Kareena Kapoor on her role in Singham Again: 'Ramayana is incomplete without Sita as is Rohit Shetty's film without me'



Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan on Monday said she is honoured to represent the character of Sita in Singham Again and thanked director Rohit Shetty and co-star Ajay Devgn for giving her a special role in the male-centric franchise. She will reprise the role of artiste Avni Kamat, wife of cop Bajirao Singham (Devgn) in the upcoming film in Shetty's ambitious copverse. She first played the role in Singham Returns (2014).

Kareena has also worked with the director in two of the action comedy Golmaal films. "Ramayan me Sita na ho ye ho nahi sakta aur Rohit Shetty ki film mein Kareena na ho ye ho nahi sakta (Ramayana is incomplete without Sita and a Rohit Shetty film is incomplete without Kareena),"she said.

"Thank you so much to Rohit and Ajay for always supporting me and giving me such a special role in this male-centric copverse and in this film to represent Sita maa. I'm very honoured and overwhelmed," she told reporters at the Singham Again trailer launch.

Ajay, who is set to once again play the fan-favourite character Singham, said he was drawn to the script which married Ramayana with the film's characters. "When Rohit narrated the script and concept… how he weaved Ramayana and characters… That was novelty. There was nothing more fascinating than that. And the scale on which this picture was shot… It's been over a year (shooting it)" he said.

Besides Kareena and Ajay, Singham Again also features Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar, who return as return as Inspector Sangram 'Simmba' Bhalerao and DCP Veer Sooryavanshi, respectively New additions to the multi-starrer are Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, and Ravi Kishan.

Arjun described the film as the "modern-day interpretation of Ramayana". He plays a Ravan-like antagonist in Singham Again. "I just felt honoured and blessed that he's chosen me to be part of this. I hounded him (Rohit) that I wanted to work with him and Ajay sir. I didn't know dreams could come true to this extent. I'm a bit overwhelmed by that. Whenever I used to see Rohit Shetty and the team. I wanted to be part of the team," he said.

Singham Again is the fifth film in Shetty's cop universe, also comprising Ajay's two Singham movies, Ranveer's Simmba and the Akshay-starrer Sooryavanshi. The director, also known for Zameen, Chennai Express and Bol Bachchan, said he didn't know Singham would go on to become a cult character back when he started working on the first film which released in 2011.

Rajinikanth on Anirudh Ravichander being 'on top of the music throne': 'I was 1000 percent sure I wanted him to be part of Vettaiyan'



Some collaborations are always more special than the others. What is it about AR Rahman and Mani Ratnam that makes their work almost magical? What is it about Vetrimaaran and Dhanush that their films are so iconic? Similarly, there can be no doubt that composer Anirudh Ravichander, in a really short time, has managed to be the go-to composer for some of the biggest stars of Indian cinema, including Kamal Haasan, Vijay, Ajith Kumar, Shah Rukh Khan, and Jr NTR. But there is something really special about his bond with his uncle, who the world knows better as Superstar Rajinikanth.

After first collaborating in the 2019 Karthik Subbaraj film, Petta, Anirudh went on to compose for films like Darbar, Jailer, and now, Vettaiyan. At the audio launch of the TJ Gnanavel film, Rajinikanth opened up about how Anirudh was roped into the project. "While we were fixing the various technicians for Vettaiyan, Gnanavel said he was 100 per cent sure that Anirudh is needed for the film. I immediately said that I was 1000 per cent sure that Anirudh is needed for Vettaiyan," said Rajinikanth as the crowd went into raptures.

Talking about a moment when Anirudh Ravichander was hardly 3-4 years old, Rajinikanth said, "During the shooting of Mannan, Anirudh was brought to the sets by his parents. We were shooting for a song that had a throne as part of the production design.

Actor Prayaga Martin denies links to Kochi drug case involving gangster Omprakash: 'I don't even know him'



A day after her name surfaced in a drug case involving notorious gangster Omprakash, Malayalam actor Prayaga Martin denied the allegations, claiming that she doesn't even know him. In the remand report submitted to the Ernakulam Chief Judicial Magistrate's court during the bail hearings for the accused, the police had stated that actors Prayaga and Sreenath Bhasi were among those who visited Omprakash's hotel room in Kochi.

Omprakash and his associate Shihas were arrested from the hotel following a tip-off about a major drug sale. According to Mathrubhumi, the police found a small amount of cocaine in Omprakash's possession and reported that he had organised a drug party at the hotel, attended by young film stars, including Sreenath and Prayaga. The hotel to meet her friends and left at 7 pm to attend a function in Kozhikode the following day. "I don't know Omprakash personally. "I had gone to the hotel in Maradu to visit some friends. Since I had to board the Vande Bharat in the night to attend a function in Kozhikode, I asked my friends if I could sleep in the room for sometime. There was another child there too and I slept along with her in the room for two hours.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali recalls being 'frozen' by Deepika Padukone's beauty when they met for the first time: 'This girl would be moulded'



Before Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone was filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's muse and the two worked together in back-to-back opulent films like Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, Padmaavat and Bajirao Mastani. In a recent interaction, the filmmaker spoke about meeting Deepika for the first time and how her beauty and grace captivated him the moment he saw her.

During a conversation with The Gollywood Reporter, Bhansali recalled being 'frozen' by Deepika beauty as he said, "When I met Deepika, when I went to her house for the first time, she opened the door. I froze at the beauty of the woman, by the eyes, when I realized that there's so much of subtlety, so much of fragility, there's so much of beauty. She started talking, and I realized her voice was beautiful."

It was that very instance that made Bhansali realise that she could 'mould' Deepika into one of his characters. "Then I realized I was at the right place at the right time because I knew this girl would be moulded, would be taken somewhere.

It's your instinct of how you connect. Your soul has to connect to their soul," he added. Bhansali and Deepika first collaborated on Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela (2013).

'Alia Bhatt ranted, raved, locked herself in a room' after film with Salman Khan got shelved, recalls Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Actor Alia Bhatt, who is set to collaborate with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali for the second time on the upcoming film Love and War, was destroyed when their planned first collaboration fell apart at the last moment. It wasn't the first time that Alia's chances of working with the celebrated filmmaker had been foiled by fate. She was first in talks with him for a film called Balika Vadhu, which would've featured her now-husband Ranbir Kapoor. They entered talks again for a film titled Inshallah, co-starring Salman Khan. By then, Alia had already become an established star. When the project fell apart, Bhansali recalled, Alia ranted and raved in disappointment.

The Hollywood Reporter India, he recalled, "I was doing Inshallah with her, and suddenly the project got shelved. She broke down, she cracked up, she cried, raved, ranted, locked herself in a room. Then, I called her up after one week and said, 'You're playing Gangubai'. She said, 'I was going to play a character in Los Angeles and now I've come to Kamathipura, how will I do it? I don't know this character'." Bhansali said that he asked Alia to trust him. "I will tap into that strong woman in you, because I can see it in your eyes. I can see how convinced you are of certain things, because of your personality," he told her. "That is my job as a director… How do you tap into an actor, and then they say, 'I didn't know I could play a brothel madame, I didn't know I had a lower pitch, I didn't know I could stand and do this, I started enjoying it'. She just flew into the role.

Shah Rukh Khan's comments about Devdas being 'spineless' disputed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali: 'He's not a loser'



Actor Shah Rukh Khan has often spoken about his opinion of Devdas, the iconic self-destructive romantic that he played in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film. There has been a debate about whether the film glorifies his perceived toxic behaviour, and Bhansali admitted in a recent interview that 'some actors' working on the film also had their reservations about how the character was being portrayed. But, Bhansali said, he viewed Devdas as the ultimate romantic hero. He spoke about these differences in a new interview with The Hollywood Reporter India.

He said, "What is the story of Devdas? That he's a loser, he doesn't do anything, he gets upset… My actors didn't understand why we're telling this story. They said, 'Oh, it's romanticising alcoholism'. I said, 'This is the story of a man who loved.' What is our biggest duty in this life? To love and give love. Does anyone love like Devdas. I wanted to say, 'If you love somebody, that's how you love'. Devdas is a story of a man who loved. People have been making Devdas (for years). Why? They say he's a loser. He's not a loser. He's the most noble of any of my characters. He loved Paro. You ask him anything, he would say, 'Paro'. That is love. That is a love story."

Shah Rukh had voiced his reservations about playing the character in a recent interview at the Locarno Film Festival. He said, "I don't like to play characters that demean women, I didn't want him to be liked in the film for the reason that he disses a woman and doesn't commit to her, I wanted him to come across as a person who is spineless and not somebody you should look up to. Bhansali made the film beautifully, but I don't think anybody wants to be Devdas, it is not a character you take back home. I just didn't want a character who has commitment issues with women to become popular in a different sense, I think I achieved that."

Even though Shah Rukh and Bhansali haven't worked together since, the actor announced at Locarno that his company now owns the rights to the film. He also touched upon the many difficulties that they faced while making it. He said, "It was the most expensive film being made in India so it went through its own share of troubles. Money issues, and producers vanishing, we had to complete the film in a few days. It went overtime, over budget, but I had a great time doing the film because I felt it kind of was a tribute… memory to my mother who loved the film." He said that he was advised not to do the film because it would go against his image, but said that he did it for his mother, who loved the story. Shah Rukh said had also spoken about the morality of the characters that he plays. He said, "I am a guy who is hopeful and tells happy stories. The heroes I play do good things, they give hope and happiness. If I play a bad guy, I make sure he suffers a lot, he dies a dog's death, because I believe goodness begets goodness. And I believe badness deserves a kick in the back side." The actor will next star in a film titled The King.

When Gauri Khan said she respects Shah Rukh Khan's religion but wouldn't convert: 'My relatives wondered if SRK will change my faith'



Gauri Khan and Shah Rukh Khan have been married for nearly 33 years, celebrating both Hindu and Islamic festivals together while maintaining their individual faiths. Their interfaith marriage often become part of numerous discussions, particularly regarding Gauri's choice not to convert. On Gauri's birthday, let's revisit her reflections on this decision.

The couple tied the knot in October 1991, but their journey to marriage wasn't without its challenges. Initially, Gauri's parents were hesitant as theirs would be an inter-faith wedding. In a conversation with Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla on their show First Ladies, Gauri recalled, "We changed his name to Abhinav so they would see him as a Hindu boy, but that was really silly and childish." At the time of their wedding, many in Gauri's family worried that Shah Rukh might pressure her to convert to Islam. Shah Rukh fondly recalled this incident in an interview with Farida Jalal, and said, "I remember when Gauri's traditional family was sitting there, whispering, 'He's a Muslim boy. Will he change her name? Will she become a Muslim?' So, I jokingly said, 'Okay Gauri, put on your burkha, and let's read the namaaz.' The entire family stared at us, thinking I had already changed her religion. I teased them, saying, 'From now on, she will wear a burkha all the time and her name will be Ayesha.'" In the first season of Koffee With Karan, Gauri spoke about her decision not to convert. She said, "There is a balance. I respect Shah Rukh's religion, but that doesn't mean I would convert. I believe everyone should follow their own faith, and there should be mutual respect. Shah Rukh would never disrespect my religion either." However, she mentioned that her mother still struggles with the situation, often reacting with confusion when Aryan tells her, "I am a Muslim." During her conversation on Ladies First, Gauri shared, "During Diwali, I lead the pooja, and the family follows. On Eid, Shah Rukh leads, and we follow. It's a beautiful arrangement, and the kids embrace both traditions. In fact, they tend to lean more toward what Shah Rukh says. Both Diwali and Eid are fantastic for them."

In a 2013 interview with Outlook Turning Points, Shah Rukh revealed how practicing both religions at home confused their children. "Sometimes they ask me what religion they belong to, and like a good Hindi movie hero, I philosophically declare, 'You are Indian first, and your religion is humanity,' or I might sing an old Hindi film song, 'Tu Hindu banega na Musalmaan banega – insaan ki aulaad hai insaan banega,' set to Gangnam Style." Beyond being Shah Rukh Khan's wife, Gauri is an accomplished professional in her own right, serving as a film producer, fashion designer, and celebrity interior designer. In 2018, she was named one of the "50 Most Powerful Women" by Fortune Magazine, and in 2008, she graced the cover of Vogue India, which referred to her as the "First Lady of Bollywood." Despite being married to one of the most influential figures in the world, Gauri has maintained her individuality since their marriage in 1991. The couple are parents to Aryan, Suhana and Abram Khan.

Anil Kapoor honors Air Force Day with his 'Fighter' role

On Indian Air Force Day, celebrated annually on October 8, veteran actor Anil Kapoor took a moment to honor the bravery and commitment of the men and women serving in the Indian Air Force. The star, who recently garnered acclaim for his role in the blockbuster film 'Fighter', shared a heartfelt message on social media alongside a striking image of himself portraying Group Captain Rakesh Jaisingh, affectionately known as Rocky. In his post, Kapoor expressed deep respect for the armed forces, stating, "On this Indian Air Force Day, my heartfelt salute to the heroes who soar high, keeping our skies safe. I've had the honor of meeting and befriending incredible individuals from the Indian Air Force, and their dedication continues to inspire. Here's to a future where even more young Indians join this elite force and make it stronger than ever." Released in January 2024, 'Fighter' quickly set box office records, becoming the highest-grossing Hindi film of the year. The film captivated audiences with its engaging plot and star-studded cast, emphasizing themes of patriotism and sacrifice. Anil's performance has been lauded for adding depth and intensity to the character, resonating with viewers across the country. With an impressive worldwide gross of around Rs 359 crores, 'Fighter' proved to be a commercial triumph. In addition to his cinematic success, Anil Kapoor has recently been in the limelight for various accomplishments. His performance in the popular OTT series 'The Night Manager' has earned him an Emmy nomination, highlighting his versatility and talent in diverse roles.

Was 'doubtful' of Fahadh Faasil before watching him work on Vettaiyan, says Rajinikanth: 'He won't stay in his trailer'



Actor Rajinikanth couldn't contain his admiration for fellow actor Fahadh Faasil at the recently held audio launch event for their upcoming film Vettaiyan. At the event, the superstar not only heaped praise for Amitabh Bachchan and director TJ Gnanavel, but also admitted that he was uncertain about having Fahadh in the film, mostly because he didn't associate the Malayalam star with an over-the-top character. Rajinikanth admitted in his speech that he hadn't seen more than two films starring Fahadh, but Gnanavel was certain. After working with him, however, the superstar was converted into an admirer. "What an artiste Fahadh is. I have never seen a natural artiste like him ever before. Hats off to him. He won't stay in his trailer. One won't know where he is, but as soon as you call him for a shot, he will come running and finish his portion in no time. He is extraordinary."

About his initial uncertainty about having Fahadh in the film, he admitted, "There is a character in this movie that's quite unique. I have never seen or heard of a character like this before. Gnanavel suggested that we cast Fahadh Faasil. When Gnanavel suggested his name, I was doubtful because this character is an entertainer. I haven't watched a lot of Fahadh films and have only seen two of his Tamil movies — Vikram and Maamannan. In both those movies, he played very serious characters. But Gnanavel was certain."

Emraan Hashmi suffers neck injury while shooting Adivi Sesh's Goodachari 2 in Hyderabad.



Actor Emraan Hashmi is currently filming his upcoming Telugu movie, Goodachari 2, in Hyderabad. Recently, while shooting an intense action sequence, he injured his neck. Photos of the injury are now going viral on social media and has sparked concern among his fans.

Reportedly, Emraan was shooting a jump sequence when he sustained the injury, leaving a deep cut on his neck. Despite the injury, he continued filming, and there have been no reports of any delays in the film's production. Although the Murder actor hasn't released an official statement about the incident, photos of him receiving first aid have spread widely on social media. Goodachari 2, marking Vinay Kumar Sirigineedi's directorial debut, is the highly anticipated sequel to Adivi Sesh's blockbuster Telugu film Goodachari. The film also stars Adivi in the lead role, with Emraan portraying a parallel lead. Sobhita Dhulipala and Jagapathi Babu will be seen in key roles. Earlier, Emraan shared a glimpse of the film, where he is seen holding guns while Adivi is shown in handcuffs, poised for combat. Emraan captioned the post, "Rivalry will be redefined."

Previously, Emraan played a negative role in Tiger 3 alongside Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif. He also took on the lead role in the web series Showtime, backed by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Productions. Created by Sumit Roy, the show featured an ensemble cast, including Mouni Roy, Vijay Raaz, Shriya Saran, Rajeev Khandelwal, and Naseeruddin Shah in pivotal roles.