

TOLLYWOOD TALK

'Siva Manasulo Sruthi' in January



Sudhir Babu, cousin of Superstar Mahesh Babu is the latest entry in Tollywood. The actor who played the role of Samantha's brother in Ye Maya Chesave portrays the lead role in SMS (Siva Manasulo Sruthi). Before foraying into acting, he was into badminton and was even in the World Cup probables for India Junior badminton team. Sudhir was also into the film distribution of Krishna, Guntur and Nellore districts. Smitten by acting and with the blessings of superstar Krishna and encouragement from Mahesh and producer Manjula, Sudhir is trying his luck with SMS which will release during January end of 2012. Touted to be a contemporary love story, the film is produced by Vikram Raju and is presented by RB Chowdary of Super Good Films. The film is directed by Tatineni Satya and Selva Ganesh is the music composer. Sudhir was often seen in all functions related to *Dookudu* and was even present during the audio launch of 'The Businessman' recently. Certainly a great way to publicise yourself Sudhir.

Sudhir Babu

Srikanth to team up with Venkatesh again?

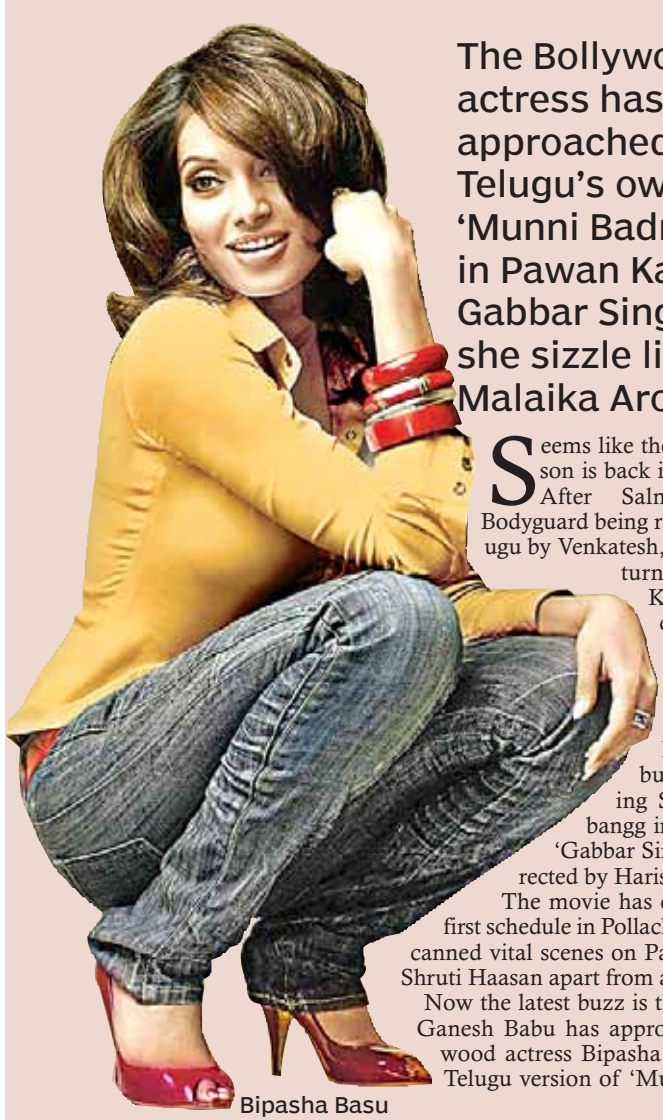
Not long ago, it was reported that Jagapathi Babu will be playing a crucial role in Victory Venkatesh's forthcoming film under the direction of Meher Ramesh, but, reports now have it that Srikanth is the front runner to play the same role that was offered to Jagapathi. It is noteworthy to mention that Venky and Srikanth have shared screenspace together in films like *Abbayigaru* and *Sankrathi*. This untitled film produced by Paruchuri Kireeti will go on floors from January, 2012. Ace writers, Kona Venkat and Gopi Mohan are associated with the script of the film. Richa Gangopadhyay who earlier paired with Venky in *Nagavalli* will romance the family star once again. More details regarding the film are awaited.

It's Snehithudu, not 3 Rascals any more

Ace director Shankar's upcoming movie has gone for a title change in Telugu. Earlier called as '3 Rascals', the filmmaker replaced it with 'Snehithudu' which is same as 'Nanban' (Friend) in Tamil. The film is the official remake of Aamir Khan starrer '3 Idiots'. Starring Vijay, Jeeva, Sriram and Ileana in the lead, the film is slated to release on Republic Day in AP while the Tamil version will release on Pongal early next year. Dil Raju has bagged the Telugu rights of the film from the original producers, Gemini Film Circuit. The music of 'Nanban' which released a couple of days ago has already become a rage in Tamil Nadu and the makers are planning to release the audio of Telugu version in the first week of January. Harris Jayaraj is associated with working for Shankar for the second time after *Aparichithudu*.



Ileana in Nanban



Bipasha Basu

The Bollywood actress has been approached for Telugu's own 'Munni Badnam...' in Pawan Kalyan's *Gabbar Singh*. Will she sizzle like Malaika Arora?

Seems like the remake season is back in Tollywood. After Salman Khan's *Bodyguard* being remade in Telugu by Venkatesh, now, it is the turn of Pawan Kalyan who recently disappointed his fanfare with 'Panjaa'. Pawan Kalyan is busy in remaking Salman's *Dabangg* into Telugu as 'Gabbar Singh'. It is directed by Harish Shankar. The movie has completed its first schedule in Pollachi, where unit canned vital scenes on Pawan Kalyan, Shruti Haasan apart from a song. Now the latest buzz is that, producer Ganesh Babu has approached Bollywood actress Bipasha Basu for the Telugu version of 'Munni Badnam

Bips in Gabbar Singh?

Hui...' in *Gabbar Singh* which was played by Malaika Arora in 'Dabangg' movie. As per sources, Bipasha has quoted a whopping remuneration of Rs 1 crore for shaking her legs to the item song. Producer Ganesh is not keen to pay such huge amount but still negotiations are going on. Previously, Anushka, Parvati Melton names were considered for the same. Abhimanyu Singh plays the antagonist in the movie. Meanwhile, the actress has revealed that she calls her 'Players' co-star Bobby Deol as 'Bobby Doll', while he has forever called her Bipshaw. "For all those who don't know I call Bobby, 'Bobby Doll!' Like a term of endearment! And he calls me 'Bipshaw' for years,!" Bipasha posted on Twitter. Bipasha, who is otherwise lovingly called Bips, says she has another nickname too. "Another nickname that I have is given by @juniorbachchan is 'Bippy!' @sikan-darbk calls me Bippy too!," she added.

QUICK CHAT

Chinni: Wearing many hats

Chinni Krishna, the man who popularised 'Whatttoo, no studies..wonly wateruuu' in *Kotha Bangaru Lokam*, is a familiar face in Tollywood now, although many do not know that the stage artiste-turned-comedian is also the director of 'Veedu Theda'. After he popularised 'butler English' he also did some roles in 'Ride' and 'Adhurs'. In a quick chat with the man who wears many hats, he says, "There was a lot of struggle and tragedy beneath my success."



Chinni Krishna

How did you kick-start your career?
I hail from Gavara Kancherapalem near Visakhapatnam. My dad B S Chalam was a noted stage artiste and I was also passionate about acting. I was a stage artiste. I approached director V V Vinayak for roles through a common friend. He wanted me to pen scripts and offered me assistant direction. I assisted

for 'Bunny', 'Lakshmi' and 'Yogi'.
How did you turn into a comedian?
Director Srikanth Addala of *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* fame who had also worked earlier with VV Vinayak was a friend of my colleague and roommate. I would meet him whenever he came to

meet my friend. It was during one of these sessions that he wanted me to portray a warden role in his movie. I was initially reluctant but later gave it a shot and it worked well and received rave responses.

After the success of 'Veedu Theda', do you wish to continue in direction or acting?
Offers as a director and actor have been flooding. I'm a bit confused about what to opt for, but I wish I could manage both simultaneously. I'm surprised that I got a big offer to direct Sunil even before the release of my debut movie 'Veedu Theda'. In fact Sunil has already given me his dates. I'm going to portray Sunil in complete mass shade. I'll also play a cameo in Srikanth Addala's upcoming project *Seetamma Vakiltu Sirimalli Chettu* in which Venkatesh and Mahesh play lead roles.

Sandeep Atreya

JUST HEARD

Nayantara as Mandodhari?

Director RGV has apparently offered the role in his 'Ramayanam'



Nayantara

Nayantara, who got applause for her role of Seeta in *Bapu's* Magnum Opus 'Sri Rama Rajyam' is soon going to enter the wedlock with ace choreographer Prabhu Deva. The actress has reportedly bagged lead role opposite Nagarjuna in Ram Gopal Varma's 'Ramayanam'. Earlier media had reported that the actress would say adieu to the movies which were later denied by her. Nayantara is apparently eyeing for traditional, family roles.

The latest buzz is that director Ram Gopal Varma who was impressed with her performance in *Sri Rama Rajyam* has offered to play a key role in his latest project 'Ramayanam'. The talk doing rounds is that the actress will play the character of Mandodhari, wife of Ravana. RGV has already confirmed that Nagarjuna plays Ravana role in the movie.

MOVIE MUHURAT



Left to right- Srikanth, Lucky Sharma with director JD Chakravarthy at the launch of the movie *All the best*

BOLLYWOOD BAATEIN

'Chikni' not a cakewalk: Kat

Katrina Kaif is garnering a lot of praise for gyrating to item number 'Chikni Chameli' in Karan Johar's forthcoming film 'Agnepath', but the actress says the 'lavni' style dancing was not a cakewalk for her.

"The response to 'Chikni Chameli' has been fun so far. It was hard work. It was very fast and it was not a style I was used to, but I took it as a challenge..I think we all went for it as a team and did the best we could. I am happy people are liking it," the 27-year-old actress said in Mumbai.

Even actor Salman Khan is smitten by the song and Katrina is happy about this. "He has not told that to me but I think that's a great thing.

He has a great taste in music and songs. So, if he likes it then it's great," said Katrina who featured in two more item numbers in "Shiela ki jawani" and "Body-guard".

New Year is round the corner and Katrina is pleased with the way 2011 shaped up for her. "2011 has been a really great year for me. All the goals I had in hand, I think everything turned out really well. I am very grateful for that...The best I could have wanted to come out of every project has come true this year," said Katrina who had two releases this year - "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" and "Mere Brother Ki Dulhan".

Katrina has some plum projects in her kitty -- she is working on "Ek Tha Tiger" with Salman, "Dhoom 3" and Yash Chopra's untitled new venture which is expected to feature Shah Rukh Khan.

Aamir's bundle of joy

If there's anything that actor Aamir Khan loves doing these days, it is spending time and playing with his newborn son, Azad. "It's a great joy being a father again. Both Kiran and I are so overjoyed with our baby being born and I just can't get enough of Azad," Aamir said at an event in Mumbai.

The 46-year-old and his wife Kiran Rao were blessed with the baby boy Dec 1, through IVF to a surrogate mother. Aamir is simply in awe of their little bundle of joy.

"I tickle his little toe and then I snuggle up to him. Right now he doesn't even know who I am. He's too young but he knows that somebody comes and troubles him everyday. Every two, three hours somebody comes and troubles him. So, when he gets a little older, he will get to know that I am the guy," said Aamir, who already has two kids from his first wife Reena - a son, Junaid, and a daughter named Ira. Aamir and Kiran spoke at the launch of the CDs and DVDs of the latter's directorial project 'Dhobi Ghat', and were in a bit of a hurry to be back home. "For the first time Kiran has left the house since the baby was born. So, we are also keen to get back fast. It's a miracle. A baby being born is a miracle and nothing comes close to it," said Aamir. Aamir is currently busy with his co-production "Talaash", being directed by Reema Kagti. Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani are the other two producers for the film, which will also feature Kareena Kapoor and Rani Mukerji.

"So many memories! Was there when I was seven or eight. High point was meeting my first ever drama teacher. Amazing what a memory teachers have. She still remembers me as a student," added the 35-year-old, who became father of a baby girl last month.

Abhishek's "Players", which also features Sonam Kapoor, Bipasha Basu, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Bobby Deol and Omi Vaidya, will release January 6, 2012.

Abhishek gets nostalgic

Abhishek Bachchan, busy in the promotions of his forthcoming film "Players", went down memory lane when he visited one of his old schools in Mumbai, and met his first drama teacher.

"It's been a very long day. Started at 7 a.m. by visiting one of my old schools in Mumbai (Jamnabai Narsee) as chief guest for their sports day...Sports day for the specially abled. Amazing to see the kids compete and excel. Then went around the school after god knows how many years," Abhishek posted on micro-blogging site Twitter.

Big villain means big hero

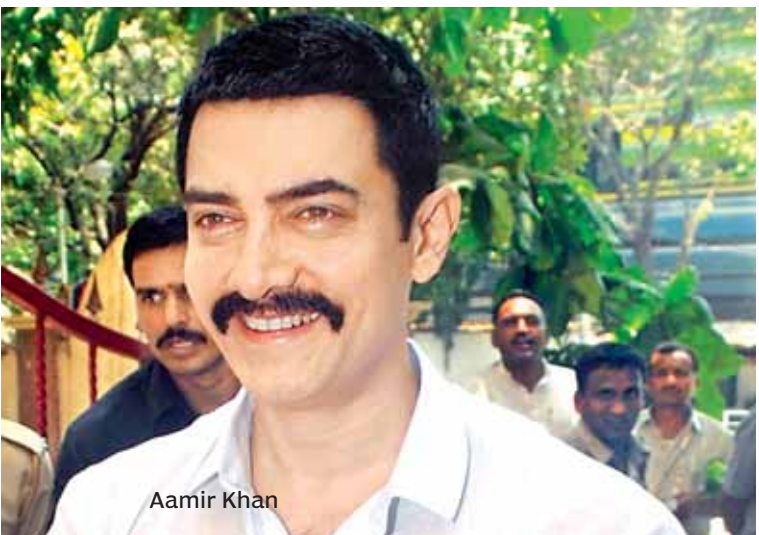
If Sanjay Dutt's role as the villainous Kancha Cheena in Karan Johar's "Agnepath" remake seems to overpower Hrithik Roshan's portrayal as protagonist Vijay Dinanath Chauhan, it was done with a purpose, says director Karan Malhotra.

"The villain of the film is big because the achievement of the hero gets bigger in conquering him. It is as simple as that. To assume Kancha's character is bigger and Vijay's is weak or vice-versa would be inappropriate because when you will see the film, you will realise that the bigger the villain, the bigger the hero," Malhotra said at the unveiling of the latest trailer of movie in Mumbai.

Sanjay, who sports a bald look, also seconds the view. "If you look at 'Batman' or 'Spiderman', their villain is very powerful. There is a reason for that. It is because the hero ultimately becomes more powerful and he finishes the villain," the 52-year-old actor said. Meanwhile, producer-director Karan Johar says that unlike in the

original "Agnepath", the character of Vijay Dinanath Chauhan in this version is that of an underdog. "The portrayal of Vijay Dinanath Chauhan is completely different from Amit-ji's (Amitabh Bachchan) portrayal. He was not an underdog there. In this, the character is an underdog."

"It's important to understand that the character is being played by a younger boy. Vijay Dinanath Chauhan was portrayed by Amit-ji at a certain age in the film. So when an underdog uplifts and rises against this impactful, large, big and scary villain, that's when you feel the triumph of the hero spirit," said Johar, whose father, Yash Johar, produced the original film in 1990. The new "Agnepath" will hit theatres January 26 next year. It also features Priyanka Chopra and Rishi Kapoor. IANS



Aamir Khan

TWEET NOTHINGS

What the ace director said online

RGV's tweets:

Naa anedhi correct ayinappudu naa anabadevi anni correctey
Naa koduku naa family naa deshameve correct ayithe naa caste anedhi endhuku correct kaadhu?
Nenu naa family ane feeling correct ayinappudu nenu naa caste ane feeling endhuku correct kaadhu?

Tv coverage of a dead celebrity is very much like a burial service. they give saturation coverage only to forget him forever
@SwapnaJourno cinema is not factual fiction...its fictional fact..only brains will understand the difference as an example.. And I might sound preposterous but I can conceive better action sequences, but I don't have the skills to execute
Don't know why mindless media speculation will end..time ago m mirror said I alrdy shot a 1cr sng wth madhushalini nd nw sy she's bn replaced



Anupam Kher with a Santa cap for Christmas



Ram Gopal Varma