



Jacqueline Has No Qualms Being Called 'Commercial Heroine'

She made her Bollywood debut in 2009 with "Aladin" and has been on a roll in Hindi filmdom ever since. Sri Lankan beauty Jacqueline Fernandez has no qualms of being called a "commercial heroine" and says it is the best compliment she's received.

"That would be the best compliment I could get. I think commercial cinema is really amazing. There is a reason why they encash as much at the box-office -- because people really enjoy watching such films," Jacqueline told IANS over phone from Mumbai.

"I consider myself an entertainer. If I can make someone laugh, cry... or entertain (them)... that is very fulfilling for me. So if you brand me like that, then I would be very

happy because that's what exactly I want," said the actress, who has featured in entertainers like "Housefull", "Race 2", "Kick", "Dishoom" and "Judwaa 2" among many others.

Talking about doing socially-relevant films or content-driven cinema, she said: "Commercial cinema can be anything (socially relevant or content driven).

"If you do not have the content for commercial cinema it won't work and people won't buy into it; so you can't negate commercial cinema saying that it can't be based on content or social causes because most of them are."

The actress, 32, said that the only way "commercial cinema can work is if the content is very strong".

Jacqueline, who is co-owner of Delhi Heroes in MTV's Super Fight League, is ecstatic on completing eight years in Bollywood.

"Well, it's getting better and better, which is all that you can really hope for. There is still a long way to go. It actually gives me a lot of happiness because I enjoy doing what I am doing... There are so many experiences to enjoy," she said.

The actress, who was the winner of the 2006 Miss Universe Sri Lanka pageant, describes Bollywood as her "first love".

Even though the "Bangistan" star has been in showbiz for so long, she has always been open about whatever she does.

"I have been someone who has pretty much always been open about

whatever I do and if you want to guard it (personal space) then it's completely your prerogative and people should respect it and understand that," she said. But she added that it's not necessary that a celebrity needs to open up about everything.

"You should be able to set those standards for yourself with things you are comfortable opening up about, and it's not necessary that you as a celebrity should open up about everything because you are a human being as well. But at the same time people should respect what one individual feels to safeguard," she said.

Currently, Jacqueline has two films in her kitty -- "Drive" with Sushant Singh Rajput and "Race 3" starring Salman Khan.

Three Songs By Rahman's Students In Academy List

Mumbai: Hollywood film "Lake of Fire" songs that have been composed by Qutub-E-Kripa, an ensemble of student musicians of AR Rahman's music academy KM Music Conservatory, have been shortlisted for the Best Original Song at the 2018 Academy Awards.

On Tuesday, the Academy unveiled the list of contenders which included three songs of the film-- "Have you ever wondered", "I'll be gone" and "We'll party all night".

Rahman, who himself won the Oscar in 2009 for "Slumdog Millionaire" in two categories-- Best Original Score and Best Original Song, congratulated the team for its success on Twitter on Tuesday.

"Congratulations Qutub-E-Kripa team of A.H. Kaashif, Parag Chhabra, Riyanjali Bhowmick, Jerry Vincent, Sachin Mannat and N.D. Santosh for the 'Lake of Fire' songs shortlist for Best Original Song at the 2018 Academy Awards," he tweeted.

Two songs "Kaadanyam kaal-chilambe" and "Maanathe maarikurumbe" from actor Mohanlal's "Pulimurugan" have also been nominated under the category.

Qutub-E-Kripa has been credited with Rahman for the background scores of projects like "O Kadhal Kanman", "Tamash", "OK Jaan", "Kaatru Veliyida", "Mo" and Netflix show "Daughters of Destiny".

Sunny Not To Attend Bash In Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Actress Sunny Leone on Tuesday said that she will not attend the New Year bash in the city after the police denied permission to the organisers.

"Since the police of Bengaluru have publicly said that they will not be able to ensure mine, and all who attend, safety for my New Years event, my team and I feel, safety of the people should always come first. Therefore, I cannot attend. God bless and I wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year," Sunny tweeted.

She later added: "To all those who protested and to all those who supported, always remember, never allow others to speak and choose for you.

"Have your own voice and make your own choices. You are the youth and you are the new India! Stand proud and stand together. I love you all dearly!"

Earlier on Saturday Bengaluru Police Commissioner T. Suneel Kumar denied permission for a New Year bash in the city where Sunny was invited to perform.

"We are denying permission for Sunny Leone's musical show on December 31 night to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incident in the city," Kumar told reporters here.

Vikram Made Horror Genre Profitable - Mahesh Bhatt

MUMBAI: Vikram Bhatt, who is celebrating 10 million-plus views of the trailer of his upcoming movie "1921", has made the horror genre respectable, says filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt who has worked with him closely over the years.

"Just when the self proclaimed pundits of our trade had written the obituary of the horror genre, comes a tale of love and horror from the director of 'Raaz' who

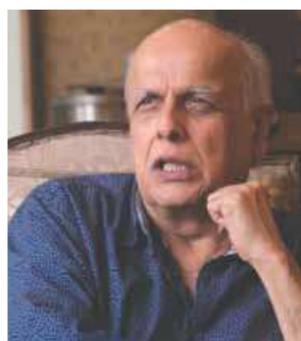
made horror not only profitable but also 'respectable'," Mahesh Bhatt tweeted on Sunday.

His post came following Vikram's message: "Gratitude to all, to those that contributed to this dream film, but most all to everyone out there for their love and support! Humbled! '1921' trailer hits 10 million."

Releasing on January 12 -- a decade after "1920" -- the film stars Zarine Khan and Karan

Kundra in the lead roles.

Earlier also, Vikram had thanked Mahesh for his constant support. "Through thick and thin, sick and sin!! Boss, thank you for being there, holding my hand through the long lonely nights in the cold of Yorkshire while I shot the film," he wrote in an earlier tweet. Vikram is known for horror movies like "Raaz", "1920", "Haunted - 3D", "Raaz 3D" and "Raaz Reboot".



My Priority Is Myself; I Am Not Ideal Indian Woman - Kangana

NEW DELHI: The quintessential heroine -- on and off screen -- is not for actress Kangana Ranaut.

"I have myself as the priority always. I do not subscribe to the theory that good girls don't think about themselves and they are all for sacrifice. My life is my life and I want to make the most of it," Kangana told IANS.

"I want to utilise my potential and see who I am. It's not just about my brother, son, husband or my mother. Somewhere, I do not subscribe to the quintessen-

tial heroine, who is an ultimate Indian woman who puts everyone before her and she comes in the end for herself," added the three-time National Award winner, who is also the brand ambassador of Reebok India.

In that capacity, she attended the second edition of the brand's FitToFight Awards, which felicitated select women for their spirit and courage.

Coming from a small town in Himachal, Kangana made her debut in Bollywood with "Gangster - A Love Story" in 2006.



Even though her style and accent were criticised initially, she made a mark with her strong perfor-

mances in films like "Fashion", "Queen", "Tanu Weds Manu" and "Tanu Weds Manu Returns".

Her next project is "Manikarnika - The Queen of Jhansi", a biopic on Rani of Jhansi.

Off screen, she has been actively talking about her struggle in the industry -- professionally and personally. So bold and fearless is the actress that she openly tagged filmmaker Karan Johar as a "flagbearer of nepotism" during his own chat show, sparking a debate in the industry.

"Women who make their choic-

es and who fight for their rights will always be the ones who will be seen as rebels," she said.

Talking about breaking the long societal norm that "girls don't fight", Kangana said: "A modern woman is not going to keep her mouth shut if she is taken for a ride or sexually harassed or if she is not given her salary. She is not going to keep quiet and that's why these conventional forces, these old-school minds, these patriarchal or chauvinist people, are going to be bothered and hassled."