Archana Puran Singh reacts to Kapil Sharma's gag about her getting paid to laugh: 'I am paid to enjoy the show'



Actress Archana Puran Singh ventured into content creation a few months ago and has been steadily gaining traction. However, her longstanding association with Kapil Sharma remains a significant part of her public image. Having worked for years, the two share a strong comfort level, often reflected in Kapil's on-stage banter. One recurring gag that has caught attention is Kapil joking that Archana gets paid just to laugh. In a recent interview with SCREEN, Archana revealed that the joke has become so popular that even her sons teased her about it in one of her vlogs. Reacting to this gag from Kapil, Archana said, "Now it's become a joke. Kapil makes jokes about everything, people take it seriously. I don't because I know the name of the game is make a punch, get a laugh out of it, and move on." She added, "Yes, I am paid to judge a comedy show, which is what I initially started doing with Comedy Circus. Now, I am paid to not judge Kapil's show, but be a celebrity guest. I don't even know what my role is. Kapil only keeps joking. How I am paid to laugh? In a way, I am paid to enjoy the show, and because my enjoyment is very loud and spontaneous, it translates to I am paid to laugh. Then my kids pick up on that and throw similar punches at me. In my vlogs, you see, I am laughing even when I am not paid to do so. It is just a joke. I go along with it because I think it's very funny."

Archana Puran Singh had spoken about her friendship with Kapil Sharma and said, "It was Comedy Circus where Kapil was a contestant like the other ten. Our association started then. Who knew that it would come so far? It was an association built on mutual respect. I was his senior and a judge on the show. From my side, my respect grew for him because I saw amazing talent. I made the same bond with Krushna. With Kapil, it has now evolved into a family relationship.

Aamir Khan fired a struggling Daya Shankar Pandey from Akele Hum Akele Tum as he was overqualified: 'I thought of him as a villain'



Actor Daya Shankar Pandey, known for his work in iconic films and TV shows like Lagaan, Gangaajal, and Swades, recently recalled his experience of working with Aamir Khan. Daya, who collaborated with Aamir on films such as Lagaan and Ghulam, shared an anecdote from their early days. He revealed that Aamir once removed him from the film Akele Hum Akele Tum, believing he was overqualified for the role. At the time, the decision left Daya distressed, especially as he was going through a financial crisis.

Speaking on the YouTube channel Friday Talkies, Daya recalled, "I didn't have work. I was facing financial crisis. My family had refused to support me and I also thought I would earn my own money. I had asked the assistant director (AD) of the film Akele Hum Akele Tum to give me any role possible and so he got me 12 day work in that film and I was getting Rs 2000 per day."

Daya Shankar Pandey shared that Aamir Khan knew him from earlier as they had worked together in the 1995 film Baazi, and he also knew that Aamir regarded him as a good actor. However, Aamir's positive opinion of Daya ended up costing him the role in Akele Hum Akele Tum. He explained.

Anu Aggarwal reveals she hasn't been paid 40% of her dues for Aashiqui yet: 'That's my gift to them, I earned more from modelling'

Anu Aggarwal broke out 35 years ago with Mahesh Bhatt's blockbuster musical romance Aashiqui in 1990. While she became a household name after that, the actor says she still hasn't been paid her full fees for the film. Aashiqui was co-produced by the late Gulshan Kumar's T-Series and Mahesh and Mukesh Bhatt's banner Vishesh Films. "I haven't gotten the full fees for Aashiqui till today. I've only been paid 60% of the full fees. They still owe me the 40%," said Aggarwal. However, she denied ever approaching the makers to settle her dues. "It's okay, I earned a lot. I earned much more in modelling. I became a brand ambassador," she added.

Pinkvilla, Anu Aggarwal claimed that she was the first actor to become a brand ambassador. "There wasn't even a male actor who was a brand ambassador back then. Only cricket heroes were brand ambassadors then, like Sunil Gavaskar and all," said Aggarwal. "Theek hai yaar. Ye meri gift hai unko (It's okay. This is my gift to them)," she added, referring to the makers of Aashiqui on her unpaid dues. Agarwal, however, recalled that a lot of actors who came up to producers to ask for their dues back then were subjected to malpractices. "It was a dirty business. Today, I'm not in it. If I do a film now, I can tell you how dirty it is compared to back then. At that time, it was all under the table. It was ruled by people like Dawood Ibrahim. All the money that came into the industry came from the underworld. So it was a completely different scenario," added Aggarwal.

Akshay Kumar and Wamiqa Gabbi get filmy by the falls as Priyadarshan's Bhooth Bangla wraps up.

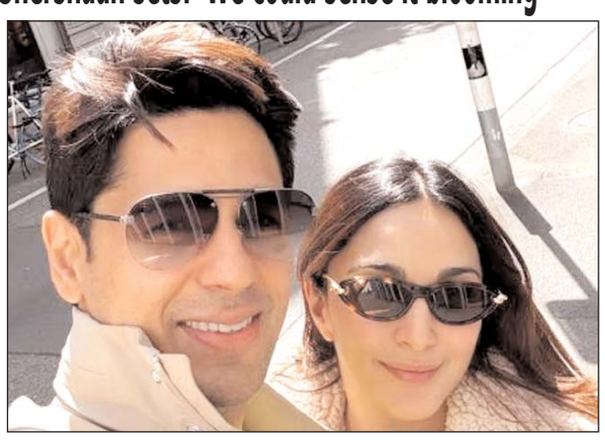


Actor Akshay Kumar, who has been busy filming his upcoming horror comedy Bhooth Bangla, announced on Sunday that the shoot has officially wrapped. Sharing the news on social media, he posted a behind-the-scenes video from a song sequence featuring the film's leading lady, Wamiqa Gabbi. The video has since gone viral, with fans expressing their excitement for the film's release. Akshay took to his X handle and shared the BTS video. Along with the clip, he wrote, "And that's a wrap on #BhoothBangla ! My seventh madcap adventure with the ever-inventive @priyadarshandir sir, my second outing with the unstoppable @EktaaRKapoor, and my first but hopefully not the last, magical journey with the ever-surprising Wamiqa. Grateful for the madness, the magic, and the memories."

Akshay Kumar and Wamiqa Gabbi's waterfall video brings back memories of his iconic song "Tip Tip Barsa Paani" with Raveena Tandon from the 1994 film Mohra. In the clip, Wamiqa stuns in a beautiful green saree, while Akshay complements her look in a lighter shade of green, paired with sunglasses, a hat, and a sling bag. Bengali actor Jisshu Sengupta also posted a monochrome picture with Akshay and confirmed that he will be a part of the upcoming horror-comedy. Jisshu wrote in the caption, "Fun Times From The Sets Of #bhootbangla."

Directed by Priyadarshan, Bhooth Bangla also stars Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Sharman Joshi, Mithila Palkar, Rajpal Naurang Yadav, and Jaaved Jaaferi. It also marks Akshay's reunion with the director after almost 14 years.

Himanshu Malhotra recalls watching Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's love story unfold on Shershaah sets: 'We could sense it blooming'



TV actor Himanshu Malhotra has appeared in several popular films, including Shershaah starring Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani. In the film, he portrayed Major Rajiv Kapoor. In a recent conversation with SCREEN, Himanshu reflected on his experience working on Shershaah, recalling how they were filming in Kashmir when Article 370 was imposed, and witnessing the early sparks of romance between Sidharth and Kiara on set. Sharing how he bagged the role in Shershaash, Himanshu said, "I had auditioned for a film for Kunal Kohli, but that didn't happen, and I got slightly disappointed. Then I gave a test for a film, but I didn't know it was for Shershaah. In the audition script, it was just written Captain Vikram, not even Batra was mentioned. I was in a different zone. Three months later, I got a call informing me that I was selected for a film called Shershaah by Dharma Productions, which was based on the 1999 Kargil War. I was playing Major Rajiv Kapoor in the film." He even recalled how it was working with Sidharth Malhotra.

"Working with Sidharth was very nice. He was very warm and cordial. We were in Kargil. I shot there for 20 days, and he was there for 30-32 days. Along with us, there was Nikitin Dheer, Shiv Pandit, we had all become like a unit. We used to jam in our free time because at that time, Article 370 was imposed in Kashmir. We were stuck in Kargil, and when the shoot used to get cancelled, we used to have music sessions from morning till night, and Sidharth was a part of that."

Talking about seeing love blossom between Sidharth and Kiara during the film's shoot, Himanshu said, "We didn't know much about their love story, but we could sense it blooming. I think it was Palanpur where we saw both of them together.

Mira Rajput rejects 'star wife' label, questions nepotistic tags: 'Never understood the concept of a star wife or star kid'



Mira Rajput has carved a path of herself while being married to actor Shahid Kapoor. She runs her own YouTube channel and also owns a wellness and skincare brand. In a recent interaction, Mira spoke about being called 'star wife' despite being independent and creating her own identity. Janice Season 5, Mira opposed kids of actors being tagged 'star kids'. She said, "Maybe it was an association that one needed to make for recall value. But even if you put that on a kid and you say star kid, people don't like listening to star kid for all of its nepotistic connotations. Yet, that term is still in use — it needs to kind of find its way out." Mira Rajput also questioned the need to label someone as a "star wife". "I have never understood the concept of a star wife, what does that mean? You can have an actor, a celebrity, or a star who has a wife or a husband — but nobody ever says star husband. Why is there a star wife?"

Mira Rajput and Shahid Kapoor tied the knot when she was 21 years old. The couple has a 13-year age gap and are parents to two children — Misha and Zain. Earlier, in an interaction with influencers Naina Bhan and Sakshi Shivdasani, Mira Rajput spoke about how her marriage initially felt 'isolating'. She said, "I think we (Mira and her friends) did evolve separately. I'd like to admit that it was quite isolating because we were just in different phases of life at that time. You get to different phases in life, and you look at your friends.

Ananya Panday and Ishaan Khatter make it to Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list



Although she initially faced considerable criticism for her underwhelming performances, actor Ananya Panday has, more recently, managed to shift public perception, delivering notable portrayals one after the other. Unlike her early movies such as Student of the Year 2 (2019), which marked her acting debut, Pati Patni Aur Woh (2019) and Liger (2022), Ananya's more recent performances in projects like Kho Gaye Hum Kahan (2023), CTRL (2024), Call Me Bae (2024) and Kesari 2 (2025) received positive responses.

Now, in a major achievement, she has been named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list, becoming one of the only four Indians featured in the entertainment category this year. She also recently made history as French luxury fashion house Chanel's first Indian brand ambassador. The daughter of actor Chunky Panday and wife Bhavana Pandey, Ananya currently boasts 25.9 million followers on Instagram.

Joining her on the Forbes list is actor Ishaan Khatter, known for his roles in acclaimed projects such as legendary Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi's Beyond the Clouds (2017), Dhadak (2018), Phone Bhoot (2022), and Pippa (2023), as well as television series like A Suitable Boy (2020), The Perfect Couple (2024), and The Royals (2025).

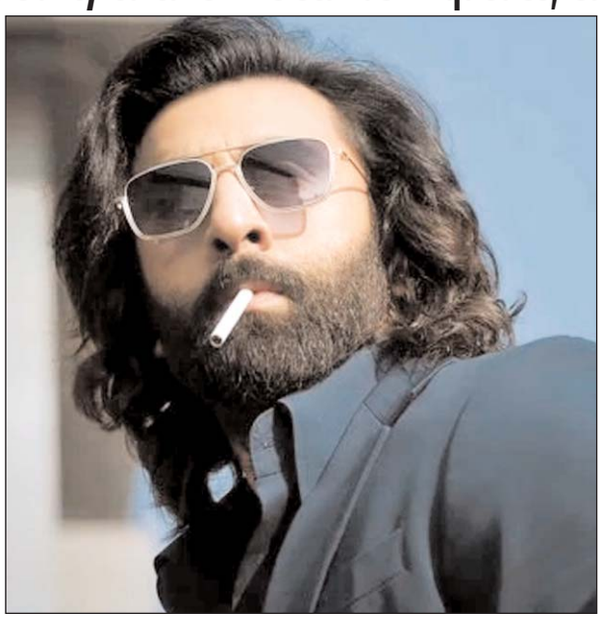
Kamal Haasan recalls coming across six fan theories predicting Virumaandi's story while its production was underway: 'The fifth one was actually really good'

While Kamal Haasan's contributions to Indian cinema are immense, his directorial Virumaandi (2004) remains a fan favourite, particularly owing to its smartly intricate narrative based on the Rashomon effect. The third movie to feature him at the helm after Chachi 420 (1997) and Hey Ram (2000), Virumaandi featured Kamal himself as well as Pasupathy, Abhirami and Napoleon in the lead roles and ended up becoming a major critical and commercial success.

Interestingly, the actor-filmmaker recently shared that fan theories and plot predictions existed even back then, and recalled coming across a few while making Virumaandi, adding that he liked a few of them. At the trailer launch of Thug Life, which marks Kamal's reunion with ace filmmaker Mani Ratnam after 38 years since Nayakan (1987), the duo was asked whether they had seen any posts speculating about the upcoming movie's plot. In response, Kamal quipped that if they started reading such posts, their story might end up changing accordingly. "Some stories would actually be good," the actor said.

He added, "While the shoot of Virumaandi was going on, I came across at least six stories. I thought, 'The fifth one is actually really good. But what to do? The production is already underway.' I replied to the person who wrote it (the fan theory), saying I would consider this story for one of my future movies. I told him, 'Your story is actually very good. But I have already decided on another story, and mine is not the same as yours.'"

Rajeev Masand recalls spotting Ranbir Kapoor at airport without an entourage, says he avoids celebrity culture: 'He stands in queues, eats alone at cafés'



Amid ongoing debates around the massive expenses associated with actors' entourages, Ranbir Kapoor often stands out as a rare exception among major stars. Unlike most of his contemporaries, Ranbir has neither employed a PR team nor public social media accounts. He manages his own schedule and yet continues to enjoy an immense fan following and star power — despite going against the norms of celebrity culture.

Rajeev Masand, who now serves as the COO of the Dharma Cornerstone Agency, shed light on Ranbir Kapoor's habit of walking around without an entourage.

"I think it is who he is," highlighting how Ranbir consciously avoids the typical celebrity practice of being constantly surrounded by a team.

Sharing an anecdote about him, Rajeev recalled being surprised to see the actor standing quietly in a queue at an airport, alone. "I was standing in a queue at an airport and I saw Ranbir standing there alone. It's not a sight that you see of actors; they are never alone. I asked him, 'Where is your team?' He said, 'What team?' This might sound strange to common people, but I would like to tell them that actors don't stand alone; they have an army of people. Then he stepped outside the airport, and he had someone waiting for him outside, but he was all alone at the airport."

Rajeev further shared that several filmmakers have expressed similar sentiments about the Barfi actor. "I have heard from filmmakers that when they would break for lunch while shooting abroad, they would find him eating food alone at some cafe. That's the mark of an intelligent actor. It stems from the fact that he thinks that he needs to be in touch with the real world to be able to play those characters authentically," he added.

Ranbir himself has previously opened up about his decision to avoid social media. During an earlier media interaction, he explained, "I agree that through social media, you have a reach to the larger audience, but I don't miss it and I am fine being away from it. Never say never, maybe tomorrow, I will come, but right now, I am happy being away from it."

'Janhvi Kapoor should've given me credit for her viral moves in Devara': Bosco Martis



Popular choreographer duo Bosco-Caeser began their career back in 2000 with the songs of Vidhu Vinod Chopra's action thriller Mission Kashmir, starring Hrithik Roshan and Preity Zinta. Bosco Martis, one half of the duo, feels they haven't gotten enough credit for some of the popular songs since then. However, he expressed gratitude to actors who make it a point to celebrate them.

"Just give credit to the choreographer. Even during promotions, if an actor talks about us. Vicky Kaushal was so graceful. He celebrated me. That's how the world got to know I'm the choreographer," said Bosco, referring to Vicky's shoutout to Bosco-Caesar for the choreography of his popular dance number "Tauba Tauba" from Anand Tiwari's romantic comedy Bad Newz last year.

Bosco continued, "When they talk about it, there's a voice. The choreographers feel happy. Like when Hrithik Roshan spoke about one step we tried in Mission Kashmir in a lot of interviews, I feel happy I'm a part of his journey. We've done it together. How do you celebrate somebody who's given it their all."

When asked about Janhvi Kapoor's viral moves in Chuttamalle from Koratala Siva's Telugu action epic Devara: Part 1 last year, Bosco Martis said, "I wish Janhvi had spoken about it (Bosco-Caesar's involvement) in the promotions, but it's fine." He hailed social media as a "big game-changer" for choreographers as they can share the behind-the-scenes videos of their songs.

"If they don't realise it, then they don't realise it. You just do your work. The correction has to be made, but there's a scientific way of doing it instead of forcing your way in, making that call and asking somebody why they haven't taken your name. There's a protocol that needs to be set. People should get to know who's the choreographer, instead of having someone endorse it," added Bosco.

Bosco Martis also mentioned the songs he feels they don't get enough credit for. One of them was "Gallan Goodiyan" from Zoya Akhtar's 2015 hit family drama Dil Dhadakne Do. "The only dancing actors were Farhan Akhtar, Priyanka Chopra, and Ranveer Singh, and that's about it. The seasoned actor would be Anil Kapoor. Even Vikrant Massey is in there. Rest of the actors were all raw. To choreograph them with their positions, in a very small area, and in one shot, we had to make sure it was entertaining and that people wanted to be a part of it," recalled Bosco.