

Will Smith Enjoys A 'Desi' Outing On India Promotion Trip

MUMBAI: From expressing his love for Indian cuisine, getting nostalgic about the time spent with Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar last year and beatboxing while showing some dance moves to Indian fans, Hollywood actor Will Smith gave a 'desi' twist to his work trip in India while promoting his forthcoming film "Bright".

The Hollywood icon, who enjoys global fame thanks to his work profile as well as accolades, landed here on Monday morning, and spent most of his day giving interviews to select Indian media.

He made a public appearance and greeted his fans at High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, prior to the screening.

The "Men in Black" star, who looked dapper in a grey suit, was seen in a jovial mood, and enthusiastic about coming to India.

About the hectic schedule, Smith said: "Thank you for having us. We are very excited to be here...This is my first time out today. We landed in the morning, have been doing press interviews and then came to see you."

The Oscar-nominated actor arrived in India with his "Bright" co-stars Joel Edgerton, Noomi Rapace and director David Ayer. The film will release on Friday on Netflix.

Smith, known for films like "Bad Boys", "Hitch", "The Pursuit of Happyness", "Hancock", "The Karate Kid" and "Collateral Beauty", surprised his fans in India in August last year when he dropped in Mumbai to attend Bollywood's "Khiladi" Akshay Kumar's party.

The 49-year-old confessed that he developed a taste for Indian cuisine during that trip, and cred-



its Akshay for opening the Indian food story for him.

"Last year, Akshay had a party and it was the best food that I have ever in my life. It was a little bit of everything. My favourite is chicken tikka masala," Smith said. Smith also showed off his dancing skills when hosts

Rannvijay Singha and Bani Judge requested the team to shake a leg for the Indian fans, who waited for over four hour at the venue for the actor to come up on the stage.

Taking it a step ahead, Smith started beatboxing as Edgerton, Rapace and Ayer tried to copy Rannvijay, and eventually joined in.

From responding to a female fan with wittiness, to cracking jokes as well as taking a cell-phone from the crowd to capture the moment with a selfie, Smith got involved with the crowd, and kept the attendees engaged.

There were many performances before the Hollywood actors got onto the stage. Bollywood composers Vishal-Shekhar also performed at the event, and added more energy to the evening with their enthusiasm. They performed on songs like "Bachna ae

haseeno", "Ude dil befikrea" and "Swag se swagat".

"Bright" is a fantasy tale which narrates how humans exist with fairies, orcs and elves. Smith also talked about the film, which puts spotlight on racism and class divide while telling story of two police officers.

"The film has a beautiful idea. This racism and how we treat each other. It is in the film. The elves are in the top most society and represent those who have, orcs represent those who don't have and humans are in the middle," he said.

About his role, Smith said: "My character is African-American, who is racist against orcs. The movie is an interesting exploration of how we treat each other. What I love about it is that you are able to see this bizarre world but also real things."

Riteish Is 39; Set For 'Total Dhamaal'

MUMBAI: Actor Riteish Deshmukh, described by the Bollywood fraternity as one of the most genuine, warmest and craziest of the lot, turned 39 on Sunday. A successful actor and producer, he is looking forward to shoot "Total Dhamaal".

"December 7, 2018. The date is fixed. Excited to shoot the third part of this mad mad film 'Total Dhamaal'. Looking forward to working with my friend Ajay Devgn again and thrilled to be working with Madhuri Dixitji and Anil Kapoor sir for the first time. Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaaferi, my partners," Riteish tweeted.

"Total Dhamaal" is the third film in the comedy entertainer franchise "Dhamaal". It will be directed by Indra Kumar.

Anil is also excited about teaming up with Riteish. "Happy Birthday Riteish. It's going to be



a Total Dhamaal," he tweeted.

Riteish, began his Bollywood innings with "Tujhe Meri Kasam", which also starred his now wife Genelia D'Souza. Genelia sent out a romantic message for her husband, with whom she has two children.

"Thank you for being my everything... For making life about loving you... You will forever be my always," she wrote.

Suniel Shetty: Riiittttzzzz... Another year stronger... another year better... another year sweeter... Wish you a very Happy Birthday. Loads of love.

Shraddha Kapoor: Wish all your dreams come true. Keep smiling.

Vishal Dadlani: Wish you many more successes, both as actor and producer. Big love, Dada.

Tusshar Kapoor: Happy birthday fellow partner in pioneering certain crimes, supercool crimes! Many Many more to come!

Athiya Shetty: Happiest birthday to one of the kindest souls, Riteish Deshmukh.!

Aftab Shivdasani: Happy birthday to the craziest yet nicest guy I know, Riteish. Have a great one brother.!

Dia Mirza: Happy birthday to the nicest, warmest, kindest friend Riteish!



Rani Wants Adira To Have 'Normal Upbringing'

MUMBAI: Actor Rani Mukerji says that it is a conscious decision to keep her daughter Adira out of the limelight as she and her husband Aditya Chopra wants her to lead a normal life.

"It is a decision taken together

by my husband and me. I think my husband being a very private person wants Adira to have a very normal upbringing," Rani, who graced the trailer launch event of her upcoming movie "Hichki" on Tuesday, here, told reporters.

"Also, seeing the circumstances around us, there always will be a sense of intrigue as to what is our child doing? How is she doing? So there would be kind of extra attention that they don't probably deserve," she added.

Rani and Aditya, who dated for a long time, got married in April 2014 in Italy.

Post "Mardaani", she is coming back on the silver screen with "Hichki", which is based on the plight of speech impaired or Turret Syndrome.

"Hichki" is directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Maneesh Sharma under the banner of Yash Raj Films.

The film celebrates self-belief, the resilience of human spirit and hope. The film is about turning disadvantages into opportunities and staring down at challenges and ultimately winning over them.

The movie is slated for February 23, 2018 release.

Priyanka Is Lovely Person: Nick Jonas

MUMBAI: Singer-actor Nick Jonas says he has heard a lot about India from his "new friend" and actress Priyanka Chopra.

Now, Jonas says he is "dying" to visit India. "I've never been (to India). But I'm dying to go and I have now heard from Priyanka, my new friend a lot about it. Just given me a lot of names of place to go if I go there," Jonas said in a statement.

Earlier this year, Jonas and Priyanka walked on the Met Gala red carpet, making everyone wonder whether they are dating.

Talking about his relationship with Priyanka, Jonas said: "We met through a mutual friend who she did "Quatico" with and we met up in New York the first time and the same day I think we found out we are both going to the MET gala with Ralph Lauren. "And as strange as it sounds but we couldn't have planned it. We just had a great time. She's a lovely person and I'm dying now to go to India," he said.

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