

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010

John Travolta bowled over by Ash



HOLLYWOOD star John Travolta seemed to be bowled over by Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai while he was in Mumbai

for an award function last week.

Not only did he request the organisers to seat him close to Aishwarya and her actor-husband Abhishek Bachchan, but he was quite insistent that the former beauty queen should present him the award, said a source.

Travolta, who featured in popular films Saturday Night Fever, Grease and Pulp Fiction, was here with his daughter Ella for the GQ Man of the Year awards.

As per his request, he was presented the GQ Legend of the Year award by Aishwarya Sunday night and was even seated with the actress and her husband.

Travolta, who was dressed in a black formal dinner jacket with a bow tie, presented the Icon of the Year award to



actor-producer Aamir Khan. The actor is still in India for a month-long vacation. He has planned a visit to places like Jaipur and Goa.

— AGENCIES

SRK happy with India's maturity

BOLLYWOOD superstar Shah Rukh Khan says he is proud of the maturity of the countrymen in supporting the Ayodhya verdict, and hopes that the judgment will unite the nation.

"Equal distribution of land hopefully will lead to equal acceptance of each other's beliefs. Happy at maturity and patience countrymen have shown," Shah Rukh posted on his Twitter page late Friday.

He said: "1/3 of heart for family, 1/3 to work, 1/3 for pumping blood. All get passing marks and heart still beats for my country. All good knock on wood."

The actor, a devout Muslim who married Hindu heart-throb Gauri Chhibber almost 20 years ago, was the point of debate as an icon of religious unity at a three-day conference which ended Saturday at a Vienna University.

"There was a conference on me in Vienna. Was humbled and proud that Indian cinema is becoming a global platform for discussion," he said.

While he has been shooting for his home production "Ra.One" for some time, he is now preparing to shoot for "Don 2".

"Looking forward to just being a star on sets. Being a producer doesn't allow u (you) that on 'Ra.One'," he tweeted.

— AGENCIES

Veena to sizzle at Big Boss season 4 opening

VEENA Malik is performing at the opening ceremony of Big Boss season four which is being on aired today and Bollywood actor Salman Khan is hosting the program.

The Big Boss takes after the UK reality show Big Brother. Big Boss is the world's 2nd largest reality show. Veena Malik is the 1st Pakistani celebrity who is participating and performing in this program.

The time period for the Big Boss is 100 days program and 14 contestants are taking part in it.

Other 13 expected participants are Sara Khan, Neetu Chandra, Jackie Sherof, singer Shan, Chukky Panday, Sneha Ullal, Sangeeta Bijlani, Dancer Tarrunum, Rajesh Khana, Dimpy Ganguly Mahajan, Davindar Singh, Manoj Tiwari and Avika Gor.

Big Boss 1st season was hosted by Arshad Warsi, 2nd season by Shilpa Shetty, 3rd season by Amitabh Bachan and now fourth season host is Salman Khan. This program will on air on Indian TV channel "COLOR".

It will be a 14 weeks program. Every week through voting, 1 participant will go out from the program. The Color TV program team specially selected Veena Malik because after cricket controversy. Veena is also offered a lot of projects by Bollywood.

— THE POST REPORT



Cheryl tries to whittle down XFactor Girls

IT'S the moment of truth in the X Factor tonight - yes, the nation gets to see for itself any chemistry between judge Cheryl Cole and her special friend Will.I.Am.

Cheryl invited the Black Eyed Pea to join her at the Judges' Houses stage of the show, which for her, is held in a Berkshire mansion.

Cheryl is this year casting her eye over the Girls - and Katie, Cher, Rebecca, Gamu, Anastasia, Kerri, Trey and Raquel have a lot to prove.

On tonight's show, Will.I.Am takes his place next to the Girls Aloud star on the sofa after being introduced by her when she says: 'Don't know if you'll have any idea who it is but he's a very good friend of mine and an absolute mega star, it's Mr Will.I.Am.' Will.I.Am meanwhile tells the ladies: 'Cheryl asked me to come and help her out and I can't wait to see what you guys got.'

Meanwhile, mentor Cheryl adds: 'I'm so happy to be back and I'm really sorry I missed Bootcamp, but I've watched the tapes.'

— AGENCIES

Katie goes all flower power



things and looked as though she had accidentally tucked it into her knickers. As least she got the shoes right, the black leather Casadei towering heels showing off her sexy long legs perfectly. The actress, 31, was a guest at the lunch, which took place at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

— SHOWBIZ DESK

SHE'S often been vilified for her unflattering and downright unusual dress sense. So maybe it's time for Katie Holmes to consider hiring a stylist, especially in light of her outfit at a star-studded lunch yesterday. The actress was snapped at Variety magazine's 2nd Annual Power Of Women Luncheon in a floral dress by Louis Vuitton that did absolutely nothing for her. The three-quarter length sleeves didn't suit the length of the dress and the neckline was trimmed with a black strip of material that was frayed around the edges. But it was the hemline that was truly awful, as it was all misshapen round her

Do they share a stylist?

With their matching flowing blue gowns, lightly tanned skin and perfectly coiffed hair Dannii Minogue and Natalie Imbruglia look uncannily similar as they team up on tonight's X Factor.

Dannii roped in her fellow Australian singer after deciding to hold her judges' houses section of the show in her native Melbourne.

Despite missing the audition stage of the show, she is keen to get back to work after her. And she's also glad to be in her home country.

'I'm so glad to be doing my Judges homes here, finally,' she said. 'I've been wanting to do this for years.'

— SHOWBIZ DESK



Are you excited to be a part of Yash Raj banner?

YES, of course. It's a romantic comedy and the film is slated to go on the floors this month. I have a parallel lead role.

Will you be singing in the movie?

"Definitely. The music is by Sohail Sen, who was the music director of What's Your Rashee.

Tere Bin Laden was a sleeper hit in the country and abroad. What kind of responses have you been getting?

Overwhelming! The responses we have got were not what we had expected. I'm grateful to people who have liked the film. When I signed on, I wanted to do something that was out-of-the-box. And the film fulfilled that wish.

How was it received in Pakistan?

Tere Bin Laden didn't release in Pakistan, but many watched it on pirated DVDs and loved the film.

What was the best compliment you have received for the film?

I met this gentleman whose friends forced him to watch Tere Bin Laden when he was sick. — SHOWBIZ DESK

Katrina's going great guns in films

NOT many actresses in Bollywood are flooded with movie offers like Kat. Now having proved her talent for acting in her last stunner 'Raajneeti', Kat's fortunes have been on an upward swing when it comes to work. Katrina, who recently filmed a qawwali number for Farah's 'Tees Maar Khan', is currently working alongside Imran Khan in Yash Raj's 'Mere Brother Ki Dulhan' in the capital.

Incidentally, not only her performances have been much appreciated but also her beauty which still remains to be in the top spot.

Interestingly, this sexy diva had won the most desirable poll on Zoom Television beating all her counterparts in the race. For the sixth year celebration of the channel this week, Kat was even seen flaunting this new 'Sexy' tag. Talking on this, Kat stated, "I don't see myself in that way, I see many people far more glamorous and better dressed than me. I guess it's something about my persona in my films, and

the roles I play that create the image. I really think there are so many girls who are more stunning and stylish than me."

For the second time, Kat will be seen gracing the cover pages of Harper's Bazaar for its latest issue.

— AGENCIES



Models Corner



Model:
Kiran Chauhan
Coordination:
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productions



Music only positive connection between India, Pakistan

PAKISTANI singer Shafqat Amanat Ali, who is the voice behind Bollywood hits like 'Mitwa' and 'Tere Naina', feels that music is the only positive connection between the two countries.

Shafqat, who rose to prominence as the lead vocalist of Pakistani pop band Fuzon with hits like 'Ankhiya' and 'Mora Saiyan' performed in Indian cities Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chandigarh as part of his tour.

"It's a proud feeling that I am here for a noble cause of bridging the gap between India and Pakistan. At least I am playing my role. The relationship between the two countries has worsened due to some people and the only positive connection we have is through music. The fan following of Pakistani singers in India and vice-versa proves my point," Shafqat said.

Trained in classical music tradition of both India and Pakistan since he was just four-years-old, Shafqat left 'Fuzon' in 2006 to embark on a solo career and has not looked back since then.

"There has been no change in my singing style. It wasn't a very difficult decision to break away from the band, they were insecure of me which I found hard to deal with," he said. He stepped into Bollywood the same year with 'Mitwa' and is now a recognisable name in Indian films with tracks like 'Tere Naina' for 'My Name Is Khan' and 'Bin Tere' from the movie 'I Hate Luv Storys'.

"So far I have sung only other people's compositions. They want you to sing in their own way but it's been really great. This new experience has been very good and doing play back is very exciting," Shafqat said.

"Mitwa' was my first song in Bollywood. It always reminds me of my first step in films so it is very close to my heart. I am also looking forward to work with Vishal Bhardwaj and AR Rahman," he added.

Nick-named the 'Rock star Ustad' by Saleem Merchant of the Saleem-Suleman duo, Shafqat also came out with a solo album

'Taber' in 2008, based on Folk and Sufi works, which unfortunately was not too commercially successful. "Private albums don't get a good response due to Bollywood. They are pushed back. However, I was satisfied with my work," said Shafqat, who will be performing in the capital tomorrow at the concert organized by Routes2Roots. He also laid emphasis on the need for rising musicians to get basic training of Classical music.

"Classical training is like a heavy vehicle driving license. You can try anything you want. It definitely helps you a lot," Shafqat said. Dismissing reports that Indian artists are not encouraged to perform in Pakistan, he said, "People like Jagjit Singh and Udit Narayan have performed there and so have stars like Saif Ali Khan."

— AGENCIES

