

Ayesha Making Comeback; Says She Has Never Struggled For Work

Mumbai: Actress Ayesha Jhulka, who is making her Bollywood comeback after seven years with Anil Sharma's "Genius", says she has survived in the entertainment industry on her own terms and conditions, and never struggled because of work.

Ayesha, 45, is often remembered for her roles in films like "Kurban", "Khiladi", "Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar", "Waqt Hamara Hai" and "Masoom". She was last seen in "ADA...A Way of Life" in 2010.

"I have been very lucky that I have not struggled in the industry and never wanted to. So, I didn't want to be kicked out of the industry. I was a little selfish that way. I wanted to leave it on my own terms, and it is very difficult to say no when you are doing really well," Ayesha told IANS in an email interview.

"When I got married (to Sameer Vashi), I wanted to lead a civilian's life and wanted to see the other side of the world. As I started working at a very young age (in 1983), for many years, I just worked.

"After a point I wanted to enjoy my life, I wanted to party with my friends and do lot of things for which I have to thank my husband, who has opened that world for me which I have been enjoying all these years," she added.

During her break, Ayesha also went through harsh times.

"I was bed-ridden for some time



because I had a slip disc problem. Because of that, I had gained a lot of weight which I'm losing now. So, I took a break," she said.

Why she chose "Genius" for her Bollywood comeback?

Ayesha explained: "I have not been doing much work because I felt some-

thing really nice would come my way. I signed 'Genius' out of respect and he (Anil Sharma) really wanted me to do this film.

"After seven years I have signed a film. We shot in Mauritius and we have few days schedule left which we will shoot in Mumbai."

She says it was "out of choice" that she didn't work in films and decided to focus on her personal life.

"I love the film industry and want to do good work that comes my way. I have been getting lots of offers from television but I'm conditioned to doing films -- I don't know how it would be as it is about commitment and I'm a little scared to make that," she said. Starting off as a child artiste in the 1983 film "Kaise Kaise Log", Ayesha said acting was always in her wish list.

"I think acting came to me naturally as I used to spend a lot of time in front of the mirror wrapping my mother's scarf around me and enacting the scenes from the movies," she said. One film, which is close to Ayesha's heart is "Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar". The movie has completed 25 years since its release in 1992. It also featured superstar Amir Khan.

"There are so many people, who have told me that -- the cycle race, the ragging, the way everyone used to talk, the tendency of people to pull the other person down to be at the top -- everything is relatable."

Ishita To Play Lead In 'Genius'



MUMBAI: On New Year's Day, filmmaker Anil Sharma introduced newcomer Ishita, the lead actress of his upcoming film "Genius".

Ishita will be starring opposite Anil's son Utkarsh in the upcoming film. Utkarsh had featured as a child actor in the 2001 film "Gadar: Ek Prem Katha".

"Introducing Ishita opposite Utkarsh in 'Genius'. May this new year brings all the happiness and your love, affection," Anil wrote alongside a photograph of Ishita.

Actress Ayesha Jhulka, Mithun Chakraborty and Nawazuddin Siddiqui are also a part of the movie.

"Genius" is reportedly said to be the story of a witty youngster whose experiments can change the way we look at science and is slated to release next year.

Utkarsh's first encounter with a camera was at the sets of, 'Gadar ` Ek Prem Katha', his father's biggest hit. He played Sunny and Ameesha Patel's son, Jeetey. The shooting of Genius will be wrapped up in by January 2018.

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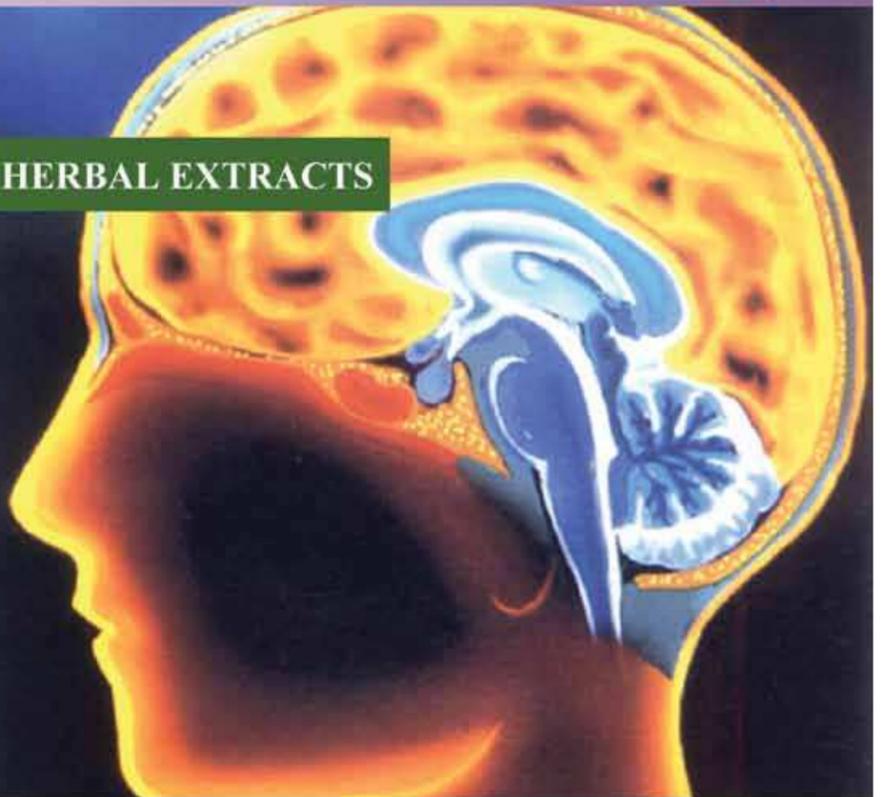
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