

I Observed Rahul Gandhi For My 'Raajneeti' Role: Arjun Rampal

Wearing Reebok or Nike shoes with the customary white kurta-pyjama... one of the "small, small elements" that Arjun Rampal says he picked up from observing young, educated politicians like Rahul Gandhi and Sachin Pilot for his role in the much-awaited "Raajneeti".

Rampal, who seems to be on a roll after "Rock On" for which he got the National Award and hits like "Om Shanti Om", says his role in "Raajneeti" is similar to that of Bhim in the epic Mahabharata.

"I have observed many politicians especially young guys like Sachin Pilot, Milind Deora, Rahul Gandhi as well as the young Rajiv Gandhi and the young Sanjay Gandhi. You see them to know how they moved and what their body languages were. You don't really copy or emulate them. In this film, we are all educated politicians," Arjun told IANS in an interview.

"When you see them you get a glimpse of how politicians have changed. There are things to observe like when they (young politicians) sport Reebok or Nike shoes with white kurta and pyjama while campaigning. These are the small, small elements that I tried picking up from them for my character."

Giving a peek into his new film that releases June 4 and focuses on how a handful of people control the destiny of millions, Arjun said "Raajneeti", directed by Prakash Jha, does not preach politics.

"The film is more about what happens behind close doors. It's more of a political family drama."

The characters of Ajay Devgn, Ranbir Kapoor, Manoj Bajpai, Katrina Kaif, Sarah Thompson, Naseeruddin Shah and Nana Patekar are loosely inspired by those in the epic Mahabharata.

Arjun said: "Prakash came to me five years

ago with the script of 'Raajneeti'. He discussed how he wanted to make it almost like Mahabharata by taking certain characters from the epic and putting them into the political backdrop of the film. He wanted me to play the character of Bhim.

I liked the idea.

"He disappeared for five years and then he called me back. I read the script and started working out how the character would be.

"He (Arjun's character Prithiviraj Pratap) is a person with big heart and wants to achieve something fast in life.

He is aggressive. He is a person who sees either black or white. If he likes something, he loves it. If he dislikes something, he hates it. So he would be on that level of extremes.

He goes through gamut of emotions. And he has a very good sense of politics."

According to Arjun, every character in "Raajneeti" is indis-

pensable.

"He (Prakash Jha) has not done injustice to any of the characters. It's like a jigsaw puzzle. If you remove one, the film would fall apart. Everyone has got almost equal screen time."

In real life, however, Arjun says he lacks the built-in quality to be a true politician and would not try his luck in politics.

"You really need a different kind of qualities to be a politician. I don't think that I have those qualities, but, yes, if there is an issue, I will voice it."

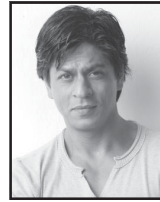
In last few years, Arjun has featured in hits like "Don" (2006), "Om Shanti Om" (2007), "The Last Lear" (2007), "Rock On!" (2008) and "Housefull" (2010).

"I have been choosing the work I would like to do and luckily the choices are working."



INTERVIEW

I Don't Make Movies For Money, Says SRK

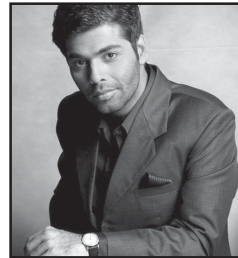


Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, currently busy with his home production "Ra.One", says he doesn't make movies to earn money anymore.

"My mantra for work changed five or seven years ago, I think. Now I don't make movies to make money...I make money to make movies," Shah Rukh posted on his Twitter page.

The 44-year-old has produced films like "Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani", "Chalte Chalte", "Main Hoon Na" and "Om Shanti Om".

I'm No More A Young Filmmaker: Karan Johar



Ace filmmaker Karan Johar, 38, is bogged down by his physical problems and feels he is no longer "the young filmmaker" as most people address him as. "First round of physiotherapy...signs of ageing...first the grey hair and now the bad back...no longer the 'young' filmmaker," Karan posted on social networking site Twitter.

Karan, who made films like "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham", "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna" and "My Name Is Khan", has been in New York for a long time to find inspiration for his next project. He even celebrated his birthday there recently.

Sanjay Dutt Cooks To Woo Wife Manyata



Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt donned the chef's hat to woo his wife Manyata, who was upset with him for speeding his car on the Mumbai-Pune Express highway.

"Tonight I am the chef at home. Cooking some mutton for my wife. Making up for morning," Sanjay posted on his Twitter page recently.

After cooking the dinner, he posted: "Mission accomplished. Dinner served."

The actor was driving around his Audi A8 at a high speed.

I'm Coming On Twitter Very Soon: Bipasha



Joining the Bollywood bandwagon on social networking site Twitter "very soon" is actress Bipasha Basu, who was announced the brand ambassador of Wynncomm Telecom Limited here recently. "I think the phenomenon of social networking sites is great. I am not on Twitter as of now. But I am getting on Twitter very soon," Bipasha told reporters at the event.

"A lot of people use their phones these days for social networking. But I just call people through my phone. In our kind of business, it is most important to first stay connected with our manager and chartered accountant. And for me, a verbal conversation with them is a must," she added.

The actress, who looked her slimmest in a fitted white coloured one-shoulder dress, admits that she isn't a gadget freak. "I am not a gadget freak. But anything that makes life easy and simple for me, is most welcome."

All My Dancing Was Spontaneous, Says Veteran Actor Shammi Kapoor

His energetic, untamed, inimitable and sometimes crazy dance moves were a hit with all age groups. Veteran actor Shammi Kapoor reveals he never worked with a choreographer and created every step spontaneously for the camera.

"I was very much influenced by my own self," Kapoor, 78, told IANS in an exclusive interview.

"Technology at that time was not all that advanced. Today you can see an Elvis Presley film, make it stop frame and see it frame by frame. We used to go to the cinema halls once in a while. Things that I used to like in the movies used to stay in my mind and later I used to use them in my songs.

"There's a song 'Don't be cruel'. I took that and put it in 'Dil de ke dekho...' song. As far as the dancing is concerned, I made it all by myself. I never knew what would be my next step."

Some of his timeless hits include "Baar baar dekho", "Badan pe sitare", "Yahoo", "Aaja Aaja main hoon pyaar tera", "Aye hasina zulfon wali", "Aaj kal tere mere pyaar ke charche". And they have been heard and enjoyed time and again over

the decades and are played at dance parties even today.

Reminiscing the shooting of the song "Suku suku", he said: "I never took any choreographer. I was doing 'Suku Suku' ('Junglee') with Helen. P.L. Raj was choreographing the number for Helen. I told Raj to tell me what her steps are and I will adjust accordingly. He didn't know what I was going to do.

"It was extempore completely. Sometimes, if I had to give a second take, my steps used to be different. I couldn't do the same thing again."

Asked if anyone among today's actors resembles his traits, he said: "No. They are much better. Hrithik Roshan and all of them are much, much better. Even Shah Rukh Khan has done some excellent work...I did my things and they do their things.

INTERVIEW



Among the current lot who are ruling the Hindi film industry are scions of the Kapoor family too - Kareena and Ranbir.

The 78-year-old, who gave hits like "Junglee" (1961), "Bluff Master" (1963), "Kashmir Ki Kali" (1964) and "An Evening In Paris" (1967), retired from movies long time back. But he surely keeps a track of the new films and says that he misses innocence and melody in today's movies.

"In my time, there was a lot of innocence involved. They were very sweet films. There was no lecture, no politicising and there was a lot of good music. In today's films, techniques have evolved. But where has the music gone? I miss the melody of my time.

"From the films of my time you walk with good music, you carry that

tune home and may be you sing that in bathroom also. Today people are not singing in the bathroom because they don't have tunes to sing," said Kapoor.

Despite his age, Kapoor keeps himself abreast with new technology. He was first among Hindi film celebrities to use Yahoo e-mail.

In fact, people used to think that Kapoor owned Yahoo Internet browser as their ad used to say something like 'Shammi Kapoor has got Yahoo.com'.

"When my nephew Randhir Kapoor started using internet, he called me up and asked why I didn't tell him that Yahoo belongs to me (because of that promo). I told him that it doesn't belong to me. Had it been mine, I would have been in America. He regretted that it wasn't mine or we could all have settled in America. Lots of people were under the impression that Yahoo was my company.

"When Jerry Yang (co-founder and former CEO of Yahoo) came to India, he opened Yahoo India.com. He invited me to the Taj (Hotel) and as a matter of fact they played my 'Yahoo' song," Kapoor recalled.