

Asif returned over Rs3.24 million: Veena

Film and TV Actress Veena Malik said Wednesday Muhammad Asif has returned Rs3, 243,000 from a total of Rs10.64 million she gave to the fast bowler.

Veena told a private TV channel that she met Asif at the residence of a common friend, where Asif paid the first installment through a draft. However, she said Asif is yet to pay the remaining Rs10.32 millions.

According to the actress, Asif has asked for two-week time to pay the remaining amount.

- THE POST MONITORING

What does Sonam want banned?

Actress Sonam Kapoor has urged Maharashtra Home Minister R.R. Patil to ban the manufacture of glass-coated strings (manja), used for flying kites, in the entire state as many birds die after getting entangled in them.

"I humbly request your support for the recent ban on 'manja' in Mumbai as well as your immediate action to extend the ban throughout Maharashtra," she said in a letter to Patil.

"The use of 'manja' may be amusing for some, but for many families - human and bird alike - whose loved ones lose their lives, it is a situation that can be definitely prevented," Sonam added.

She has made the request on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India after the Mumbai police banned the use of glass-coated 'manja' for flying kites within the city because of injuries and fatalities to both birds and humans.

- SHOWBIZ DESK



Leighton Meester, wearing a green, double breasted coat and polka dot scarf over a blue floral dress, hangs out on the Brooklyn set of "Gossip Girl". Connor Paolo, wearing headphones around his neck and talking on his cell phone, was also spotted on set.

Ashley's hopes of reconciliation dashed

Ashley Cole's hopes of a meeting with estranged wife Cheryl seems ever more distant today as the singer instead threw herself into work commitments in London.

As she spent the morning at a rehearsal studio in south-west London, it emerged that Ashley may need a further week rehabilitating an ankle injury at a clinic in the south of France.

Ashley had hoped for an audience with Cheryl in London today to desperately try to explain away his infidelities.

Sources close to Cheryl have however told

MailOnline that the best he can hope for is a frank one-to-one with her about how they should divide their assets in a divorce.

However neither seemed likely today as Cheryl left her home before lunch and headed straight to a recording studio in Putney, south-west London to rehearse for upcoming performances to promote her debut solo album.

Miss Cole arrived at Ritz Studios, a venue specialising in rehearsals for band before they begin live tours, at around 11am and left a couple of hours later, headed back home.

- MAIL ONLINE



Ajay Devgan on working in comedies

The best part about these films is that most of these have turned successful at the box office. With the industry more than happy to follow a trend when it comes to successful subjects and actors starring in them, one can understand a new route that Ajay has taken when it comes to wearing his comic act. ALL THE BEST, GOLMAAL RETURNS, GOLMAAL - Ajay is certainly enjoying a new facet of his (on screen) personality that has been revealed to the audience. Now with running in theaters, he seems to be carrying on his successful stint.

"Yes, this film is a comedy too but let's be cognizant of the fact that it is

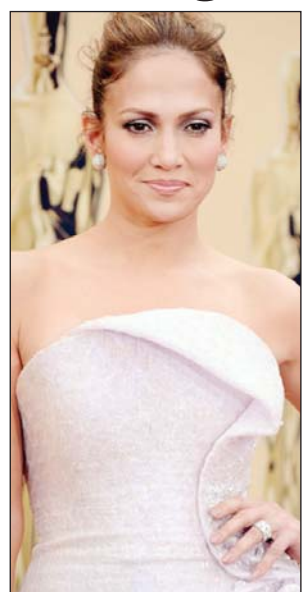


far more subtle than the likes of say a GOLMAAL. In films like that, I play to the gallery whereas in something like ATITHI..', the acting style has to be a little more natural.

The situations shown in the film are of the kind that are much more realistic. Now I am sure that most of us can identify with a situation where an unwelcome guest refuses to go away despite a long stay", says Ajay who in his two decades career has balanced the likes of a QAYAMAT, GOLMAAL, HINDUSTAN KI KASAM or DILJALE with OMKARA, RAINCOAT, ZAKHM or THAKSHAK

- SHOWBIZ DESK

Jennifer Lopez has shining star moment



Jennifer Lopez put the plunging necklines away for the 2010 Academy Awards, possibly glowing in a gorgeous Armani Privé gown. We'd originally hoped to see Anne Hathaway for this gown, but La Lopez more than does the dress justice.

Lopez paired the soft lavender gown with a sweet, elegant updo and soft, ultra-feminine makeup. She kept the accoutrements simple, wearing diamond earrings, a thin diamond bracelet, and little else. Lopez can next be seen in The Back-Up Plan, in which she plays a woman who is artificially inseminated before she meets the man of her dreams. Oh, fun!

- AGENCIES

Acting in West gives me a high: Irfan

Irfran Khan, popular for his serious and comic roles in

Bollywood, is increasingly making inroads into the western world with projects like "A Mighty Heart", "Slumdog Millionaire" and even an American TV show.

He admits that being an international actor gives him a high.

"It's always an inner wish of every actor to reach out to maximum audiences. I am lucky that the western world chooses me to play roles in their movies and television, whatever language it maybe. It surely gives you a high to be an international actor with quality work," Irfan told IANS in an e-mail interview.

His first international film was London-based director Asif Kapadia's "The Warrior". Irfan played a lead in the film that was shot in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Released in 2001, "The Warrior" was applauded at international film festivals and made Irfan a known face on the global arena.

In the recent past, the 48-year-old was seen in international projects like Angelina Jolie-starrer "A Mighty Heart" (2007) and Hollywood venture "The Darjeeling Limited" in the same year. He then got a role in British director Danny Boyle's multiple award-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" and is also working in Jennifer Chambers Lynch's

"Hisss".

He is now set to feature in American television show "In Treatment".

Apart from his overseas ventures, Irfan has quite a few interesting Hindi films in hand. At the moment he is gearing up for the release of "Right Yaaa Wrong", produced by Subhash Ghai. Irfan said he had to unlearn acting for the film that is slated to release Friday.

"I had to unlearn acting and act as a real man behind dramatic situations in life of this cop who has to go against his best friend to arrest him. I learnt how to go through heavy dramatic emotions with controlled calmness. Every scene was a question to me as an actor," he said. The

thriller revolves around two cops - Ajay Shridhar (Sunny Deol) and Vinay Patnaik (Irfan). Their intense rivalry leads them on a battle for supremacy.

Earlier, Irfan has played a cop in films like "Rog", "Slumdog Millionaire", "Gunaah" and "New York". Asked why he decide to take up this role, Irfan said: "I like challenging roles. Playing a police officer is boring, but playing a human in a police officer's uniform with complex emotions was tough. That was the reason to accept this well-defined role."

After "Right Yaaa Wrong", Irfan will also be seen in Tigmanshu Dhulia's "Paan Singh Tomar".

- AGENCIES

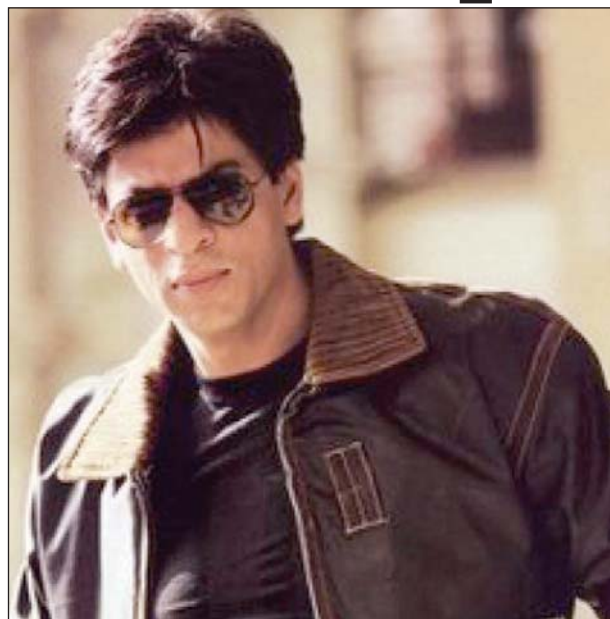


SRK turns superhero

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is excited about his first superhero film 'Ra.One', which will also see him flying. And he says he is doing it for his children and hopes to succeed at the box office.

"The film 'Ra.One' is a superhero film. There is a good guy, there is a bad guy, there is a beautiful girl, there is a wonderful singer and a fantastic director," Shah Rukh told reporters at a press conference organised to welcome the international R&B singer Akon at Sahara Star hotel today.

"It's a kind of film, a genre we guys haven't tried at Red Chilies. On behalf of the whole team, I would like to try and I hope we succeed. It's a new thing for all of us, so we are giving it our best shot. Hopefully, we will be able to do what we are set out to do. I am doing it for my kids," he added.



The film is being directed by Anubhav Sinha and Kareena Kapoor plays Shah Rukh's love interest in it.

He said: "My superhero character is called Jeeva and he

can solidify electricity. It's a concept we are trying to work on. Hopefully, visually it will be understandable too. It is a superhero film and I am going to fly in it."

Shah Rukh confirmed Akon will record a number for the film, but clarified that the R&B singer won't sing for the promotional song for his IPL team, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

"No, he is actually here to do a song for 'Ra.One'. We would love him to do a lot of songs. We haven't developed the song for KKR, but if I do, I would obviously request him to do that."

"No, there is not any business deal with Akon. He has just been very gracious. You know, he is unlike me - I charge for everything. I will be really honest. When you see an artist or a singer, you truly realise that they want to do it for the sake of art. And what I love about him is that he only loves to work," said Shah Rukh.

Kareena was also present and welcomed Akon by putting 'tilak' on his forehead and a garland around his neck.

- AGENCIES

Big B notches up another lifetime award

Amitabh Bachchan will receive a lifetime achievement award at the sixth edition of the Muscat International Film Festival starting March 13.

"In a few days it will be Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman and the International Film Festival, where there shall be decoration for a Lifetime of Achievement," the 67-year-old posted on his blog bigb.bigadda.com.

Other Indian artists expected to attend the film festival are Shabana Azmi, Mohanlal and Resul Pookutty.

About 72 films from 20 countries are expected to be screened at the festival.

- SHOWBIZ DESK

Katrina Kaif: Beauty with a heart

Katrina the London Beauty in her Bollywood duty is an emotional person, the girls heart beats for the needy and now we come to know why Sallu fell head over heels for this London bala.

Confirming the phrase beauty with a heart, our dear Katrina is currently in London accompanied by her mother Sussana Mary Turcotte to raise funds for the Relief Projects India and Mercy Home.

The actress has gone to London with her mother to raise funds for the Relief Projects India taking time out from her busy schedule in spite of her release 'Rajneeti' being around the corner.

- AGENCIES

Bipasha Basu again under attack

Actress Bipasha Basu had to go through some humiliation when a hotel owner created ruckus outside her room pressurizing her to attend his party, Bipasha now was under heavy explicit comments by the crowd at a recent award function.

At a recent awards function, the crowd went out of control and started using indecent language to get the actresses' attention.

And when the crowd began to use words like Bipasha, 'Beedi Jalaly Le' and 'Item Girl', she decided to walk out of the venue much to the surprise of the organizers.

Bipasha walked out of the ceremony stating that she was not going to bear with all the non-sense from the unruly crowd.

- AGENCIES



Preity plays role of dedicated daughter



Preity Zinta has always been known for her bold and fearless attitude in fighting for the right cause. Recently, she has taken up yet another cause to ensure justice to Shandar Arohi who is one of the three children of legendary late Kamaal Amrohi. The Arohi family is in news these days due to their property dispute that's worth over a staggering Rs.600 crore!

It may be known here that Shandar always took Preity Zinta as his daughter ever since he saw her films. He had also announced once that he would pass on all his property to Preity. The story goes as Shandar has filed a case against his sister Rukhsar and brother Wasim stating that they have falsely pledged his shares in 'Mahal Pictures Pvt Ltd' (that owns the famous Kamaal Amrohi studio), to a company in Pune. Shandar says that he is battling not for money but for justice and that Preity is helping him fight it, despite strong opposition from the other family members.

- SHOWBIZ DESK