

"If people wish to remember me for my onscreen lip locks, so be it," says Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi

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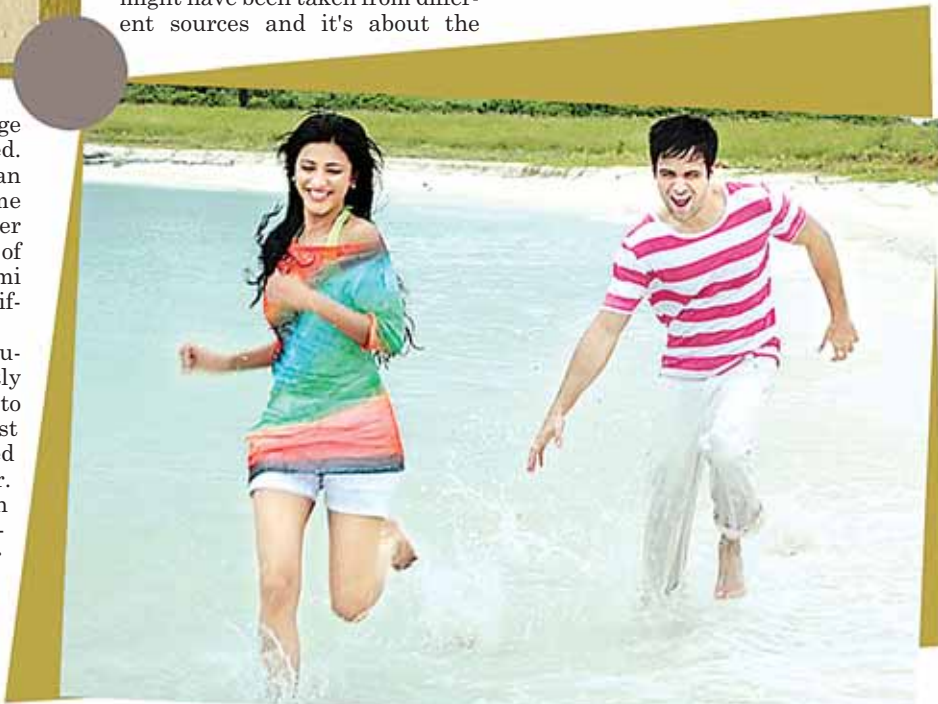
never budes from his creative instincts of a film and the content the film. It's a very different character that I haven't played before," said the actor. *The Dirty Picture*, produced by Ekta Kapoor and directed by Milan Luthria, will release December 2, which happens to be Silk Smitha's birth anniversary. Even though the movie is being promoted as Silk Smitha's biopic, Emraan says it has been spiked with fiction for commercial value. "It's basically a fictional film. It might have been taken from different sources and it's about the

southern film industry, about the actress, her rise, her stardom and her relationship with these three men...Eventually, lots of comparisons can be made but lots of things have been added for commercial effect. So I wouldn't say it's truly a biopic," he said. This is the first time that Emraan has teamed up with the critically acclaimed Vidya. "Vidya is a great actress. Our combination is new. It's a great experience working with her. Every character in the film is very intriguing and interesting; so we share a very different kind of chemistry on screen."

IAN S

For Emraan Hashmi, there seems to be no getting away from the 'serial kisser' tag despite his many protestations and he's back to locking lips in his forthcoming film *The Dirty Picture*. If people wish to remember him for his onscreen kisses, so be it, says the somewhat exasperated actor who has for long been looking for an image change. The 32-year-old actor came to be known as Hindi cinema's serial kisser after numerous lip locks in films like *Murder*, *Zehar*, *Aashiq Banaya Apne*, *Gangster* and *Jannat*. The tag would never go. I tried to get rid of it, but it follows me everywhere. I have done so many films with it (kissing) and so many people went and watched those films. So probably they want to remember me for that. And if kissing is a great way to remember me, I have no complaints! My audience base is there and I can't change overnight," Emraan said. "I am trying out different things in my forthcoming films. Hopefully it would be

another dimension, which would change people's perception about me," he added. *The Dirty Picture* is said to have Emraan in yet another kissing scene, this time with actress Vidya Balan. He however stresses that the film, based on the life of the late southern sex icon Vijayalakshmi aka Silk Smitha, takes sexuality to a different level. "It's a different take on sexuality. Sexuality in my films was shown differently before this. *The Dirty Picture* takes it to a different level," said Emraan. The first trailer of the movie has already created a buzz, with Vidya in a bold new avatar. Emraan plays one of the three men in her life, while the other two male characters have been essayed by Tusshar Kapoor and Naseeruddin Shah. "I play a movie director who believes in artistic cinema. He is one who doesn't really give a damn about commercial viability of a film. He would rather make a film, which critics will appreciate; he sticks to his guns creatively,



A still from Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji

BOLLYWOOD BAATEIN

58th National Awards: Six couples among recipients

This year's National Film Awards function Friday will feature something unique: six couples and a father-daughter duo, among others, will climb up the dias to receive a redesigned citation and a medal from President Pratibha Patil. Adding spice to the ceremony will be live performances by Rekha Bhardwaj and Suresh Wadkar. The winning spouses who will take home awards are - Rekha-Vishal Bhardwaj for *Ishqiya*; Sachin-Bindiya Khanolkar for *Mee Sindhutai Sapkal*; Malaika-Arbaaz Khan for *Dabangg*; K.R. Manoj-Ranjini Krishnan for *A Pestering Journey*; Shylaja Nag-B. Suresha for *Puttakkana Highway*; and Ananya-Manish Chakraborti for *Understanding Trafficking*. Then, the father-daughter duo of Basantkumar Patil and Amruta Patil will receive the honour for their children's film *Hejjegala* (Kannada) and *Bettada Jeeva* (Kannada) respectively. This year, child artists have put Maharashtra in the spotlight. Of the five winners, four children are from Maharashtra. While Harsh Mayar of *I Am Kalam* fame comes from a less-privileged family from a resettlement colony in Dakshinpuri in Delhi, Shanatanu Ranganekar ("Champions") and his co-star Machindra Gadkar are from Maharashtra; and



Vivek Chabuskar, who has won the award for *Baboo Band Baja* and Suraj Pawar, who got a special mention award for *Pistulya*, are also from the same state. For the first time in 58 years, the award certificate has got a makeover. "We have completely changed the design and layout of the award certificate. It is now in A3 size with beautifully gold embossed Ashok Stambh on it. Then we have also redesigned the medal. For the first time, medals will be given in a display box. This is the first time in 58 years that the entire medal box and certificate has undergone a change," said Anil Saxena, director general of film festivals. "This year, like last year, we will have two life performances - one is by Rekha Bhardwaj, who won the best female playback singer award for the film *Ishqiya*. She will sing *Badi dheede dheede jali*. We will have Suresh Wadkar singing *Hey bhaskara kshiti javari ya* from *Mee Sindhutai Sapkal* for which he won the best playback singer male award. If I'm not wrong, this is Suresh Wadkar's first national award," he added.

Last year the National Film Awards added a new category for digital movies and *Adaminte Makan Abu* became the first digital film to win a national award. "For the first time a digital film has won the best feature film award. We introduced digital film category only last year and in second year only a digital film winning an award shows that digital technology has come of age in the national award. It's a shot in the arm for digital filmmakers who never thought that they could compete with celluloid." Many feel that the national award to a great extent shows essence of socialism as it honours talent from every section of filmmaking society. The national awards bring multi-crore movie like *Dabangg* to small fry like *Loha Garam Hai*, made at a shoestring budget in a remote area in Jharkhand on the same platform and honour them for their creative talent. (IAN S)

My bikes, my babies, says John Abraham

Bollywood heart-throb John Abraham is so passionate about his bikes that he treats them like his babies. John is a proud owner of the Yamaha R1 1000cc and V-MAX 1700 cc bikes, and often goes out for a ride late at night and has an in-depth, extensive knowledge about the engines. "They're the most powerful machines in the country...in the world, because they belong to me! They are my babies," John said on BIG CBS Prime show "India's Sexiest Bachelor". The episode will be aired Sep 10. His biking passion has also made John record the sound of his Yamaha R1 and store it as his ringtone. Meanwhile, the actor is gearing up for the release of his new film "Force", where he plays the role of a cop. The film, slated for release Sep 30, also stars Genelia D'Souza in the lead. (IAN S)



Johan Abraham

Sholay action sequences looking great in 3D: Deepa Sahi

Filmmaker Deepa Sahi will bring out 3D version of 1975 classic *Sholay* and says whatever little action sequence they have finished, they are looking promising. "We are doing *Sholay* in 3D. My studio (Maya Digital Studio) is working on it. It's a very exciting project. I saw some parts that we have already finished, they are looking awesome. I saw Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra's train sequence, firing bullets - it is in 3D and it is looking great," Sahi told IANS in an interview. Directed by Ramesh Sippy, *Sholay* set a milestone in the history of Indian cinema. Sahi, who made her acting debut with Govind Nihalani's 1984 movie *Party*, is still remembered for romancing Shah Rukh Khan in the 1993 release *Maya Memsaab*. She is not sure how long it would take them to complete the 3D version of *Sholay* as they have completed only 12 minutes of the 204-minute action thriller. IANS

TOLLYWOOD TALK

Samantha flooded with movie offers

Actress Samantha, who is just five years old in the industry has offers galore. Even as she keeps her fingers crossed before the release of *Dookudu* in Telugu, the gorgeous gal has a reason to smile. Gautham Menon, the director who gave her the first break in *Ye Maya Chesave* (2010), has signed her as the female lead for his trilingual venture, which has been officially launched on September 5. Gautham's movie has received much publicity not entirely for the reason because the filmmaker's films have always been eagerly talked about, but also because Samantha is the heroine in all the three languages in which it is being made - Hindi, Telugu and Tamil. Seen as Nithya, she will co-star opposite Ram in Telugu, Jiiva in Tamil and Aditya Roy Kapoor in Hindi. Samatha has had given other beauties a run for their monies. By being wise in choosing roles, she demonstrated that she is in no hurry to make a quick



Samantha

buck. Her wise moves after her first film, in Tollywood as well as Kollywood, have won her appreciation. This time around, she finds herself landing the coveted offer of doing a single role for a tri-lingual project. Romancing three heroes with different profiles is a tough task in itself. Not for Samantha, so it seems.

Kajal Denies going topless

Kajal Agarwal, who is known for her conservative dressing has created a sensation in the film circles and among the fans going topless for the cover of a premium Bollywood magazine FHM. And in her interview she said, she was inspired by Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan. When asked to



Kajal

school. Ram Gopal Varma and Kiran Kumar Koneru are jointly producing the film on Shreya Productions banner. Vanditha Koneru is presenting it.

Amala Paul in RGV's Bejawada Rowdeelu

Tamil actress Amala Paul, who starred in Chiyuan Vikram's recently released *Nanna*, is likely to make into Telugu films soon. Buzz is that she has been roped in for the female lead role in Ram Gopal Varam's forthcoming controversial film *Bejawada Rowdeelu* starring Naga Chaitanya in the lead role. This will be her first straight Telugu film. She acted in Tamil and Malayalam films. *Bejawada Rowdeelu* is said to be based on the gang wars that happened in Vijayawada almost two decades ago. It is being directed by a debutant, Vivek Krishna, who comes from RGV's

confirm the same, Kajal Agarwal denied going topless and claimed that the image was morphed. She said that she was wearing a black tube top and never gave an interview to the magazine. The editor of the FHM magazine rubbished her allegations calling them a bunch of lies. He said that the shoot was done with her consent and wondered why she chose to deny the same.

Tollywood to go on strike

The various councils of the Telugu film industry have ruled that no new films will go on the floors from the September 7 in protest against the demand of cine workers federations to hike the daily wages for film workers by 50 per cent. C Kalyan, President, South Indian Film Chamber, made the announcement in Chennai yesterday. He said that the producers' council and other film bodies are unhappy with the stubborn stand of groups representing the demands of Telugu cine workers, which are demanding a hike of no less than 50 to even 100 per cent. Drawing a parallel to similar demands in the Kannada industry in the recent past, he argued that in Sandalwood a truce could be reached between the groups after a 10-28% hike was agreed upon, in Tollywood, the stalemate is continuing despite the governing bodies agreeing for a 30 per cent wage hike to film workers. In the light of the impasse, the producers deliberated and finally decided to put off new film shoots from the 7th. Films that are currently in progress should complete their schedules by the 31st of October, failing which action will be initiated against them, Kalyan noted. Their decision has the support of various councils representing actors etc., Kalyan was quoted as saying.

Mahesh, Venky's movie title out

Victory Venkatesh and Prince Mahesh Babu are ready to share screen space in a multi starrer film. Ace actor Venkatesh also confirmed the news in his recent interview to media. The latest buzz is the film is going on to floors from the next January. Earlier Venkatesh has acted with the actors like Srikanth in Sankranthi and with Kamal Haasan in *Eenadu*, but for the first time, he will be sharing screen footage with a reigning Telugu star Mahesh. As per the sources Mahesh has given bulk



Mahesh Babu & Venkatesh

dates for his film with Venkatesh it seems. The film has been titled as *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu* and the much-hyped project will be directed by Srikanth Addala of *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* fame. The film will be produced by Dil Raju.



Amala Paul