

TIES THAT BIND: Hollywood is on an adoption spree P5



Wish list: Amrita Rao's dream roles P3



All for a cause: Diana Hayden does her bit P8

STYLESPIECE

Back to Brick Lane

Tanishtha Chatterjee, who plays the lead in the serene adaptation of Monica Ali's Booker Prize-winning *Brick Lane*, is delighted. She has finally shot in Brick Lane, London. Earlier, shooting was shelved after protests from the Bangladeshi community that feared the film objectified and identified Bangladeshers with the protesters, but not as an audience. "I told them I was making a documentary so that they opened up," she says. The actor plans to write about this interaction on returning to India.

—Dignata Guha

What's the point?

Check out the publicity still for Priyanka Chopra below, from Farhan Akhtar's upcoming film in the franchise. Priyanka does make a clean breast of it.

The photographers on the same shoot as the movie's web site have been instructed with photographs, concealing the dupes. In another designer Rahul Nanda: "No such thing is there in the movie. If a picture of this is in circulation, it must have been a photoshop or an AI. Someone must have fiddled with the picture."

—Kabeer Sharma



FREEZE FRAME DRIVING MISS SHARMA



Kim Sharma shoots a promotional video for the forthcoming *Kudiyon Ka Hai Zamana*

Take 1. All Kim's on-screen men

- 1 Jugal Khatwari:** Kim's big Bollywood break came in Aditya Chopra's *Mohabbatnama* where she played Saugandha opposite Hanung's Samser.
- 2 Jitendra Kumar:** Kim played a sexy Babbar, in love with 'Tom' played by Monu in Deepak Tiwari's film about dirt, mud and blind faith, *Tom, Dick and Henry*.
- 3 Rishi Kapoor:** Kim played Sonia, in love with Shahid's Jai in the film, *The Karan Groh* thriller, however, made more news as Kapoor's first film with his real-life love, Kanana Kapoor.

Fashionably filmi

As mainstream designers wake up to the power of Bollywood, moviedom stylists are trekking to the ramp

Bollywood weds fashion, and this time it's official. Film costume designers are forging mainstream fashion to create business and ward off the designers to the stars' tag. And mainstream designers are realising that styling for the movies offers cut and leads to their brand names.

Says designer Rocky S: "It is not so much about the money as it is about the exposure and brand building that come with Bollywood, which has made me who I am. A lot of mainstream designers are now styling for films and getting Bollywood stars on the runway." Agrees the designer duo of Fahsah and Suneet Penock: "Styling for the stars can be restrictive, but movies are still a great way to build a brand."

The Proactors, who designed some of Priyanka Chopra's costumes in *Ang Aik Khoor* and Sushmita Sinha's clothes in *Zindagi Ke Rakhe*, are among several mainstream designers who are headed for Bollywood. *Raghuvaran* fashion house has the wardrobe for Vidya Vadai Chopra's forthcoming period film, *Elizabeth*. And, *Sofystyline* Mukherjee, who has just returned from the New York Fashion Week, has designed costume for Sanjay Leela Bhansalia's *Black*. There's, now working on *Ravi Chopra's* *Rehmatullah*.

It's the wardrobe for Fahsah and Suneet Penock's *Black* that will give the stylist for Madhur Bhandarkar's *Fahsah*, Suneet Varma, a design stamp in Anubhav Sinha's next, *Gadh and Varun* film, who just showed at the Milan Fashion Week, has designed for Anand Kumar's *Jaha* *Heights*.

Mukherjee has always been susceptible to going to Bollywood. "The number of people who will want to own a saree that they have seen Rishi Mukherjee wear is much more than those who will be impressed by what they see on the screen. That is Bollywood's reach," says Bollywood stylist Vikram



Above: Models showcase a Rocky S line at the Will Lifestyle India Fashion show last month in Delhi. Below: Shamita Shetty dons a Suneet Varma creation in *Cash*

Agarwal. Like Malhotra, Bollywood designers Rocky S and Suneet Varma are also looking at commercial fashion with fresh interest. Even *Phaanis* is realising for his first show at the Lakme Fashion Week later this month in Mumbai.

Says Rocky S: "Forging into mainstream fashion is important as it helps in one being taken seriously as a designer and focus on detailing and other aspects." According to Phaanis: "After showing at a fashion week in South Africa, I realised what it was missing out. Being regular at fashion weeks would help me explore the various side of fashion and expand my market in India."

Then there is Aki Narula, who straddles both worlds. Originally from the fashion industry, he has also designed clothes in *Alone Aur Bahut*, *Deu* and *Chhappan*. "I will be more regular at fashion weeks next year onwards," he says, adding that his chosen platform is the Will Lifestyle India Fashion Week. All of which means that over the next year or so, you can expect more mainstream designers pinning for title credits in Bollywood blockbusters. And more of Bollywood's traditional stylists remaining that ramp. In turn, that means more business for the fashion world, what else.

"While many mainstream designers earlier looked down upon Bollywood, they now realise that the exposure from films is international"

VIKRAM PHANIS

Glulam Ali, Asha team up



Rishay Ghosh

The duet of Asha Bhosle and Glulam Ali's album *Meri Ghaat*, the legendary singer and the actor's album, "It's been a long time since we've worked together and it's exciting forward to it," says Bhosle.

The music in the album, to be released around the year-end, is composed by Ghulam Ali's son Amir Ali. "It is Amir's album and we're working together," says Bhosle. The yet-to-be-released album has 10 tracks, of which Ali and Bhosle share credits in two. "Amir wanted to do a solo album with me. I suggested that he ask Glulam to do it because that album will have light, romantic lyrics."

She is also upbeat about singing *Mehbooba* melody in *Alone Aur Bahut* with him. "I'm a guy, I'm a girl," says Ghulam. "Himself (Bhosle) really wants to one-up to him. I'll be his one-up," she is finalised. "We are also,



aki narula
aparna chandna
malini ramani
madhavi mahanta
rocky s
rohit gandhi & rahul khanna
shantini & nikhil mehra
suneet varma
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Taste that speaks for itself

Three-minute brush with Jolie

Udit Narayan

A group of five second-year students from Pusa Postgraduate Institute of India (PGI) are gaining their 15 minutes of fame as they try and grab three minutes with Angelina Jolie. Suneet Dew, student of direction, is leading the team that is working on a documentary assignment cum short called *Chasing Angelina Jolie*. Dew says: "This is just the working title."

The original idea of the student project, which is due for submission within a month, was to get within three feet of the Hollywood superstar who is in town to film *A Mighty Heart*. "It was originally called *Hitler 2 Feet in 2 Days*, and the idea was to reach within three feet of Angelina Jolie in three days," explains the enthusiastic film student from Kolkata. When they captured images of Jolie with partner Brad Pitt and son Maddox, one saw their head in an autorickshaw, that aspect of their mission was accomplished.

"So, they decided to make it even more challenging by deciding that they would try and speak to her for three minutes as well. "We got extra equipment and decided to try and talk to her for we are running out of time as the cameras available only for a limited period," says 20-year-old Dew.

Dew's team includes fellow FTI students Nishita Bhargava (cinematog-



Jolie with Pitt and son Maddox, take an autorickshaw ride in Pune. Jolie, flanked by Maddox (left), Suneet Dew (middle) and Nishita Bhargava (right) are seen in an autorickshaw. Suneet Dew (right) is seen in an autorickshaw. Suneet Dew (right) is seen in an autorickshaw.

"The paparazzi want to make money. We just want to make a documentary about how a common man can reach the stars."

"We realise we stand a better chance because we are not media. We think our enthusiasm will pay off," he says confidently. "The paparazzi wants to make money, we just want to make a documentary about how a common man can reach the stars. Every flash, every red light and breakthrough is being recorded."

The students have also assured their faculty that they will not use any unethical means to complete the project. "We will not chase her, but we will try to reach her. We'll wait within three feet of her by following a bus, so let's see where we get next," says Dew. Aki him why Jolie, and whether he is a fan, and Dew says: "Well, I like her more but I am not a fan. Jolie because we knew she was coming and we expected there would be unprecedented security, if she had a press conference, our chase would have been futile but our own chances are of an amateur's."

What about Brad Pitt? "Come on, I'm a guy! Aki, we didn't know earlier that he too would be here throughout. May be we'll make the film about chasing 'Bhangrani,'" smiles Dew.