

It's Been A Wonderful Ride So Far: Katrina Kaif

It's a departure in every which way for this Bollywood actress on the ascendant. She is playing a deglamorised politician and the Hindi has to be perfect too, but Britain born Katrina Kaif says her role in "Rajneeti" excites her more because she is now comfortable with the language.

Katrina, who has delivered a string of hits playing the urban hip young woman, gets a makeover in Prakash Jha's "Rajneeti".

Dressed in cotton saris and speaking chaste Hindi, this is a challenging role that she's looking forward to. But the Hindi is passe now for the actress, whose accented Hindi meant that her many early films had to be dubbed.

"I am excited about the part (in 'Rajneeti'), but I am not very excited about speaking Hindi

Bollywood's new sensation Ranbir Kapoor. Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and directed by Prakash Jha, it is releasing June 4.

Katrina reportedly had a tough time dubbing for her last outing, "Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani", because director Raj Kumar Santoshi was very particular about her Hindi.

The 25-year-old, who was initially dubbed by professional artists and still faces flak for her pronounced British accent despite a successful Bollywood career, isn't worried about her Hindi accent. In fact, she is thrilled with the way her career has shaped up.

"It's been a wonderful ride so far and I've had wonderful support from a lot of people. The audience has been very supportive and I hope that I keep getting the opportunity and the good work and as long as that's there, I am happy," she said.

Apart for her Hindi in "Rajneeti", the actress has also been in the news for watching actress Madhuri Dixit's videos to prepare for a dance number in Farah Khan's directorial venture "Tees Maar Khan".

"No, I haven't gone through them (the videos) yet... We have a very high energy, fun Indian song which is kind of an item song and it has some kind of resemblance to the kind of songs that Madhuri was famous for but that's kind of where it stops," said Katrina who has once again teamed up with Akshay

Kumar in the film.

"Farah is unique as a director and what she gives in her sense of glamour and presentation is something which I am very excited to be part of and I hope that we make a great film," she added.

Expected to release Dec 24, "Tees Maar Khan" also stars Akshaye Khanna.

Asked about her reported projects like the Hindi version of "The Italian Job" and "Dostana 2", she said: "At the moment, I am working on 'Rajneeti' and Farah Khan's 'Tees Maar Khan'... Anything else is yet to be announced."

The actress has been recently roped in by Lux as the face of their new variant - Purple Lotus & Cream - a soap with claimed anti-ageing properties.

INTERVIEW



because I spoke Hindi in my last 10 films. It's a great role and a great film and I certainly hope people enjoy it," Katrina told IANS over the phone from Dubai.

"Rajneeti" is Katrina's first political thriller and she says she wants to keep her options open by not restricting herself to any particular genre.

"If it's a good film and I enjoy it and I think the audience will enjoy it then I will do it," said the actress, who has given the most hits in last two years, including romantic comedies "Namaste London", "Partner" and "Welcome".

In "Rajneeti", she will be seen rubbing shoulders with veterans like Nana Patekar and Naseeruddin Shah along with talented actors Ajay Devgn, Manoj Bajpai, Arjun Rampal and

Priyanka Chopra Visits Twitter Headquarter



Priyanka Chopra, who is set to cross the 200,000 mark in Twitter followers, visited the headquarter of the micro-blogging website in San Francisco after being especially invited there.

Priyanka tweeted about her visit to the headquarter where she met Biz Stone, Twitter co-founder.

"My day was really interesting because I was invited to Twitter headquarter in San Francisco! Had a great time. Thanks Biz and team for the wonderful hospitality," she posted.

The 27-year-old, who has been shooting in US for Sajid Nadiadwala's "Anjaana Anjaani", is going to cross the 200,000 mark as far as her followers on Twitter are concerned. At present, she leads the Bollywood bandwagon on the site with 196,903 followers and has left stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta, Shahid Kapoor far behind.

"Priyanka was in the US for her movie shoot. She had to drop by at a studio for the NDTV Indian of the Year programme and there she met the Twitter team. She was invited to the headquarter office in San Francisco since she is so popular among the Bollywood celebs on Twitter," a source close to the actress told IANS.

I Still Love My Action Hero Image: Ajay



Bollywood star Ajay Devgn might not have featured in any full-fledged action film off late, but the actor says he still loves his action hero image he was known for.

"I'm doing every kind of film and there has not been any effort for an image change. In fact, I still love my action hero image. But at the same time, I'm lucky that I got the opportunity to do films of different genres and people liked me in them," Ajay told reporters here.

Ajay has been part of action flicks like "Phool Aur Kante", "Vijaypath", "Haqeeqat" and "Diljale" among others.

The actor was in the capital for the promotion of his upcoming venture "Atithi Tum Kab Jaoge?", slated to release Friday.

The comedy revolves around the story of Puneet (Ajay Devgn) and Munmun (Konkona Sen Sharma), a happily married couple living in Mumbai. Their life takes a turn when a distant relative Chachaji (Paresh Rawal) turns up unannounced at their doorstep from a far-off village.

Lara Dutta Addicted To Shopping



Lara Dutta, who features on the cover of the March issue of Vogue magazine, would stop at nothing when it comes to "shopping". The beauty queen-turned-actress is described as a "compulsive shopaholic" by friends, and says she needs therapy for her splurging.

"I need therapy when it comes to shopping. I have no rules. My friends call me a compulsive shopaholic and joke that I can find arm loads to buy even at the paanwalla," Lara said in an interview to Vogue India's March issue.

The 31-year-old also claims her closet is a testament to her love for shopping that boasts of a Chanel tweed jacket that she bought at 17, a little black dress from Azzedine Alaïya in Paris at 19 and a Cartier Love bracelet.

"It was the most expensive thing I could buy at that time and I still wear it," she said.

Asked about her most recent buys, she promptly replied: "A fabulous black leather pencil skirt from Pinko, fringed boots from Jimmy Choo in London, and aviators from Tom Ford."

"My fashion obsession is shoes, shoes and shoes... I am a total heels girl, but recently I've been trying to wear more flats," she said. Her shoe fetish started with a pair of black Manolo Blahnik pumps that she treated herself with after her big win at the Miss Universe 2000 pageant.

Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan Claim Top Honors At 55th Filmfare Awards

Bollywood stars Amitabh Bachchan and Vidya Balan were cited as best actor and best actress respectively at the star-studded 55th Filmfare Awards ceremony here late Saturday.

Bachchan won the award for his role in "Paa", while Vidya Balan claimed the trophy for her role in the same movie. As Bachchan was not present in the ceremony, Vidya Balan took the award on his behalf.

Hosting the gala night were Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan and Saif Ali Khan, whose one liners had the audience in splits. Their on-

stage chemistry was much appreciated by the Bollywood stars present at the ceremony at the Yash Raj Studios.

"3 Idiots" was declared the best film, while Rajkumar Hirani claimed the best director award for the movie.

A.R. Rahman won the best music director for "Delhi 6".

Mohit Chauhan won the



award for the best male playback singer for the song "masakali" from the movie "Delhi 6", while the female playback singer honours were shared by Kavita Seth and Rekha Bhardwaj.

While Kavita was awarded for the song "Ik tara" from the movie "Wake Up Sid", Rekha won the trophy for the song "Genda phool" from the movie "Delhi 6".

Among the other highlights of the evening was a tribute to legendary pop singer Michael Jackson by Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor, who charmed the audience with his perfect dance moves.

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