth you would like to debunk:

Sayeeda: Marriage is not a fairy tale where you will live happily ever after. I guess that happens only in Yash Raj Films.

Naved: There is this famous line 'Happy wife means Happy life'. I want to know who invented that because there is nothing like Happy Wife.

Ok, tell us one thing you enjoy doing the most together?

Sayeeda: I am a foodie. I love to try every cuisine and explore new restaurant. But Naved is apathetic when it comes to trying new places. So you see, he turns into a very obedient husband and accompanies me. I enjoy that and want to thank him for that…

Naved: But even she is a dutiful wife as she comes wholeheartedly with me for every movie even when she is not a big fan of them. So I think that settles the score. Lol

So what keeps both of you united?

Sayeeda: I think it is the respect, exploring each other differences and at the same time accepting it. We also give space to each other. When I am livid also, Naved would not utter a word because he knows what exactly I expect.

Naved: Just one simple philosophy. One person is always right and that is wife or maybe it is better to believe that.;-) (All hubbies out there, are you listening?)

Andlastly, what about Valentine Roses???

Sayeeda: I am not in for Red Roses.

Naved: No, I think they are Romantic.

- J.S.

KYUNKI TUM HI HO...



As we all say it is not two perfect people coming together, but two imperfect people who comes together and holds hands without any disclaimers that make the relationship perfect. And Ravi and Sargun flawlessly do that. Both are stunning and have already tasted fame and success in tinsel villa, but that is not which makes us adulate them. It is their unconditional and selfless love which restores our faith in old adage "Marriages are truly made in heaven." And for the month of love, here we capture their mesmerizing chemistry for our readers...

- J.S.

ZINDAGI AB TUM HI HO...



RAVI dubey & SARGUN mehta

One word which comes to your mind when you hear Valentine
Ravi: Valentine is all about Sargun.
Sargun: Love, love and more love.

Pick one: A walk along the beach, Candlelight dinner or long drive
Ravi: A walk along the beach.
Sargun: Candle light dinner and then long drive.

Best V-Day story of yours…
Ravi: Revisiting our initial dating days, we had once celebrated Valentine day on the terrace of my house. I guess that was very beautiful moment.
Sargun: Since the time I have started dating Ravi, my every Valentine was special. He is very cute and his sweet little gestures make my every day special. (Well, no wonder Ravi feels proud and is all blushing and smiling)

Pick one: Communication, Understanding or Trust
Ravi: I think Communication. It should be transparent and you should be able to pour whatever you have in mind. It is so important to be naked not just physically, but emotionally too with your partner.
Sargun: I will go with Trust.

What is most common between you both:
Ravi: We both are very Optimistic about Life.
Sargun: And yes, we both are complete foodie too.

And what makes you poles apart?
Ravi: She is very meticulous and I am very careless especially about paperwork.
Sargun: In deciding the interiors for our house. Sounds funny, but yes, we had maximum number of arguments in deciding the theme and shades for our house. Don't you think he should just agree, that I have a better taste. Hahaha...

Who showers more gifts?
Ravi: I guess we both equally
Sargun: Yes, we both but Ravi showers more gifts.

Last time you sang song for Ravi and which one:
Ravi: Tum Hi Ho. I sing this song for her on every occasion to the extent that she is now fed up of it. Guess I will now have to expand the horizon of my songs list. Lol.
Sargun: Yes you better do that. Well, I have never sung for him but if I had to, I would sing Gerua song from Dilwale movie.

Conflicts…who is the first one to approach?
Ravi: I am the one always not because I like doing that but it is because she is always right. And just because I am more reactive, I am more apologetic too. Sargun has many perspectives about life which makes her look at situation from multiple angles…
Sargun: You got the answer. Yes, he always says magical word SORRY first. ;-)

Complete the sentence. Marriage is all about…
Ravi: Marriage is all about companionship, positivity, happiness and victory
Sargun: Marriage is all about being happy.

Your tip to keep the charm and romance alive in a relationship?
Ravi: But thumb rule is 'Never judge your partner' in all capital, bold and italic font. God forbid, even if Sargun commits a mistake, I will protect this relationship in all ways. I am very vocal and I will forget what she did and just save our relation. It perturbs me when I see my friends and peers marriages going for a toss or love evaporating from their relationship. I think everything is reparable and I believe in looking at a person much beyond the blunders. A bit uncommon advice, but it pay offs…
Sargun: Ahh so cute Ravi…I think be friends first and trust each other is what I will suggest to keep the charm alive and also to keep your relation intact.


MARMOT

It all happened when they met at a common friend's birthday party. And you all know what happens when a Handsome Munda and a Stunning Kudi crosses path with each other… Sparks has to fly and love blossoms. Confident, alluring and go-getting is what describes them the best. GR8! brings to you a sneak peek into their love, friendship and all the fun and banter we had with this pulsating twosome…

Love in Serendipity!!!

RAHUL RAJ SINGH & PRATYUSHA BANERJEE

So tell us how it all started…
Rahul: I saw her at the party, and the first thing I thought was…' Ohh she is so similar to me'. Everything just fell in place…
Pratyusha: Ohh yeah and for me it was different. I thought what a handsome guy. Lol

You both are young, insecurity is bound to happen…
Rahul: No, transparent communication is what is required
Pratyusha: We both are very confident and that is one thing which is akin to both of us. So if I doubt him, it is similar to questioning myself and my love for him. Yes, we are possessive about each other but not insecure.

And who breaks the ice?
Rahul: Pratyusha is calmer, so she apologizes always...
Pratyusha: Yes, I hope it's the other way round on next valentine…Hahaha

One thing about Pratyusha
Rahul: She can sleep a lot…She can sleep for 12-13 hours also.

And one thing about Rahul
Pratyusha: He is very romantic. Trust me, he does all the pampering and throws surprises...

Compatibility Check:

Song your partner can listen all over again and again
Rahul: Baatein yeh kabhi na tu bhulna…koi tere khatir hain jee raha
Pratyusha: He loves Amitabh Sirs songs a lot. So I guess, Rote Hue Aate Hain Sab…Muqqadar yeh Sikandar

Movie your partner can see again and again
Rahul: Kuch Kuch Hota hain ,
Pratyusha: Le Jayenge..Le Jayenge… Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge

Food they can't resist
Rahul: Rabdi and Jalebi
Pratyusha: Milk cake

Last gift they gave you
Rahul: Purse and Louis Vuitton Belt
Pratyusha: Gold earring

Bingo!!! The couple definitely knows each other well. And talking about the scores…With ¾, we cannot stop raving about their chemistry!

- J.S.

Siddhant Karnick

"Today daily soap actor can afford to have a life

So how do you see the show journey so far? "Writers (Nilanjana Purkayastha and Saurabh Tiwari etc.) are doing a great job in keeping the pace and unpredictability alive. We have no clue what is going to happen two to three days from now. I love the drama and twists which keeps happening from time to time."

Going on, he says, "I have great creative satisfaction for unlike most female centric TV shows. My character Rana Ji is given equal importance as Gayatri (lead actress Drasthi Dhami). I am getting to do different stuff every day. It is a indeed a creative challenge for on one hand I am playing a strict and stern king and on the other hand I also need to essay a vulnerable husband who breaks down emotionally. Very few small screen actors get to play such contrasting shades in one show."

How do you approach Rana Ji, "It was a bit dicey to start for him being fictional character set in around independence time, we had no reference points. I preferred to go with the director's brief. There is no need to experiment as my basic personality per se brings something fresh to the table according to the creative team."

Having said that, "My body language, articulation, mannerisms are inspired from army officers. I personally know many senior defense personnel hailing from the same background. I further ensure that special traits of respect and chivalry which unfortunately today we only see in the armed forces are also reflected in Rana Ji demeanor."

So how come you did not enlist? "I always wanted to be a solider but changed my mind as I would have to crop my hair shot. Then I decided to opt for another kind of shooting which besides keeping me alive also allows multiple retakes."

What do you feel about royalty? "Being a king is not easy, for you are bound by traditions and customs and have to do stuff what you don't like for your people's welfare. He has no freedom to do what he wishes."

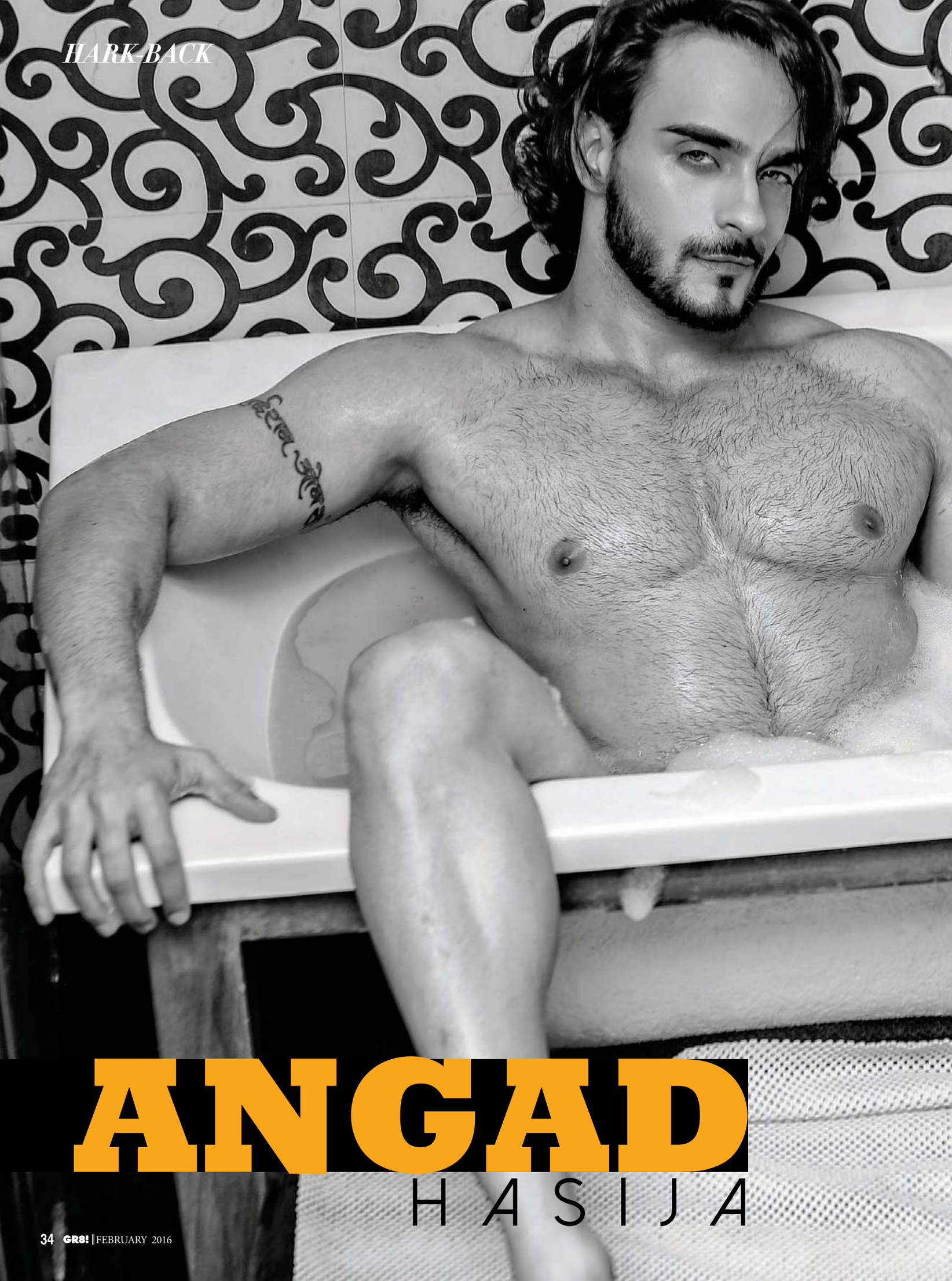
Since this issue is Valentine's Day special, what is your take on romance?, "More than love & sex, compromise, understanding and friendship makes a relationship tick. I can't say much more in the lieu long standing relationship but have gathered this much from observing my parents. Sadly, today this much needed adjustment is going out of the window. Everybody thinks he/she is bending more. What is missing is the 'we as a unit thinking'."

In closing, we address the elephant in the room about consistent low ratings of Ek Tha Raja? "I will not want to comment on something which has always been a mystery and continues to be one even now. Our numbers have always see-sawed. But I am sure we will rock it."

- A.M.



The suave and sophisticated Siddhant Karnick who has been around for year with shows such as Remix, Pyaar Ek Kahani and Aasman Se Aage has finally found his TV calling with Zee TV's Ek Tha Raja Ek Thi Rani. "I am very thrilled and excited to be part of this period drama. As for having arrived, that is for you to decide. I had deliberately kept away from the daily grind from a long time due to the crazy working schedules. Today, daily soap actors can afford to have a life. Here, I must credit Sphere Origin production house for ensuring that we don't shoot more than the required twelve hours. So we have the other half of the day to eat sleep and meet people. It is very important for me to have my time off."



ANGAD

HASIJA



"Meri Body Meri Mehnat Ki Kamaai Hai..."

He created a sensation recently with his photo-shoot in the buff... 'Nakedness', he stresses, doesn't disturb him as *'I'm comfortable with my body'* and according to him, he did this Shoot to give it an International tenor... On screen, too, he has been flaunting his rippling muscles right up to the recent 'Amrit Manthan'... And the *hot-bod* Angad Hasija had opened his heart out to us in a GR8! Encounter of the Chatty kind... Excerpts from that heart-to-heart...

On being an Actor...

That has happened in spite of me... I had no *Jhukaav towards Acting*... My life and its goals were rather simple at one point of time and that's how I took to Interior-designing and was content with it... But I've always been well-groomed and that led to my being pestered by those around me to get into Modelling, but I always brushed 'em off... Finally, when *Mom* also started keying me up for the same - I could not but take the plunge... And then, my success in Modelling led automatically to Acting...!

On debut with Rajan Shahi...

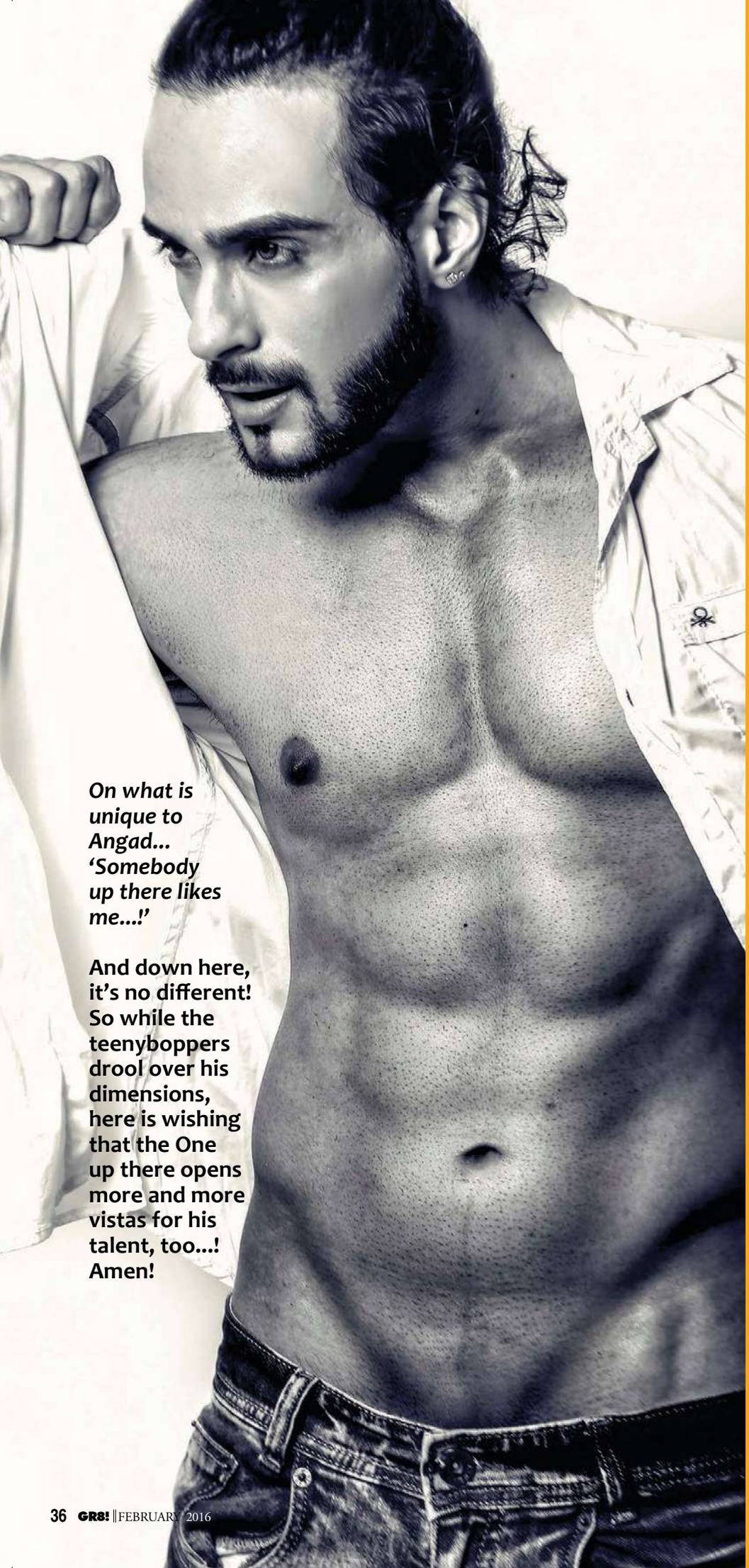
And that was in spite of Rajan Sir... He hated my audition and thought I was too sophisticated for the mentally retarded simpleton, *Aalekh* in his *'Bidaai'*... But the, Channel chanced to like me and he, willy-nilly, decided to gamble on me… That's when I vowed to myself that I'd make me his most favourite... And you know, after my very first Shot, he came to me and said - *'Today, I'll be able to sleep at ease - I have got my 'Aalekh'...!*

On being a struggler...

The struggling phase in inevitable and it kicks you in the shins to go and sweat your guts out... Yes - I, too, have gone through hell - what with having to brave all of those rejections and humiliations that are the Destiny of a struggler in Showbiz... You know, once I went to audition for *Dheeraj Kumar's* 'Maayaka'... One look at me and the Casting-guy made a face, hissing – *'Why are you living in a fool's paradise - go struggle for bit roles, you are not Hero-material!'...* I was, like, struck by lightning... Crestfallen, I didn't go for auditions till quite some time after that...!

On Versatility...

I have always striven for that... Versatility is the true touchstone of talent in an Actor... For 'Aalekh' in 'Bidaai' I drained myself dry to develop a Mental-retard's body language... And then, my very next was the village bully, Shankar in 'Phulwa' and Shankar was everything that Angad is not - an uncouth, abusive, abrasive bully... For him, I had to slog



On what is unique to Angad... 'Somebody up there likes me...!'

And down here, it's no different! So while the teenyboppers drool over his dimensions, here is wishing that the One up there opens more and more vistas for his talent, too...! Amen!

like a maniac to turn myself into a big, burly hunk... *Meri Body Meri Mehnat Ki Kamaai Hai...!*

On preparing for a role...
As I said, Aalekh was mentally a child and to project him, I studied the way kids ate, drank, moved and behaved... Next I knew, I was to portray Shankar (Phulwa), who was so rough & rude and trust me, I cannot be rude even to save my life... Hence, I deeply observed the light-men, spot-boys, my driver etc. - they are all such Ghaati's and talk so rudely, but, of course, they always mean well... They became my reference-points for Shankar... Also, while doing the husky Aalekh for 2 years, I had lost my 'bass' and for Shankar, I needed a raspy bass... That was another big toil...!

On Role-Models...
Professionally - *Salman Khan,* without a shred of doubt…That man is a walking wonder... And personally – well, none really, but my *Mom* has been a source of inspiration for me... She brought us up singly, as my Dad separated from the family, leaving her to fend for us totally on her own...!

On TV v/s Films...
I wouldn't say TV is any less, but still, how can you go on doing the same character for donkey's years like, say - Smriti did as Tulsi... On the contrary, in Films, you get fresh challenges all the times... And it's a totally different working ethos in TV - here, you often hear ridiculous things like - *'Aaj toh aisa TRP- badhaao Shot diya hai main-ne, ki bas'...!*

On carrying his characters home...
I just cannot shut myself off from what I'm doing on Screen... Like, when I was doing Aalekh, I would often be walking baby-steps in real life, too... And during my Shankar days - Gosh, so many times, I would start walking in those arrogant strides of his or start *hissing* instead of talking... And then, all my friends would tease me for that no end...!

On the Angad Persona...
I feel I'm too much in suspension - I keep dilly-dallying about things... I just can't reach a quicker decision... But I'm one who can work his fingers to bones... 'Love' in my life means my daughter... And out of *'Physical'* or *'Spiritual'*, I would any day choose, 'Spiritual'...!

On Marriage...
Marriage, in my mind is God's gift, but I don't squirm at the idea of 'Live-in' as well, even if I, myself, would not go in for it...!

On having hidden his Marital status...
'Yes, I did that - but not because of some apprehension that declaring my marriage would ebb away my Star-pull... Look, I had just stepped into my 20's when I married and I found that people, here, were making fun of the very idea... So I abided my time and started denying it... Finally, when I made a mark as Aalekh, I declared it...!

Shailaa Arora and Dr. Vinod Hasal mesmerizing performance!

Date: 28th November, 2015
Venue: Iskcon Temple Juhu, Mumbai

GR8 Entertainment Pvt Ltd presented the dazzling performance by Kathak expert Shailaa Arora at ISKCON auditorium few weeks back. It was definitely a treat to ones eyes watching Shailaa Arora and Dr. Vinod Hasal using the shining light of Kathak dance to pay tribute to their Mentor - Acharya Guru Ganesh H. Hasal. The duo also performed on many numbers to pay obeisance to Lord Krishna.


Dr. Vinod Hasal & Shailaa Arora


Shashi Ranjan and Anu Ranjan


Group picture


Bindu & Champaklal Zaveri


Jeetendra


Gulshan Arora


Magical performance by musicians


Kiran Juneja & Ramesh Sippy


Prem Chopra and Uma Chopra


L to R: Umesh Hasal, Acharya Guru Ganesh Hasal, Gulshan Arora, Dr. Vinod Hasal


Gulshan & Shailaa Arora with talented musicians


Dr. Vinod Hasal with well-wishers


Poonam Sinha



Akshay Kumar

The reigning Khiladi of Bolly-villa, Akshay Kumar repertoire of films made us ponder on various issues and concerns, while sometime making us go all teary with laughter and merriment. His action sequences can make you glued to the seat and his dance is worth hundred claps for vigor and 'oomph' moments. He is Akshay Kumar or should we say Perfect-package to deliver block buster dhamaka…

Touching the mark of silver jubilee innings in the Indian film industry, Zee Cinema celebrated 25 years of Akshay Kumar as a salute to self-made star with a line-up of his extravaganza movies like Singh is Bling, Welcome, Holiday, etc. And in one such moment, Akshay Kumar gets all candid and looks back at his expedition in B-Town, ruling the television space, exertions and many more…

"I don't take things for granted"



On movies

It is great to know that people love the movies I do, because there is lot of hard work put in by a lot of people to make the movie and bring it to audiences. I like doing films which offer wholesome entertainment to the entire family and which has a perfect blend of comedy, romance, action and a lot of masti! My films are made for Indian audiences and not just for NRIs and multiplex, hence I think they strike a chord with everyone on small screen. The pure hearted characters, action sequences, light romance, laughter and colorful dances surely bring a smile to viewers.

On doing comedy…

I love comedy. It is a difficult genre to do but I try my best. As an actor, we have to be in perfect sync to deliver a comedy that hits the bone.

On his strengths…

When I came into this industry, I didn't have much of a choice, all I was ever really good at was stunts. I had to make my mark and my focus was only on that. I just love entertaining people. I don't believe in taking things for granted.

On his failures…

There was a time when I delivered 14 flops in a row. I was down in the dumps, and suddenly the 15th film worked and then there were 16 films which were box office hits. What I have understood with these many years in the industry is that an actor is a star cause of his fans and should do anything in power to entertain viewers. Work hard, be punctual, eat right and do not cheat.



Pratyusha Banerjee
Jamshedpur



Asha Negi
Dehradun



Divyanka Tripathi
Bhopal

Chhote-Chhote Shahron Se...

Small-towner Babes making it Big in TVdom...

They've hit the pay-dirt – and how!

And it's like an *'Ant'* scaling the Himalayas, or a *'Paper-boat'* crossing the Atlantic Ocean… and that's because, for one born in those humdrum environs of distant Towns, it would be deemed as well-nigh impossible to make inroads into aworld as insulated as the Tinsel-world. In fact, it would be unlikely for them even to dream about such a prospect, what with the *'Train-to-Mumbai'* being a rather daunting object for a *Moffusil* inhabitant, particularly girls!

But, then, as they say – Miracles never cease!

And here they are – achieving those very miracles before us. Yes – they have dared to dream and then, transcribe those dreams into reality. However, that doesn't make the ordeals-by-the-fire that they've had to go through, any less as each of 'em has had to tread through the mazes of *'struggle'*, most arduously.

And you don't need to be a Rocket Scientist to observe that growing up in small towns is, in itself, an unending saga of stringent restrictions for girls! As illuminates *Pratyusha Bannerjee* of Balika Vadhu fame…
'We were not allowed to wear Western dresses… We were barred from stepping out of home after 7 pm… and so on…!'

Indeed, it's a wonder that after having been confined into the cocoon of such restrictions, how could they even dream about being a Tinsel-towner? *'Oh, it just happened'*, beams Asha Negi (Pavitra Rishta), *'I was in my 3rd or 4th standard, when just on an impulse - or shall we say, 'instinct' – I declared grandly – I wanna be a Heroine!', though I hardly even knew what all being a Heroine really implies!'* Same is the case, besides others, for *Divyanka Tripathi* (Yeh Hai Mohabbatein) also – it was ***Destiny!***

And Destiny made them follow their impulses and instincts – but what about the roadblocks, like, the resentment at parents' or the family's end? *'Oh, it was very difficult to convince them'* furthers Pratyusha, *'they were just not ready to send me alone to the big Metro!'*

For Divyanka, too, the same situation stared in her face!

Still, consumed by the desire to try her luck in the world of entertainment, she asked her father to accompany her to Mumbai so that he may, himself, talk to people here! And he did just that, only to find out that, *'I was quite capable of managing things on my own!'*

But it's not that these ambitious girls were not worried in the recesses of their hearts. '*I was the youngest in the family and I was naïve and trusted everybody',* says Asha, *'but I trusted my capabilities even more– so there!'*

Even then, it is a stinging reality that there are elements in the industry that are out to exploit fresh strugglers. Divyanka nods to that…
'Yes, I have faced many indecent proposals from some very high-profile bigwigs of the Industry in my initial days of struggle. But I always walked away from them, saying a respectful, yet firm, 'NO!' to them! In the process, I have lost out on many films - but no regrets! I just cannot compromise!'

Actually, it all boils down to that and that alone!

It's your own will that matters rather than others' devious machinations and no exploiter, however high and mighty, can misuse or abuse you against your will. Often, you find that girls are only too ready to jump into their hands (perhaps, due to getting driven by dire circumstances in many a case, as life and survival in the city is truly difficult) – but those who, despite everything, can and do put their feet down against such ignoble advances, just come out unscathed. Like, it was done by Asha…
'There was this guy who called me in Millat Nagar for his very indecent proposal! When I resisted, he tried to brainwash me with warnings that I would have to go back home if I do not compromise! But I stuck to my guns and turned my back on him – I was not ready to betray my parents' trust in me - come what may!'

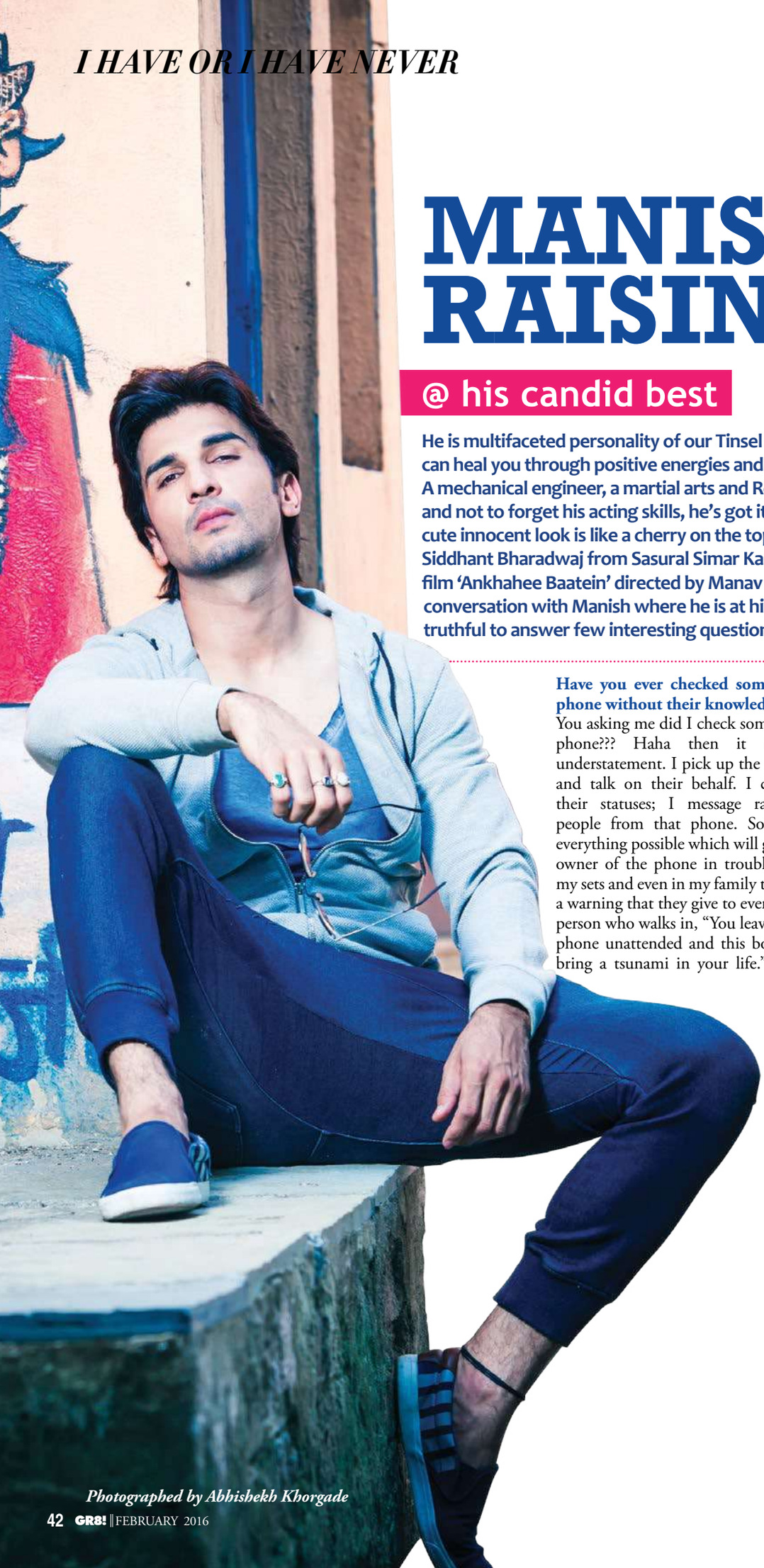
So, at the end of the day, after having gone through and then surmounted all of that, how do they feel – Happy? Contended? Or bitter, in any way at what they have had to face?

Well, the answer we got was - Not bitter, certainly! As averred Divyanka…
'Rather than bitter, I feel proud of the way I have conducted myself and faced the 'exploitation' head-on, rather than getting carried away by their glib words with nasty connotations!'

Pratyusha, too, finds herself in sync with this thinking…
'Look, ups & downs have to be faced by one and all – whatever be the line!'

And to all the new strugglers out there, these gritty girls have some rousing things to say…
'Go ahead and believe in yourself' –Asha!
'Be strong, be positive and keep going for the auditions – never, ever say die' – Pratyusha!!
'Yes, have patience, work hard and try to take right decisions at the right time' –Divyanka!!!

Such sane words… Indeed, it's not for nothing that these small-towners stand tall today… And that too in a place as exclusive as Showbiz… *Taaliyaan…!*



MANISH RAISINGHAN

@ his candid best

He is multifaceted personality of our Tinsel town. He can talk about academics, can heal you through positive energies and definitely can save you from goons. A mechanical engineer, a martial arts and Reiki expert, an avid photographer… and not to forget his acting skills, he's got it all to woo any woman. And his cute innocent look is like a cherry on the top of the cake. Yes, you know him as Siddhant Bharadwaj from Sasural Simar Ka. He also made an appearance in short film 'Ankhahee Baatein' directed by Manav Bhinder. GR8! Indulges in candid conversation with Manish where he is at his candid best. He gets upfront and truthful to answer few interesting questions we shoot at him…

Have you ever checked someone's phone without their knowledge?

You asking me did I check someone's phone??? Haha then it is an understatement. I pick up the phone and talk on their behalf. I change their statuses; I message random people from that phone. So I do everything possible which will get the owner of the phone in trouble. On my sets and even in my family there is a warning that they give to every new person who walks in, "You leave your phone unattended and this boy will bring a tsunami in your life." Now the ones who knows me, don't make that mistake ever (All you guys out there, now you know where you have to be careful the next time you meet this man…Lol)

Have you resorted to any shortcuts for money or fame?

I believe pursuing modeling or acting itself was a shortcut I took…Well the kind of salary a lot of my engineering friends were getting, I used to pay more than that to my driver then. So I believe this is the biggest bypass I have already taken to my journey to what I aim at! ;)

Have you kept a track on what your contemporaries are doing?

I am the most curious case you will ever meet. But having said that, allow me to contradict myself by saying… forget the contemporaries I am absolutely ignorant about most of the happenings in the industry. Call me the laziest bum when it comes to this or call me a busy boy who is so busy with his own stuff that he has no time to keep track of his own life and never had ever…

Have you ever tried to shift blame / lied to someone else just to defend yourself?

In this case I would say never. And people who know me vouch by it. I don't believe in blame game. On the contrary you will see me standing up for what I haven't done also. So I have

Photographed by Abhishekh Khorgade

shifted blames but from others to myself. My dear ones call it the tendency of "Aa bail mujhe maar" and they hate that about me but also love me for it. (Now that is what we call a 'Self-professed Scapegoat'... Sooo sweet)

Have you recently been perturbed by your friends actions?
Oh yes…And I am very vocal about it. I wouldn't keep it within as a grudge and make the relationship turn sour. I would rather pour it out and finish it before I forget about it. Yes, I have a very poor memory. But I believe that's what keeps me happy and jumpy all the time …

Have you ever eyed the role played by someone else?
Oh yes all the time…I am like a kid in the candy shop. I want it all and I want it now. So even when we are doing a scene and I see someone performing a meaty scene I go…Kaashhh!

Have you ever gifted the gift received by you to someone else?
Haha however cheap it may sound but yes I have done that… Diwali is probably the time where there is so much of surplus. So can't help it ;-)

Have you ever stalked anyone?
No….I have enjoyed the luxury (read sarcasm if you can) of being on the other side of the fence...

Have you ever been upset with media for what they have written about you?
Well loads of times… I have had more eventful life on paper (written by media) than what I actually happened to live. But then I learned to make peace with it pretty early in my career and since then I believe the whole chemistry between media and me changed. Since then I love them and they love me back. Or at least I chose to think so ;)

Have you ever experienced paranormal activity?
Yes…they are fun. It is like living a horror film till the interval with a bad ending or till the end of a film with a good ending…

Have you bribed anyone or taken a bribe?
Shhhhh…I am an 'Aam Aadmi' who doesn't like to be a part of the corrupt world. I hope the world is listening uhhuuu uhhuu (coughs)

Have you ever advised something what you don't preach?
I don't preach…. I practice and leave the choice on others if they chose to follow. And when it comes to advising things which are not related to me, there also I am a miser who would not waste time and energy unless it is really needed…

Have you ever got a déjà vu feeling?
Ohoo lots of times. Strangely even to places and things that I have no connections with…Strange but true in my case. Probably it is some past life connect.

- J.S.



Shivin narang

6 tips to Woo a girl

Wooing a girl is an art and Love is complicated. It is not difficult to get a girl interested in you, if you know the right approach and follow the basic checklist. Well, thousands of literature out there will give you the list of do's and don'ts. But this time, TV heartthrob, Shivin Narang, who already has huge female fan following, shares his tips on how to crack the code.

1

Be Honest and keep it simple

To be honest, there is no thumb rule to win a woman's heart. Yes, but be real and be sensible for a long term healthy relationship. Your simplicity and honesty is what counts. Girls surely like honest boys with a pure heart.

2

Make your date memorable

Understand your partner. If you were to ask me, I will ask my girl about her wishes then I will try to make one of her wish come true secretly as a surprise. A woman needs attention, care and pampering so I will pamper her the way she wants. Taking care of her heart is very important.

3

Don't let ego come in picture

Even during fights, don't forget she is your girlfriend. So forget all ego and tell her sorry because for boys 'Sorry' really works. See, then it depends on intensity of fights. In case of big ones, apart from acknowledging your mistake and willingness to rectify it, you may have to give her Roses and hand written card or gifts, etc.

4

Inquisitiveness to know about her family and work

Don't be self-centered. Girls like when you show eagerness in knowing about her family and work. If I really like that girl I will be nice and sweet with her family too. I am a homely person and love to relate with people. It is very natural to be part of her family if she is special to me.

5

Dos and Don'ts for all guys while going out on a date

You should always make your partner comfortable and special. Going for a date doesn't mean that you have to go for a candle light dinner or in a five star hotel. You can go anywhere as what matters is you make her feel special. First ask her what she likes and make it memorable. I think being together is the best way. One should smell good and have positive mental attitude. Don't forget to spend as much quality time as possible. Relationships are for keeps.

6

Lastly, a Valentine Tip

I don't believe in special day because every day is a Valentine for me. I don't believe in big things like going out for candle light dinner but believe in doing things together and good conversation. Bonding of hearts is important. You should be able to find happiness in small things.

-J.S.

Rapid fire:

You are single. What qualities you are looking in your soulmate?

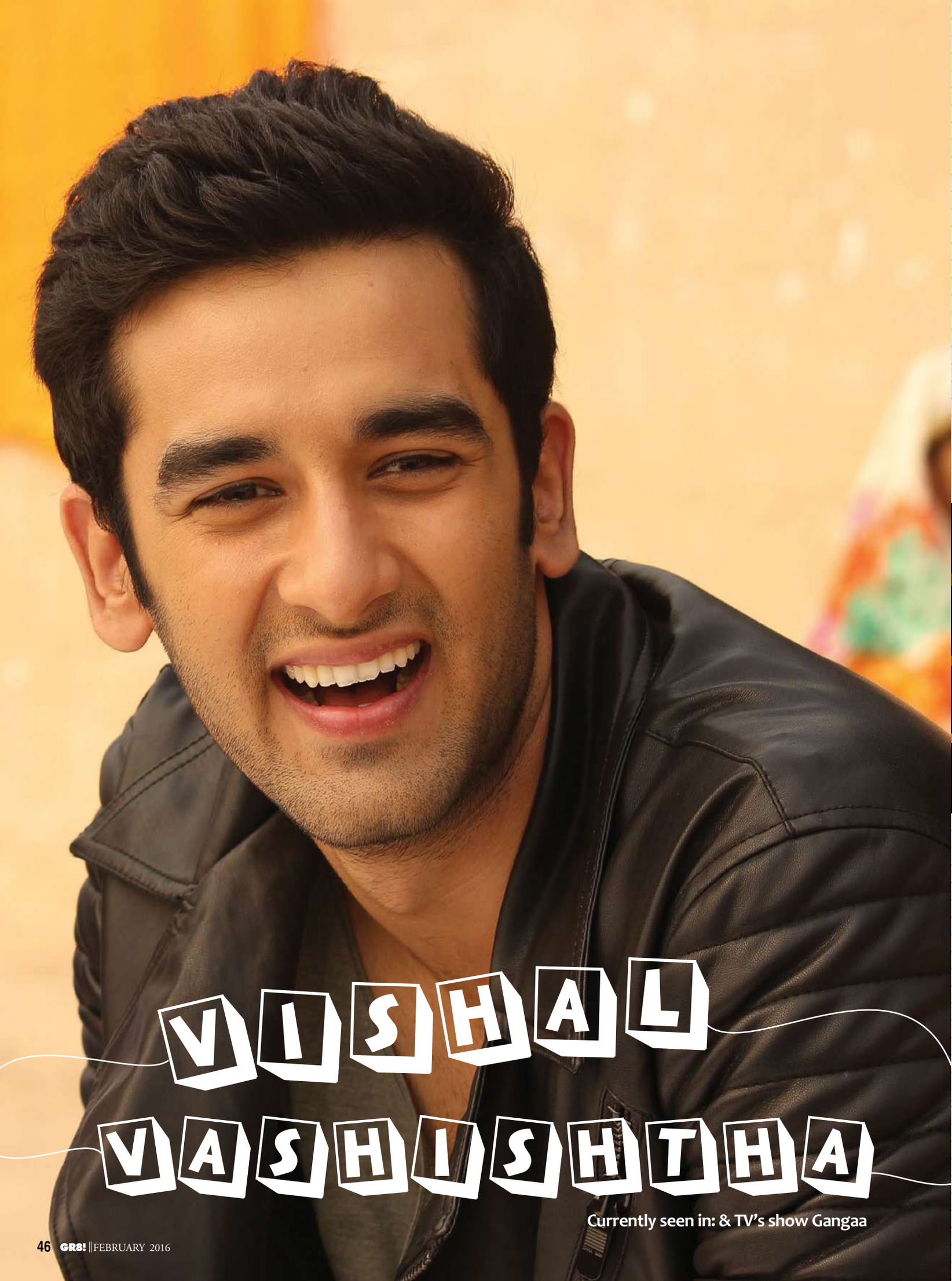
The girl should be loyal, caring, loving and she should be adventurous. She should inspire me and vice versa.

Pick one which works best according to you? Roses and cards, Jewelry, Outfits, Decorating room for her with candles and balloons.

Roses and cards. The fragrance does the magic.

Perfect romantic destination according to you?

I think there is no perfect romantic destination. It may be a home sweet home or may be beach on full moon night where I can have coffee and conversation.



VISHAL VASHISHTHA

Currently seen in: & TV's show Gangaa

A must have music collection:
Well… A. R. Rahman

Most expensive gift received:
Normally I only gift myself. But yes once I received a gold bracelet from Dad…though I don't wear it much now.

The coolest thing you have ever done:
Recently I went for paragliding in Kamshet…I can't tell you. It was once in a lifetime experience

One possession you are obsessed with:
My phone…I am completely glued to my Iphone 5s

Funniest thing you heard about yourself:
That I have a weird laugh…Lol

ENDOWED VERSATILE JAUNTY HIGHBROW



Favourite sport:
Cricket

One confession:
I sleep a lot on sets. Whenever I get time, I just doze off.

Parties or peaceful evenings:
Peaceful evenings

Moment where you were really scared:
When I met with a car accident. I think this happened in May or June last year. So we ask him about any injuries. He replies, "No luckily, but it was more petrifying as I had hurt someone else… even though it was a minor injury."

One advice you had put into action:
Well not to have supressed anger…(Oops we hope that you don't turn out to be angry young man of Telly-town…Haha)

When you perform the best… Relaxed or under pressure:
When I am relaxed

One motivational quote you use quite often:
In movie Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, Farhan Akhtar said this beautiful dialogue, "Dilon mein tum apni betabiyan leke chal rahe ho toh zinda ho tum…"

- J.S.



AVIKA Gor

I visit my parents on each Deewali without fail… Once I got so entangled in my commitments here that I had to just give up the idea… Suddenly, my shoot got cancelled and I lost not a moment in hopping onto a flight home… And just in the nick of time, I rang the bell at my place… Oh, you should have seen my folks' faces… I can never forget that euphoria and that Deewali…! Here Avika makes a frank admission, "At first I was scared if the public will accept drastic changes in Sasural like shift from a light hearted drama to saas-bahu, double role and now supernatural which have been affected over years. But they swallow anything what is served to them. We have a hard core housewife audience and I am thankful for their consistent loyal support for the past 5 years." Quips Avika who of late has not been giving more than 8 days to Sasural given her south film assignments.

Avika also laments the fact this unfortunate situation is driving away the youth to other modes of entertainments like web series and short films. "Internet is the new catchword. This trend is beginning to take hold with falling TRP's of main stream TV and rising numbers of online content consumers. Also what gives an edge to the internet entertainment is that here we are not restricted just to either the TV format or one country. The whole world is our oyster, so you can imagine the potential audience graph."

She would also love to try her hands at the new trend of short online series. "Web is enticing a growing urban mobile friendly population. We rather watch content at our time rather than wait for a show at a particular time slot."

"Also what I feel is that over the years only those TV shows have survived is where the authenticity of the lead character's have not been diluted e.g. in CID people identify with the ACP Pradyuman and Daya more than the actors concerned. Similar was the case with Anandi. No wonder after me then Pratyusha Banerjee and now Toral Rasputra essaying her, this Colors show still rock the TRP charts."

So what is your solution? "Being an actor, I don't have much of a say in content creation but my two pence would be is to lower the tempo of twists and turns thereby making plausible to my generation." One more aspect of TV which ruffles Avika who is now all set to star in a Hindi film (Kill Them Young) as a lead with an off beat subject is that we don't seem to have good talent. "I always like to have some good artist opposite me to raise my bar. But sadly today we have large numbers of actors who can't really deliver but are constantly working."

In closing, since Avika bats for web content, will she be comfortable with edgier content? Ideally, the net should have no restrictions in terms of content. While she dodged the question of edgy content, she did say she has clear do's and don'ts regarding what she will do in films i.e. no intimate and kissing scenes. Will she follow the same mantra online???

-A.M.



TV and film actor Avika Gor represents the growing frustration of urban youth with current small screen content. Although she herself is the one of the leads of the very popular Colors show Sasural Simar Ka. She makes no bones about the fact that she does not like to watch her own show and TV in general as the concepts of dayan and naagin which dominate Idiot Box as of now does not appeal to her. "Having said that I also have to accept the fact that public seems to like these kind ofshows, so we will continue to cater to their requirement," says Avika who first came into prominence as the child Anandi in Balika Vadhu.



Shatrughan Sinha, Shashi Ranjan and guests



Lucky Morani, Anu Ranjan, Aanya Aggarwal, Amane Turde



Ninju Kohli Khatri, Hussein, Rj Prince

GR8! SUCESS PARTY DUBAI...

The GR8 Women Awards in the Middle East hosted annually by Anu and Shashi Ranjan, was celebrated lavishly. The grand event was held at Entourage, an Oyster bar by Rahul Kaul. Launched 14 years ago in India, GR8 Women Awards will be celebrating its 6th Anniversary in the Middle East.

Recognized across the subcontinent as a platform to celebrate exemplary women who lead and inspire, the glittering awards ceremony is eagerly awaited by Dubai's crème de la crème including dignitaries, industry leaders, corporate heads, celebrities, and entrepreneurs. The event got even more extravagant by the presence of veteran actor and well known celebrity Shatrughan Sinha. As in the past, the imminent GR8 Women Awards will also be held with extraordinary revel and significance!



Rima Saluja, Dhiraj Saluja



Sumati Menda, Heena Karani



Chetna Shastri, Sharmela Purii



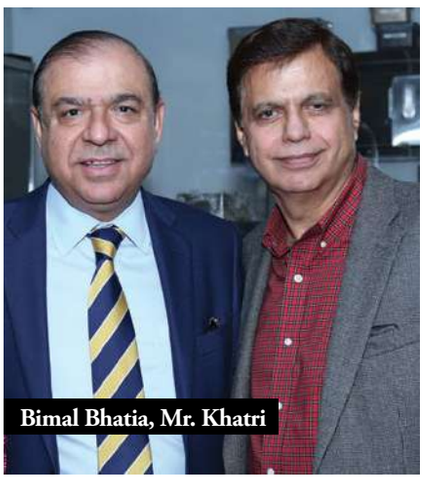
Pawan Kachroo


Badirya Al Mullah with a guest


Pinky Elias, Shabbas


Shah, Viki Shah


Shima Khan, Rahul Kaul


Bimal Bhatia, Mr. Khatri


Mohomed Morani


Shama Sikander


Shaikh Yousef, Yakoob, Ajay Ramchandani


Shailen Bhatia, Kavita Bhatia


Naina Shakeb, Mr. Shakeb


Sundas, Faisal


Neesha Nijhawan, Deveeka Nijhawan


Meraj Rizvi, Faridah Ajmal


Haifa Zakaria Arora, Amit Arora


Ajay Sethi, Deepna Sethi

Manish Goel

"I will surely bounce back

Talented and good looking actor Manish Goel who had returned to regular TV after a long gap with a 50 odd episode cameo in &TV Bhaghyalakshmi is in talk with few producers for something juicy. "I have told them to bring a role to me which they think I will not be able to do. I always like to challenge myself. If you would have noticed, my recent episodic series i.e. CID and Crime Patrol were not run of the mill. I also did a challenging double role in a Shapath Maha Movie." He wants to be remembered as a very versatile actor. "I have never repeated myself in my 11 years long career which has included big hits such as Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki, Bhabhi, Saara Akaash and Nach Baliye etc.) Hence after playing an out and out negative in Bhaghyalakshmi, I would now look for a positive again albeit in a different avatar."

Along with acting, Manish has also become a script writer, "I have script titled Main Amitabh Bachchan. It totally revolves around the Bollywood superstar from the first scene to the last; imagine one character doing the entire film. Only a person with his caliber can do justice to the script. I have done all the necessary legal work i.e. registering the script in my name, etc."

Here Manish adds that, "Although the name suggests that it is a kind of biopic. In effect, it is out and out commercial masala potboiler. Interestingly, Mr. Bachchan had revealed in an interview that he is not interested in doing an autobiography for he believes that it will not succeed. I mentioned the same in my letter to him. I have started the process of pitching it to him. If he likes it, I can approach an outside producer or if he wants, he can produce it himself. Fingers crossed, hope we work together."

Besides the above film story, Manish has one more bound youth genre script ready. "I have done a lot of research and development on it. I am very positive and feel that something should work out for both the films in 2016." How has the daily industry changed in the past 2 years? "No, we still are shooting 10 scenes a day. It is said that TV is a writer's medium while I agree with that, we actors can also add a lot by doing our homework. Given the telecast deadlines, the poor director does not have the liberty to really get the best out of you. On set I make sure that I get my entire script first thing in morning and then work on it in the makeup room."

He has qualms in accepting that he had bad patch since the past two or three years. "But I am very positive of bouncing back. My funda is that if you want something, the universe conspires for you. Plus what makes me confident is that first when I landed in Mumbai years back I had nothing. I would hardly make any money from my shows and from that also the casting guy would demand his cut. Today I am known as a TV star. I also have a loving wife and kids who have always supported me."

So how did you survive? "Well I started an entertainment company doing events with small and big screen stars. This kept my kitchen running and it gave me the leverage to reject the few run of mill offers which I got during low phase."

In closing, Manish adds that he is really working hard in the gym to keep himself fit. "I need to be ready to do any kind of role."

- A.M.



#BeWithBeti FASHION SHOW at Udaipur

It was a gush gush affair as several celebrities walked in support of beti. BeWithBeti has always stood up for the rights of women and has been successful in inspiring and changing the lives of many.
It was hosted by Charu & Rajeev Anand of 'Willows', Taj Vivanta, Udaipur. Gorgeous outfits by Ace desinger Mohini, who designs for all the stars of Bollywood.





Charu Anand, Anu Ranjan & Rajeev Anand

Aditi Arya



Aasiya Kazi



Mohini



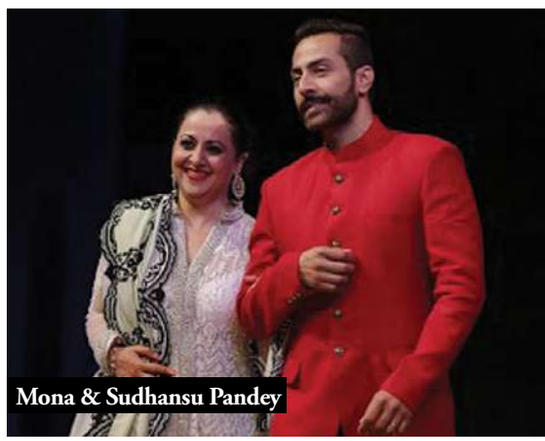
Dimple Jhangiani

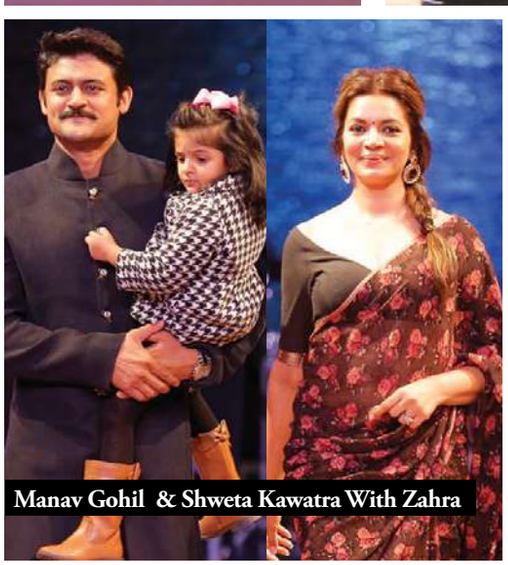

Vindhya Tiwari


Soni Singh


Arshad Warsi


Mansi & Rohit Roy


Mona & Sudhansu Pandey

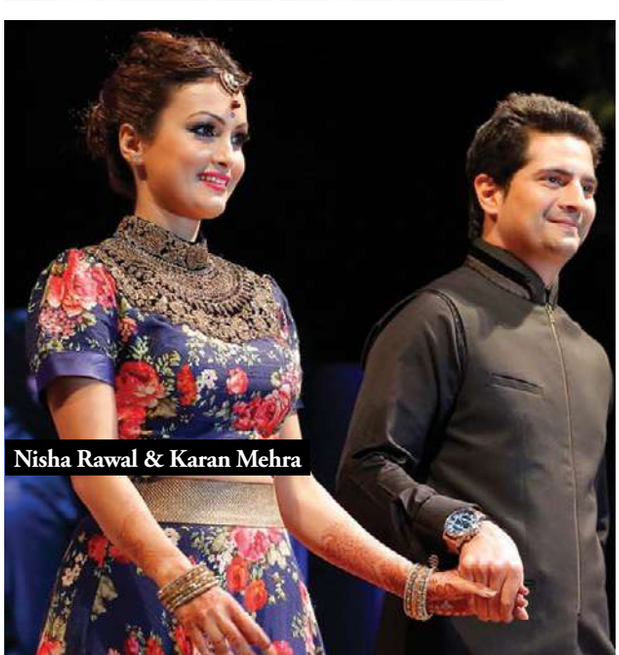

Manav Gohil & Shweta Kawatra With Zahra


Sonia Balani


Yashashri Masurkar

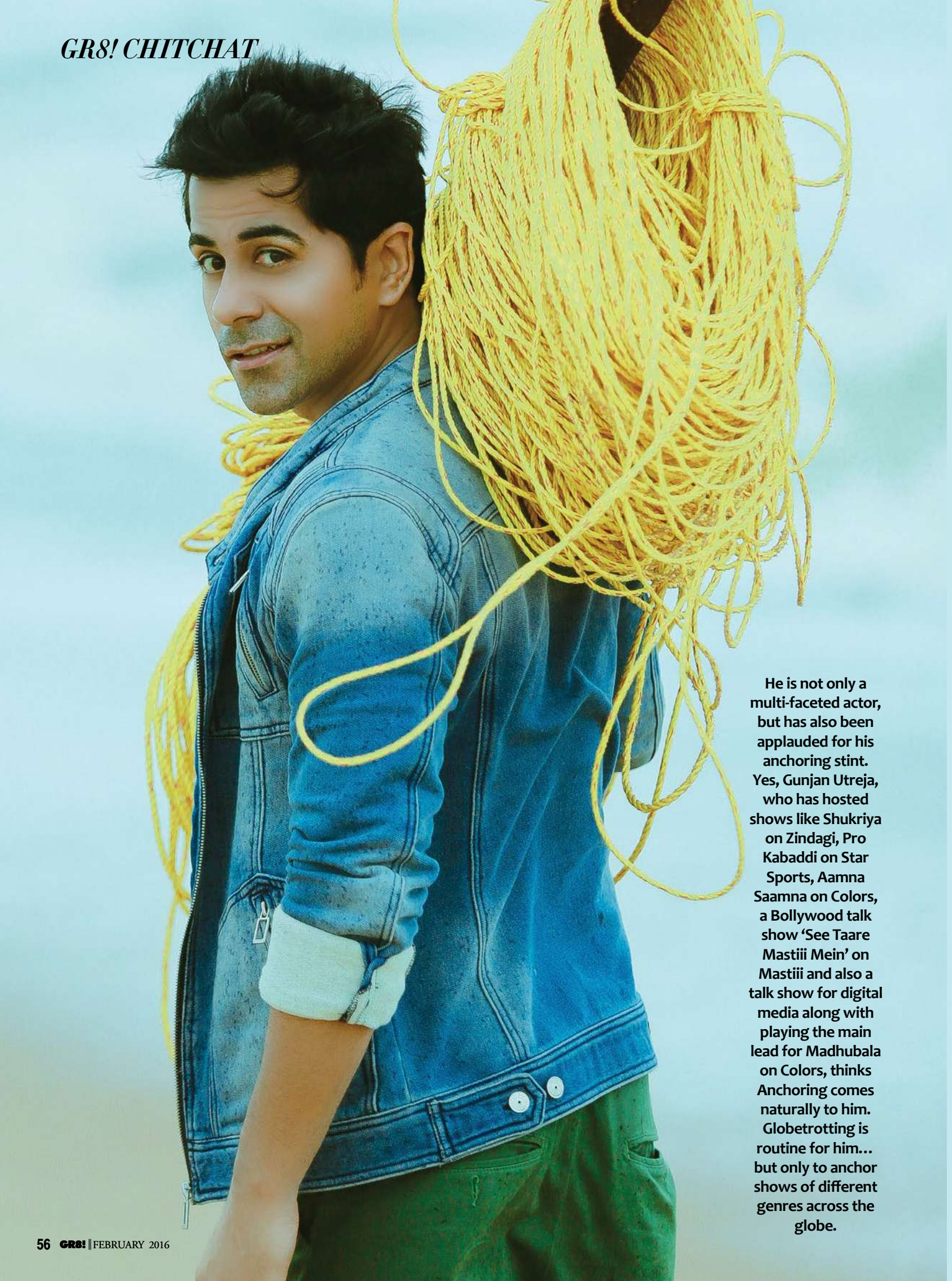

Vishal Singh


Sreejita De


Nisha Rawal & Karan Mehra


Vineet Raina


Priyanshu Jora



He is not only a multi-faceted actor, but has also been applauded for his anchoring stint. Yes, Gunjan Utreja, who has hosted shows like Shukriya on Zindagi, Pro Kabaddi on Star Sports, Aamna Saamna on Colors, a Bollywood talk show 'See Taare Mastiii Mein' on Mastiii and also a talk show for digital media along with playing the main lead for Madhubala on Colors, thinks Anchoring comes naturally to him. Globetrotting is routine for him… but only to anchor shows of different genres across the globe.

GUNJAN *Utreja*

He says, "Since childhood I was always aware that a career in entertainment world would get the best in me but then there are career dreams which you want to conquer for your family. I used to watch Mr. Roshan Abbas, Mr. Javed Jaffrey & Mr. Shekhar Suman on TV and they would always aspire to do something similar one day. During my college days I was selling newspaper subscriptions to people in sector 17 Chandigarh when I bumped into an event manager. He loved the way I talked and offered me my 1st assignment as an anchor. Needless to say I rocked the show. This continued for a few months. I was preparing for my MBA and hosting shows helped me to fill my pockets. Doing what you love is the best career option. I am glad today I am living my dream." GR8! Caught up with Gunjan Utreja and here he exposes few encumbrances, few insides-tales of his anchoring stint and few stratagems…

On Challenges
An anchor is the backbone of the show. A good anchor can take the show to a whole new level. I would definitely say hosting a show live is more challenging as there are no re-takes. Anybody can host a show but only the best can handle crisis.

On Goof-ups Disaster Management
Life is unpredictable and anything can go wrong during a show. You need to be intelligent, sharp, witty, spontaneous and composed to handle a situation like this. As a host you have to be in control of things and have to think 10 steps ahead of everyone around you. Easier said than done. That's why u cannot train anyone to be an anchor.
I remember at a show a singer did not turn up for some reason and we did not have anything lined up. So we were in a complete soup. I continue to host that show for 3 hours and continued to engage and entertain the audiences. After the show my client said 'I am glad that he didn't come.' It was one of the best shows of my life.

On Art of Anchoring
Anchors are born. You can learn various other performing arts. But you cannot train anyone to be a good host. See, it's like singing. With training you can become a good singer but if you don't have 'sur' & 'tal' in you, no one can train you. Today except a couple of hosts on TV, all are just teleprompter readers.

On easier path… Acting or Anchoring?
I am an artist. Acting and anchoring are both mediums of expression. I started my career as an anchor. I have the gift of the gab and I am extremely witty so this is definitely something which comes natural to me.
Acting on the other hand is a unique craft which requires a different approach. I did my masters in dramatics and have done various plays. I am a trained actor but acting is extremely complex. Every role needs a different preparation. I love the thrill of portraying someone else's life.
It takes immense hard work to transform yourself into a character that the script demands. There is energy beyond yourself that you need to showcase as a different character.

On favorite Anchor
Manish Paul, he is one of the best entertaining hosts this country has ever produced. He is in the league of the best around the world. He made it on his own only through his talent and sheer focus.

On anchoring reality shows
I would love to host Dance India Dance. I love the show since its inception. The participants on the show are truly world class and it will be great if I can add my flavor to the show.

- J.S.



rapid fire with Roop DURGAPAL



She is stunning and believes in enjoying life to its fullest. Ask her what she thinks is idiosyncratic to her; she is in all smiles and says, "Everything. I love myself a lot. Main Apni Favorite Hoon". Usually known for her role as Sanchi in Colors longest running show Balika Vadhu, Roop answers all rapid fire questions with utmost sincerity and modesty. And yes not to forget, she was very swift with her answers. Tranquil, effervescent and jovial, here's all the fun we had when we met her...

One movie you can watch again and again:
Jab We Met

One thing which can make you angry:
Fake people.

One advice you would have given to younger Roop:
Don't do engineering, just get into acting

One thing you wish you could change:
When I see people disrespecting woman, it really agitates me. I wish I could change that

Title for your autobiography:
'Beautiful' because that is what my name stands for. (Indeed you are beautiful…)

One thing which can make you feel vulnerable:
Ill-health of my parents. I cannot stop myself from crying at that moment.

One thing which can make you smile:
Hmm. I think the love of my loved ones can make my mood.

Your idea of a romantic date:
A walk along the beach. I absolutely love beaches…

One place you can travel anytime:
Bali

One thing you dislike about tinsel-villa:
I make few fake friends which perturbs me a bit as I don't prefer name-sake or fake relationships. I wish I could be more mature to choose people wisely.

- J.S.



A foodie at heart but now turned into health conscious, Shoaib Ibrahim has definitely come a long way. A computer science engineer graduate, Shoaib is popularly known for his stint in Sasural Simar Ka as 'Prem'. He admires Akshay Kumar and considers him his role model when it comes to fitness. In a friendly chit-chat with us, he gives us 4 simple tips to look sexier this valentine only with a disclaimer that cheating allowed but only occasionally;-). Here they are…



SHOAIB Ibrahim

4 Tips to Look Fit & Sexy this Valentine!

- J.S.

1

Workout

The biggest myth I think is when people feel that to stay fit they need to workout extremely hard each day and spend those long hours in the gym. The fact is that to stay fit you just need to make small alterations in your daily routine. You can exercise the way u like and enjoy. You can go for a 45 minute to 1 hour walk or can also indulge in yoga, aerobics or gym. Pick what you like to do along with your trainer but yes, stay consistent.

Shoaib's regimen:

I normally jog in the morning and then I work out two hours everyday. My gyming schedule is decided by my trainer Javed Sir and he keeps it a surprise for me too. What we do is we club body portions. Sometime chest, triceps and biceps or sometimes legs and back etc. I also do cardio twice in a week with a lot of free hand exercises!!!

2

Diet

Staying fit also requires good amount of eating and resting. You can at no point overstress your body.

A strict consistent diet is required. So along with your trainer, prepare a plan that suits your requirement and stay loyal to it.

Shoaib's regimen:

I have started eating stuff that I could never imagine myself eating. Boiled vegetables and boiled chicken! Imagine, I am strictly only on this diet with white eggs and fruits.

3

Before and after workout meals

Meal!!!! It is very important to take a healthy portion of meal an hour and a half before workout and one should not forget intake of proteins immediately after the workout. Your body just needs it!!!!

4

Get going now…

You can't be lazy!! You have to get up and get going!!! If you can't just get up and do exercises, then the whole regimen is pointless. There is no "Kalse Karunga". It has to be from now or it will be never!!! You have to bear the pain!!! As our ancestors say, No pain no gain!



CHEF SANJEEV KAPOOR

This festive season, delight your guests with delicacies straight from the Sanjeev Kapoor's desk. Mouth-watering Chicken Coconut Rasam with delicious Honey and Fruit Smoothie is just perfect to welcome your guests.

HONEY & FRUITS SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons honey
- 3 ripe bananas, peeled and chopped
- 2 ripe mangoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 cups yogurt
- 8-10 ice cubes, crushed
- Fresh mint sprigs for decorating

Method

- Place banana and mango pieces in the freezer for one hour.
- Place the frozen fruit, honey, lemon juice and yogurt in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Add crushed ice cubes and blend again.
- Pour into individual glasses and serve, garnished with mint sprigs.



CHICKEN & COCONUT

RASAM

Ingredients

- 500 grams chicken bones
- 100 grams boneless chicken, cut into 1 inch cubes
- ½ cup scraped coconut
- 3 tablespoons tamarind pulp
- 2 medium tomatoes, roughly chopped
- Salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons rasam powder
- 8 black peppercorns, crushed
- 1 teaspoon red chilli powder
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 15 curry leaves
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander leaves
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 2-3 whole dry red chillies, broken into two

Method

- Grind coconut with one cup of warm water. Extract coconut milk and set aside. Reserve the coconut residue.
- Boil the chicken bones in about six to seven cups of water for fifteen minutes.
- Skim off the scum from the surface, add tamarind pulp, tomatoes, chicken cubes, salt, rasam powder, crushed black peppercorns, red chilli powder, turmeric powder, ten curry leaves and continue cooking.
- Simmer till the liquid reduces by half and a nice aroma is given out.
- Add the drained coconut residue to the rasam. Sprinkle coriander leaves and simmer for about three to four minutes.
- Remove from heat and strain rasam. Separate the chicken pieces from the residue and cut into one centimetre cubes and reserve for garnish.
- Reheat the strained rasam, add coconut milk and simmer for a couple of minutes. Remove from heat and add chicken pieces to it.
- Heat olive oil and temper it with mustard seeds, dry red chillies and remaining curry leaves. Add to the prepared soup and cover immediately to trap the flavours.
- Serve piping hot. You can squeeze a lemon to make it real tangy.

ALL ABOUT LIP AUGMENTATION



Akanksha Shah,
Senior Cosmetic Dermatologist,
Enhance Clinics

Having full and plump lips is often considered an indication of beauty and youth. It enhances your look and makes your smile look even more beautiful. If you are born with thin lips or your lips are thinning due to the natural aging process, here is the solution to enhance it…



What is Lip Augmentation?
Lip augmentation is the new craze among the youth to get fuller, plumper lips. Lip Augmentation is a simple lunch hour procedure where fillers made of sterile hyaluronic acid is injected into the upper and the lower lips to increase its volume and enhance its shape. There are other permanent ways to augment the lips using surgical methods and implants. However, temporary fillers are the most preferred option.

Who can do lip fillers?
People with thin lips or asymmetrical lips can do lip fillers to increase its volume and proportions. The shape, size and volume of lips have to be in harmony with the rest of the facial features. An experienced aesthetic physician can assess your lips and recommend you fillers accordingly. Some people genetically or with age have hanging lip corners that can be lifted for a more youthful look with fillers. Younger people like



to have more contouredlips with a pout, which also can be achieved with lip fillers. On smiling thin lips tend to diminish even more and fillers offer great correction and fuller looking lips.

What are the methods of injecting lip fillers?

After detailed assessment of your facial proportions and understanding your expectations, the aesthetic physician explains what is going to be done to suit your requirements the best. The amount of fillers needed, where it is going to be injected and what is anticipated next is discussed. Sometimes, people point out looking into the mirror the area they wish to get corrected on their lips.

Fillers are injected into the upper and lower vermillion border (lip borders) and the wet dry border of the lip (pulp of the lip) depending on the amount of volume required and the type of the lips. Depending on the lip structure, your philtrum column (vertical lines in the centre of the upper lip) can be re-created for you for a more defined look. Fillers can be injected into the upper lip in a way to give a pout as well for people who wish to have one. As mentioned before, injecting fillers in the corners of the mouth can lift them up for a more happy appearance. While injecting in any of these areas on the lips, asymmetry if any, is also corrected.

How are they done?

The lip area is anesthetized either with a numbing cream or local anesthesia to alleviate pain and reduce discomfort during the treatment. Thereafter, under strict sterile environment fillers is injected into the lips using a very thin needle and results are noticed immediately. The beauty of seeing results right away is that, more fillers can be added if the client or the physician feels the need to. It takes less than an hour to do the procedure.

What is expected after doing lip fillers?

Temporary redness, swelling, bruising is very common after lip fillers. These last for 7 days maximum. Swelling after lip fillers can be very terrifying as the volume of the lip looks much more than expected. However, after 5-7 days the swelling subsides and the lips look much more natural and as expected. We prescribe medications to help subside the swelling and bruising without delay.

How long do temporary fillers last?

Fillers can last anytime between 7-9 months depending on the type and brand of fillers used or recommended for you.

Do they look natural?

Lip fillers look as well as feel natural. The product injected fills the lip evenly and sets in to give a uniform yet defined look. If injected by an experienced cosmetic dermatologist or a cosmetic surgeon it is hard to make out you have had fillers!





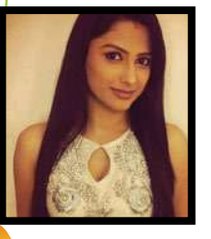
4 Raj Zutshi



5 Jd Majethia



7 Ankita Sharma



8 Rucha Hasabnis



9 Vaquar Shaikh



10 Shweta Kawatra



10 Iqbal Khan



14 Kiku Sharda



18 Kishwer Merchant



18 Giaa Manek



19 Paresh Ganatra



22 Gurmeet Choudhary



23 Ayub Khan



23 Tarun Khanna



24 Dimple Jhangiani

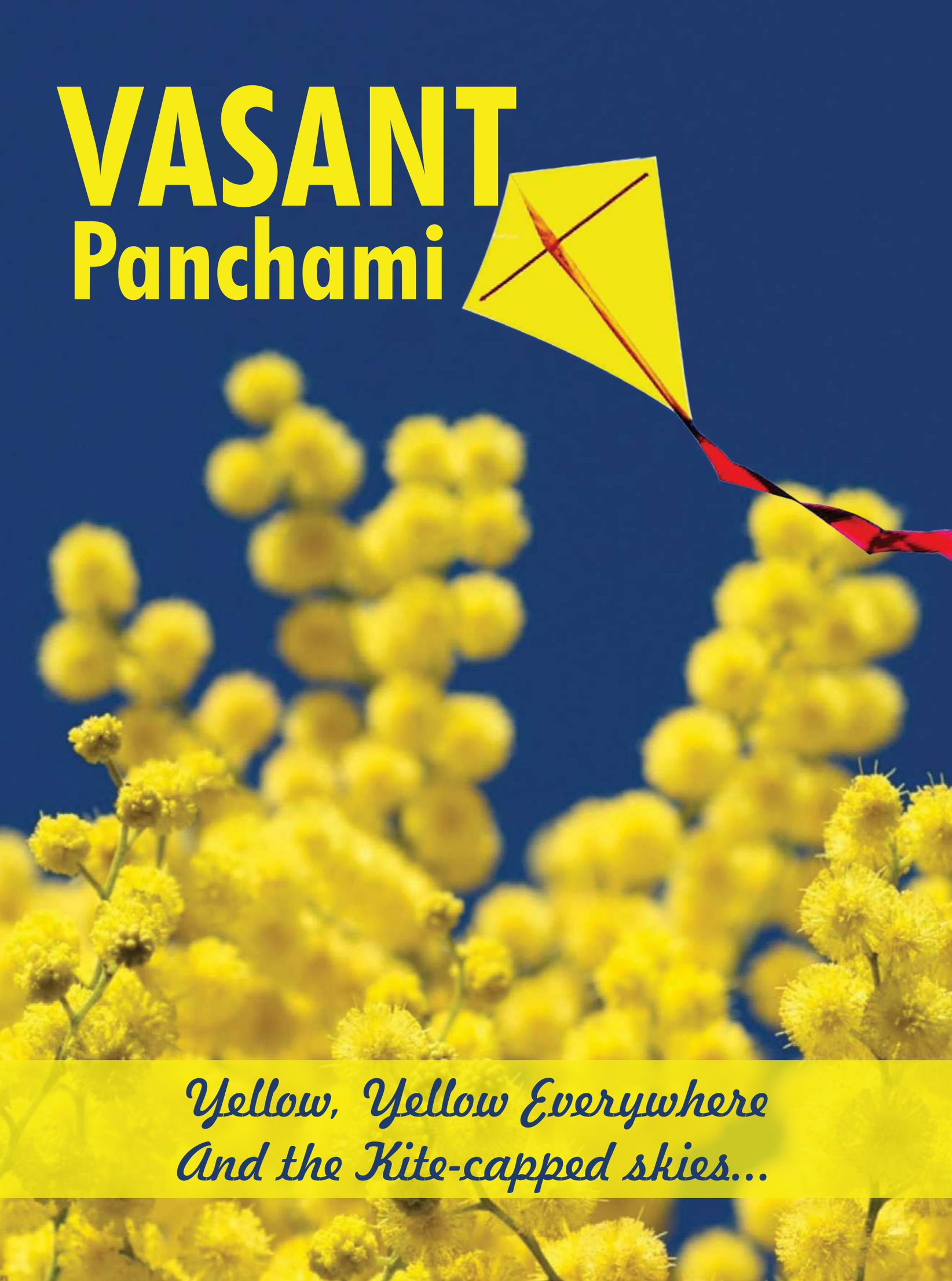


26 Sriti Jha



27 Abigail Jain

VASANT Panchami



Yellow, Yellow Everywhere
And the Kite-capped skies...



The spring-sensations!

When fields turn golden with the *Sarson* (Mustard) and *Saffron* (Kesar) crops swaying in bouncy breezes, when sunny days are here again and the weather turns cosily warmer, shedding its punishingly cold climes - there comes the 5th day of the *Maagh* of Hindu Calendar (i.e. 12th February of this year's Gregorian calendar), when a unique Fête is celebrated in the plains of *Punjab, Haryana, Bihar* and so on - the *Vasant Panchami!*

Time was when Vasant Panchami was largely devoted to *Kaamdev*, his consort *Rati* and his friend *Vasant* (Spring). There are references galore in our ancient texts about this Fest of the *Shringaar Ras* or *Erotica*, when people would dress in *Yellow* and the Courts would have elaborate celebrations with amber-hued Dancing-girls, Musical Soirées, Romantic recitals… the works!

Over the passage of time, Vasant Panchami has come to be devoted more and more to *Goddess Saraswati,* whom Lord Brahma created as the sole deity of *'Learning'*. Particularly in Bihar (and Nepal, too) there are elaborate rituals to pay obeisance to Maa Saraswati on the Vasant Panchami day, like, the traditional feasting in the morning, while Temples prepare sumptuous spreads of Prasaad and many a school arranging yellow décor for its premises and other such.

Yellow is also the preferred colour for attires on the day!

Furthermore, in Educational Institutions, there are special prayers and children are encouraged to participate in Musical gatherings. It is also considered most auspicious to make your young one learn the first letter of the Alphabet on this day, but in contrast, the older children are expected to abstain from reading or writing on Vasant Panchami, they just have to clean their pens and inkwells.

And there's the spectacle of the Kites turning the sky into a multi-hued canopy!

That happens particularly in Punjab & Haryana. There are Mela's galore in these parts to celebrate 'Spring' in its full glory. Children, in particular, have a field day and the fun 'n' frolic reaches delirious heights while looting a *Kati Patang*, or shaking a leg to the pulse-pounding beats of the *Dhol*, or buying knick-knacks and wolfing down sweetmeats.

The biggest attribute of this Fest is that it doesn't confine itself to any one Creed. In fact, there is a whole history of *Muslims* celebrating Vasant Panchami since as long back as the 12th Century B.C. Legend has it that the revered Saint of Delhi, *Nizamuddin Aulia Chishti* lost his son and was devastated with grief. At this, the great poet Amir Khusro, who was closest to the Saint, hit upon a plan to rudder the 'Holy One' out of the abyss of anguish.

It was the Vasant Panchami season going on and taking a cue from dames dressing in Yellow and carrying yellow Geinda (Marigold) flowers to the temples, Khusro also dressed himself alike and dancing hysterically, carried Marigolds to the Saint...

And that made the Saint's face light up with a smile!

Since that day, Vasant Panchami is celebrated at the *Delhi Dargah* as well as all the other Dargah's of the *'Chishti Order'* in the country!

Similarly, in Sikhism, too, there is an instruction in the holy *Guru Granth Sahib* for choosing the *Raag Basant* on the Basant Panchami day for the hymns. And thus, from this day, Vasant remains the preferred Raag in Gurudwaara's till the time when the 1st day of *Vaishaakh* arrives!

Floating Kites, Saffron dishes, Mustard fields, Mela's, the Shringaar Ras, the zany, zesty Dances and invoking the Goddess of Learning, Maa Saraswati - Vasant Panchami is all of that and more...

It's a golden celebration of Life...!

MY DREAM *Kite-partner...*



Tina Datta (Uttaran)

'Gimme Shahrukh Khan… I'm consumed by his charisma... Oof, what a day would that be - he holding my Charkhi and being by my side... I can already see all the girls out there turning green-eyed - but that's OK, I guess... Let them be jealous - it's the Baadshaah Khan as my partner, after all...!'



Namish Taneja (Swaragini)

'Who else but the 'Pataakha Kudi' Alia Bhatt as my dream Kite-partner... I know that with her standing beside me in such close proximity would make me wobble with excitement and that means my Kite would just go haywire - but what the hell... Winning is not everything... For Alia, I can lose the world...!



Aasiya Kazi (Balika Vadhu)

'I want Tiger Shroff to hold my Charkhi (Pulley) while I fly a Kite... It would be boundless fun to have the 'Flying Jatt' as my partner as the Dancing-wonder can also teach me a few steps during the Kite session, itself... And I know, he just won't let my Kite crash...!



Vipul Roy (FIR)

'Hmmm... I would say - 'Katrina Kaif'... Just look at her... Isn't she super 'cute'... Just the perfect one to hold my Charkhi for me... And I know that with her on my side - I can never ever lose... She would be my 'Victory Angel'...!'



Pankhudi Awasthi (Razia Sultan)

'Arre, give me Ranbir Kapoor any day... None else can be a better partner... Gosh, what a stunner he is looks-wise... With his amazing aura, he would be nothing else than perfect company... He would make my day, man...!



Jason Tham (Agent Raghav)

'One and only Deepika Padukone... That's because she is as crazy as I am and thereby, the comfort level between us would be optimal... Even imagining the 'fun' that will have together in that Kite-session is giving me Goosebumps...!'



Poonam Preet (Dilli Wali Thakur Gurls)

'My Kite - partner? ...' Who else but the ultimate chocolate - of the Industry... So naughty and so full of life... That hearthrob of the entire country... Arre, abhi bhi nahi samjhe, toh go fly a kite... Ranbir Kapoor, who else...!'



There are couples galore on desi TV. But the chemistry and love between Tanvi Thakkar (Desh Ki Beti Nandini, Madhubala and Baba Aisa Varr Dhoondo) and Aditya Kapadia (Bade Ache Lagte Hain and Shaka Laka Boom Boom etc.) does make you wish that they live happily ever after. "I guess what makes our relationship really tick apart from love is that we are also great friends," says Tanvi who is looking forward to her new sci-fi show Hamari Bahu Rajinikanth which starts this month on Life OK.

FRIENDSHIP MAKES OUR RELATIONSHIP TICK MORE

TANVI THAKKAR & ADITYA KAPADIA

So how did you guys meet? "Aditya who also has hit Gujarati film Bas Ek Chance up his sleeve says,"We were working together in the Star Plus show Ek Doosre Se Karte Hain Pyaar Hum interestingly as brother and sister. I always liked Tanvi but never could gather the courage to ask her out for soon we had become good friends. So you see, I did not want to spoil a good thing going." Here Tanvi interjected, "I also was developing a soft corner for him but I was blocking it due my funda of not wanting to date a TV dude. I really liked his casual attitude to life; he was so comfortable in his skin. Ek Doosre co-star Suchita Trivedi played cupid big time, always pushing me to consider him."

So we ask, "Then who finally popped the question?" She laughs, "I guess it was me. One day I got jealous seeing him talk to one of the new female actors in the show. I just went up to him and told him that I did not like it. Adi was rather relived that I said what was in his mind. We then just started dating. Quite an anti-climax, don't you think? We have been engaged for a while and hope to get hitched soon. But this time Adi has to propose me in the traditional style."

Some might ask why come out in the media now? "We have never hidden our relationship, if asked we always said we were a couple. But yes, we are not like those who like to scream from rooftops," said both in unison.

Talking about parents, Aditya who is looking for more films added, "My mom is really sweet if Tanvi and I have a lover's tiff. She always intervenes because she can't see me brooding. Tanvis folks are also very sweet."

It was so cute to see Tanvi bossing over Aditya in a fun way during our chit chat. Tanvi quipped, "I am always impulsive preferring things to be done my way. I give full credit to Adi for having the patience to deal with me." Aditya adds, "What I l love about her is her uncanny ability to sense if I am upset. She can be a great emotional anchor at such times. But yes darling, please try to be less impulsive. It will save both of us from lot of bother."

Tanvi on her part says,"We fit the idiom opposites attract perfectly. I love to tell him what I do every minute; he on the other hand loves his space. So now I am giving him the same."

Looking ahead the cute couple would want to do more shows together. "Dance reality shows could be the just right platform for we both love to shake a leg," said Tanvi.

In closing when asked about Valentine day plans, Aditya says, "That is a surprise! Why don't you call on the 15th to know what we did? I have few options but don't want to spoil her surprise. I want this year to be her best V-Day ever. Just wait and watch."

- A. M.

Payas PANDIT





Location: Andheri East, Mumbai

About me: I am born and brought up in the city of peace i.e. Banaras. I am a very simple girl who believes in simplicity and hard-work. I like to do things out of my comfort zone as they help me in reaching new levels.

Height: 5' 6

Weight: 55 kgs

Complexion: Fair

Strengths: I believe I am my biggest competitor. I love to accept challenges. Also I think I absorb the positive qualities in a person and neglect the negative ones. I am like a rubber band, as I can modify and adopt myself to any situation.

Weakness: I am a dreamer and a perfectionist. Being perfectionist is my weakness as it pushes me to keep trying till I achieve the benchmark set by me.

Interest: Dancing and listening to music. Also I would like to explore the fashion world.

Work Experience: I have hosted few shows. Also being a model, I have done few shoots and my recent modeling stint was at Gujarat Fashion Week .

Dream Role: Sridevi in Chaalbaaz.

Inspiration: Kangana Ranaut is my biggest inspiration

HOROSCOPE

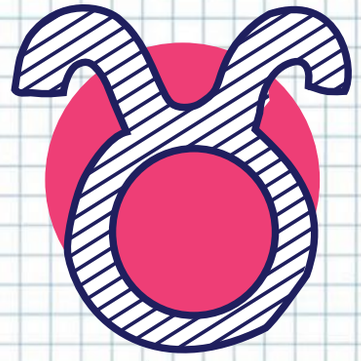


Munisha Khatwani is one of the most famous Tarot Card Readers in the entertainment industry and she recently launched her book titled 'Tarot'.
You can mail her on khatwanim@gmail.com



Aries
Mar 21 - Apr 20

This is a good phase for love and your feeling quite positive about certain changes developing in your relationship.
Text him/her: On any Sunday of the month.
Love tip: Look for the good in someone and remember the good times.



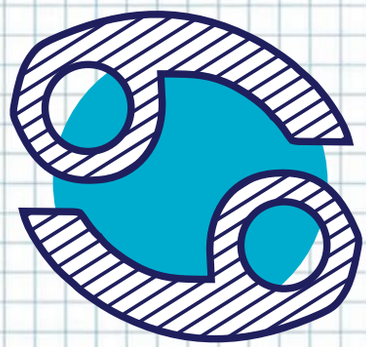
Taurus
Apr 21 -May 21

For those who are just healing from some bad or broken relationship,understand things happen for a reason and there might be a bigger and better plan.
Text him/her: On any Friday of the month.
Love tip: Don't hold on to what is not real.



Gemini
May 22 - June 21

Singles will feel a little anxious about getting into relationships this month. Married couples will go through a better phase.
Text him/her: On any Tuesday of the month.
Love tip: Plan a holiday and it will bring back the romance in your relationship.



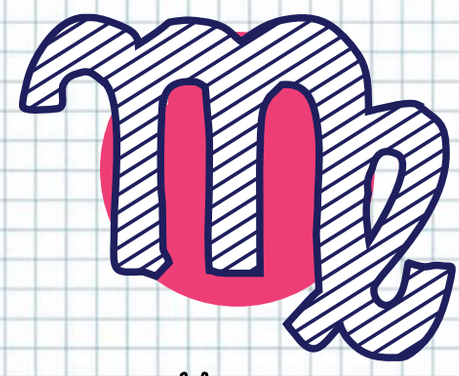
Cancer
June 22 - July23

You will be ready to move on and accept the truth in your relationship. Singles will be looking for arranged marriage.
Text him/her: On any Wednesday of the month.
Love tip: Try to listen and understand each other rather than being judgemental.



Leo
July 24 - Aug 23

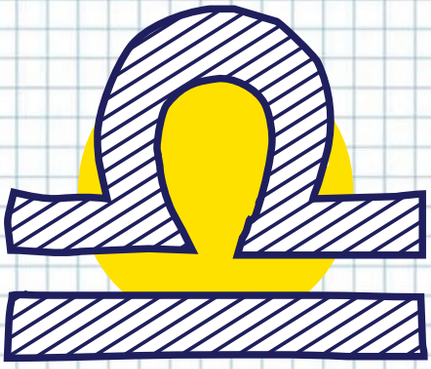
Feeling energetic and positive about your love life is good but make sure this it is consistent feeling and not just momentarily.
Text him/her: On any Saturday of the month.
Love tip: Take your partner on a surprise dinner date to his or her favourite place.



Virgo
Aug 24 - Sept 23

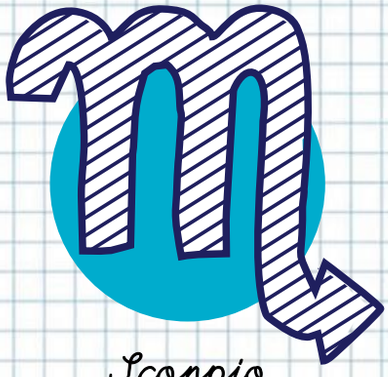
Now you will be getting alot of attention from the opposite gender and you should take your time to understand a person before rushing in any relation.
Text him/her: On any Monday of the month.
Love tip: Be with someone who understands your worth when they are with you.

STARS AND YOU



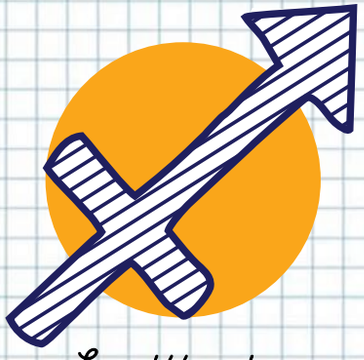
Libra
Sept 24 - Oct 22

Between the battle of the mind and heart it is always more advisable to listen to your heart. So this month you should follow the heart. An old flame might try to get back in town. You will try and focus on achieving your personal targets.
Love tip : Keep a reality check on your love life and don't make castles in the air.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

An old flame might try to re-enter your life and you need to sort out your feelings before making a decision. Married couples will clear out their problems. Count your blessings in love.
Text him/her: On any Thursday of the month.
Love tip: Cook a special meal for your loved one.



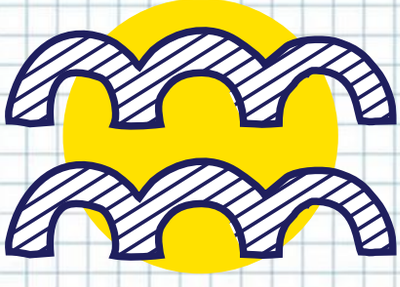
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

Don't be too choosy about your partner and you have to understand that everyone will have some flaws which you need to accept.
Text him/ her: On any Sunday of the month.
Love tip: Not everyone who loves you will leave you,believe that.



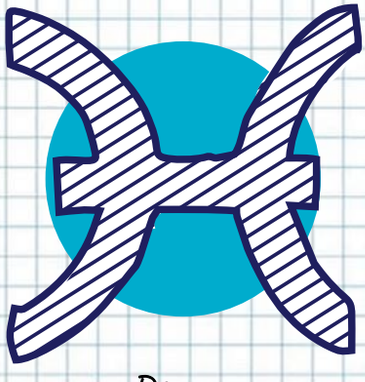
Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 20

Those who are planning marriage will be busy with the preparations. For singles, few friendships can turn into love.
Text him/her: On anyMonday of the month.
Love tip: Be open to receiving love and to new people entering your life. Understand your priorities.



Aquarius
Jan 21 - Feb 19

Work hard but make sure you also remove time for your love life as this month your work takes up most of your time this month.
Text him/ her: On anyFriday of the month.
Love tip: Make sure you know what you are wishing for as it might turn into reality.



Pisces
Feb 20 - Mar 20

Don't get into any relationship on the rebound as this might just backfire for you. Singles might be open for flings and may not be willing to get into committed relationships.
Text him/her: On any Wednesday of the month.
Love tip: Try to surprise your partner with flowers or some chocolates this month.