

Any role, any movie, I'm ready: Tashu

VARSHA TORGALKAR

About herself
I hail from Kanpur. So you can say I have literally come a long way to reach Tollywood.

The acting bug
It was my passion for acting, more than luck, which helped me survive the cut-throat competition and foray into the Telugu industry. I debuted in Hindi with *Darwaja Band Rakho*, a Ramgopal Verma production. I have just started out and I am keen on acting in any kind of role that I come across. After I prove my talent, I can afford to get choosy. I don't mind even playing a role in an offbeat movie.

On a roll
I had portrayed the role of a girl-next-door, a journalist and now a model. I have long discussions with my directors to understand my character. I don't know about others, but I take my roles seriously and do my homework. I want to work with as many directors as possible as each director has a different style and it helps me to learn new things about movies.

What's up next
I am doing *Salamat* - All is well - with actor Tanish where I play a fashion model of Indian origin who has lived abroad. The role has given me the chance to wear different outfits - Gujarati and Maharashtrian - and walk down the ramp. The movie will release in November.

Tollywood-Bollywood
I have also worked for *Jhoom*, but frankly I found it tough to connect with culture in Hindi cinema. I never felt I was actually working there. I find a marked difference in the Telugu industry. Things work with great precision and everybody is clued into their jobs. From day one, I have felt I am part of this industry. I will choose a Telugu movie to a Hindi movie as my heart lies here.



B'wood Bits

Dhoom 3 postponed to December

Dhoom 3, which was scheduled to release in November, has been postponed to December. This is due to Abhishek Bachchan's paternity leave. According to an insider, Yash Raj had Abhishek's dates from November onwards. But Aishwarya is due in November and Abhishek reportedly wants to spend some quality time with his baby and wife before getting back to work. Hence, he requested the production house to postpone the shoot for a month or two. Media reports quoted sources saying that the Bachchans are family to Yash Chopra and he willingly agreed to give Abhishek some time off. He asked the makers of *Dhoom 3* to begin shooting the film only after Abhishek is ready. The actor in turn has agreed to start shooting mid-December. Now depending on the availability of the locations and technicians, *Dhoom 3* will go on floors in December this year or January next year.

Ajay cuts short his holiday for work

Ajay Devgn, who was busy with his shooting schedule for *Tezz*, had recently made a quick holiday trip to Singapore with wife Kajol and his two kids. Though the holiday was a short one, as the actor had to come back to promote his film *Singham*, he had promised his family that he has something big for them this October. The actor said that he and his family would take a wrap soon after promoting *Rascals*, which is to be released on Dussehra. The plan of this holiday trip is already being planned out.

Kareena the new face of Lakme

Kareena Kapoor, has now been signed up as the brand ambassador of the cosmetic Lakme. The actress is currently shooting for *Bodyguard*.



Magic yet again



Hit combinations of actors, director-music director and director-productions banner combinations will always stand as sentiment in Tollywood and it gives hype for the promotion of flicks. Now it is the turn of *Ye Maya Chesave* pair Naga Chaitanya and Samantha.

Samantha who created waves with her Telugu debut *Ye Maya Chesave* as Jessie and then followed it up with a bubbly role in *Brindaavanam* is signed as heroine for award winning director Deva Katta's next film *Auto Nagar Surya* which features Naga Chaitanya in the title role. This film will reportedly begin in October and will release in the summer of 2012. Max India will banner produce this film in the presentation of RR Movies Venkat.

Biz Buzz

Prakash Raj to teach at Nag's Film School

Prakash Raj has been roped in to teach at the International School for Film and Media by Annapoorna studios. He will reportedly be the head of the acting department at the school. Actor Nagarjuna and Prakash Raj briefed the media recently about how the film school will function. The character actor said that he is not going to 'teach,' but will let the students discover the hidden acting talent in them. Prominent film personalities like Mani Ratnam, Anil Mehta, Revathi, Shobhana, Rasool Pookutty will also address the students.

Oosaravelli's homam shoot at Sanghi

Actor NTR shot at Sanghi temple for *Oosaravelli* recently. The film unit is shooting a homam scene on NTR, Jayaprakash Reddy and others. A special set was erected for the purpose inside the temple premises. Tamanna is playing the female lead opposite NTR. Tamanna is reportedly playing the role of a memory loss patient and NTR will safeguard her. Nearly 80 per cent of the shooting has been completed. Directed by Surender Reddy, the movie portrays the hero as one who uses his muscle and intellect to handle a crisis and help others. BVSN Prasad is producing the film under the banner of Venkateswara Cine Chitra. Devi Sri Prasad has composed the music.

Nag's Rajanna heads for brisk completion

Nagarjuna's latest movie *Rajanna*, under the direction of Vijayendra Prasad, is currently shooting in Hyderabad. The climax action episodes are being filmed in a specially erected set at Annapoorna studios. Director SS Rajamouli is directing these sequences. This schedule will be completed by August 5. Nagarjuna reportedly plays the role of a freedom fighter. The movie made under the Annapoorna Studios banner deals with the freedom struggle of the region. *Rajanna*'s music is by MM Keeravani and cinematography is by KK Senthil Kumar. Sneha, who worked with Nagarjuna for *Sri Ramadasu*, is playing heroine in *Rajanna*.

Nath Nath.. 50 and Not Out!



"We did not imagine that *Badrinath* will be such a success even three days after the movie released," said producer Allu Aravind speaking at the *Badrinath* success meet on Friday. The occasion was to celebrate the movie's milestone of crossing 50 days in 187 centres. "After D Suresh Babu called me on the third day congratulating me about how well the movie has turned up, the movie's collections also picked up pace. As a producer, I always expect good returns for my investment. For *Badrinath*, I only wanted Bunny (Allu Arjun) to be portrayed in a good image." He congratulated director VV Vinayak for 'nagging the crew to give their best' thereby contributing to the success of the movie. "There was no doubt about *Badrinath*'s success. We not only worked hard, we worked with reverence and dedication. Sooner or later, hard work will be rewarded," said Allu Arjun talking about the success of his movie. "My Dad is not just a great dad. He is a great producer too," he added. Speaking on the occasion, Vinayak said he went into a depression after he heard of the initial talk about the movie. "I even contemplated quitting movies if *Badrinath* bombed at the box-office. But things turned to my favour in three days and I am overwhelmed with the way the audience have received the movie. We overshot the budget by Rs 5 crore, but just the songs seem to have earned back most of it." He recounted his long association with producer Aravind and said he was happy that he could give back a hit movie to him. Tamannah said she was thankful to Allu Aravind for giving her the opportunity to act in the movie although she did not have too many hits to her credit by then.

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Clockwise from top left: VV Vinayak, Allu Arjun, Tamannah and Allu Aravind; Unveiling of *Badrinath* painting by Arjun; Allu Arjun walks by; Crew of the movie at the 50 Days Success Meet; Tamannah. Pics by Ravi Girgani