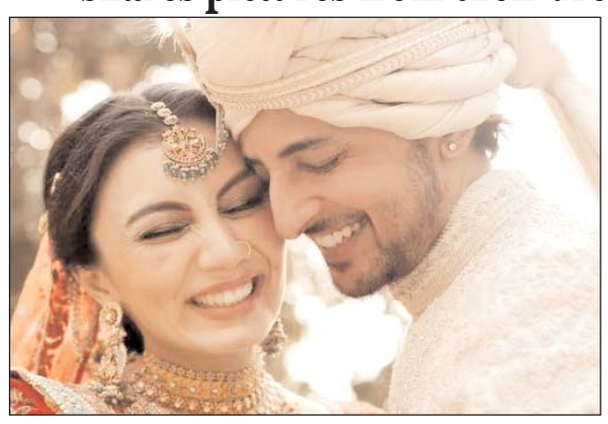
Abhinaya on controversy over portrayal of rape scene in Pani; opens up about challenges of playing her role in the Joju George movie: 'In other industries'



Making a mark in cinema is no easy task. Among the countless aspirants who dream of entering the industry, only a few get the chance to start a career; even fewer manage to stand out and secure more opportunities and only a select few go on to enjoy a long and successful career. Hence, to have been around for 18 years in the industry, completing 59 films, and earning a name, respect and the love of audiences is no small feat; but Abhinaya has achieved all these and is ready to scale even greater heights. As she basks in the success of her latest Malayalam film Pani, which recently premiered on SonyLIV after a successful theatrical run, Abhinaya is nothing short of ecstatic. She talks about her experience working on Pani, helmed by actor Joju George in his debut as a director, the criticism the film received over its portrayal of a rape scene, her acting journey so far, what lies ahead on her path, and more. Reflecting on what made her say yes to playing the character Gowri in Pani, Abhinaya says, "I liked its script very much. Gowri is a very impactful character and I felt it would be a great breakthrough in my career. Also, this is Joju sir's directorial debut, which added to my excitement." Discussing the challenges of portraying Gowri, she notes, "Acting in Malayalam films is quite different from working in Tamil, Telugu or Kannada because we have to perform differently. In other industries, your expressions must be really loud, but in Malayalam, they mostly prefer natural and subtle acting. Luckily, Joju sir supported and guided me very well during the making of Pani. Whenever he felt like I was going overboard, he would tell me, 'Abhinaya, you have to lower your expressions and be very natural. Your expressions need to be very subtle. It's a very calm and composed character.'"

An actor who has defied her hearing and speech impairments and worked across multiple languages, including Hindi, Abhinaya also offers insights into her process: "First, my elder brother reads the scripts and gives me feedback, suggesting whether I should take on a project or not. Once I commit to a movie, I work to understand my character, how it should be performed and the director's expectations. Then, I take help from the respective assistant directors who help me practise the dialogues. If I have lengthy dialogues, then I take around 2-3 days before the shoot to practice all the lines and to perfect the lip sync. If there are fewer or no dialogues, then I won't need to practice that much.

Darshan Raval marries 'best friend' Dharal Sureila, shares pictures from their dreamy wedding



Singer Darshan Raval is now married to his 'best friend' Dharal Sureila. The couple tied the knot on Friday. The singer shared the pictures from his wedding on his social media handle. For the wedding, Darshan wore a white sherwani, whereas Dharal went for a traditional red lehenga with a hint of blue in the border and embroidery.

Sharing a series of photos from the wedding, Darshan wrote, "My best friend forever." The post went viral on social media with many of his fans showering the couple with congratulatory messages. Celebrities like Samantha Ruth Prabu, fashion designer Shantanu Nikhil, singer Akhil Sachdeva too wished the couple. Samantha wrote, "Congratulations to the both of you", whereas Akhil Sachdevaa commented, "Love and blessings to both of you." Actress Neha Sharma too dropped a comment and said, "Many many congratulations."

Darshan Raval is known for songs like "Jab Tum Chaho" from Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, "Main Woh Chand" from Teraa Surroor, "Kheech Meri Photo" from Sanam Teri Kasam, "Chogada" from Loveyatri, "Kamariya" from Mitron, "Odhani" from Made in China, "Mehrama" from Love Aaj Kal, "Dil Julaha" from Ludo, "Kabhi Tumhe" from Shershaah, "Tere Siva Jag Mein" from Tadap, "Dhindora Baje Re" from Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, and "Sahibaa" from The Great Indian Family, among others.

Salman Khan refused to shoot at 5 am during Salaam-E-Ishq, recalls Nikkhil Advani: 'We kept Salman awake the whole night because he said'

Salman Khan is known for his tardy behaviour on set and many of his co-actors have shared that the actor often reports during lunch hours on the set, has his meal and then start shooting. So, for director Nikkhil Advani, it was quite a task to get Salman to shoot at 5 am for a song in his film Salaam-E-Ishq. Nikkhil recalled the shoot of the song "Tenu Leke" and said that when he asked Salman to show up at 5 am, the actor said that he would have to stay up all night, and asked the director to accompany him in the same.

Nikkhil recalled, "We kept Salman awake for the whole night because he said that I can't come at 5 in the morning. Either sit with me and I will go to sleep straight at 10 am." Nikkhil said that he stayed up Salman and escorted him to the location. "So, we stayed awake, took him, shot, finished shooting and then he went to sleep. For me, it has always been about finishing the day quickly," he shared. The director also recalled that Arjun Kapoor, who was one of his assistants on the film, made a massive error when he sent the camera to the wrong location. Nikkhil said that he "almost killed him for that." Salaam-E-Ishq also starred Priyanka Chopra, Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Anil Kapoor among many others and was a collection of six love stories. This was Nikkhil's next film after the humungous success of Kal Ho Naa Ho. By this time, Nikkhil had parted ways from Dharma Productions and was venturing out on his own. Despite a huge ensemble cast, Salaam-E-Ishq was a box office failure.

Kangana Ranaut says no producer, OTT helped her produce Emergency: 'I had to mortgage my home'



Kangana Ranaut's Emergency hit theatres on January 17 after various delays since its announcement in 2022 The film had to face CBFC challenges, and demands of bans from various political and religious groups. To promote her political drama, the actor-filmmaker shared how she even faced financial struggles while making Emergency.

Shubhankar Mishra, Kangana shared how she had to mortgage her house to make Emergency after producers and OTT platforms denied support. She said, "Of course I had financial issues while making the film." She explained, "A lot of people backed out. Nobody was buying it. No OTT platform was ready to purchase it. I had to mortgage my house to make the film. I did go through these issues but I didn't have someone to go to and cry to."

Kangana Ranaut also spoke about the times when people filed cases against her. The actor said, "I never had a PR team to promote myself. But people against me hired PRs to harm my image. They randomly put cases against me calling me psycho, chudail, stalker. They spoke so much bad about me. Nobody speaks about a woman like that."

Kangana hasn't had a hit since her 2015 film Tanu Weds Manu. The film Emergency marks her solo directorial debut.

Hrithik Roshan honoured at Joy Awards, Shraddha Kapoor turns presenter.



Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan, whose debut film Kaho Naa… Pyaar Hai hit screens on January 14, 2000, recently completed 25 years in cinema. Celebrating this milestone, Hrithik was honoured at Joy Awards, which is Saudi Arabia's largest event honouring the Arab world's leading artists and their achievements. Stree 2 star Shraddha Kapoor was also one of the presenters at the awards gala. The organisers introduced Hrithik with a special video which was a compilation of all his films in the past 25 years. Receiving the award, Hrithik gave an emotional speech. He said, "Thank you so much. I was here to present. I am overwhelmed. Thank you Riyadh, Joy Awards and the crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for inviting me here from India."

The actor added, "I am humbled and encouraged. Look at who I am with. Me holding an award with great legends. This doesn't make sense. Its been 25 years, it is very long time. But, unfortunately it's taken me 25 years to start understanding what acting really is. And it's just about now that I feel ready to make my flight as an actor. So I take this as a symbol for the hope I have in my heart and the promise for the next 25 years. Hopefully when I am back, if I am back, if you will have me again, I will feel a little bit more deserving of being amidst such greatness and for such honours."

Similarly, Shraddha Kapoor graced the stage to present the award for favourite Levant series.

Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan lost interest in Karan Arjun mid-shoot; pestered Rakesh Roshan: 'I touched his feet'



Director Rakesh Roshan's Karan Arjun (1995), featuring Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in the lead roles, turns 30 this year. While it's now regarded as one of Bollywood's most iconic multi-starrers, the production of the film wasn't without its challenges, something Rakesh has often spoken about. In the new Netflix documentary The Roshans, Rakesh opened up about the difficult filming process, revealing that Shah Rukh and Salman lost interest in the project at one point.

"Shah Rukh didn't believe in this story at all, of reincarnation. Salman was like, 'You said you'll make a big movie. But you brought us here to a village in Rajasthan. I had some other imagination.' I said, 'Salman, you are an actor. You don't have to imagine where I will make the film.' They started losing interest in the film. When a shot is ready, though the sun is setting, they wouldn't turn up when we called them. They'd come at the last moment and we had to rush the shot," Rakesh explained. Actor Shatrughan Sinha backed his claims, saying, "They (Shah Rukh and Salman) tormented him (Rakesh). They mocked him or won't cooperate with him."

Appearing in the documentary, Shah Rukh Khan himself acknowledged their behaviour, admitting, "Yes, we (Shah Rukh and Salman) troubled him a lot; because both of us were very naughty, troublemakers." He also recalled how Rakesh's wife Pinkie Roshan reprimanded him several times. "Pinkie ji scolded me a lot. 'You are troubling Guddu (Rakesh) a lot. I didn't expect it from you.' Because, between Salman and me, I was slightly better behaved; at least on the face of it. I was like, 'I didn't do anything. It's all his (Salman) doing.' We were like two young kids, really troubling a father figure, to be honest."

Rakesh Roshan added that whenever he proposed something, Shah Rukh and Salman would suggest other ideas. "And I'd tell them, 'No, this is what I want.' And they'd get annoyed." Despite these challenges, Rakesh's persistence paid off and Karan Arjun went on to become one of the biggest hits of all time, surprising all, particularly Shah Rukh and Salman who had little faith in the film by then.

Shah Rukh recalled the audience's enthusiastic response: "[They were] clapping, whistling and shouting. I was like, 'What's going on? What do people like about it?' Especially the shot where the babies held hands and looked at each other — the screaming started from that point onwards and throughout the film, everybody was screaming and shouting. I remember I went out and I think I touched Rakesh ji's feet saying, 'I am sorry, I didn't understand the film.' So, for me, I did everything that I was against in my head as an actor. This was a learning experience: sometimes, I don't have to believe in the character I am playing. I just have to make the audience believe in the character. I am glad I was forced into it by Rakesh ji."

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2024: Shradha Mishra lifts trophy, takes home Rs 10 lakhs



On Saturday night, 24-year-old Shradha Mishra, who hails from Agra, emerged as the winner of singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2024. She took home the trophy and prize money of Rs 10 lakhs.

Shradha had quite a wonderful journey on the ZEE TV show. From impressing the judges with every performance to having her songs go viral to even recording her first original song with Sachin-Jigar, it's no surprise that Shradha has claimed the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa title. During an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, Shradha talks about her journey and plans after winning the show.Talking about winning Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2024, Shradha Mishra shared, "I cannot express what I feel. I am very overwhelmed. It is hard to digest that I am the winner of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2024. After every performance, the judges would tell me that I might be the winner. It was a very tough competition so I had not even thought about this." Revealing how she plans to use the prize money of Rs 10 lakhs, Shradha added, "I never knew there was a prize money for this show. I want to set up a studio for myself. I want to get my father's legs treated. He cannot walk properly since his teenage, so I want to show him to a doctor."

The Sa Re Ga Ma Pa winner grabbed lots of attention from her very first day on the show. Even her songs went viral on social media. Talking about the same, "I never focused some much on fame. When my song Namak Ishq went viral, my father messaged me about it. I had deleted my Instagram at that time because I didn't want that to get to my head. I will never get used to getting so much love."

During the interaction, Shradha Mishra also revealed that she has already done playback singing and was nominated for an award alongside Sunidhi Chauhan and Shreya Ghoshal. She said, "Now, I hope to get into Bollywood soon. Playback singing has always been my plan. I have reached out to a few people. Right now, I am working with Sachin-Jigar sir. I have already sung a song in the film Shikara, and I was also nominated for it with the likes of Sunidhi Chauhan and Shreya Ghoshal. So, the process is on."

Lastly, Shradha revealed how her family has always been very supportive and now she is getting pampered even more. "My parents have been very supportive, even when I shifted to Mumbai. They all shifted base for me to Mumbai. I never faced any opposition. I have always heard these stories but never experienced it. And I am very thankful for this. Even though I don't consider myself a celebrity, I am getting pampered at home by my parents. My cousins are very happy to meet me. I am getting all the attention."

Kareena Kapoor says intruder was aggressive, didn't take jewellery; visits Saif Ali Khan at Lilavati Hospital



Saif Ali Khan, who was attacked with a knife by an unknown intruder in his Bandra home during the early hours of Thursday, is still recovering at Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital and on Saturday, he was visited by his wife actor Kareena Kapoor. Kareena also recorded her statement with the police on Saturday.

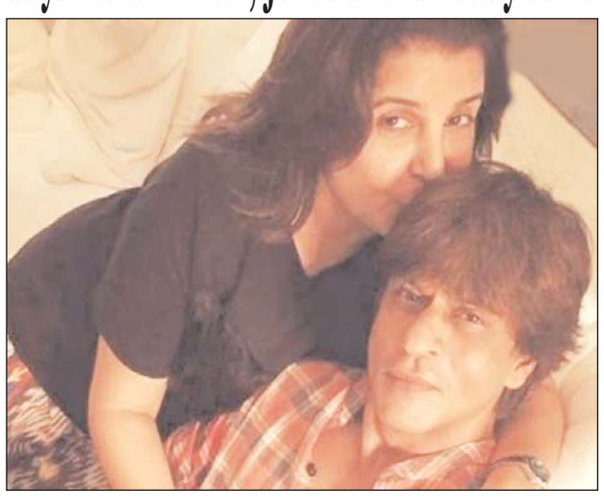
She said that the intruder was aggressive and did not take the jewellery that was lying open in the house.

Kareena said that she was shocked and quite shaken after the incident, and shared with the police that her sister Karisma Kapoor came and took her to her house in Khar.

On Saturday, Kareena was spotted upon arrival at the hospital as she arrived to check on Saif. She was escorted by police officers keeping safety concerns in mind. Other family members, including Saif's mother Sharmila Tagore, sister Soha Ali Khan and her husband Kunal Kemmu, and Saif's children Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim also visited him. Previously, Kareena's cousin Ranbir Kapoor also paid him a visit at the hospital.

30 statements have been recorded so far in connection with the case. So far, Mumbai police has formed 20 teams, along with 10 teams from the Crime Branch to investigate the case.

'Shah Rukh Khan gifts me a car every time we make a film,' says Farah Khan; jokes she is ready to re-collaborate with him



Farah Khan and Shah Rukh Khan have maintained a cordial working relationship for more than three decades. For many years, Farah choreographed some of Shah Rukh's most popular songs, and when she decided to venture into direction, Shah Rukh starred in and even produced her first film, Main Hoon Na. Since then, the duo have worked on Om Shanti Om and Happy New Year. But Farah hasn't made a film in more than a decade. Farah said that she is willing to return to the director's chair, and said that Shah Rukh gifts her a car every time they work together.

Appearing on Archana Puran Singh's vlog, Farah said that the "most expensive gift" that she has ever received from a star is a car. "Shah Rukh gifts me cars after every film," she said. When Archana suggested that she should make the next one soon, Farah said, "Yes, I want to. It's been a while, and I want a new car also."

In 2014, after Happy New Year, Shah Rukh gave Farah a Mercedes SUV. He had also gifted her a Mercedes after Om Shanti Om, and a Hyundai Terracan after Main Hoon Na.

Farah and Shah Rukh share a close friendship outside of work.

Pritam got 'offended' when I compared him to AR Rahman, recalls Sonu Nigam: 'He gets involved in the nitty-gritty'

Singer Sonu Nigam has worked on many songs with composer AR Rahman and during the late 1990s, their collaboration on films like Taal and Dil Se, earned them many fans. Sonu recalled those days of recording with Rahman and how the composer took him by surprise when he gave him the complete liberty to sing as he liked. Sonu, who was used to a certain way of getting instructions from other composers, saw this as a unique and liberating experience, so much so that when he found Pritam getting too involved in the details, he called them out for the same.

Sonu said, "AR Rahman gives you so much liberty. You don't feel like you are singing in a high pressure environment." He recalled that back in those days, Pritam had just made his debut as a music composer in a duo called Jeet-Pritam. Sonu was recording a song for their first film Tere Liye when he found that Pritam would get involved in the nitty-gritty as he sang.

"Pritam comes from a different school of thought. He goes into the nitty-gritties, and he isn't wrong. Everyone has their own style. I remember telling Pritam that you are just the opposite of AR Rahman. I told him that Rahman is such a renowned composer and he does not bother anyone, and you are just splitting hairs. He was perhaps offended by this then but I said what I was experiencing," he said.

Sonu said that he said it with love but Pritam, perhaps, got offended. "I said with love that you are splitting hairs. AR Rahman does not say anything. He just asks you to sing, and then he says 'okay done'," he said and added, "Every singer will tell you that Rahman does not bother any singer.