

Shabana Starrer Wows Dubai Film Festival Audience

MUMBAI: Back from the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) where her new film "5 Rupaiya" was screened, Shabana Azmi says it is a poignant, sweet and gentle story of a grandmother and her orphaned little grandson -- one that moved the audience to tears.

"We had three screenings of '5 Rupaiya' in Dubai. Lots of people were moved to tears. I've seen such a reaction earlier to my work in Pravin Bhatt's 'Bhavna' and Mohan Kumar's 'Avatar'. It ('5 Rupaiya') is a sweet gentle film beautifully photographed with an almost fairytale purity. Yohan Panjuani, who plays Hamid my grandson, is a big hit," the veteran actress said.

Shabana describes her bonding with little Yohan as "magical".

"When I met the boy, the connect was instant. I immediately took to him and he to me. So fond was I of the child that when I had to slap him for a scene - albeit a fake slap, I wouldn't dream of hurting him in reality. I was stricken with guilt. Sometimes, being an actor requires one to do unthinkable things," she said.

Shabana shot in Kashmir for



debutant director Piyush Panjuani's film, which is based on Hindi literature Munshi Premchand's celebrated short story about an orphaned eight-year old boy and his grandmother.

Its director is associated with Ram Madhvani's ad agency. Interestingly, Madhvani and Shabana worked a special magic in "Neerja".

Set in Kashmir, the story "Idgah" on which the film is based, was written in Urdu, although Prem-

chand normally wrote in Hindi.

Of her experience of working in Kashmir, Shabana said: "I was shooting in a pristine valley called Nagin. It was peaceful, stress-free and highly conducive to creativity. I play a woman in the hills named Ameena who lost her only son and his wife in an accident and is left looking after their only son Hamid. It's a tender tale of grandma and grandson who is eight years old."

Anupam Happy To Begin 511th Film

RANCHI: Veteran actor Anupam Kher has started shooting for his "511th film" here and he says that he still feels like a newcomer.

Anupam on Tuesday shared a photograph with his back towards the camera.

"I always believe that the sky is the beginning of the limit. Happy to start my 511th film today here in Ranchi. On the first day of my shoot I always feel like a new comer," he tweeted.

The actor, 62, is feeling nervous. "Nervous, apprehensive and thankful.



God has been kind. And you all have been really loving. Jai Ho," he added.

Other details related to the film is still has not been shared. Anupam will also be seen in "The Accidental Prime Minister". It stars the actor as Manmohan Singh, who served as the Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014.

"The Accidental Prime Minister" is directed by Vijay Gutte. The film is based on the similarly titled 2014 memoir by Sanjaya Baru, who was Manmohan Singh's media advisor.

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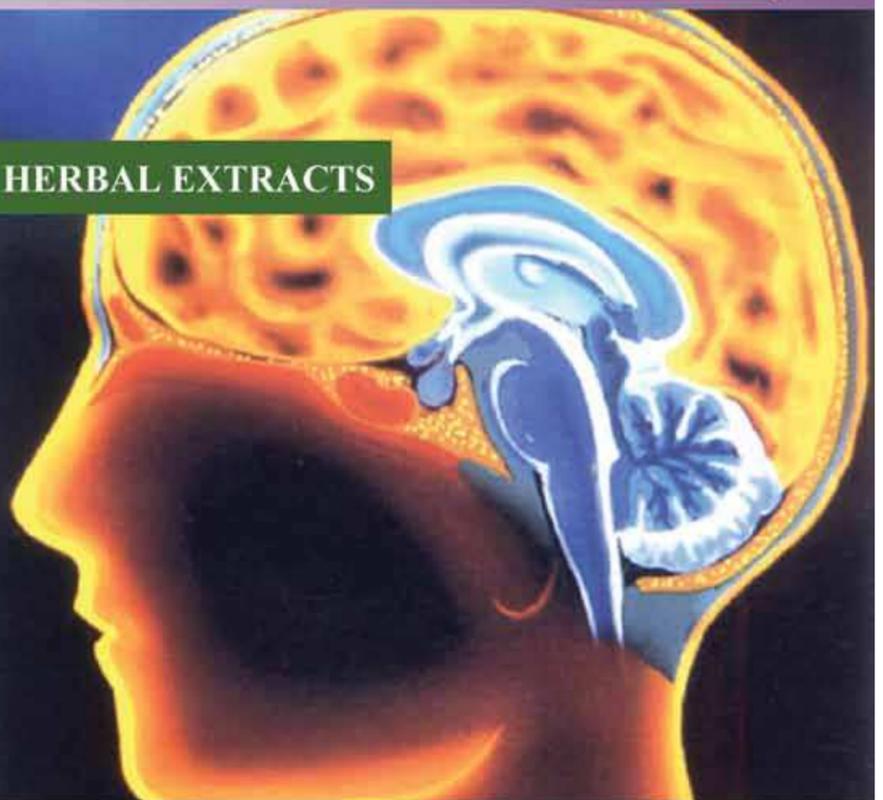
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