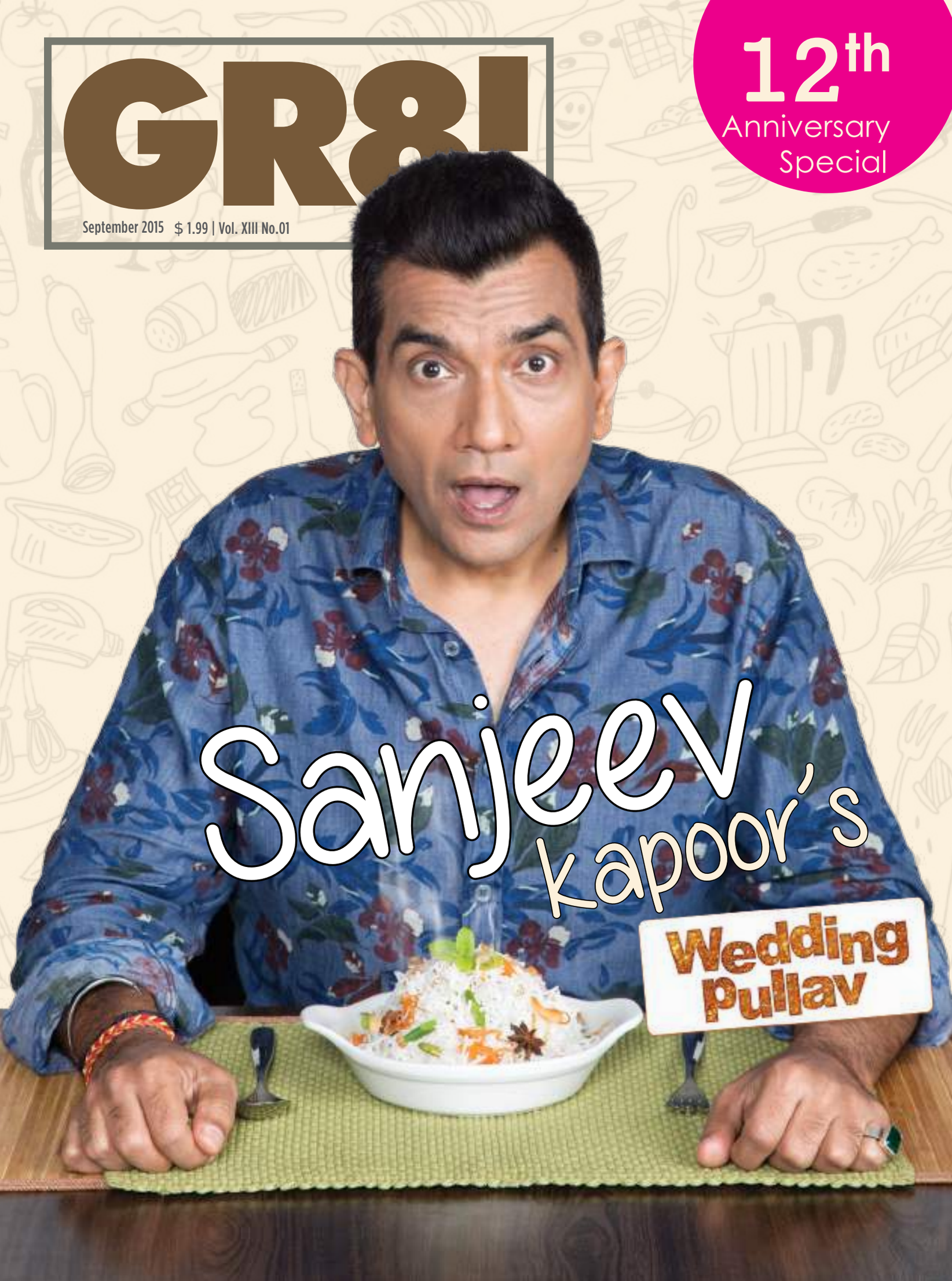
GR8!

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12th Anniversary Special



Sanjeev Kapoor's Wedding Pullav

EDIT & MORE...

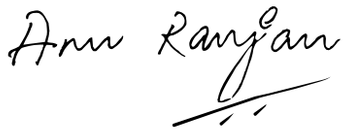


The airwaves have been abuzz with the alleged antics of self-styled spiritual leaders, the adventures and protests of students, supporters and supposed well-wishers of the now infamous film institute (FTII) at Pune, the remonstrations and demonstrations by veterans of the armed forces vis-a-vis their demand for what we all know as OROP and the Kabhi-Haan-Kabhi-Na over the NSA level talks between the Indian & Pakistani governments, which were scheduled for late last month and were finally called off… Phew! It's been an exhausting month just absorbing all of this.

Moving from the news channels to entertainment… Judging by the fate of the last few local spin-offs of popular foreign shows – like Hello Friends (adapted from FRIENDS) and Ek Hasina Thi (adapted from REVENGE) or 24 (adapted from 24) – call it inspiration, adaptation, licensed version or plain and simple plagiarism the desi-versions of popular foreign shows still have a long way to go before similar popularity can be enjoyed here as was enjoyed by viewers of the original shows overseas. Yes, many of the adapted song & dance reality shows came close (in terms of popularity only) but others are just dwindling along in the hope that the magic of the original rubs off on them somehow, somewhere. I've heard an indigenous version of EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND is about to hit our TV screens soon… if it's even halfway as good as the original, I guess we have some interesting viewing to look forward to.

And finally, moving towards cinema, another big part of our tv-world… Yes, we do get to see all the wonderful films produced in Hollywood & Bollywood on our little (actually, not little anymore) screens eventually but if you're like me, why wait? TV movie watching is all about re-experiencing the pleasure... reliving the fun… the magnificence of watching cinema on the silver screen will always remain unmatched. The next big one I'm eagerly awaiting is called "Wedding Pullav" - an energizing, refreshing and thirst quenching family drama highlighting the excitement of destination weddings, featuring fresh, talented newcomers in the lead roles and which is all set to hit a theater near you, on 16th October.

On that delicious note, I am humbly signing off for now. Until next time, I suggest you quickly try out our cover boy Sanjeev Kapoor's lip-smacking recipe featured in the pages that follow and Happy reading!



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SAUMYA TANDON is pleased as a punch with her popular

Renowned TV host (Four seasons of DID) Saumya Tandon who had a taken a long sabbatical from fiction is pleased as a punch with her popular & TV sitcom Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai.“ What I like best about our show is that takes you back to the days for cult Indian comedies i.e. Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi and Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai etc. There is no over the top drama, none of the actor's need resort to caricatures as there is enough juice in the writing to make you laugh. If you have watched the show you must have noticed that the fights between the couples are over small and mundane things like not closing the tooth paste. Those are kind of tiff's which actually take place between real life couples and not for conspiracy theories as abound in most daily soaps.”

Here Saumya confides in us that, “The runaways success of Bhabhi Ji has shocked all, it is number one on the channel. Honestly no one expected it to be flag ship show of the channel. I am quite lucky to have got this kind of character for most TV bhabhis are either Sita mata or Durga mata. While here Anita is very normal woman, who loves her husband Vibhuti(Aashif Sheikh) yet dominates him in a sweet way. She is bold in the sense that she is a career woman, who will not be taken for a ride. She is quite expressive about her feelings for her man and she does those small romantic gestures what normally males do on TV.”

She adds,“ One major reason for its success could be apt casting,“ Rohitash Gaud (Manmohan Tiwari) is very good, Aashif Sheikh is a skilled actor. Shilpa Shinde is playing the role of Angoori to the hilt , she has got the pulse of the character and really says the takhia kalam with applomb. Each character is well etched and poles apart from the other e.g. if Tiwari Ji is your normal traditional kind of guy, Vibhuti is more modern in his thought and outlook.”

In closing Saumya who has also hosted , Bournivata Quiz Contest Comedy Circus Ke Taanse and Zor Ka Jhatka: Total Wipeout etc confides in us that her refusal to do large number of fiction shows has not gone down well with the industry. “The challenge here is not to get work but good work for sadly most makers don't want to push the envelope. Same as with case of films, I don't want to do anything just of sake of being seen” says Saumya who first came into prominence with Aisa Des Hai Mera way back in 2006. She is even remembered now for her portrayal of Kareena Kapoors sister in the super hit film Jab We Met .

What kind of other fiction shows would you be game for? “Anything else apart from historical, mytho or a daily dramas.” She is also open to doing good nonfiction format as contestant as well“ but yes since I am not the adventurous type so Khatron Ke Khiladi is out of my league . I am not saying the format is bad, but it is not cut out for me. Even Bigg Boss is off limits as well.”



He is a chameleon changing shades & shapes on the Screen with quicksilver speed... He has stridden like a Colossus in Television, but has been just an 'also ran' on the Big Screen... You may knit your eyebrows at the paradox... But, to GR8!, he once untwined all the knots of the enigma called, 'Shekhar Suman'... We recall it for you...

On 'Why be an actor?'...
'Actually, it all begins with the 'mirror', but 'mirror' lies... You should never listen to the 'mirror'... Instead, listen to that small voice within and if it tells you that you have the makings of a great Actor, then and then alone go for it...'!

On getting his break in 'Utsav'...
'Just 10 days into my struggle in Bombay, I chanced to visit a Shashi Kapoor shooting and next I knew he was staring at me - 'You are doing my 'Utsav!'... I thought it must be some Chhota-Mota role, but he said - 'You are playing the lead, 'Charudutt' opposite Rekha... Main toh gir gaya... Then, he sent me to see Girish Karnad (director)... His wife opened the door... She cast a glance at me and gushed - 'Girish, here is your Charudutt!'... It was that surreal...'!

On sharing Screen with Rekha...
'That was even more surreal... My very first scene with her was in bed… Gosh, to be in 'bed' with Rekha, THE REKHA - every man's fantasy, the Prima Donna, who wouldn't have fainted at that... And I heaved - 'Can someone please wake me up... I am dying'... But thanks to my Theatre-training, I could psyche myself that I am Charudutt and not Shekhar Suman, there... And I pulled her to me with an attitude... She groaned - 'Hey, Girish, isn't he supposed to be nervous?'... Girish chuckled, 'Oh, he has been practicing with a pillow the whole day...'!

On doing a Sex-Comedy...
'Uh, they did stamp 'Anubhav' a sex-comedy then, but today, looking at the Towel scene in Saawariya or John Abraham showing his 'ass' - 'Anubhav', where I just asked for a Condom in a shop and all hell broke loose, looks like Nursery Rhyme... These are the times when Neil Nitin Mukesh stands nude in jail and people say - 'Wow!'...'!

On that Cinema of Mid-80's...
'It was the most confounded era of Indian Cinema, where old guards like Vinod Khanna, Dharmendra, Shatru, Mithun, Amitabh Bachchan were not allowing newcomers to enter, even when they were fading out... Then, the stories were bad, the technique was bad, the Music was bad... It was sheer chaos...'!

On Television happening to him...
'It was an accident... The phone rang and Anand Mahendru (Director) was at the other end - 'Shekhar, we are thinking of doing a TV serial, Dekh Bhai Dekh'... And I cut off - 'Ok, Bye!'... But he kept calling - 'Look, Jaya Bachchan is associated with it', but I was adamant - 'TV? How dare you? I'm in FILMS'... Finally, his persistence paid and willy-nilly, I was into it... Many jibed, 'What a 'Come-down', Shekhar!'... But look today, I've had the last laugh...'!

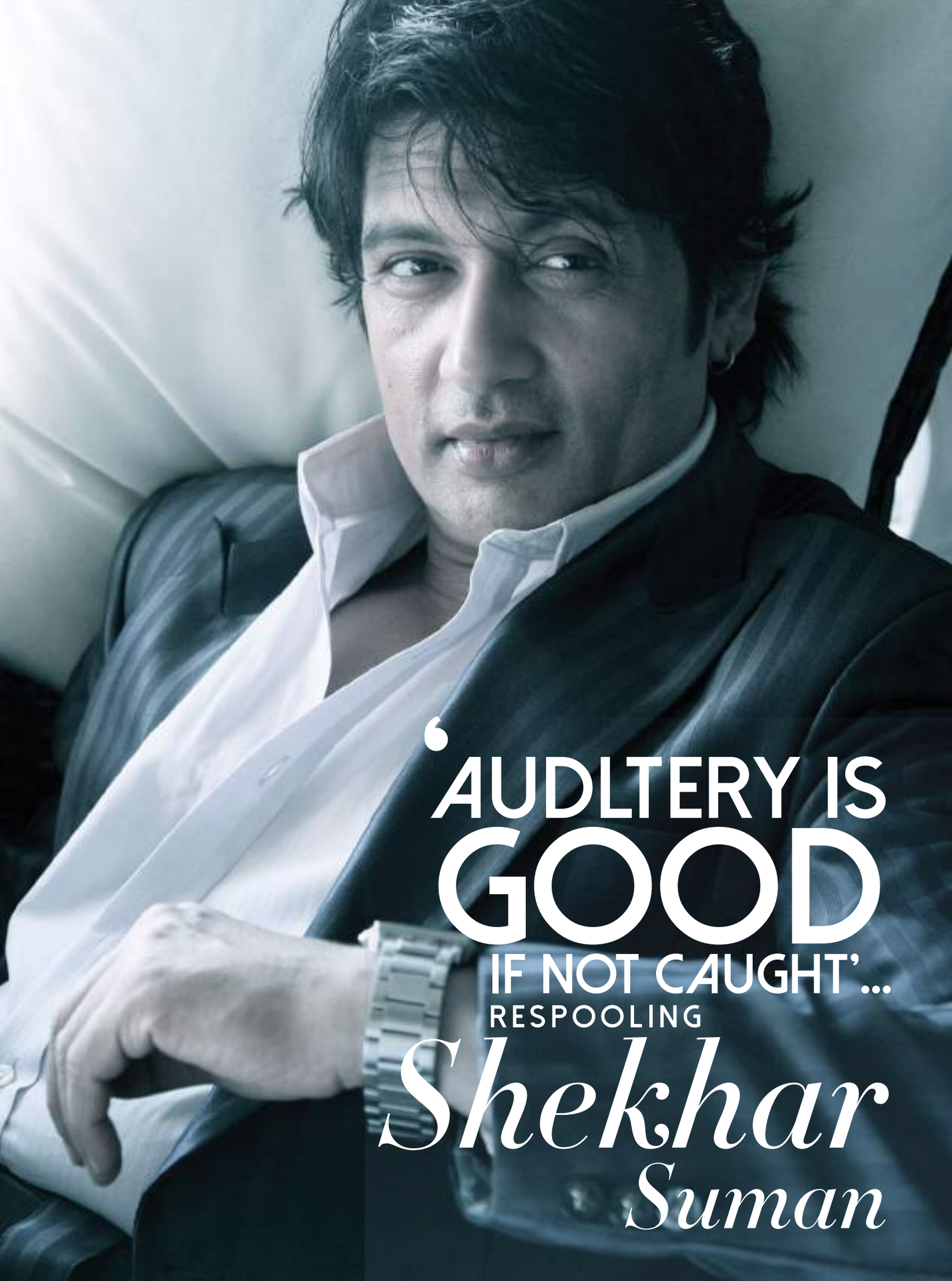
On Indian Comedy...
'Indian Comedy is Pathetic... Unfortunately the country has yet not evolved its humour… And in TV Stand-ups, rehashed jokes and mimicking Actors' voices are called Comedy...'!

On Life & Choices...
'Life & Future are like touching a setting sun - just an illusion... In a choice between Love and Lust, choose Love - Lust will just follow... Out of Films and TV, my choice would be Films... Between National Award and Oscar, I would prefer Oscar... Adultery is good - if you're not caught... If one morning I find in the mirror that I've turned into 'Lalu Prasad Yadav', I'll immediately crash it and go for a Plastic Surgery... I like my forgiving Nature and dislike my impatience... My advice to Shekhar Suman would be - 'Grow up!'... Looking back, I can't say I was a 'Mover', but I definitely was the 'Shaker'...!'

Yes - and how!

He shook the concept of being a TV-Star to unheard of heights... Intrepid and irreverent to a fault besides being a powerhouse of talent, his barbs have been loved and loathed, applauded and abhorred - all at once... All said - there are Artistes and Artistes... And there is one Shekhar Suman...!





‘AUDLTERY IS GOOD IF NOT CAUGHT’...

RESPOOLING

Shekhar Suman



CASTing couch

There has always been speculation regarding existence of casting couch in the TV industry . Recently one small time actress called the cops to the sets of a recently launched show on a big channel alleging mis behaviour, with some one in the unit. She did not file a police compliant saying that the matter had been amicably resolved.

However according to those in the know, the truth was somewhat different, the girl allegedly got the role in return for sexual favours , and when the same guy who she slept with asked for more sex she refused as she had got one more offer and was on verge of quitting the show.

They had a argument over the same and in a fit of anger she called the cops . The reason why she did not file a police complaint was that she would have been blacklisted from future casting and her own story would have also been exposed.

A senior artist on the same show on terms of anonymity says,", I was not surprised if the alleged production house guy approached her again, for if you, " do it once" the impression gains ground that you will be game again!.

An industry insider says," The casting couch in TV is very real , and it is not only restricted to just girl 's young good looking guys are equally told in no uncertain terms that they will have to compromise with your male producer or casting guy etc , if not forget your dreams. Since many of these wanna be actors come from small towns , they have no other option but to give in, as the smell of success is very tempting . And more important living in Mumbai is not cheap, most of these lads; live in groups of four or five in tiny apartments in Andheri - Malad areas.

They also require moolah to sustain expensive clothes and life styles which an actor needs to display irrespective of whether they can afford it or not . Guy 's have to hit the gym to maintain the body and struggler's actors prefer to join expensive high end chains in the hope of meeting well known actors who might might help them on their B-town journey . As it takes a lot of time to build a body the right way , many take proteins shakes which gym instructors ' suggest as a way to hasten things , again these supplements cost a packet. Some go the extreme way of taking very expensive sterioid injections. So if you spend so much ,you will need to get return on your investment right ."

An actress who did not want to be named added," that casting couch is purely consensual. A lot also depends on the kind of signals a girl gives . Is it not better to meet your casting agent or director at his office or one of the many Lokdhanwala cafes ? When some girls get so tired of waiting , they drop hints that " ready to do what it takes" either through their dressing or behaving in provocative manner.

The sad part is that if you don't there are ten other girls waiting to sleep around and you may lose out . Talent is not really given too much consideration as new comers anyways need to be trained right from scratch . But yet again if you feel you have the acting goods , you can wait for your time and there are several examples of actor's who have got work the correct way. But yes the wait might be longer."

A.M.

Devoleena's rocking Birthday Bash...





Stunning Devoleena Bhattacharjee aka Gopi of Star Plus Saath Nibhana Saathiya was seen celebrating her b'day with the whole team of the show on 22nd August at Vila 69, Juhu. She looked lovely and was seen having a bash with Rucha Hasabnis, Mohammad Nazim, Vishal Singh, Digangana Suryavanshi, Aadesh Chaudhary, Tanya Sharma, Sonam Lamba, Bhavini Purohit, Neelu Waghela, Arvind Kumar Vaghela and many others.





Anushka's rocking performance at Indian Idol Junior





Salim Merchant, Anushka Ranjan, Sulaiman Merchant, Vishal Dadlani, Hussain, Shweta Pandit, Mohammed Irfan



Also the beautie was seen as Chief Guest at store launch of Reynu Taandon in Delhi.

The leading lady of 'Wedding Pullav' was seen having a blast while promoting her film on Indian Idol Junior sets. She looked drop dead gorgeous in an outfit designed by Masala Chai, Dubai. She complemented her outfit with beautiful earrings and ring from Micare and Cuffs by Aquamarine. Seems there was a mega time going on the sets…



One dream. One journey. Yes, this is what bindass channel show bindass Naach described. Right from forming a whole team to representing our country at an international level and getting the trophy home, it was a breathtaking journey of three youngsters along with their passion for dance, their friendships, ambitions and determination. It gives you a glimpse of almost everything because it was all about a real journey of determined people and their dedicated efforts to fulfill their big dreams. GR8! gets into a very meaningful conversation with three mentors, masterminds and creators behind this concept... Shantanu Maheshwari, Nimit Kotian and Macedon Dmello.

TURNING DREAMS into REALITY with bindaas Naach



Although it's very different from what we used to do, the excitement level is only much higher this time.

Do you think the scenario of dance shows and dance based reality shows has changed over the years? There has been an emergence of new reality shows and newer talents are coming to the fore. Has that really helped real talent to shine?

Shantanu - Yes it surely has, and it's a good thing because these shows are changing people's perceptions about dance and dance as a profession. These shows do give people an opportunity to showcase their talent and more so give them an experience of a lifetime.

Representing India at an international level is not everyone's cup of tea but you did it. So Hats off…How was the winning moment like?

Nimit - Representing India is a huge responsibility. But it's been so encouraging to see everyone responding to us positively. Throughout our journey, we have had everyone – right from our peers, friends, families along with the teams at BBC and bindass edging us to go that extra mile.

It is difficult to explain our feeling in words, but definitely it is a proud moment not just for us but for the entire country. bindass Naach started as a dream and we never thought that we will reach this far. To win the World Of Dance just one day after our 69th Independence Day was an extremely emotional moment for all of us. This is our tribute to the country. We hope that this win will inspire many young Indians and give them a message that if you can dream, you can achieve them too.

Tell us about the final act at the Wold of Dance? What was it?

Macedon- We blended international hits such as 'I got the power', 'Turn down for what' and the Bollywood hit 'Jumme ki raat hai' with moves to match. Bollywood dance has started getting a global reach, and combining Bollywood music with international songs helped us create a unique act that earned high praise from the judges. Ultimately, I think it was our Indianess and unique choreography that made us stand out.

Shantanu people still remember your character as Swayam. Any major challenges you faced in your life to become such an amazing dancer?

Shantanu - I have been dancing from the age of seven. My family has always been supportive when it comes to dance. It was challenging but finally it's all about commitment, hard work and passion. More over the appreciation and love I receive from my fans is the greatest motivation, which makes me want to do better.

So tell us guys, what is that one thing that attracted you towards the show bindass Naach?

Shantanu- First of all, bindass Naach in all honesty is not a show; it's a journey that Nimit, Macee and I have set upon to pursue our dream. It's a journey that we started way back in college, and has come in to being now in the form of bindass NAACH; a dream to perform at an International platform 'World of Dance' and we won it. Yippie…

Nimit - While I absolutely agree with Shantanu, I would like to say that bindass NAACH gave me an opportunity to get together with my old buddies, dance and perform as a team once again, just like the old days.



How different is Shantanu from Swayam?

Shantanu- Swayam was a fictional character on the show, while on bindass NAACH, it was the real me. How I am, my emotions and reactions are all real, it was being myself.

So Nimit and Macedon, tell us something about Shantanu... especially for his female fans following.

Macedon and Nimit - Fans know everything, we believe they know much more than us also…Hahaha
Shantanu – Guys!!..... (And they exchange a fishy and mischievous smile)

You come from a very humble background. Your story is a perfect example of what one can do with sheer dedication and perseverance. What is that one thing that inspires you and encourages you to do better?

Nimit -Thank you, and yes, my parents are deaf and mute, but throughout they have supported me in whatever way they can. It's because of them, that I am here today and cannot be more blessed. And yes, dance is that one thing that keeps me inspired to do better and better every single time, it's my passion and there's nothing else I know apart from dancing. It feels amazing when they feel proud and happy seeing my work.

For all the aspiring dancers, what qualities you think are important to become a successful dancer?

And here comes the unanimous answer – Well you see, technicalities are important but most important is having fun while you dance. Feel the music and dance your heart out. Be true to yourself, be committed, be passionate and you will be the best one day. Also, you need to have the willingness to learn and adapt as per your capabilities, it's about pushing your limits, and being open to criticism. Learning should never take a halt.

So Shantanu, what is the craziest thing your fan did for you?

Shantanu – You know there was this young girl whom I met during my visit to Kolkata. And guess what? She gifted me a very beautiful handmade card and I must say it was really huge in size. So that was amazing. I always get overwhelmed with the love I receive from my fans. Many people have come up and told me that they have started dancing because of me and I have inspired them. I believe there couldn't be any bigger compliment than this.

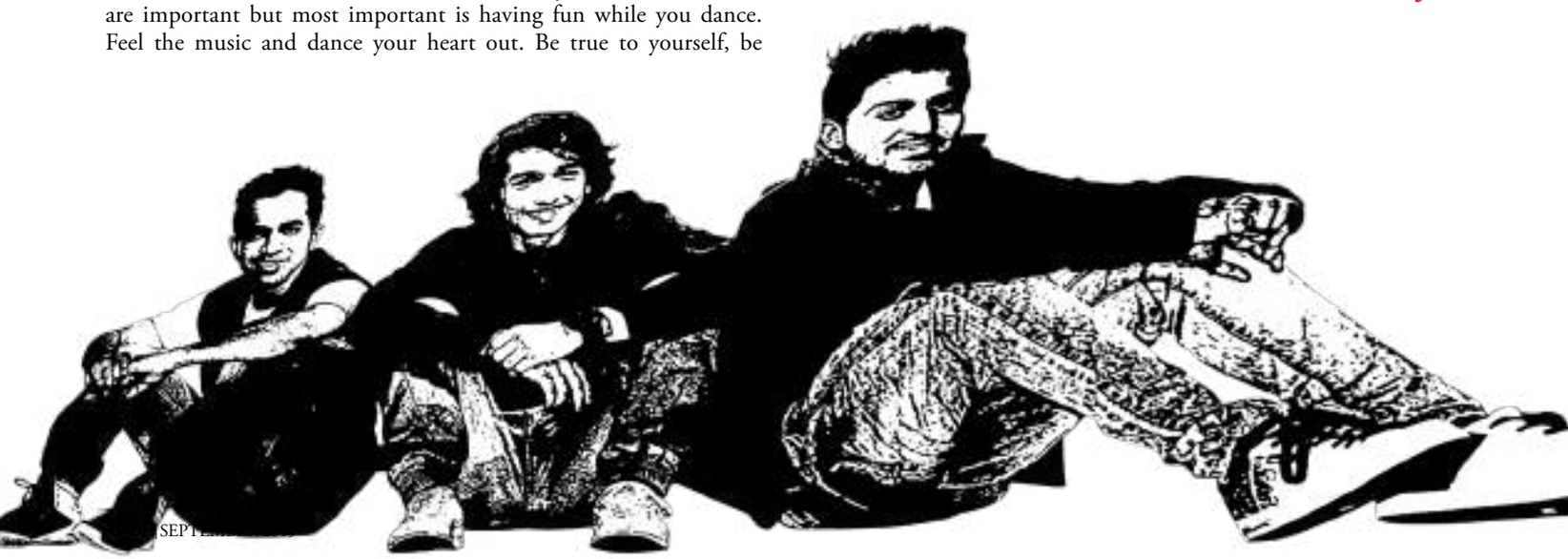
Your message to the youth, particularly for those who have a dream, but are afraid to go for it.

Shantanu- Being afraid is the last thing you should be while you visualize your dream. If you have a dream and your confident and passionate about it, just go for it.

Nimit- We had a dream and we gave our self no choice other than making it happen. So I believe if you can dream about it, You can also achieve it in reality.

Macedon - Anybody Can Dream. Just gather all the courage, put in all your dedication and you will see yourself creating magic.

J.S.





Jacket & Shirt:
SS Homes

Ladies MAN...

words by TANU K KUMAR
photographed by RAHUL JHANGIANI

It's a well-known fact that the way to a woman's heart is also through her stomach and the charmer Sanjeev Kapoor with his culinary skills, whether he knows it or not, has smoothly and securely made his place inside millions of these hearts, across the globe I might add!

As a young lad Sanjeev moved from Ambala in Haryana, where he was born, to Delhi. He started out in his chosen calling by completing his education in the field of hospitality from the popular Institute of Hotel Management Catering & Nutrition (IHM), Pusa, New Delhi. He went on to be a chef with various hotel chains in the country following which he's trod varied paths and never quite looked back.Popularly known as the host of "Khana Khazana", a cooking show that has aired longer than any of it's kind ever, a show that been telecast for over 17 years across 120 countries and one that has been viewed by over 500 million viewers, Sanjeev Kapoor is unquestionably the most recognized face of Indian cuisine today.

Additionally, our master chef Sanjeev dons many more hats; He's the anchor of many other popular TV shows too, he's an author and has over 30 best-seller

cookery book titles to his credit, he's a hugely popular food blogger, a food consultant, a restaurant consultant and an entrepreneur of the kind and scale that most would envy! Moreover, he wear's each and every one of these hats with equal ease and is an absolute specialist is every one of these roles he's ever taken on.

For those of you who are still oblivious about Sanjeev's prominence in the world of food, television and business, let me enlighten you a bit now!

Sanjeev has received numerous honours, accolades and awards for his gastronomic expertise from entities and governments across the world. He's represented the country in every aspect of Food in diverse forums worldwide. He's worked alongside world-renowned chefs and is responsible for impeccably presenting authentic Indian cuisine in the precise perspective internationally.

His website, his food blogs, his recipes and videos of his food recipes get millions of hits every single day! Super-chef Sanjeev even has his own TV channel "Food Food" which was launched about 5 years ago. It's a greatly admired 24 x 7 channel and features many established and upcoming chefs from across India.
Sanjeev Kapoor's name (a brand in itself) has not only endorsed many popular food related brands worldwide but he himself has launched many trendy and prevalent food brands nationally and transnationally too… Khazana, Wonderchef and The Yellow Chilli are some of his eminent brands used as names of restaurants, on a wide range of food products and ready-to-cook mixes.

On a recent trip abroad, accompanying the PM Sh. Narender Modi, Sanjeev was handed the responsibility of whipping up exotic Indian cuisine, impressive enough to charm the royalty of the UAE. As expected, Sanjeev outdid himself by creating and presenting a dessert made with 24 carat gold elements, using a total of 96 karats of gold! The scrumptious Amarkhand he created was covered with gold leaf, gold flakes and pistas dipped in gold dust! If nothing else, I'm certain that did the trick for the government delegations he was auspiciously amidst – he probably left all with a wonderful taste in their mouths and I'm certain we'll enjoy the golden fruits of that visit in time to come.

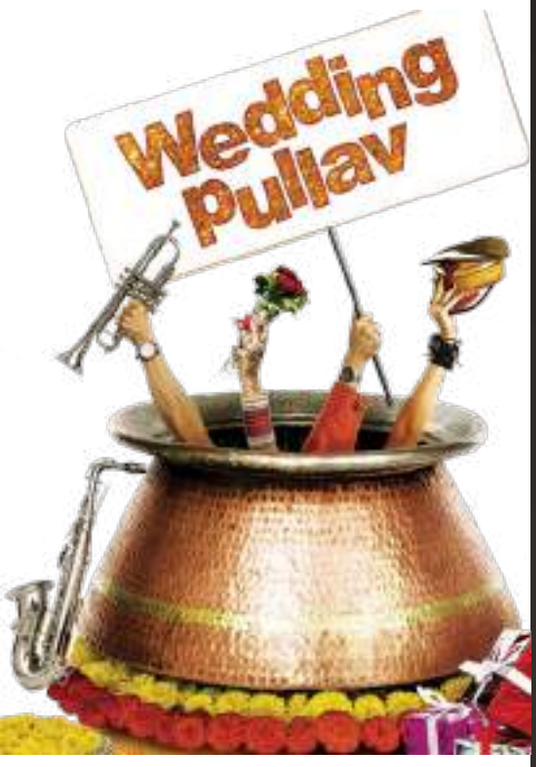
Kudos to the Wonderchef!



Jacket, Shirt & Trouser:
Varoin Marwah
Belt:
Salvatore Ferragamo
Tie pin:
SS Homes



Jacket:
Anuj Madaan
Shirt & Trouser:
Varoin Marwah



Ingredients:

2 medium carrots, cut into diamonds
¼ medium cauliflower, separated into small florets
10-12 French beans, cut into ½ inch pieces
½ cup green peas, blanched
1½ cups basmati rice, soaked and drained
2 teaspoons ghee
½ inch cinnamon
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
2-3 green cardamoms
1-2 star anise
2 green chillies, slit
Salt to taste
Brown onion for garnishing
Fried cashewnuts for garnishing
A fresh mint sprig for garnishing

Method:

1. Heat ghee in a deep non-stick pan. Add cinnamon, bay leaf, cumin seeds, cardamoms, star anise and green chillies and sauté for a minute.
2. Add carrots and mix. Add cauliflower, French beans and sauté for a minute. Add basmati Rice, mix and sauté for 2 minutes.
3. Add 3 cups hot water, salt and stir to mix. Add green peas, cover and cook till the rice is fully done.
4. Serve hot garnished with browned onions, fried cashewnuts and mint sprig.



Jacket & Shirt:
SS Homes

Creative Associate:
Ashish Nakashe
Stylist:
Dev Sood
Make-up:
Neeraj Navare
Hair:
Sanky Evrus
Location:
ITSPA, Goregaon (W)


bāhubali
THE BEGINNING



The Apex of Entertainment...

'Bahubali' rewrites 'Popularity' History...



S. S. Rajamouli

It has attained the ultimate!

And trust us, this is no hyperbole we're indulging in here. A so-called Regional movie has not only stolen the thunder from the high-horsed National (read Hindi) Cinema through and through, it has also swept the overseas Box-office for Indian movies, particularly in the United States, where, it has knocked the crown off 'PK' (no less) by raking in $ 4,423,339 (₹ 28.07 Crore) to the Aamir Khan starrer's $3,088,584 (19.53 Crores).

In fact, the very first day of its release became nothing short of a red-letter day in the Box-office annals of Indian films, when the cash registers stopped ringing only after reaching a figure of - hold your breath - ₹75 Crores worldwide and then, with an overall opening weekend total of ₹162 Crore, it clocked ₹ 255 Crore in the first week of its release. And it didn't stop at that - the Bahubali juggernaut kept forging ahead relentlessly with mythically mammoth figures of ₹ 300 Crore in just 9 days, ₹ 400 Crores in 15 days and then, by the time the last show of the 25th day got over, Bahubali's windfalls had reached a staggering ₹ 500 Crore…

And sill counting...!

Let us come to the dubbed Hindi version that so much underscored the business acumen of Karan Johar, who, crystal-gazing its enormous potential, lost no time in associating himself with the venture and was instrumental for its getting dubbed in Hindi. Many of the smarty-pants

type in the Trade would have smirked condescendingly - 'OK, KJO is dubbing a regional film in Hindi - no big deal!'

But it was - a BIG, BIG Deal!

The Hindi-dubbed Bahubali has already crossed the magical border of ₹ 100 Crores, something that is the biggest dream of the biggest of Hindi Movie-Mughals, but which, in reality, is easier said than done. Indeed, the phenomenon seems to be most aptly expressed by none other than Salman Khan, who gushed…
'Bahubali's Box-office figures scare me'!

And come to think of it, our very own Small Screen has something to do with this gargantuan venture's coming into being!

That's because, it is the handiwork of someone who found his bearings in the medium of story-telling on Camera from Television - a certain someone who is fondly called 'Jakkanna' (a Sculptor) by those close to him.

This nickname 'Jakkanna' was given to the 1973 born, Kaduri Srisaila Sri Rajamouli because of his penchant for perfection even when he was having his baptism in the medium through Television. However, initially, he had meandered into the genre only because even after entering his 20's, he didn't know what to make of his life. His father, the noted screenwriter, K.V. Vjayendra Prasad, always kept nagging him for being such a no-gooder, such a wastrel and that's when Rajamouli stumbled upon TV and by and by, started directing shows therein.

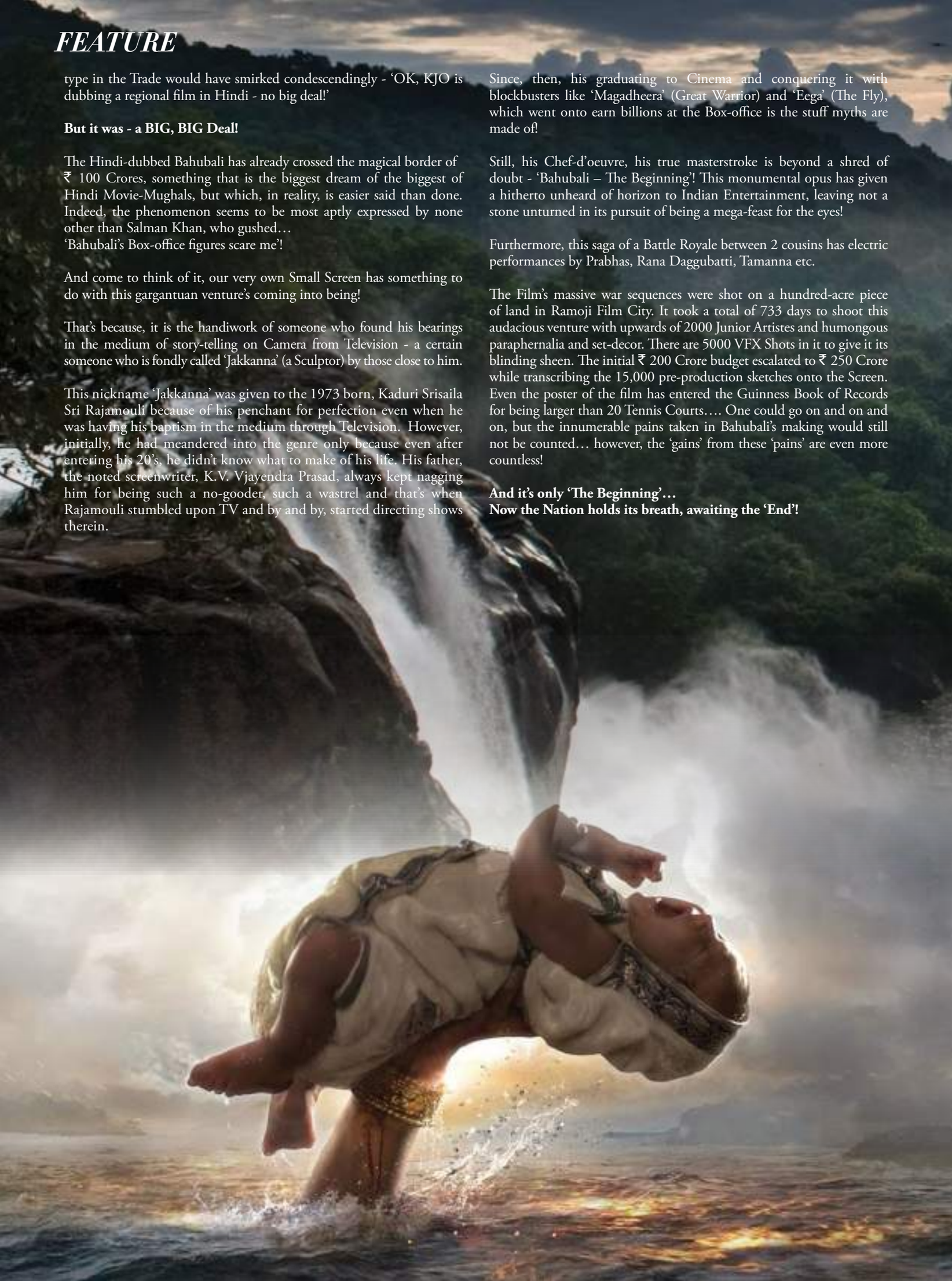
Since, then, his graduating to Cinema and conquering it with blockbusters like 'Magadheera' (Great Warrior) and 'Eega' (The Fly), which went onto earn billions at the Box-office is the stuff myths are made of!

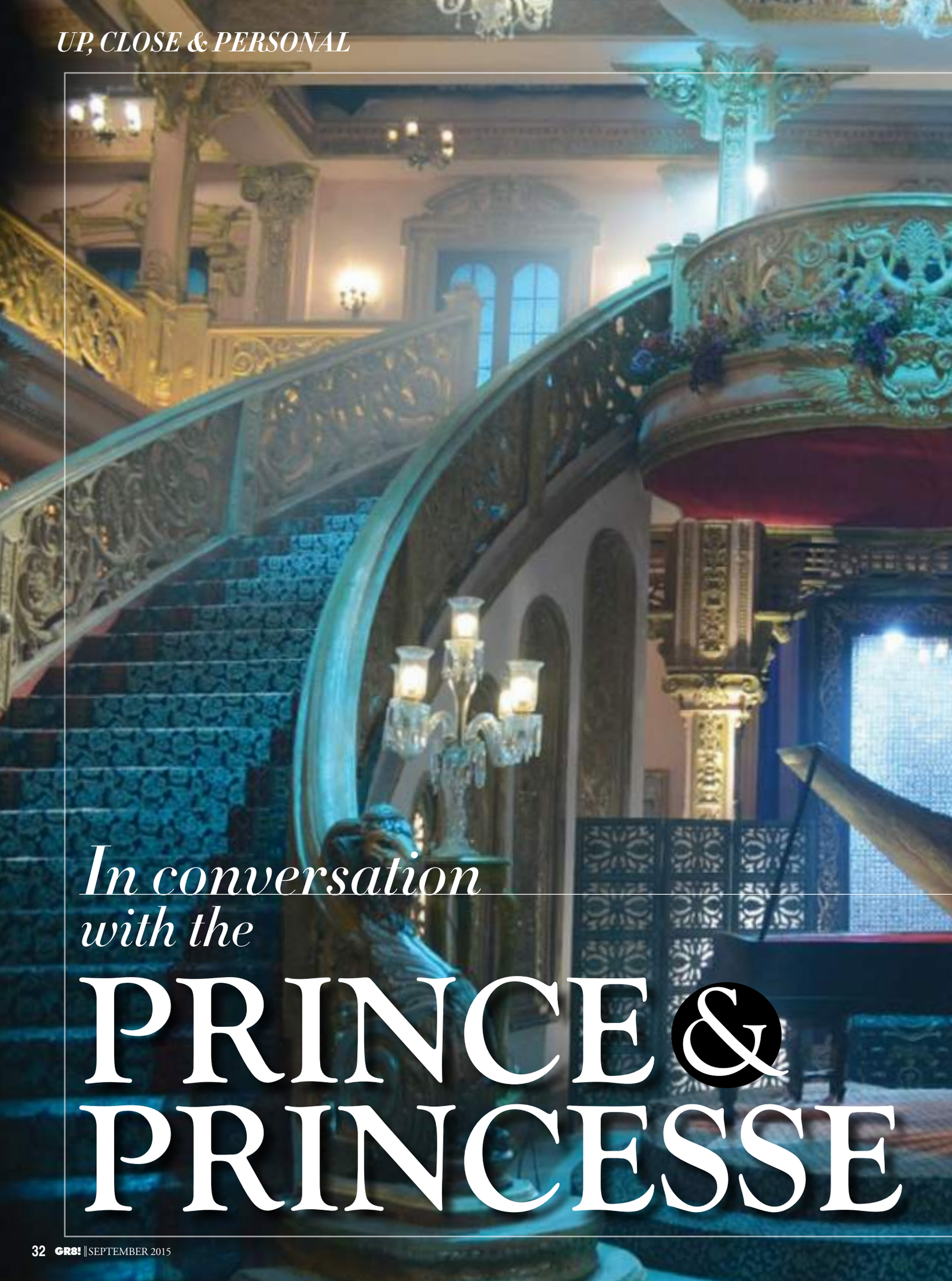
Still, his Chef-d'oeuvre, his true masterstroke is beyond a shred of doubt - 'Bahubali – The Beginning'! This monumental opus has given a hitherto unheard of horizon to Indian Entertainment, leaving not a stone unturned in its pursuit of being a mega-feast for the eyes!

Furthermore, this saga of a Battle Royale between 2 cousins has electric performances by Prabhas, Rana Daggubatti, Tamanna etc.

The Film's massive war sequences were shot on a hundred-acre piece of land in Ramoji Film City. It took a total of 733 days to shoot this audacious venture with upwards of 2000 Junior Artistes and humongous paraphernalia and set-decor. There are 5000 VFX Shots in it to give it its blinding sheen. The initial ₹ 200 Crore budget escalated to ₹ 250 Crore while transcribing the 15,000 pre-production sketches onto the Screen. Even the poster of the film has entered the Guinness Book of Records for being larger than 20 Tennis Courts…. One could go on and on and on, but the innumerable pains taken in Bahubali's making would still not be counted… however, the 'gains' from these 'pains' are even more countless!

And it's only 'The Beginning'…
Now the Nation holds its breath, awaiting the 'End'!





In conversation with the

PRINCE & PRINCESSE



It is definitely a dream for every girl to play the role of princess and hopes that one day her prince charming will come and sweep off her feet. But, it is not always a fairy tale ending. Perfectly executing the other side of the coin, Zee Tv's Ek Tha Raja Ek Thi Rani is a show unique in itself. It is the story about Rana Indravaardhan (Siddhant Karnick) who heads the royal family belonging to Ameerkot and Gayatri (Drashti Dhami) who gets married to him. A journey for a girl who's destiny is not so lucky for her to becoming the queen of Rana's heart and the people, this show definitely captures its era perfectly. It's not the first time we having candid conversation with the the 'Belle' of TV industry but it always feels there's a lot to know as her thoughts always seems intriguing. Siddhant Karnick, the handsome hunk, who has TV shows and film in his kitty, definitely knows how to strike right chord with his acting and dashing looks. Here is all you want to know about them...



So tell us that moment where you decided you are in the show?

Drashti: The whole concept of period drama in an all new format, the vintage look and cars, lavish mansion and obviously storyline, all suited me and there were no second thoughts.
Siddhant: I came to know about it, felt the role is meant for me and went for the auditions. Quite normal it was for me.

And what about your respective characters of Rana and Gayatri? Tell us more about them and did you have to take any workshops for it?

Drashti: I think I could relate to her. You know what, I could relate to all three characters because they had a bubbly side which I am like in real life.
Siddhant: But yes, it is not as simple for me. Well, I had to learn the etiquettes as I am playing prince. But then my upbringing helped me to play my role in a better way. But yes, learning horse driving in few days was challenging. But the whole process was fun.

Any challenging sequences?

Siddhant: Yes, shooting in high temperature
Drashti: Haha I agree, with make-up and all…it's little uncomfortable.

Whats the advantage and disadvantage of being part of this Industry?

Drashti: You get to look good everyday but then you don't get much leaves…But its fine you see.
Siddhant: I agree with her…we get less time due to our hectic schedules. But then who won't be attracted to instant fame and recognition. And one more thing...I never take it as work. I enjoy it so that helps me to cope up with stress and I always say "I am going to do something which I like" and not just shooting.

So rumours in this industry are bound to happen. Do you get affected by it?

Drashti: Seriously, like No. I remember there was this news which cited I had a catfight with Sanaya Irani. Actually I had not even met her during those days. But then I just laugh off at such things.
Siddhant: We don't really get much time to ponder at such things…

So rank them according to your preferences: Fiction shows, reality, films and hosting…

Drashti: Fiction shows, Reality, Hosting and then films
Siddhant: Theatre, shows and films. In all due respect to others, I think theatres due to continuous shots, allows you to perform. Films may work or may not work.

And your dream TV role…

Drashti: I wish I could have been part of Hasratein…
Siddhant: You know the role of Pankaj Kapur in Office Office. That was simply superb.

And your favourite actor…

Drashti: I am completely bowled over by Kangana currently
Siddhant: Well, I look upto Karan Johar. He is exceptionally versatile and is fabulous with all of them. From acting, directing, producing, hosting, he can do everything.

Turn ons and Turn offs for you…

Drashti: A good statement is a turn on for me and bad breath is compelte No No…
Siddhant: A girl digging her nose in public is a big turn off. And a woman who can be as comfortable to eat in 5 star hotel as in dhaba, would be a turn on.

Here is what you need to know about them…

Siddhant:
I think when I was 25, I was going through not so good phase. I gave everything to one film which did not work out. There was a time when I was questioning my choice of career. To survive, I kind of did catalogues for shirts where I had to get myself clicked in 50 shirts in just one hour. And I used to get 100 Rs per shirt. Also, I did Voice over for Chhota Bheem to overcome financial challenges. But then I think the small steps which you take in your difficult phase helps you to be better and it has really helped me a lot in playing the role of Rana.

Drashti:
People normally think there is a huge change in lifestyle once a girl gets married. Yes minor adjustments and changes do happen here and there…but trust me for me everything is the same. My man is really chilled out (and laughs off). He is very supportive and my mother in law treats me more like her daughter. The only thing I miss is food cooked by my mom. On being asked what your fans don't know about you, she instantly replies, "I can sleep anytime. Even in a half hour break, I can sleep…Lol".

J.S.



KUCHH KHATTA, KUCHH MEETHA

The 'Love-flavour' of '...Badtameez Dil'

'Sour-Sour', 'Sweet-Sweet'…

That's how their on-screen Romance goes - 'Abeer' and 'Meher' are a seemingly impossible 'Jodi' that actually is made-for-each-other. To portray this spectrum of a multi-hued Romance have been roped in Pearl (Puri) and Asmita (Sood).

He is the stuff teenyboppers never tire of swooning at and she carries a mysterious aura about her that has been magnetic on the Screen. Today, the guy with the laser gaze, Pearl is having a field-day with all those 'Oohs' & 'Aahs' showered on him because of being sooo hot, but Asmita, the enigmatic would rather leave it to the audience to decide about the power of her pull.

The 'Agra'-boy Pearl and the Shimla gal Asmita knew from the earliest on that they are 'Showbiz' material. They were destined to take the 'Train-to-Mumbai' and to Pearl, in particular, the move was Herculean as his father was dead against the idea of his son being a part of the big, bad Bombay's big, bad Tinsel-town - 'Dad even took my Motorcycle away to deter me from pursuing my Showbiz-dreams!'

But who can stop Destiny's detours!

Similarly, chucking her Educationist folks' wishes for her to pursue Academics, Asmita took a headlong plunge in the Miss India Contest and went on to grab a place amongst the finalists, therein. Then, after a short fling with the Ad-world, she, suddenly, found herself doing the lead in a Kannada film and ended up doing 3 ventures down South.

That's when '...Badtameez Dil' happened to them!

The Anupam Kher Academy trained Pearl and Asmita, armed with Feature-film experience, took on the challenging Abeer and Meher for the Small-Screen. Ask them about that challenge and Pearl stresses that barring the love for music, he shares not one personality-trait with Abeer – 'Abeer is all 'attitude' and with flirtatious streaks in his persona, while I am an introvert and reserved, personally!'

Asmita, on the other hand, does have the similar small-town beginnings of her character, but 'I am poles apart from the living-in-the-past and short-fused Meher as I'm rather happy-go-lucky and enjoy life with full-on positivity, instead!' However, both have been



confident from the word go in bringing Abeer & Meher to life on the Screen.

Casting his first glance at Asmita, Pearl could instantly feel about her total lack of 'attitude' and to Asmita, too, he came across as absolutely 'simple' – 'an opinion', she coos, 'that has proved so damned correct'! And the two strangers, suddenly clubbed together, didn't have to take pains in thawing the ice between them because, as Pearl puts it - 'We're both 'nice' people - so there!'

The Mr. and Ms. Nice have, self-confessedly, never had an argument - 'Whatever I say, he just nods - OK!', beams Asmita. However, Pearl doesn't shy away from playing a prank or two on her, like, once he got everybody to tell Meher that a very steamy scene is scheduled for her to be shot today, knowing full well that she would never agree to do such a thing - 'You should have seen her face!', chuckles he, while Asmita whispers to us that she is going to do a tit for tat on him very soon.

Uh-huh, Pearl better watch out as there is no fury in the world than a female pranked upon - err, just joking, of course!

By and large, they only have goody-goody things to say about each other, like, 'Asmita is very balanced' (Pearl) and 'Pearl is super sweet' (Asmita). Still, Pearl doesn't like one thing about her - 'Oh, she is too possessive about her things... Even if she loses a pen, all hell breaks loose on the Set!' And to Asmita, Pearl's being 'too sweet' is both a 'positive' and a 'negative' trait as well, 'because people can easily misuse it!'

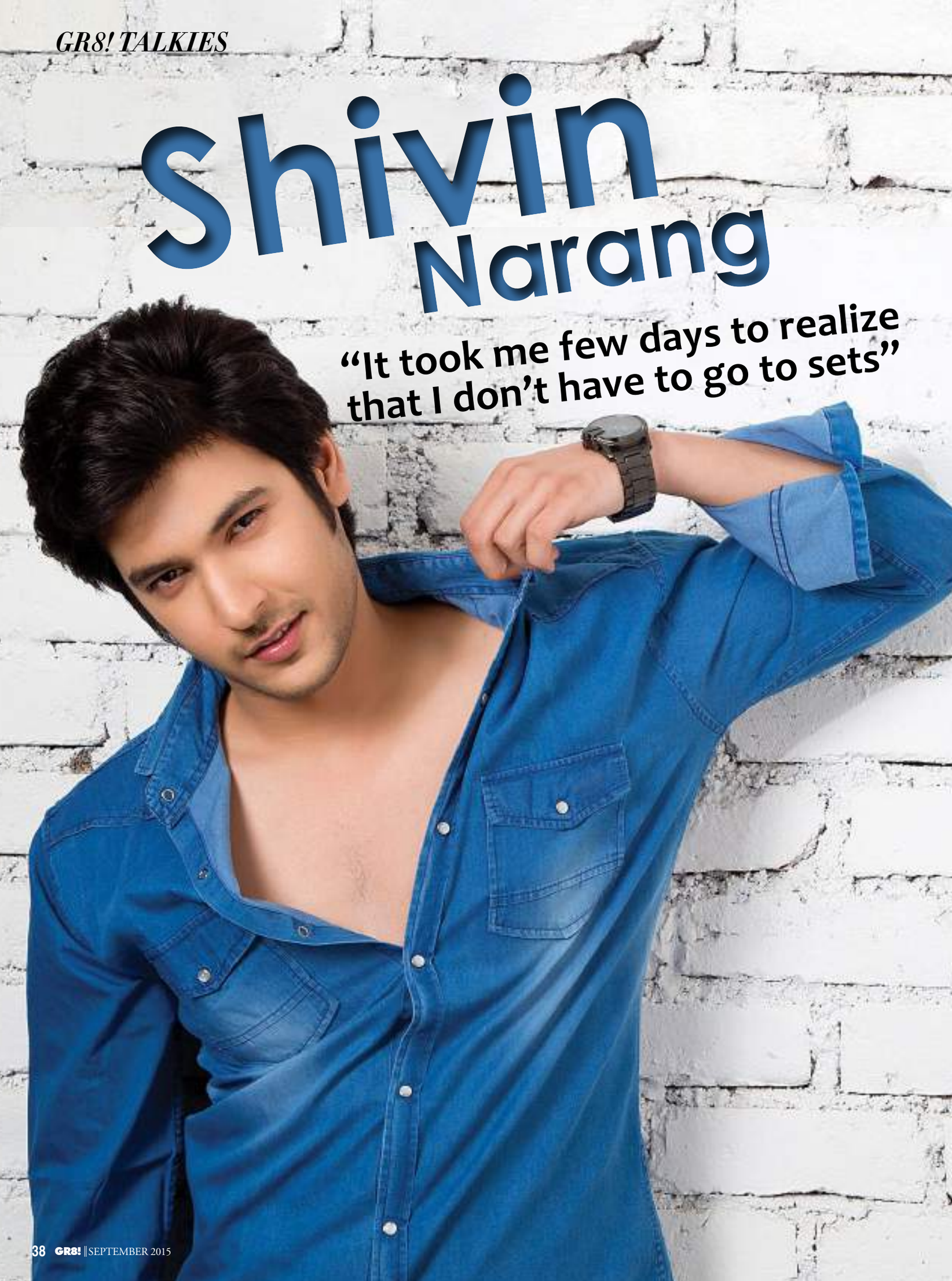
Pearl has only one advice for Asmita – 'Remain as you are - don't ever change!' And Asmita's eyes glint up giving one to him - 'Watch out Mr. 'Too Sweet' - Kahin Diabetes Na Ho Jaaye!'

Ask them to define each other and Pearl comes up with 'Perfect' for Asmita and her word for him is - 'Winner'…!

Phew! That's some 'Mutual Admiration Society' there!

Shivin Narang

"It took me few days to realize that I don't have to go to sets"





He is the ideal son, brother and a husband on screen. Shivin Narang aka Ranvijay Singh of Ek veer ki ardaas... Veera speaks about missing the show and his future plans...

J.S.

Your first show was Suvreen Guggal where you played Yuvraj and then you played Ranvijay in Ek Veer ki Ardaas…Veera. Among these two roles, which role actually made you evolve as a better actor?

I was 21 years old When I joined Suvreen Guggal. I had many similarities with Yuvraj. Both of us were sports captain in college and came from Delhi and he was like a proper Delhi jaat boy and was aggressive. We also shared Delhi accent. So at that time, I was more like him but as you grow old and work more, you become mature and stable with clear thoughts in mind. That's when Ranvi comes into the picture. One can say that I got to play characters in the time when I was more like them. I am a little like Yuvraaj and a little like Ranvi too. Yuvraaj is still closer to relate to but Ranvi owns special place in my heart.

Ranvijay is kind of brother, husband and son everyone craves for. How much is Shivin similar to Ranvijay? Also, are you as simple as Ranvijay with regards to his lifestyle?

Well, I seriously don't know how much I relate to Ranvi but I can tell that, both of us love our families. Like he is favourite son and brother, I am favourite son and brother of my family too. Initially, I thought of him as a bit boring and quite person, but later he turned out to be more mature and simple.

Ranvijay was more of family oriented and did not mind giving his career a backseat. In such cases, how would you react?

You see, Ranvi's situation was totally different. His father had passed away and mother could not take enough care of everyone. I also believe family is most important in life. Whatever he did was absolutely right. When my time comes, I don't know how I am going to react. I generally make decisions by analysing the situation.

So there have been rumours that it was because of cat fight of Farnaz – Digangana that caused the show to end? And they both have agreed that they don't see eye to eye. Do you feel that this is kind of imposed decision on you and other co-actors? What really caused such a popular show to be off air?

That wasn't the reason. Both the girls weren't friendly but they were professionals. They are just being targeted. I believe whatever has happened, happened for the best. For more than three years, we have successfully conveyed the story we wanted to tell the audience in best possible way. It is neither good nor necessary to stretch a show for six or seven years. In fact, if you shut down after an ending point, it earns more respect. It was no harm to anybody at all.

With whom you think you bond really well? Smriti Kalra, Farnaz Shetty or Digangana Suryavanshi?

I get along with all three of them very well. I have done my first show with Smriti. Digangana is like a little sister. Farnaz is also near and dear to me. We have spent more than three years together. But I have spent more time with Smriti as she was part of my first show.

I had come across an article where you said it was funny after you read or heard that you were dating three girls at a time? So it is that rumours don't affect you at all or you take them positively?

I laugh it off and move ahead. My life does not get affected by these baseless rumours. I find it very funny because in this industry, even if you work with someone, dating rumours will spread like wildfire. These rumours don't even spare married people. All I can say is, it is a part of our work and our industry.
So how is life after Veera? What is your daily routine after the show?

I have to make schedule. Recently, I spent a vacation with my family. They are coming and going. I have started new classes and I go to gym regularly. I attend pending meetings.

What kind of roles you are looking forward to play now?

I am open to any kind of roles which will give me thrill to do something different. Suvreen was Rom-Com. Even for Veera, I haven't decided that I need this kind of role. So I have played in typical young adult and a family drama. It's like going to a hotel. You don't always have an order in your mind; you go there and ask for the dish which looks mouth-watering. I don't crave for any particular genre, the character and show just should be interesting enough to get a nod of approval.

How soon we can expect you again on screen?

Things are going on but I can't commit the time. Though I will come with a Bang, that's for sure. I am happy but a bit down as I too miss all the fun. Somewhere in the bottom of heart, it's difficult to accept that I am not to go to the set today. It took me ten to fifteen days to digest that the show is finally over. Here, work isn't done in one or two days, it takes time. But next time when you see me, I will be in a complete different avatar.

As an actor, what keeps you motivated to perform better?

I am a self-motivated person. It's in my nature. After every shot, I promise to perform the next scene better. People usually get irritated by retakes but I try to act better and better every time.

You have openly agreed that you are a complete foodie. Still you have always managed to remain fit. So what's the secret behind it?

Yes, I am a foodie. The secret is I manage by altering with food. For example, if I want to eat chicken, I make sure it's not oily nor it is cooked in olive oil. Also, I work out. Sometimes the line is crossed, but I manage it.

Lastly, can we ever expect you to be part of reality shows?

Well, I am not sure which one would I take but personally, I like adventure shows.



‘Jhalak Dikkhla Jaa Reloaded’

The season got zestier and more hilarious with Shahid – Karan bromance, aced choreographers Lauren and Ganesh Hegde knowledge of dance and obviously how can we forget Manish Paul’s quirky, witty and unconquerable sense of humour and comic timing. The season is a perfect example of impeccable package; from cool judges to amusing host and popular contestants… it definitely delivered what it promised i.e. to keep you entertained.

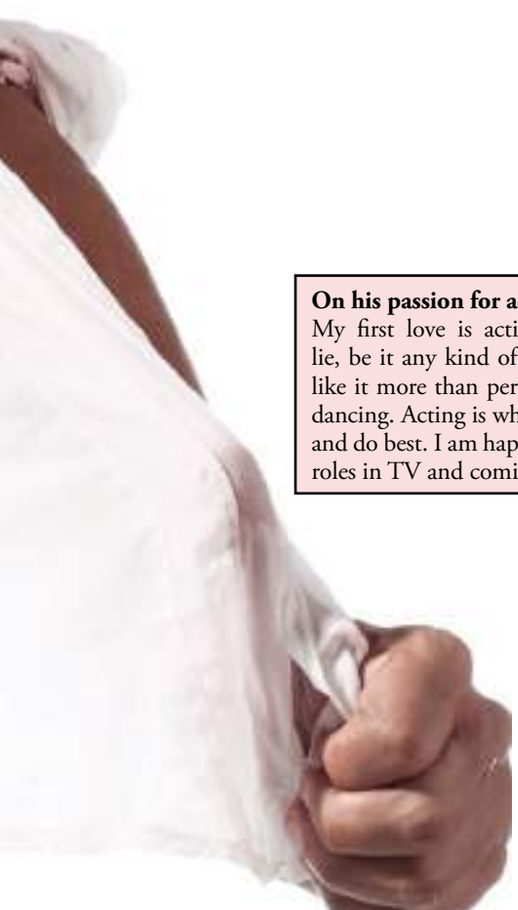
Here, we got into a very candid conversation with one of its popular contestant, Ashish Chowdhry, who was the winner of stunt based reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi…

On being part of reality shows…
The best advantage of reality shows is that, I get to do the things I have never done before. Even for film, I had never tried my hands on stunts. So KKK gave me that platform. Before Jhalak, I had never danced in my life. Also, I love to meet and interact with new people. Reality shows provide an opportunity to explore the potential my own self. After KKK, the way children look at me has changed for better. My own son looks up to me. I thank God that he has made me a person who can teach children to overcome their fear.

On being a Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa contestant…
I remember my first performance gave me shiver. I am generally not scared of anything and never really get nervous. But dancing for a competition in front of so many people and using projection act which as Ganesh pointed out was challenging, gave me goose bumps. I had to rush to the restroom. You know, everybody is a challenger here because I am a non-dancer like Karan said and the worst dancer. When you keep running to be the best than the rest; you forget to live your own life. For me, I am my biggest competitor. It is real fun here. I and Vivian Dsena are like brothers in Jhalak house. I knew his wife Vahbiz even before he knew her. He takes his time to get familiar to new people whereas I go along with everyone.

On being judged by Karan and Shahid…
I never get nervous by anyone. I am not answerable to anyone other than my fans. My fans love me; vote for me and because of them, I happen to stand where I am now. The least I can do for them is to do something that can bring a smile to their faces. Only time I feel put down is when I disappoint my fans.

On working in movies and dealing with failures…
I am very practical person. Everybody ask me how I can be happy all the time? The truth is I never get scared which is the reason I won Khatron ke Khiladi. My father has taught me that you have to fall, then you have to get up and walk again; if you don't fall, you won't know the value of running faster. Failure is the most important element to get success. I take every failure as a chance to learn and work harder for next time. I am not afraid of it.



On his passion for acting…
My first love is acting and I cannot lie, be it any kind of shows or films. I like it more than performing stunts or dancing. Acting is what I love the most and do best. I am happy that I got good roles in TV and comic roles in movies.

On Dhamaal 3…
Discussions are going on. Everyone wants to see Dhamaal 3; we want to make it too! But we won't to go ahead without Sanju sir. I pray and believe that he will join us this year and then we can take it further.

J.S.



THE ITA AWARDS 2015

'I am Fifteen, going on Sixteen'...

That's with apologies to 'Sound of Music' for tweaking its chartbuster, but that's how is crooning the curvaceous Golden Lady - the one, who is in the dreams of the who's who of TV - big or small, old or young, on-screen or behind it! They've all lusted after her, craving to grab her, hold her to their bosoms, lift her skywards and whoop in a fit of ecstasy -
'I've got her... She is mine...!'

That's how coveted she is!

And if you haven't as yet guessed as to whom we are talking about - then, better go fly a kite, because in the world of Television, there cannot be two guesses about that - the Golden Lady is none other than The ITA Awards Trophy, which sets TVzens' pulse racing with a rush of adrenaline.

Hence, from the redoubtable Amitabh Bachchan to other talent-incarnate artistes, directors, writers, technicians and what have you, all have had glimmers in their eyes as and when they've laid their hands on it. And year after year, the who's who of TVland has participated in this annual Carnival that is of Television, by Television and for Television, besides being as big as they come in terms of splendour and spectacle.

Also, year after year, the mega TV-gala has been awash with glitterati from Films, Corporate and Public Life. That's because, over the years, it has earned unparalleled and an all-embracing goodwill for being a truly transparent and unbiased Award, making the Team ITA hold its head high and stand tall for not 1, not 2, not 3, 5, 10 - but for all of 14 years for having created a matchless and spotless Institution of Honours on the canvas of Television!

And it's the 15th milestone in time that this ultimate TV-fête would be crossing now. For this historic scaling of a glorious decade & a half in the medium, the ITAwaalas have hit upon a marvelous way of celebration. This year, there would be no Jury-panel sitting in Judgment over the usual annual competition - instead, this year the one and only entity that would hold sway is going to be...

The TV-watcher!

Yes, it's you countless TV-buffs out there whose is going to be supreme this year whichever Artistes, Shows etc. have ruled the Popularity-charts of the last 5 years (that is, the period post The ITA Milestone Awards of 2010) would be accorded The ITA Honours.

So the Viewer is centre-stage this year and s/he would be the Judge with the 'Gavel', the Conductor with the 'Baton' and the Instructor with the 'Whistle'. To get seized of the entire zigzag of Popularity-waves, the ITA-research has depended chiefly on the noted Agencies' data, The ITA Popular-polls over the last 5 years and other such measures to which GR8! Readership has also contributed its bit.
In sum, those who have been able to form a 'Connect' with the largest mass of viewership will be adorned with The ITA Honours, 2015. Needless to say, all your


Kamal Nath, Anu Ranjan and Amitabh Bachchan


Farida Jalal & Tushar Kapoor


Anupam Kher with Winner


Anil Kapoor & Pankaj Kapoor


Alva Brothers & Sonu Niiggam


Farhan Akhtar & Pooja Batra


Akshay Kumar, Anu Ranjan & Ramesh Sippy

Aroon Purie & Shri Shatrughan Sinha


Barkha Dutt & Rajat Sharma


Hon. Shri Subbirami Reddy & Avika Gor


Anu Ranjan & Pawan Munjal Lighting the Lamp


Akbar Khan & Sanjay Khan


Ashish Sharma and Rashami Desai


Deepika Padukone

FRATERNITYSPEAK...

Smriti Irani



'It was only when I got 'The ITA Award' that I, for the first ever time, felt like being a Star… This Award is what started the bit about me being an Icon'…!

Ekta Kapoor



'The ITAA is the biggest and the most credible Award in Television'…

Ronit Roy



'After winning many times in the Popular Category, today I've won it from the ITA Jury… And I know, 'he' would be proud of me – it's for you, dad'…! (he choked looking upwards…)

Anand Rai



'The ITAA is one of a kind… To this day, it maintained very high standards'…!

Asit Modi



'Winning an ITA Award is always a great achievement as it is the most credible of all'…!

'The ITA Award is TV's Maha-Kumbh'…!



Sudesh Berry

'Winning The ITAA has been my most shining hour…I had tears in my eyes that day because now I could say – 'I Am Something'… People say most Awards are rigged, but I can say most categorically that it is never so at the ITAA… I've made a hat-trick of wins, so I know – I never ever lobbied for myself there'…!



Ashwani Dhir

'Getting the 'ITA Milestone Award' for 'Bidaai' was a personal milestone for me… This Award is where transparency rules'…!



Rajan Shahi

'Finally!... F I N A L L Y!... I've got what I always craved for – an ITA Award'…!



Jennifer Winget

'The ITAA is the only platform in the Indian TV industry, where Awards are credible'…!



Shashank Bali




Ekta Kapoor & Yash Johar


Rithvik Dhanjani


Ramesh Sippy, Rajan Shahi and Vipul A Shah


Mona Singh , Apurva Agnihotri , Smriti Irani , Ronit Roy


Shantanu Maheshwari and Vrushika Mehta


Mouni


Kapil Sharma hosting with Ragini Khanna


Mandira Bedi , Aman Verma


Aamir Ali, Sanjeeda, Shaleen & Barkha


Namrata Shirodkar, Madhuri Dixit & Raveena Tandon

heartthrobs are gonna hop onto the stage this once to grab what are through and through your Awards...

It's your day, dahling TV-lovers, it's your moment and it's your desires that would be celebrated amidst all the signature razzle-dazzle of The ITAA pageantry that knows no parallel in TVdom – the humongous Set, the blinding shine & shimmer of lights, the pulse-pounding music, the eye-popping performances, all of which is going to be laced with rip-roaring guffaws from the wacko-duo, Manish Paul & Bharti, anchoring the Event… uh-huh, it's gonna be a scream, mark our words, guys. But – and it's a big, big 'BUT' – above everything else, it is…

Hail to you TV-watchers!
Here comes 'your' and only 'your' ITAA...!


Prachi Desai , Rajeev Shukla , J P Dutta


Asha Parekh, Aruna Irani, Jetendra, Reena Roy & Maushmi Chatterjee


Ranbir Kapoor, Anu Ranjan, Rajkumar Santoshi, Katrina Kaif, Ramesh Taurani & Shashi Ranjan


Anurag Basu, Rajeev Shukla & Roomi Jafre with Balika Vadhu Team


Nia Sharma, Nakul Mehta


J P Dutta, Subhash Ghai, Anu Ranjan, Pooanm Sinha, Hon. Smt. Sushma Swaraj ji, Pawan Munjal & Kapil Dev



Actor singer Manasi Parekh who was away from the TV scene for two years is quite kicked about her comeback with the Star Plus Sumit Sambhal Lega the desi adaption of the hit American show Everybody Loves Raymond.

She says, "After Gulaal wanting to explore other avenues , I did an international musical with shows in London, Antwerp and US . I also made a few short films for a Big Apple based company. All along I always getting TV roles , but nothing juicy was coming along. Then this show was offered to me, and I could not say no for I have been a big fan of this 7 season sitcom ever since college. Honestly few small actors get a project which they can genuinely feel proud of."

MANASI PAREKH

Talking about her take on Raymond's wife Debra in the original series who she will essay as Maya , Manasi calls her a layered character, although she loves her kids and husband , she has her own share of quirks, she is equally adapt at playing the power game with the mother in law.

Prior adaptation have not reallly rocked the TRP? She says, "No worries for we have a perfect set up in terms of writers, directors and co stars etc. it is great learning curve for someone like me who always want to imbibe new stuff . I also feel that it is high time an attempt was made to push the content envelope and I am glad Star is taking up the cudgils."

She goes on ,"What also separates our show from other adaptations is that it deals with the universal problem married couples face of dealing with their overbearing parents. And here more importantly it is said from the point of view of the man, no Indian TV show has tried to attempt this before I guess. Every married man and woman will be able to identify with some or the other character's and their actions. Although personally I don't have kids yet but I have seen friends who struggle to handle family and personal life. Similarly here Maya when unable to take the pressures will snap at Sumit and throw tantrums."

How much change was brought in to meet desi sensibilities? She replies "Not much for as I said above the desi saas- bahu equation is built in the narrative. The only difference is that while in American version the parents live opposite the street, here they reside in the apartment above. Having said that our treatment is totally different from your run of the mill daily soaps. Here we have everything which Indian small screen does not show. All the scenes and situations are so fresh and we have a humourous twist to everything. Most importantly we have kept it very real e/g Maya will not be shown always prim proper, all normal woman have a bad hair day, unlike our TV bahu's who even sleep in satin saris. I will even be seen brushing my teeth. I love this natural look and have no qualms about , appearing unkempt on screen."

In closing Manasi feel that she is in a secure position as far as her career goes , " For starting with no back up, I slowly climbed the ladder of success learning what to do and what not to do. I have successfully dabbled in both fiction (India Calling) and Remote Control and non- fiction TV (Star Ya Rock Star winner) formats. My south film Leelai was also super hit independent Tamil project of 2013." On being asked about hosting she says, "Though acting and singing (vocal for Sanjay Leela Bhansali Devdas) is my first love, I enjoy hosting (Hindustan Ke Hunarbaz and Idea Rocks India) as it gives me a direct touch point with the audiences ."

A. M.



Be With Beti
FASHION SHOW



Aviva Damania &
Parvez Damania



Anuskha Ranjan

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. A star studded event in association with Gitanjali Jewellers, a choice of every woman and with dazzling outfits designed by aced Designer Shaina N C, it was a definitely a treat to ones eyes watching models walking the ramp for a noble cause.



Adaa
Khan



Aishwarya
Sakhuja



1. Shibani Kashyap
2. Anu Mallik with Anmol & Ada
3. Digangana Suryavanshi
4. Rishina Kandhari with daughter Tiaarah Kandhari
5. Navina Bole
6. Sheeba Akashdeep



1. Ajaz Khan
2. Rumi Jaffery with daughter Alfiya Jaffery
3. Mandana Karimi
4. Preetika Rao
5. Heli Daruwala
6. Shweta Khanduri
7. Kiara Advani

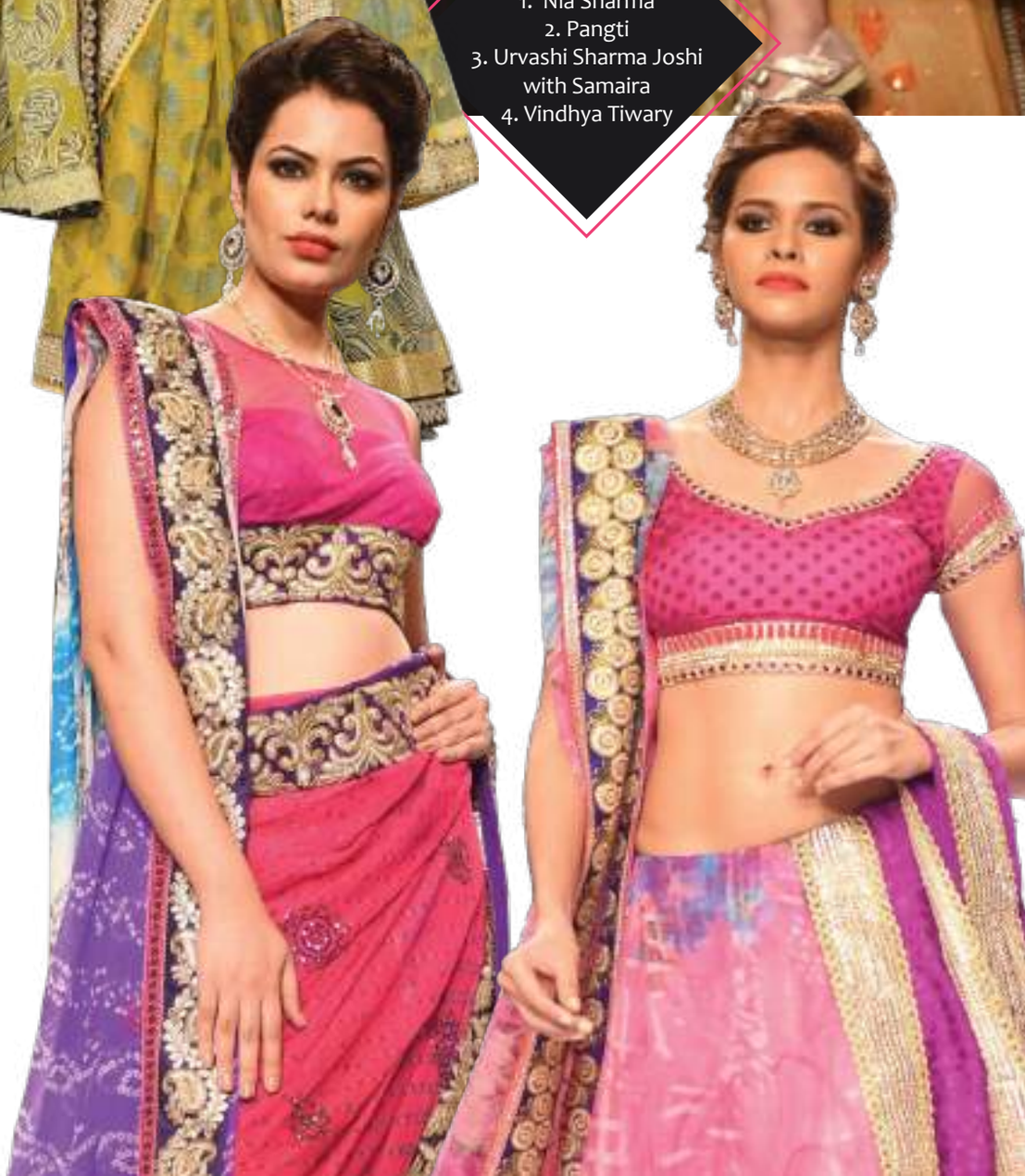






1. Nia Sharma
2. Pangti
3. Urvashi Sharma Joshi with Samaira
4. Vindhya Tiwary









Ganpati Bappa Moryaa...

Only 'seeing' is 'believing'!

The madding, milling crowds... the earth-shattering sounds of the Nagadas... the whopping mass of bodies whirling & twirling in an out-of-this-world ecstasy as if there is no tomorrow... the sky-piercing screams of hailing 'One' who is there present in the form of an idol that can measure up to 70 feet - indeed, the world knows no parallel to this spectacle!

And this Idol is that of Lord Ganesh!

Ganesh holds a unique place in the pantheon of gods in India. Created by Goddess Parvati by the paste of sandalwood she carried for her bath, he was asked by her to guard her enclosure's doors. The little boy invited the wrath of Lord Shiv when he stopped him, too, from entering.

And the Lord severed the boy's head!

When Parvati got to know of it, she instantly morphed into her 'Kaali' Avatar and suddenly, the whole world seemed at the brink of extinction. To appease her, Mahadev instructed his acolytes to go and look for a child bereft of his mother's protection and they found an elephant-mother sleeping with her back turned on her calf! The acolytes instantly cut the elephant calf's head, which, then, was placed by Shiv on Ganesh's body, making him come alive once again.

It instantly cooled down the 'Kaali' and that rebirth of Ganesh on the 4th day of the waxing moon fortnight in the month of Bhaadrapad is celebrated to this day as the Ganesh Chaturthi. These celebrations last for 10 days and idols of Ganesh are established all over the community places or in private homes.

During these 10 days, the Idols are worshipped with Mantras and Shodashopchara (16 ways of worship). The Idols are anointed with Kumkum and Chandan and Jaggery, while Coconut and the Modak-sweets are offered to 'em. You can hear the chants of Vedic hymns, Ganesh-stotra from Naarad Puraan and so on.

Then, as the period ends, the Idols are carried in a frenzied procession amidst clouds of Gulaal, pulse-pounding beats, manic-driven dancing and whoops of 'Ganpati Bappa...' to a Lake, River or the Sea to be submerged in the waves with deafening screams of 'Pudhchya Varshi Laukar Ya' (come early, next year)!

Even as Ganeshotsav is the hallmark of many states in the country, it's the state of Maharashtra that has been sort of an epicentre for this Fest since the times of Chhatrapati Shivaji and later, the Peshwa-era during the British rule. Furthermore, one of our greatest freedom-fighters, Lokmaanya Tilak perceived this Fête's potential to create a bond of oneness amongst the Caste/Class-riven Indians that could thwart the Videshi regime India was shackled in. To this day since then, Ganeshotsav is participated by not only all segments of Hindu Caste & Class structure, but also Jains, Sikhs, even Muslims and folks of other creeds.

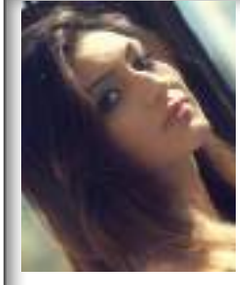
It has become a mirror to a dream called, 'India'!

Rithwik Dhanjani



'For the last 15 years, Lord Ganesh has been coming over to my place and my only wish has been for Him to be around me in all my paths of Life'...!

Shivangi Verma



'Last year, I wished to Him for the bliss of love from my audiences and He made that wish come true... This year, I'll ask to continue doing the same - even doubly so'...!

Kunwar Amar



'Oh, I ask Him a lot and He gives me a lot... But the most I've wished is to bless me with work not only in TV, but also in Bollywood'...!

Hiba Nawab



'My prayers have always been for bright health and bright future in doing what I enjoy most'...!

Charlie Chauhan



'Touching Mumbai, my wish to Lord Ganesh was to give me good friends in the Metro and He fulfilled that wish... Now, I just want Him to give me whatever He feels I deserve'...!

Tête-à-Tête with Deepika Singh!

She is the ideal bahu, biwi and IPS officer. Darling and sweetheart of Indian TV industry,

she has proved herself as not only the versatile actress but someone who knows how to do it the right way. Not many know that just like her character Sandhya in Star Plus' Diya aur Baati Hum, she is also a great multitasker and a very bright person. Here she spills beans on how she manages to do everything so brilliantly...

Sandhya faced a lot of conflicts when it came to personal and professional commitments. Have you experienced such kind of dilemma?

No not at all. Not much time has flown since we got married. You see, we both work and give each other required space. Maybe he is from the same industry and has directed me earlier, he exactly knows the pressure. So I am very lucky.

Is Rohit as supportive as your reel life husband Sooraj?

Well, see even I am not Sandhya. So I cannot expect him to become Sooraj. We live in a practical scenario. Having said that, Rohit understands me alot.

What as an actor keeps you going?

Well, the show had so many tracks that I never felt it monotonous. I hate repetitions and luckily my character has many dimensions. But you know what, I take a lot of pressure. Sometimes I rehearse my script till late in the night. Because you see, even I come to know about my track two days prior to shoot. I always try to give a shot in different way every time.

What changes you have witnessed in Deepika after playing the role of Sandhya?

I try to keep myself always fit. I dedicate two hours daily to my workout as I need to do lot of action scenes. Well, you can say that part is positive.

Have you ever taken Sandhya as your reference point behind your decisions?

No, never. I am fully Deepika. I am so damn talkative, bubbly, hardworking, and quick decision taker. I follow my heart. I am also very restless. At nights, I think a lot about my work, and other things lined up. I need to tell myself shut up. Rohit also tell me, "Arey, now you please sleep and let me also". Hahaha.

Any regrets???

Hehe. Why should I have? I do lot of meditation and believe in positive thinking. I have money, supportive husband and a good career, I am quite satisfied. And the most satisfying is my baba watches me daily on screen because he loves watching TV shows. When I was small, he used to watch Kumkum and was completely glued to it. I could not take it as I always wanted my Baba's full attention on me. And I told him that day, "Will you also see me as carefully if I will be onscreen?" I feel so lucky that I got to do action sequences on small screen.

Tell us, what makes you so popular???

Well, I don't know. But I am really hard working and bright person. I used to teach other kids during my college and school days. I have a good memory and I thank to my genes for that. I think I am fabulous at multitasking. And all this, helped me to play my character in a better way.

Any special training you had to take for any of the tracks?

Well, as I said I have to always remain fit. And in Mission Mahabali track, I had to learn Bengali. But then, I am good at Sanskrit since my school days. And Bengali and Sanskrit are little similar. That helped me.

What were the challenges you faced before entering this industry?

Well, by education I am an MBA in Marketing. Before getting Diya aur Baati Hum, I had struggling period of 4-5 years. I can never forget my struggling days and because of that I don't take success for granted. After 12th, I gave few auditions and then pursued MBA while acting was still in my mind. I wanted a degree because maybe I wanted to play it safe. If not acting, I should be able to do something as I was sure I will work my whole life. While doing my MBA, I was doing this play and along with me, my mom also thought that I can be an actor. After my post-graduation, I took a year to convert my dreams into reality.

So you were never keen in being that typical business woman in a corporate industry?

No, nothing like that, maybe you don't know but I have also worked with ICICI Bank during my college days. But then I had this kind of attraction towards acting.

One thing which people don't know about you…

Well, they think I am talented. But I am more talented than they can imagine. (and laughs off). Seriously I can get away very easily with my innocent face.

So you are a fitness freak, but there must be few delicacies you cannot resist?

Hahaha. Yes of course. I need milk chai daily. 2 Cups daily is like minimum. Sweets and chocolates I can't resist.

Three things you always have with you…

Money, Water bottle and my script. Also I would add mobile and book.

So you are an avid reader?

Well, yes. But I read non-fiction. Like kind of motivational, on beauty or health.

So are you a shopaholic?

No…I buy shoes, bags only during red carpet days. I do buy gym suits and all, but shopping is a task. Instead, I would love to sleep or explore myself.

Lastly, places where we can find you getting chilled?

Well Palladium Mall and Infiniti mall. Also I love food of Mainland China and Zaffran. So, if you want to meet, you can find me there. Wink wink…

J.S.







Wedding Pullav team

Selfietime ... Anushka Ranjan with Akanksha Ranjan

Akanksha Ranjan & Alia Bhatt

On the 17th August, 2015, the Promo of the upcoming youthful Rom-Com, GR8 Entertainment Limited's 'Wedding Pullav' was launched amidst huge fanfare and dazzling presence of a host of stars & other celebrity guests from Film, TV and Media. There were good wishes galore for debutant Anushka Ranjan, who, by all accounts, has given a sparkling performance in this breezy, bouncy Romantic Comedy along with South's heartthrob, Diganth Manchale.

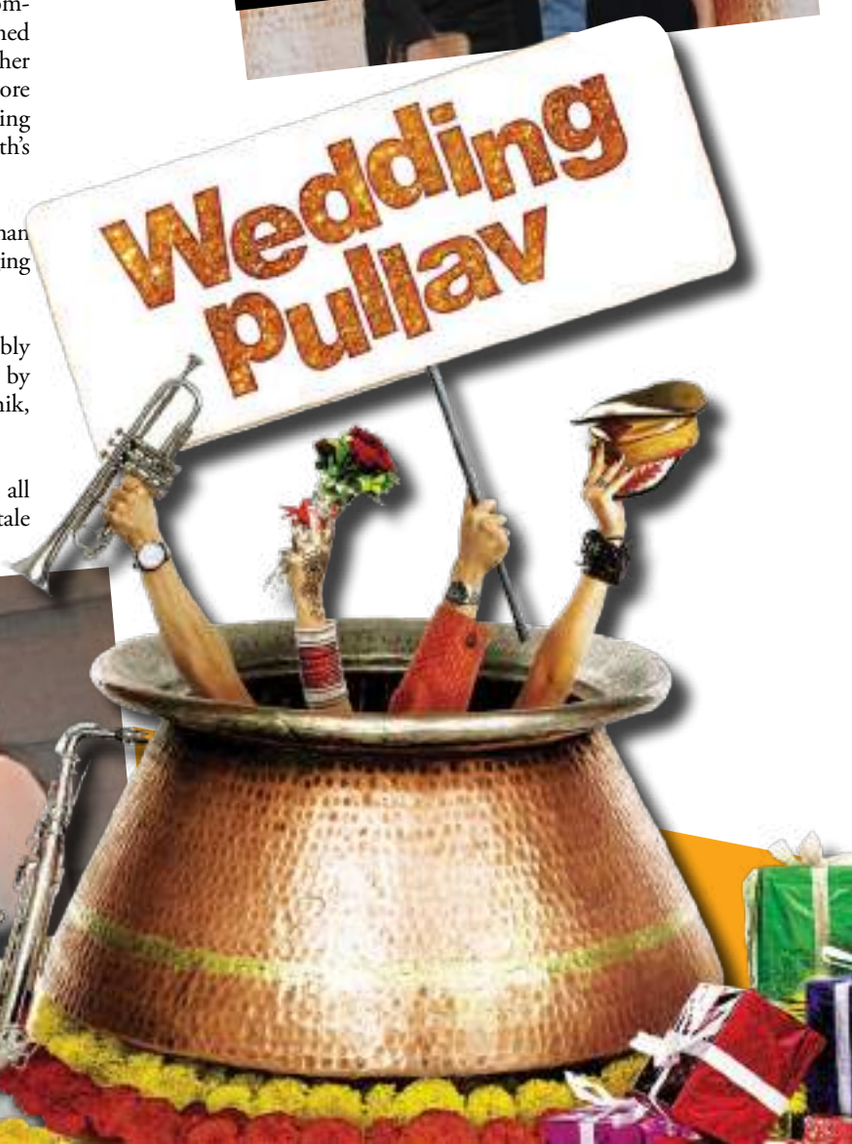
The film also marks the directorial debut of ace Cameraman, Binod Pradhan and has been produced by Shashi Ranjan and Anu Rnajan, while its swinging musical score is the handiwork of the highly-regarded, Salim-Sulaiman.

The supporting cast is headed by the inimitable Rishi Kapoor in a bubbly & bouncy performance. Higher inspired work has also been done by others in the cast like,Karan V Grover, Sonalli Sehgall, Satish Kaushik, Parmeet Sethi, Himani Shivpuri, Upasna Singh, etc.

Centred on a 'destination wedding', this film mirrors today's youth in all their vibrancy, fun & frolic along with being an emotionally gripping tale of friendship, relations and discovery of love.



Shashi Ranjan, Anushka Rnajan, Akanksha Ranjan and Anu Ranjan





L to R- Satish Kaushik, David Dhawan, T. Subbramani Reddy, Sanjay Khan, Shatrughan Sinha, Shashi Ranjan, Mahesh Bhatt



Binod Pradhan



Jeetendra



Raj Nayak with wife & Mahesh Bhatt with wife Soni Razdan



Shatrughan Sinha



Anushka Ranjan

Jackie Shroff



Sanjay Arora & Ina



Shakti Kapoor





Akbar khan, Zarine & Sanjay Khan



Himani Shivpuri



Upasana Singh



Salim Merchant & Sulaiman Merchant



Karan V Grover



L to R: Vijay Galani, Madhur Bhandarkar, Vikas Mohan, Rahul Rawail, Anushka Ranjan, Ratan Jain, Ramesh Taurani, Rumi Jaffery, Anu Ranjan, David Dhawan & Shashi Ranjan



Sonu Nigam & Madhurima



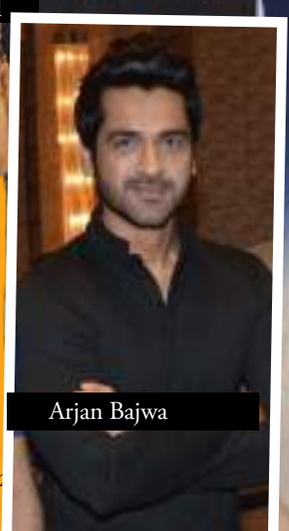
Sanyukta Paul & Manish Paul



Alka Yagnik



Hema Hemrajani



Arjan Bajwa



Sanjay Kapoor



Vaani Kapoor



Ramesh Sippy & Kiran



Vikrant Massey



Gulshan Arora



Satish Shah, Honey Irani & Madhu Shah



Asit Modi & Ashok Pandit



Roop Kumar Rathod



Aloka, Sunil Bhatia & Ranjeet



Ashim Kapoor



Nikhil Katariya



Mona & Sanjiv Mehta

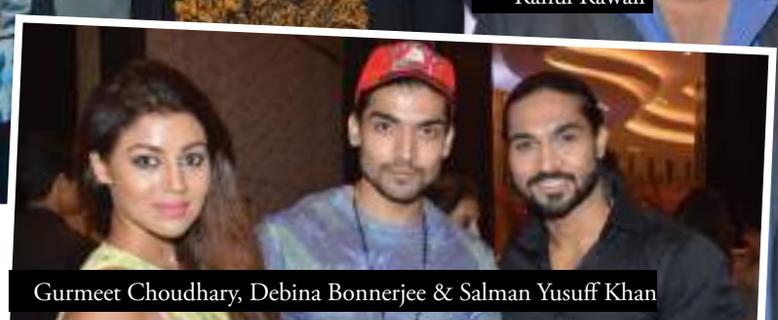


Rohit Roy with Manasi and Anu Gupta with Sanjay Gupta

Poonam Dhillon



Rahul Rawail



Gurmeet Choudhary, Debina Bonnerjee & Salman Yusuff Khan





Tanu K Kumar



Bharat Kukreti



Mona Patel, Atul Patel & Aakash Patel



L to R-Manasi Roy, Sheeba, Anushka Ranjan, Bhagyashree, Mona Pandey

Karan Mehra & Nisha



Aaru



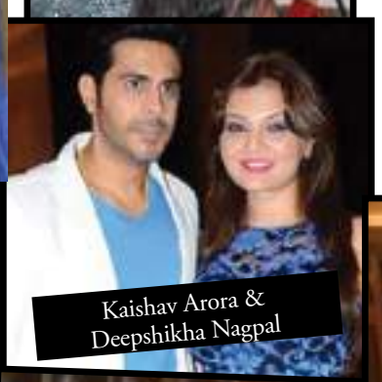
Digangana Suryavanshi



Naved Jaffrey



Hemant, Latika, Ranveer & Rudra



Kaishav Arora & Deepshikha Nagpal



Shaad Randhawa



Gopal Shah & Family



Himalaya, Akashdeep, Jackie Shroff, Sudhanshu Pandey & Sanjeev Sharma



Rohit Gupta & Reena



Rumi Jaffery



Madhu Mantena & Masaba Gupta



Kuku Bawa, Vikram & Simmi Sakhuja



Rishma Pai, Priya, Sangeeta Singh, Surbhi



Rishika, Vikas & Jyoti Moghe



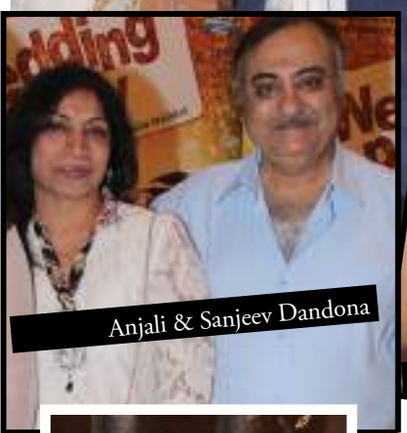
Charu & Rajeev Anand



Ali Khan &
Mehul Thakkar



Kiran Mehra & Rohan Mehra with friends



Anjali & Sanjeev Dandona



Shalini & Arun Pandit



Kiran Bawa



Anil & Pooja Kapur



Jaggy Valecha



Priya, Bhavini, Nimisha



Anurag Bedi & Friend



Selfietime...



Gita & Lakhan Sinha



Girls Gang


Vivek Mehra &
Suchetan Pradhan


Prerna & Sameer Gogate


Puja Verma

Aanya, Abhishek Agrawal & Chetna Shastri


Deepak Chopra &
Reena Chopra


Jugnu Gupta


Mohini Chabria


Bharti

Komal Nahta


Vikram Bawa


Karan
Bawa


Namita Aroskar
& Rochelle


Tanveer Nayar & Sameer


Bhawana Somaaya


Seema Raza


Tushar & Bhavana Motiwala


Raj Pandit


Ashish Soni


Hanan Jaffery


Poppy

VIVIAN

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE STARS



You hail from which city: Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Birth Date: 28th June

Three things you cannot stay without:
Home cooked food, water and my family

Currently busy with:
Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa

First appearance on screen :
Kasam se

Perfume which you love:
Tom Ford, Hermes and One Million.

Chaat food you cannot resist:
I don't like chaat food of Mumbai. I like Pani puri from my hometown. We call it Pani Patase.

One unfulfilled dream:
I am not much of a dreamer so there are no unfulfilled dreams. And it doesn't bother me

Your superpowers and your weakness:
My strengths are will power, patience. My weakness is I trust people very easily.

Worst nightmare:
Nightmares have to be forgotten, they are not meant to be remembered. Only good memories should be remembered. Honestly, I have very selected memory so I don't remember any nightmares.

Thing you are addicted to:
Water, Coffee, Indian Desserts. Rabadi is my favourite

Complete it… You love to…Live life king size

One phobia:
I don't have any phobia

Thing that melts your anger:
I don't get angry in real life

Style icon for you:
Salman Khan

DEBINA



Birth Date: 18th April

Currently busy with: Yam Hain Hum

You hail from which city: Kolkatta

Three things you cannot stay without: Phone, guru , my doggy

First appearance on screen: was TV commercial… Shri leather shoes

Perfume which you love: Ricci Ricci

Chaat food you cannot resist: Dahi Puri

Your superpowers and your weakness: I can judge people…

One unfulfilled dream: Lots of dogs in my house. Maybe 5-6

Your superpowers and your weakness: I can judge people… & My weakness is I love to sleep...

Style icon for you: Jennifer Lopez

Thing you are addicted to: My phone and gym

Thing you cannot stand: Oversmartness

One phobia: Cockroaches

Thing that melts your anger? Anybody praising me

Worst nightmare: My teeth falling off

Complete it… You love... to travel.

DIVYANKA

Birth Date:
14th December

You hail from which city: Bhopal

Currently busy:
Yeh Hain Mohabbatein

Three things you cannot stay without:
My mobile & My wallet

First appearance on screen:
An achoring show for a small time channel in Bhopal during navratri and I was in my 8th grade.

Chaat food you cannot resist:
Dahi puri and Aloo tikki

Perfume which you love: Chanel

One unfulfilled dream:
I wanted to be an army officer and a riffle shooter. But I am an actress and I am happy.

Your superpowers and your weakness:
I can push myself beyond limits when it comes to work or any physical tasks.My patience level is also high. My weakness is food. I love food and resisting food is a huge task for me.

Style icon for you:
Angelina Jolie, Jeniffer Lopez

Thing you are addicted to:
I was addicted to Tea, coffee and chocolates but now I am free from it.

Thing you cannot stand:
Gender bias.

Worst nightmare:
If I am really hungry and the only thing left to eat is non-veg.

Thing that melts your anger:
A genuine apology or an act of kindness or a genuine smile is enough to melt my anger.

One phobia: None

Complete it... You love to…Travel

ARJUN



Birth Date:
31st October

You hail from which city: Mumbai

Currently busy:
Meri Aashiqui Tumse Hi

Three things you cannot stay without:
My phone, My music and My wallet

First appearance on screen :
Was an advertisement for sugar free delight

Chaat food you cannot resist:
Paani-puri and Sev-puri

Perfume which you love:
Issey Miyake and Amouage

One unfulfilled dream:
I want a beach house for my family. Waking up on the beach side and having breakfast with my family.

Your superpowers and your weakness:
Superpowers are that I am very honest to my work and I think I am an awesome friend. My weakness would be that I am a little short tempered but have learnt to control it now.

Style icon for you:
David Beckham

Thing you are addicted to:
My music

Thing you cannot stand:
Fake people

Thing that melts your anger:
A simple sorry, a hug and a smile

One phobia:
It is funny but I am scared of lights especially in the flights

Complete it… You love to…
Face all problems with a lot of will power

Worst nightmare:
Would be living alone when you are old and having nobody around you. This is also a message for people that make sure your karmas are good or else that's what happens

J.S.



Close & Personal With KARAN SHARMA

RAPID FIRE WITH KARAN

So what impresses you in a girl...
A good personality.
And what turns you down?
Bad dressing style
If not an actor, you would be...
Defence Personnel like my father
When you got surprised by your fan...
One of my female fans sent me one big and beautiful card on my birthday. That was lovely and shocked me.
Crazy thing recently happened with you...
When I was doing the show Ekk Nayyi Pehchan, a local newspaper belonging to my hometown had published my article. Everything was mentioned correctly but then my father's name was incorrectly written. Everyone called me and there was this funny chaos as it happened in my hometown.
And one thought you believe in strongly...
Forgive and Forget. I have taken an oath to follow it while I was playing the role of Dada Ji.

After an elongated weary day, having a conversation at 11.30 p.m. in the night seemed a task. But then Karan Sharma made it all worth. He's innocence and morality made me probe into him more and more. He was last seen in Ekk Nayi Pehchaan on Sony TV with Poonam Dhiillon and Krystle D'souza which made him earn the title of ideal son or we should say 'Mammas boy'. On being associated with such a title he says, "Yes I am mama's boy off screen too…Lol". He adds, "It was amazing working with experienced people. I learned a lot from Poonam Ji. Krystle is beautiful lass of our industry. She always guided me on how to make scenes look better onscreen. You know what, she is very spontaneous and can do any shot with lot of ease."

And now he is back with yet another strong role with Star Plus new show 'Mohi'. On being asked how Mohi happened, he replies, "After Ekk Nayi Pehchaan, I was looking forward to do something challenging. When I got a call from a casting director, he told me that Star Plus is coming up with a new show which will be the remake of popular Bengali show 'Ishti Kutum' and wants to cast me. After story narration I felt the role is made for me and was sold in that moment. The show is about a journey of a common girl, who is determined to become a doctor despite all limiting circumstances. I think it's quite inspirational."

When asked about the role and special training taken for this role given the fact that he is not a good photographer, in all honesty he answers "Well, I am playing photo journalist in the show. He is very young guy, who want to achieve something big in his life. He went to a remote area to cover a story, got trapped by Naxalites and forced to marry a tribal girl. You know I am a pathetic photographer. So I took training from professional photographers to learn the various poses of handling camera. Working on crime related scenes make me look like I have landed up in CID…lol. But then you see training helped me a lot because now I can relate more. You can mug up the dialogues and deliver them but the justice can be done only if you feel it. The thought process while giving a shot can be seen in an actor's eyes".

We ask him his reaction on being imposed to marry a girl against his wish as he did in the show, he calmly reacts "I can't compromise in real life because it is the question of whole life."

He had also played the prestigious role of Spiritual Guru JP Vaswani. Sharing his experience he says, "To play his role was something magical. I read 10-15 books on his life. Also, the response was electrifying. His followers loved my performance and could see him in me. So much that, they came and sought my blessings. Even Dada told me I did a wonderful job." Talking about the changes after doing the role, he says "I have become calmer and have started seeing life through traveller's eyes. Nothing is permanent here, so why to do wrong. Dada Ji told me to mediate death daily as it motivates us to do always the right things. I think to grow spiritually is more important."

Karan looks innocent and has this good guy image because of the role he played in Ekk Nayi Pehchaan but he thinks he is not much different from the character he played. ''Just like our names, our attitude towards life is also similar. I also take time to express my feelings. As I said, even I am mamma's boy. We both are very family oriented people", he says.

Definitely, looking at his strong positive approach and his thirst to learn new things, we are sure he will mesmerize viewers with his performance. That's the way to go, Karan…

J.S.

HOROSCOPE

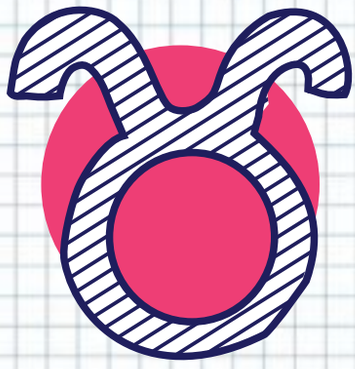


Munisha Khatwani is one of the most famous Tarot Card Readers in the entertainment industry and she recently launched her book titled 'Tarot'.
You can mail her on khatwanim@gmail.com



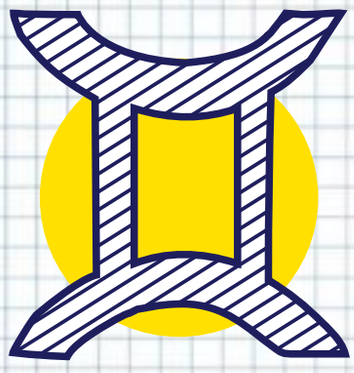
Aries
Mar 21 - Apr 20

You are in the mood to be completely secured as far as your relationship goes. For those who are single, you might not be open to new romances coming your way as you are a little unsure of the person so take your time. Text him/ her on any Monday of the month.
Love tip: Only when you have accepted your past, you can truly move on.



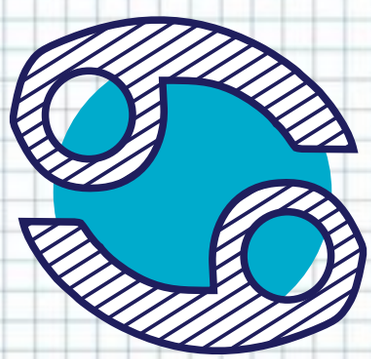
Taurus
Apr 21 -May 21

Once bitten twice shy will be your motto this month as you feel you need time before you commit. For those who are planning your wedding you will be quite excited about the big day coming soon. Text him/ her on any Wednesday of the month.
Love tip: Prepare a special dish for your loved one.



Gemini
May 22 -June 21

If something ends it is only because something is better in store for you and this is what you need to believe this month. You will get good support of your friends in your love life. Text him/ her on any Friday of the month.
Love tip: Plan a surprise party for your partner.



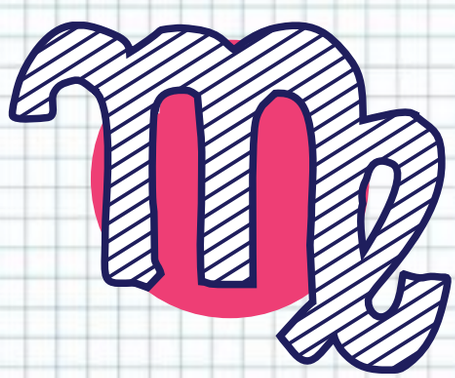
Cancer
June 22 - July23

The sun is just about to shine on you as far as love is concerned so just hold on until your miracle happens. You need to be more receptive to change suggests your cards. Text him/ her on any Saturday of this month.
Love tip: This month roses will do the trick for your partner.



Leo
July 24 - Aug 23

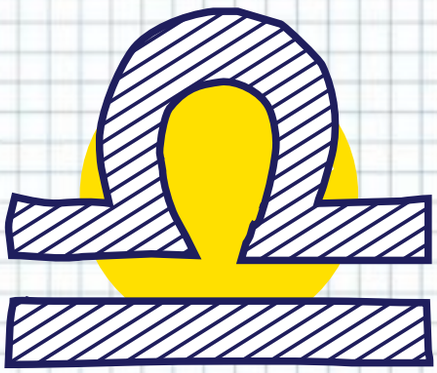
You need to be a little less into your relationship and a little more focussed on other aspects in life this month. For those single you will be in a hurry to get into a relationship. Text him/ her on any Sunday of the month.
Love tip: You need to express your fears as well to your partner.



Virgo
Aug 24 - Sept 23

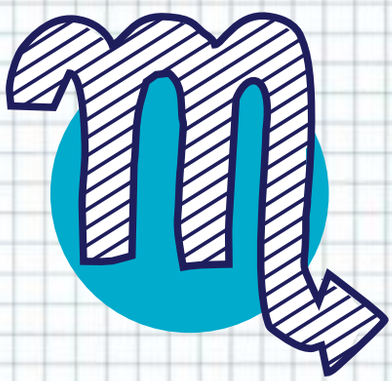
You need to open out your heart and believe that that not everyone who loves you will leave you. For those married you go through a better phase this month as you discuss certain issues. Text him/ her on any Thursday of the month.
Love tip: If you are sure of the person in your heart nothing else matters.

STARS AND YOU



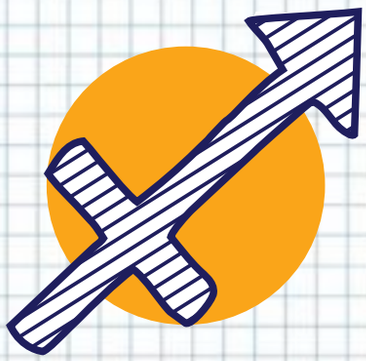
Libra
Sept 24 - Oct 22

Look for the silver lining in the cloud as in spite of things being negative there is something to look forward to. Singles will get a lot of attention from a certain friend and this will make you happy. Text him/ her on any Monday of the month.
Love tip: Sometimes your best friend makes the best partner so keep that in mind.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Discard anything that doesn't give you happiness especially on the love tip. You need to do some fun activities with your partner to rekindle the romance in case you feel the spark is missing. Text him/ her on any Sunday of the month.
Love tip: Rent a romantic movie and spend some romantic evenings at home.



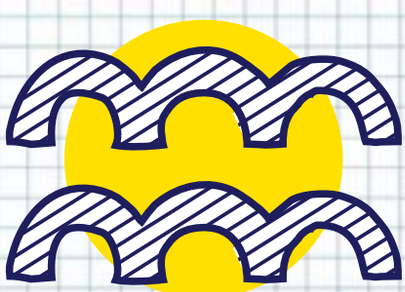
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

If there is heartbreak this is a part of your learning and you may need to accept the situation as it is. Always remember you can't force anyone to be there in your life if they don't wish to stay in your life. Text him/ her on any Tuesday of the month.
Love tip: Self-respect is the most important in any relationship.



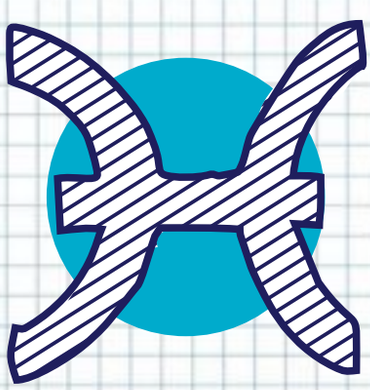
Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 20

If you want someone to truly love you, you need to first love yourself. For some, going through a tough time on the love front this is just a passing phase so it is best to distract yourself. Text him/ her on any Wednesday of the month.
Love tip: Try and look your best for your partner this month.



Aquarius
Jan 21 - Feb 19

Life has come to a full circle and you will be feeling quite content as far as love is concerned. If there have been some misunderstandings recently it is likely to get sorted out this month. Text him/ her on any Thursday of the month.
Love tip: The way to your partner's heart is truly through the stomach this month.



Pisces
Feb 20 - Mar 20

You are planning to propose marriage to your partner and this is the right time to do so as your partner is truly not expecting it. Singles will be ready to mingle and will be open to casual dating. Text him/ her on any Monday of the month.
Love tip: If your partner is keen to meet your family it is high time you introduce him/her.