

## Dumbstruck Sonu Niigaam Explains His Ponytail Look

Popular singer Sonu Niigaam is flabbergasted by the criticism he has received from his fans and the media for sporting two ponytails and an unkempt look. He says people should rather concentrate on his singing than his looks.



“One day you all will know that whatever I do with my hair, is to wake up people from a slumber. You guys pay too much attention to swim suits, fashion,

hairstyles, exterior stuff, etc.” Niigaam posted on micro-blogging site Twitter. The singer, who received negative comments after he was seen sporting a French beard and two ponytails at an event in Mumbai Wednesday, has taken the help of the online platform to nag the media and those who commented on his looks.

“I know, they (media) will never write good about me, even if I’m looking good. Would they? Have you seen any article praising my earlier hairstyle? Nothing against media, I respect their and some of your (fans) opinions, but do you ever talk about mediocre, or bad singing or music the way you highlight hair-dos?” he posted.

Niigaam, who has lent vocals to some of the Bollywood’s best known songs like “Panchhi Nadiyaan”, “Tanhaayee” and title tracks of “Saathiya” and “Kal Ho Naa Ho”, apart from many others, says the media must write about better aspects related to music.

“Media and you (fans) must talk about average singing, music doing the rounds and genuine talent sitting at home waiting for work. Underestimating others and throwing your opinions on others is the easiest thing one can do. For a change, look at the more important things,” he added.

Niigaam says he is the only singer who dares to experiment with his look.

## Films Dont Fail, Budgets Fail: Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor has begun to understand the nuances of movie business rather well. After witnessing the box office debacle of her two big-budget movies, Sonam has realized it is wiser to do small budget films like her forthcoming “I Hate Luv Storys”.

“I decided let’s go the other way. Quite a few seasoned directors offered me films. When you work with Sanjay Bhansali (‘Saawariya’) and Rakeysh Mehra (‘Delhi 6’), the audience expects so much from you. Both the films were big budget films,” Sonam, 25, told IANS in an interview.

“I think films don’t fail, budgets fail. For example ‘Saawariya’ broke even, but it was neither a hit nor a flop. Had it been made in say Rs.15 crore or less, it would have been a hit. So I thought let me try doing films of lesser budget.”



After debuting with Bhansali’s “Saawariya” (2007) and then doing another seasoned director Mehra’s “Delhi-6”, Sonam had to convince herself to work with first-time director Punit Malhotra in “I Hate Luv Storys”, which also stars Imran Khan in the male lead.

“When Punit came

to me, I thought he is such a good-looking guy, he should be into acting, why he is directing.

When I saw that he has written the script and dialogue all by himself, I thought this guy has something in him. When he was speaking about the characters, he was very specific about what he wants,” she said.

“I found that he has worked as assistant director for 10 years. He knows the technical elements and he has his own point of view. I thought he is not a bad guy to work with. I also wanted to work with Imran and we both were his first choice.”

In three years Sonam has had just two releases.

She said: “I believe in quality and I believe if you don’t saturate yourself you can’t be creative.”

“I Hate Luv Storys” is a romance saga. It revolves around two people who are completely opposite when it comes to finding true love. While Imran’s character Jay doesn’t believe in love, Simran, played by Sonam, swears by it and is quite filmy when it comes to love.

Sonam has no qualms in accepting that her actor father Anil

Kapoor’s reputation in the industry has helped.

“I have my dad’s experience behind me. I am his daughter not son; so there is not much comparison. People have too much respect for him and he holds a good reputation. So people think that an apple can’t fall too far from the tree, and she may be good as her father and I get work. I have no qualms in accepting that it’s all because of my dad,” said Sonam.

“My parents are very honest in showing me my shortfalls. They have always guided me on what to do and what not to do. They told me not to get into the rat race because there you need to do lots of manipulation.”

### INTERVIEW

## Shekhar Kapur’s Tips To Budding Actors

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, who is often being asked by aspiring actors what it takes to be a good actor, says that acting requires discipline and years of introspection.

“It takes years of discipline to create mastery over your body and voice. It takes years of introspection and hard work to learn how to use the inherent emotions in you, to be able to transfer them seamlessly to your mind and emotion and from there seamlessly to your body and voice,” Shekhar wrote on his blog shekharkapur.com.

“The discipline and ‘riyaz’ (practice) of an

actor is no less than that of a classical dancer,” he added.

Shekhar, who has directed movies like “Bandit Queen”, “Elizabeth” and “Elizabeth: The Golden Age” says that today’s actors are driven by physical appearance and believe in making rounds of the page three circuit.

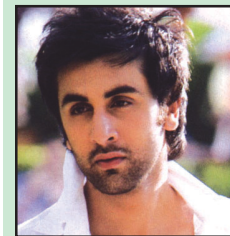
“You go to the Gym, get great pictures taken, discover your best angles, and go to parties to network. Get a six pack or a great body and go to photographers that know how to exploit those assets and then later photo shop them into perfection,” he wrote.

“Being attractive on the outside may be important, but the ‘art’ of acting is to be attractive on the ‘inside,’” he added.



## Peacemaker Ranbir

Ranbir Kapoor, who was seen as a scheming politician in “Raajneeti”, brought Prakash Jha and Nana Patekar together after their public



fallout. Apparently Ranbir, didn’t relish the uneasy silence between the two veterans. He dialed Nana’s number from Kong Kong where he had gone with Jha for a “Raajneeti” event.

When Nana answered the phone,

Ranbir quickly handed it over to Jha. Confirming that the cold war between him and Nana is over, Jha said: “We are once again connected. Nana is delighted by the success of ‘Raajneeti’ and is keeping tabs on the film’s progress.”

## I Was Destined To Be In Bollywood: Brazilian Bruna Abdulla

Brazilian model Bruna Abdulla has been a VJ, done an item-number and also featured in a reality show. But destiny, she said, knocked only when she got the big screen break in “I Hate Luv Storys”.

“When I packed my bags for Mumbai, all I knew was that I wanted to be a model. Not even in my faintest dreams had I dreamt about grabbing a role in such a big project. I just don’t know exactly how I am here, but I guess it was destined,” Bruna told IANS in a telephonic interview from Mumbai.

The 23-year-old started her career as a model and then hosted a show called “India’s Hottest” for Channel V. She then featured in an item-song “Rehem Karen” in “Cash”, but an unexpected call from Punit Malhotra, director of “I Hate Luv Storys”, changed her life.

“When I went to meet Punit, I was nervous because I was expecting someone senior to me. But I got the shock of my life when I saw a very young lad, dressed in a funky T-shirt, rugged

jeans and sneakers,” said Bruna.

As the model hails from Brazil, her Hindi is not so perfect, but she taught herself by watching Hindi movies and listening to Bollywood songs.

“At the audition, Punit gave me a script. He wanted me to deliver the dialogues in Hindi. I requested him to give me a day to rehearse, so that I can give my best shot. I understand the language, but speaking was difficult.”

“When I had come to India, I couldn’t understand

the language. Everything sounded same to me. But I can proudly say that I am learning and it is going to be much better in coming years,” she added.

Sohow was it sharing space with Sonam Kapoor and Imran Khan, who are in the lead roles.

“Well I knew Sonam ever since I landed in India. She is my boyfriend’s best friend. So working with her was fun. She was very encouraging and sweet,” said Bruna.

“Imran is a very shy guy like me. But he has got this great sense of humour. He always used to play pranks on

others. You know what, Avantika (Imran’s fiancée) is a real sweetheart. She used to come and light up the sets. She is very lively. Thanks to her, sets used to be real fun.”

Don’t you think you were overshadowed by the lead stars in the movie.

“Well, when I met Punit, he had made it clear that I have a very small role in the film, but it is a very important character. So there is no question about disappointments,” she said.

“And to tell you frankly, I have learnt a lot through this movie. How the camera works, what angle you should be taking. Movie making is a lot of hard work.”

What next?

“Right now I- am enjoying every moment of it. I am a very shy person and when I saw myself on the big screen for the first time, I felt good...and I hope that people do like me in it. I don’t know exactly what next after this. But I just hope there is something nice in store for me.”

