

## My Character In 'New York' Is Real Me: Katrina

New Delhi: (IANS) Having already created a buzz with her 'no make up' look in the promos of her forthcoming venture "New York", Katrina Kaif says her character Maya in the movie is a reflection of what she is in real life.

"The first brief that I got from my director (Kabir Khan) was that 'it (the character) is the Katrina whom you have not seen in other films... She is not the one by whom you are intimidated when you see her'. I have just been myself in the film," Katrina told IANS.

"I was told 'look at yourself, the personality you have and the things you go through in real life'... Of course, the situations would be different but Maya is what Katrina is off-screen. She is what I'm in real life," she added.



Asked if it was a deliberate effort to have a deglamorised look in the film, she said: "When I hear the word deglamorised, I think of someone who has put mud on the face and is wearing dirty clothes... It's not a deglamorised role... It's a very realistic role where I bring out what I am in reality."

Portraying her real characteristics in the movie was also a "different experience" for the 24-year-old. "It was a kind of a challenge in itself, but it was the most wonderful part too," she said.

Produced and distributed by Yash Raj Films, "New York" released June 26 worldwide.

Apart from Katrina, it stars John Abraham and Neil Nitin Mukesh in male leads with Irrfan

Khan in a pivotal role. Set in New York, the narrative spreads over nine years. It tells the story of three young friends whose lives take an unexpected turn after 9/11.

"My brief was very clear that Maya is not a Muslim and also that 9/11 attacks are only a backdrop to the film, after which their (the three friends') lives change and take a turn... it's about their emotional journey in the film than anything else," she said.

Apart from honing her acting skills, Katrina has also begun dubbing her movies on her own with an improved Hindi accent.

"I choose to dub on my own and make the efforts. I try to make it sound correct. Where some other artist might take three days to dub, I take six days, but I am trying very hard," she averred.

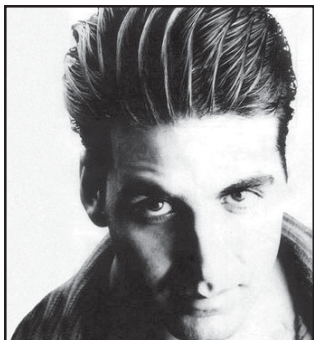
Katrina also denied taking Hindi classes.

"I don't think I need to take Hindi lessons."

After predominantly juggling with comedy, Katrina has moved to serious roles with "New York" and Prakash Jha's "Rajneeti".

## Both Katrina, Kareena Have Sexy Bodies, Says Akshay Kumar

New Delhi: (IANS) Akshay Kumar has worked with both Kareena Kapoor and Katrina Kaif in several films, but can't decide who is better. The action king says both are "wonderful actresses" and have "sexy bodies".



"Both Kareena and Katrina are really good but who is the better among them depends on their roles in the films. Otherwise, both of them

have sexy bodies and are absolutely wonderful actresses," said Akshay when asked to choose his favorite of the two.

Akshay has done four films with Katrina including "Namastey London" and "Singh Is Kinng", while he has worked with Kareena in five that include hits "Ajnabee" and "Aitraaz". The two are set to scorch the screen once again in their upcoming action-cum-romantic drama "Kambakkht Ishq", which releases Friday.

"In 'Kambakkht Ishq', Kareena has performed very well. Her character required to answer back at me and be strong and she has portrayed it in a powerful, yet lovable way. On the other hand, even Katrina was really good in 'Namastey London'. So it's not really about my choice... it all depends on their roles," the actor told IANS over phone from Puerto Rico in the US, where he is on a holiday.

"I cannot particularly point out what I have learnt from them (Kareena and Katrina) yet, but yes, working with them was a learning experience," said the actor, who has also teamed up with Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone and Ayesha Takia.

## Victory For Gays Gets Three Cheers From Bollywood

Mumbai: (IANS) Bollywood can't stop talking about the Delhi High Court's landmark judgement that has decriminalised gay sex. From Shatrughan Sinha to Sushmita Sen, all say the verdict was long due and celebrates an individual's right to choose. And they all feel lesbians, gays and transgenders can finally live freely without fear.

**Shatrughan Sinha:** Old rusty laws are like useless politicians. They should be thrown out. I'm glad Section 377 has been repealed. It was long due. What two people do in the privacy of their bedroom is nobody's business. Homosexuality is not a phenomenon restricted to one country, culture or community. All over the world some of the finest minds are inclined towards same-sex relationships. What is wrong with that as long as two people are happy?



**John Abraham:** I think the right to a personal choice is a very fundamental right and, thank god, the law against homosexuals has been repealed. Yes, I've gay fans and I did a film 'Dostana', which mercifully did not ridicule the community. I've been brought up in a very liberal Parsi-Catholic household. I believe minorities don't exist any longer. Every community - including homosexuals - has a majority voice.

**Sushmita Sen:** I always salute decisions that celebrate an individual's right to choose. I could

never understand any form of love or any kind of relationship being 'criminal'. Cheers to all those human beings who have won the freedom of choice.

**Mugdha Godse:** I welcome this decision with open arms. I'm happy a man now has as much right to love a man as he has the right to love a woman. Gays no longer need to hide their feelings. I'm happy for many of my friends.

**Shekhar Kapoor:** This should've been done long ago.

**Irrfan Khan:** It's a sign of a system adopting a viewpoint that indicates openness. This will rid the guilt that gays live with and stop police exploitation of the community. I played a gay character in Mira Nair's short film directed by Zoya Akhtar. I researched on their anguish. It was terrifying.

**Sanjay Suri:** Criminalisation of gay sex among consenting adults was a violation of fundamental human rights. It's a progressive judgement. The law should have been done away with ages ago."

**Neil Nitin Mukesh:** Thank god people realised homosexuals are human beings with deep emotions and urges for which they were being punished for years. Now they can live peacefully without the law breathing down their necks. This change was long overdue.

**Riya Sen:** Most of my closest friends are homosexuals. I'm very happy for the gay community. We're a democracy; so why curb anyone's freedom?"

**Subhash Ghai:** I'm always receptive to the changing world and the truth about human nature being revealed. Since the inner truth is always more real than the social truth, the reality within takes time to come out and be accepted by society.

## 'Swayamvar': Will The Real Rakhi Sawant Stand Up?

New Delhi: (IANS) Item girl Rakhi Sawant had promised to be her real self on "Rakhi Ka Swayamvar" but she seems to be trying too hard to break her outspoken image by projecting herself as a subtle, demure and a perfect bride-to-be on the reality show.

"Rakhi Ka Swayamvar" went on air recently and Rakhi's low tone of voice and graceful



mannerisms on the pioneer episode was a complete contrast to how the audience knows the item girl.

From the moment the show began when host, actor Ram Kapoor introduced the concept as well as the bride-to-be to the time when Rakhi herself welcomed 16 prospective grooms to the Fateh Garh Palace in Udaipur - Rakhi did not look her real self.

This, despite the fact that she had promised the world that "Rakhi Ka Swayamvar" would show her "real" self. From small-time actors, a police officer, a sales manager, an NRI businessman to engineers, an advocate, a student, a marriage consultant, a stunt artist and even a choreographer - Rakhi has a number of grooms to choose her life partner from.

On the show Rakhi will choose her perfect man with the help of viewers.

The 16 grooms, who have come from cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Bulandshahr, Hrishikesh, Jaipur, Kanpur and Srinagar and even from places as far as Toronto, made every attempt to woo the lady in their unique styles.

While some walked in with elaborate and well-thought gifts like a wedding dress, a teddy bear, a bangle, et al, a few tried to impress Rakhi with their 'shayari' (Urdu couplets) in the first episode itself.

But the selection of the final candidate will be decided on the basis of several parameters. The contenders will be brought together under one roof and put through a series of challenges that will test their personality, character, physical fitness, talent and also their compatibility with Rakhi.

All through the series, viewers can help Rakhi decide, by voting for or against the prospective grooms and the final week will present the wedding celebrations.

'Rakhi Ka Swayamvar' is being telecast every Monday-Friday at 9 p.m. on NDTV Imagine.