



'I WAS TREATED LIKE A DOG'

...Continued from page 1
Most actresses take up filmmaking when acting offers stop trickling in. You are directing a film, at the peak of your career...

There was a phase when I was bored of the kind of films and roles I was being offered. There was nothing exciting, and I was looking at doing films for a different need, apart from running my kitchen. Direction was on my mind for quite some time, I had the dates of the actors too and I decided to take the plunge. It was

an international project meant for markets there. Though now there's a market for films like that here too.

What's the progress on that film?

All of a sudden I had this barrage of interesting films come my way like an avalanche. I didn't want to turn them away. So, direction has been pushed to 2014 for now. Initially, I was to start my film by March, but then I would not have been able to act for a year. Next year too, I will have to take a call depending on the films in hand.

What's happening on the personal

Revolver Rani is not an easy part and not many actresses would have agreed to play it... Definitely not the ones who've made a career out of standing behind the heroes and then taking credit for hit films...

No-one tells me what to do. I have this inbuilt rebellious streak. But I want to change that — stop rebelling when it's uncalled for...

front? Are you in touch with Nicholas?
Nicholas (Nicholas Lafferty) and I are in constant touch over phone, emails. He is still my good friend, even though he is now dating a doctor from UK. I have never been friends with any of my exes... That's what I told Nicholas too, but that's what is different with him. It was a mature and amicable break-up on the condition that we will always be friends (laughs).

—Aakanksha Naval-Shetye

'I CRIED AFTER SEEING SUSHANT'S FILM'

...says Ankita Lokhande whose dream of seeing her boyfriend in films has come true

The first time Ankita Lokhande saw her boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput's film *Kai Po Che*, she was so overwhelmed that she burst into tears. When she watched it the second time, she had the same reaction, ditto after the third viewing! "It was a very important film for us. As the release date got closer, our heartbeats went faster. I was anxious to see how people would react. They had accepted him as Manav (*Pavitra Rishta*) and Sushant, but would they accept him as a Bollywood star? It's difficult for a TV actor, but Sushant has proved that if you have talent nothing can stop you," says Ankita with a sense of pride.

In that case why was she moved to tears each time she saw the film? "Sush-

ant is my life partner, I love him so much and it was our dream that he make it in films. Also, I liked the story," she says simply.

Now that Sushant has made the transition, is she also planning to follow suit? "I am getting offers, but right now, I am on a break and haven't taken up anything," says Ankita who has been part of *Pavitra Rishta* for four years. There is ambiguity over whether she has quit the serial or taken a break of two months. Even now, Ankita refuses to shed light on it. "I don't want to comment on it," she maintains. She however, is more than willing to talk about her role in the upcoming series *Ek Thi Daayan*. The eight-part series to be aired on Life Ok has Ekta's main protagonists from her serials as the lead for different episodes. Ankita plays a newly-married Kolhapur-based Maharashtrian bride who

encounters a *daayan*. "I have just started shooting for it and so far the *daayan* hasn't come but I am looking forward to meeting her," laughs Ankita who feels blessed not to have encountered one in real life! Does she believe in their existence? "If there is God, there has to be a demon," she reasons.



(Right) Ankita Lokhande with Sushant Singh Rajput and (above) a look from her new show



DEMURE: Nargis Fakhri

IN HUE: Jacqueline Fernandez and Tanaz Doshi looked ubercool dressed in the shades of green. Fashionists rejoice!



MARCHING ALONG: (L-R) Milind Soman, Zarina Mehta and Ronnie Screwvala

A MUSICAL EVENING



BLACK'S MAGIC: (L-R) Narendra Kumar, Laila with Ricky Lamba



IN TWO'S: (L-R) Shobhaa De with her daughter, Aditya Hitkari and Divya Patel

FUNDRAISER, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, BKC

The Foundation, the NGO founded by Rahul Bose hosted a musical extravaganza for their annual fundraiser Equation 2013 - A Fundraiser for Equality. Ustad Zakir Hussain and his brother-in-law Taufiq

Qureshi were seen indulging in chatter about the current state of the country. The hour long recital featured opera, Bollywood favourites like *Tu Aashiqui Hai*, *Kajra Re*, *Kai Ho Na Ho* medley, a *khasi* opera number, a *tabla-piano jugalbandi* and a solo by the Ustad on three percussion instruments. Shahana Goswami was dressed in an all black ensemble with a thin gold belt. However we wish, she had added a pop of colour, apart from the lipstick. The thigh-high slit fails to weave magic for the otherwise sexy actress. Also her tied-up hair was a dampener. Is Shahana in need of a better stylist? Reena Wadhwa took us by surprise dressed in a stunning chiffon off-shoulder gown. We think, she rocked the night with her choker, clutch and tad messy hair.



CORAL GIRL: Reena Wadhwa



SPLIT WIDE OPEN: Shahana Goswami



ALL SMILES: Namrata Barua-Shroff



THE HOSTS: Ustad Zakir Hussain and Rahul Bose



ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH: Cyrus Broacha and Kunal Vijaykar



(L-R) Sunil and Krishika Lulla, Shahid Kapoor, Prabhudheya and Sonakshi Sinha on Day 1 of their shoot of *Rambo Rajkumar* in Bhuj, Gujarat and (inset) a pic tweeted by Shahid



Superstar Rajinikanth poses with the cast and crew of *Kochadaiyaan* post the wrap-up of his London schedule

Chitrangda's Paris sojourn!

Chitrangda Singh's film may not have had a dream opening at the box office, but the actress recently had a dream outing. Chitrangda was in Paris recently where she had been invited as a celebrity guest to attend the Paris Fashion Week in support of Christian

Dior pret show on March 1. After hobnobbing with the who's who of the fashion frist there, the actress — who sported a limited edition ensemble from their latest collection — even shot for the brand for an international magazine.

—Aakanksha Naval-Shetye



PARTYING SHOT

SNAPPED



Sonal Chauhan and Neil Nitin Mukesh promote their movie 3G at Bhawans college at Andheri



Aditi Rao Hydari at an interactive workshop at World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade



Poonam Dhillon always dressed rather demurely. The actress who made her debut in *Trishul* (1978) however surprised everyone by showing up in an LBD at a recent event. Wow! Whistles and more

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Jacky Bhagnani was spotted encouraging young talent as he launched ItzCash Card at Andheri

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