

## Shah Rukh Will Always Be My Idol: Priyanka

New Delhi: (IANS) Priyanka Chopra has thousands of fans, but who is the actress's all-time idol? The man she admires most is adored by millions across the globe as well... who else but superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

"Shah Rukh Khan is my idol and has always been. He has been a favorite actor of course, but I really look up to him also as a person. Looking at where he came from and how he became who he is today, I find it extremely fascinating," Priyanka told IANS in an interview.

"He started with theatre, did plays, got a break in TV - he turned from a regular college kid to a mega superstar... and all that completely on his own with no help from anybody in the film industry. I admire a lot about him and I think it's just fantastic," said the actress who has bagged the youth award icon for entertainment.

In the past, Priyanka has teamed up with Shah Rukh for Farhan Akhtar's "Don" and did a cameo in a song with him in Farah Khan's "Om Shanti Om" and also in "Billu".

Priyanka and Hrithik Roshan bagged the youth icon awards in the entertainment field at the inaugural edition of the India Youth Icon Awards at an awards ceremony in Gurgaon.

The actress is currently on cloud nine after getting rave reviews for essaying 12 roles in Ashutosh Gowariker's "What's Your Rashee?",

which also stars Hurman Baweja.

"It's been great feedback so far. People are enjoying the film...I had an author-backed role



which included playing 12 different characters - very difficult to do. And it feels fantastic to be encouraged and be told that I pulled it off well," she said.

The 27-year-old actor said she was extremely nervous before the film's release.

"My biggest worry was - 'Oh God! Will I ever be able to pull this off or not?'. Since most people who get to play multiple roles in a movie get

it after a lot of experience, I was nervous. I have spent a short span to do roles as difficult as the one in 'What's Your Rashee', but as an actor all I can say is that I do my work with as much honesty as possible and the rest is destiny," she said.

If "What's Your Rashee?" hits the jackpot at the box office, it will be her fourth consecutive hit in a row after "Fashion", "Dostana" and "Kaminey".

But she is unmoved. "Hits and flops are a part of the business, isn't it?" she said.

Asked how she handles success at a young age, the former Miss World said: "I have always been grounded. I have an incredible passion for what I do (acting). I don't know how to do anything else, I don't want to do anything else and I love what I do. There's nothing else that affects me."

What about growing expectations from audiences and critics?

"It scares me when my films release. I wonder if people will like it or not. That for me is the most important thing. But at the same time I think: what's the point of living a life without any expectations? You will just stagnate, become complacent - that's not the kind of person I am. I like striving, I like things that challenge me; I take up difficult films and difficult roles to challenge myself," Priyanka said.

"I like it when people say things like 'Fashion' was a female-centric movie and yet it was successful and that 'Kaminey' was an all-boys film, still my part was really appreciated, and 'Dostana' was majorly on gay guys, and it ended so well. I enjoy that - I like the fact that I can take up different scripts.

## When An Insecure SRK Wouldn't Let Gauri Wear Skirts Or T-Shirts

Mumbai: (IANS) Star wife Gauri Khan is known for flaunting stylish clothes, but very few know that her superstar husband Shah Rukh Khan barred her from wearing skirts and T-shirts while they were dating because he was insecure about her.

"I wouldn't like it if Gauri left her hair loose. She's so beautiful that

I used to stop her from wearing mini skirts or T-shirts. But I promised her the minute we got married, I'd never behave in such a rotten manner," Shah



Rukh told his friend Farah Khan on STAR Plus' chat show "Tere Mere Beech Mein".

The 43-year-old stressed that he was insecure about Gauri till he got married in 1991 because "I didn't know if she belonged to me like I belonged to her".

And now Gauri is not only seen as one of the most stylish women in Bollywood

Shah Rukh says their son Aryan considers her the most beautiful lady, even above Hollywood star Angelina Jolie.

"Today, if she returns from a party wearing a long skirt even Aryan asks her not to wear it as he doesn't like her in long covered clothes," added Shah Rukh.

## Pataudis Spend The Weekend With Julia Roberts

Mumbai: (IANS) The entire Pataudi clan, former cricketer Tiger, his actress wife Sharmila Tagore and their three children, including star son Saif Ali Khan, were at Pataudi, Haryana, over the weekend sharing their ancestral home with Hollywood's Pretty Woman Julia Roberts.

While Roberts, the first Hollywood celebrity to stay in Pataudi House that has now been converted to a heritage hotel, is at the Nafeez Manzil, the Pataudi family was at the main palace.

"Julia Roberts is our guest. She's staying in a part of our property. We've let the unit stay in a flank because she's a colleague and I know what it is like to shoot far away from home," Sharmila told IANS over the phone from Pataudi Sunday.

"We're staying in the main palace. They are staying in a separate part of the royal property known as the Nafeez Manzil. In the past, Aamir Khan shot and stayed with us for 'The Rising'. Deepa Mehta shot 'Earth' in Pataudi though that portion was edited out," said Sharmila.

Sharmila says she came to her ancestral house, a short distance from the national capital, with her entire family for a family function.

"Tiger and I are here. He dragged us out here



in this heat, much to our annoyance. Saif and my two daughters Sabah and Soha are also here for a Mewati Akikah ceremony which is a traditional Muslim mundan (head shaving)," said Sharmila, who is very angry at the way her son is referred to as the 'Chote Nawab' in the media.

"Saif is a grown-up man of 36. There's no Chote or Nawab in his personality. He wants to be known as an actor, though he comes from a royal family," she said.

Pataudi Palace belongs to Sharmila's husband, the erstwhile prince of Pataudi and former India cricket captain Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi.

Roberts, who is here to shoot the India part of her movie "Eat, Pray, Love", landed in New Delhi Sep 17.

She has been shooting scenes with her Hollywood colleagues Billy Crudup, Javier Bardem and Richard Jenkins at the Ashram Hari Mandir in Pataudi, about 40 km from New Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport.

Directed by Ryan Murphy, the movie is based on Pushcart prize-winning author Elizabeth Gilbert's spirituality-travel memoirs, "Eat, Love, Pray", and features Roberts as Gilbert who travels to Italy, India and Indonesia in search of peace.

## Wake Up Call For Karan Johar Over His Movie 'Wake Up Sid'

Mumbai: (IANS) Filmmaker Karan Johar got a rude wake-up call recently when Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) activists protested the use of 'Bombay' instead of Mumbai in his latest movie "Wake Up Sid" as soon as it was released.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Konkona Sen Sharma, is the latest offering from Dharma Productions Pvt Ltd.

Even as angry activists vociferously protested the movie and tried to disrupt its screening in at least two south Mumbai cinemas, a harried Karan rushed to meet MNS chief Raj Thackeray at his Shivaji Park residence.

"He has tendered an unconditional apology for this faux pas which the party has taken serious note of," MNS vice-president Vageesh Saraswat told IANS.

Emerging from the meeting a short while ago, an aggressive Raj said that such things (using 'Bombay' instead of Mumbai) would not be tolerated and Karan has realised his mistake.

"He has sought time from us to rectify the

error. We shall wait for three-four days before the next step," Raj told mediapersons outside his residence.

To a query, he said that not only the directors, but all persons connected with filmmaking and other fields must ensure that Mumbai is used

in place of 'Bombay'.

"When the names of other cities like Delhi and Chennai are not changed, why should Mumbai be change to 'Bombay'?" he thundered.

Saraswat said that Karan explained to Raj the complications about deleting and replacing 'Bombay' with Mumbai since over 700 prints have been sent worldwide for a simultaneous release.

"However, Karan Johar assured the MNS chief that he would be able to in-

sert an apology at the start of the movie. We shall wait and watch. If the apology is not shown as promised, we shall plan our further steps in the matter," Saraswat warned.

"Wake Up Sid" has been released in 42 cinema halls in Mumbai alone and another 150 in the rest of Maharashtra, according to an industry analyst.

