

Salman Believed In My Success: Katrina Kaif

Katrina Kaif, who usually remains tight-lipped about her relationship with actor Salman Khan, says the star always guided her and genuinely believed she would join the big league in Bollywood one day.

"Salman had been always there, more than anything to guide because I didn't know anything about the industry. What would remain special in my mind is that from the very beginning Salman told me that I will achieve this success in the industry. And at that point it was too far off," Katrina told IANS in an interview.

"That time I couldn't see myself one movie ahead, forget 15 movies ahead. I think that he believed it genuinely," the 25-year-old actor said.

She entered Bollywood in 2003 with the dud "Boom". Her first big hit was 2005 romantic comedy "Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya" in which she teamed up with Salman. After that she gave a string of hits, including "Namastey London", "Partner", "Welcome", "Singh Is Kinng" and critically acclaimed "New York".

But Katrina feels nobody can plan success. "It's (success) destiny, no one can plan it.

There are many people who are connected with the industry because of their father, mother or other family members; still they are not able to achieve what is termed as success in the industry.

"You can come here, make two or three films, your co-stars could be your friends - all this you can plan but you can't plan which film would be successful. The miracle that happened with my life has been the success of my films. Because, had those films not been successful, no one would have done anything for me," said Katrina.

She is now eager to take more responsibilities and do more diverse roles like the one she is doing in Prakash Jha's "Raajneeti", where she plays a politician.

"Till now I have done a genre of films. People have accepted me, loved me and have given me so much support. I never imagined getting so much.

But I feel that there are other types of films to do. See other contemporary actors, they have done much more diverse roles.

"People can say that the success ratio of my films has been very, very good, but I still feel people should see me on other kinds of films too..."

"May be something like a remake of 'Sita Aur Gita'... In 'Raajneeti', I have more responsibility. But you will have to remember that there I am with six very important guys, all have very important roles," said Katrina.

The actress maintains she always wanted to do something unusual in life.

"I always used to make a world in my head and live in that. I always wanted to be something unusual. Some of the dreams I remember, they may sound stupid - I wanted to be a firefighter, I wanted to be a stunt woman, I wanted to go to NASA. Acting was something to fancy," said Katrina.



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Be Direct To Woo Women: Saif Ali

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan feels the secret of a successful long term relationship is finding a "worthy partner" and says that one has to be direct about one's feelings to woo a woman.

"If you're looking to enter a long-term relationship with a woman, make sure she is a worthy partner — that's the only rule. After a point, you don't want another casual fling... you want intimacy, depth, to be loved," Saif said in an interview for GQ magazine.



"Sometimes you have to do things that wouldn't come to you naturally, just to show her how serious you are," said the actor who is currently dating Kareena Kapoor.

The 39-year-old, who appears on the cover of the May issue of the magazine, also says looks don't matter when it comes to impressing women.

"I was never the tallest or broadest guy in the room. But I did have a sense of humor which created a sense of ease among my female friends," said the actor who was married to actress Amrita Singh and then dated Italian national Rosa Catalano.

"To woo her, you have to be direct. Tell her how you feel, without being dirty. It all depends on where you are and who you're talking to."

The actor also confessed that there are times when being single is good.

"The whole point of being single is to live like the opposite of someone who is committed. It's the time you're experimenting, learning about yourself and are unsure about what you want. There is a certain amount of loneliness that can creep in when you live this way, but hey, that's part of the deal," he said.

I Copy Common People: Akshay

Akshay Kumar's just released "Housefull" has broken the dry spell at the box office. The star says the secret of his success as a comedian is that he mimics common people around for most of his roles.

"The expression that you see are mostly stolen from the faces of common people. Normally mimicry is done of big actors, but it is fun to mimic those people who have no connection with this industry. So I copy common people without copyright (laughs)," Akshay, 42, said in an interview.

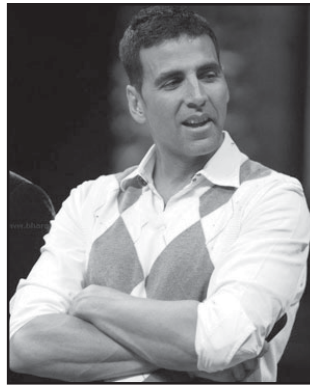
"I travel a lot. Recently, I got stuck at the Frankfurt airport because of the volcano ashes incident. I had to wait long. So I sat down and looked around and people have something to offer. It's amazing just to register that and sometimes while playing a character, suddenly that comes out and you start acting like that person. That's what's called mimicry," he added.

The actor has worked in more than 90 films in his almost two-decades-long career. In the beginning, he mostly featured in action movies like "Khiladi", "Elaan", "Mohra" and "Main Khiladi Tu Anari". He also did romantic films like "Yeh Dillagi", "Dhadkan" and "Dil Toh Paagal Hai".

With Priyadarshan's 2000 hit film "Hera Pheri", he forayed big time into comedies and tickled the audience's funny bone with his performance in comic capers like "Mujhse Shaadi Karogi", "Garam Masala", "Phir Hera Pheri", "Namastey London", "Bhagam Bhaag", "Heyy Babby" and "Singh Is Kinng".

Akshay gives credit to three directors for grooming him as a comedian. "I would like to thank three people who contributed hugely in whatever little comedy I have learnt. The three are Neeraj Vora, Priyadarshanji and Rajkumar

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Santoshi.

"Let me tell you comedy is a big, big, big space. The biggest comedian was Charlie Chaplin who could make people laugh without saying a word. Then we have Mr. Bean. They are amazing," said Akshay.

Contrary to his on-screen image, the actor claims to be an introvert and serious kind of person in real life.

"I am a very introvert and serious person. Even if I joke around, that's limited to a very few people I am comfortable with. They are my school and college friends. I do have a couple of friends from the industry as well.

"I am a workaholic. I work 24 hours. I have only one business, that's the film business. I don't have any film school degree. Whatever I have learnt is through my experience," said

Akshay.

So does he find it difficult to get into the skin of boisterous characters?

"Darling, the kind of check you get, you automatically start acting the way the director or producer wants (laughs) you to. How can that be hard then?"

Even after attaining such stardom, Akshay is connected with his past.

"Honestly, I am very close to everything that I used to do before this stardom. My old house, my old Fiat car, my motorbike - all are still there in running condition. Only the car's air-condition doesn't work, but the car is as good as it was when I bought it 24 years back," said Akshay.

He has his hands full with Priyadarshan's "Khatta Meetha", Nikhil Advani's "Patiala House" and Farah Khan's "Tees Maar Khan".

I Have A 'Badmaash' Streak In Me: Shahid

He played a bad guy in dark thriller "Kaminey" and will now be seen as a conman in "Badmaash Company". Shahid Kapoor says playing characters with a negative streak is an "escape route" from his good-boy image in real life.

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"I think I always wanted to be a good boy, but I think inherently I have a 'badmaash' (naughty) streak in me. That's why I love doing this role. This is my escape route. What I couldn't do in my childhood, (I'm) doing it in films," Shahid said in an interview.

The actor is thrilled to get such a role but adds that he doesn't play a 'kamina' (rogue) in director Parmeet Sethi's "Badmaash Company".

"I won't really call this guy a bad guy. 'Badmaash' is a little less of a bad guy than a 'kamina'. In 'Kaminey', from the very beginning Charlie is edgy and different, but here when the film begins you will find that the four characters are normal middle-class guys and then they get into doing these scams and schemes," the actor explained.

"In 'Kaminey' Charlie never used to think...he was spontaneous, but here the guy is lot more of a thinker, planner and schemer. I think it's fun playing a bad guy," he added.

"These guys want to do things on their own terms. That's what today's youth are all about? They want to set their own rules, make things in their own way. They find their own route to success. That's why the tag line says 'they want to do all the wrong things in the right way'," said Shahid.

Set in the 1990s, Sethi's directorial debut "Badmaash Company" will see four young friends - Shahid, Anushka Sharma, Vir Das and Miang Chang from middle-class Mumbai joining hands to start a company. Their business is an instant success because they find a way to beat the system.

The actor says every con job shown in the movie is taken from crime stories published in the newspapers.

"When I spoke to him (director Sethi), he told me all con jobs have been picked up from newspapers. So these things happened and he has taken the basic thought of every con job from real incidents and that's why it will seem believable. It is the strength of the film," the 29-year-old said.

"And he has based it in the 1990s and the period is apt for this kind of plot."

Shahid claims "Badmaash Company" is more believable than 2005 movie "Bunty Aur Babli" in which Abhishek Bachchan and Rani Mukerji conned people.

"It's a genre that really excites me. These types of film are made less in India. I think films like 'Bunty Aur Babli' were not really con films...it was more of a fun movie. This one is more believable. The con jobs that have been shown in the film I haven't seen in any Hindi or English film. It's more original," he said.