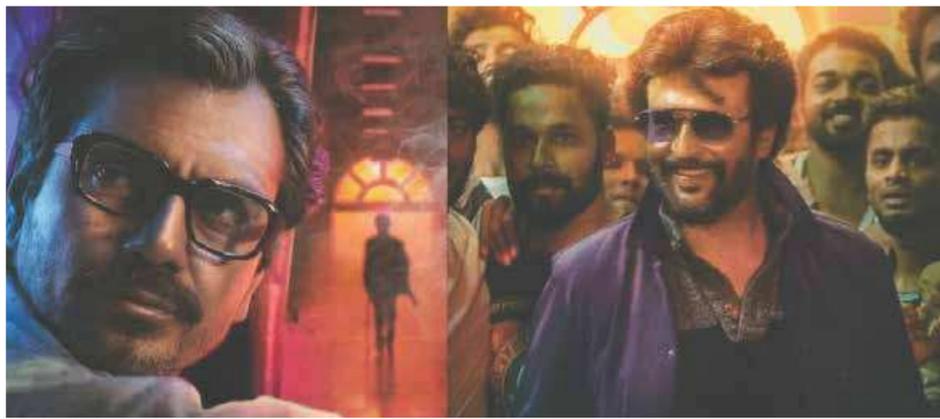


'Petta' Is A Throwback To My 90s Films Says Rajini

CHENNA: Superstar Rajinikanth has revealed that his upcoming Tamil action drama "Petta", directed by Karthik Subbaraj, is an entertaining throwback to the kind of films he did in the 1990s. At the audio launch of "Petta", Rajinikanth opened up about the project and described it as an "action-packed entertainer".

"When Sembian and Kannan from Sun Pictures came home and requested me to act in their production, I immediately gave my nod. Karthik Subbaraj had pitched a story to me. It was on my mind and as I listened to stories from other filmmakers, I wasn't quite satisfied," he said.

"Then, I called Karthik again this year and asked him to narrate. This time, he stunned me with an excellent version of the story he pitched earlier," Rajinikanth said.



"Petta" marks the first collaboration of Rajinikanth and Karthik Subbaraj. The 67-year-old star was all praise for Karthik and said he has directed him like a hardcore Rajinikanth fan.

"Karthik has a very different style of storytelling. He directed this film like a true Rajinikanth

fan. 'Petta' is an entertaining throwback to the kind of films I did in 1990s. Karthik has extracted from me the kind of work I used to perform three to four decades ago," he said.

Rajinikanth went on to describe "Petta" as a "beautiful film" best suited for a festival release.

The film marks the southern debut of Nawazuddin Siddiqui in a pivotal role. He plays a character called Singaar Singh in "Petta". "Every time he appears on-screen, he has delivered something different. In 'Petta', he has turned in a versatile performance," Rajinikanth said.

The film, gearing up for a Pongal 2019 release, also stars Vijay Sethupathi, Trisha, Simran, Megha Akash, Malavika Mohanan and Sasikumar in key roles.

Heaping praise on Vijay Sethupathi, who plays the film's antagonist, Rajinikanth said: "I wasn't quite sure who would be perfect for the role of Jithu. Karthik suggested Vijay Sethupathi, and I'm glad he agreed to be part of the project. I've seen his films and he is an extraordinary actor."

"I also need to thank audiences across the globe for the success of '2.0'. The entire credit for the victory goes to director Shankar, producer Subaskaran of Lyca Productions and the technicians," he said.

In "Petta", produced by Sun Pictures, Rajinikanth is rumoured to be playing a professor with a violent past.

Radhika Apte Is Magical - Stana Katic

NEW DELHI: Former "Castle" star Stana Katic, who will be seen sharing screen space with Radhika Apte in a World War II spy drama, says the Indian actress is magical. "She (Radhika) is magical. It was quite a lot of fun working opposite her. She is a very special gift." Talking about the film, she said: "We wrapped

that film in June. The film centres on three women who were spies during World War II and their efforts to free Nazi-run France.

"In this film, I play a British spy mistress." Radhika plays Indian-origin British spy Noor Inayat Khan in the movie.

Katic also shared that she would love to work on an Indian feature film.

I Love Saris - Kangana Ranaut

NEW DELHI: Saris make me look feminine, says National Award winning actress Kangana Ranaut, who has been seen wearing and experimenting with the six-yard wonder quite often.

"I discovered sari much later in my life... I grew up in the hills where there is almost no tradition of wearing saris. But when I became an artiste, my love for saris started gradually. Through acting, I got an opportunity to travel to different places and see different cultures. That's how my journey with saris started.

"It (sari) makes me look more feminine. When I wear a sari, I automatically feel more free and able to express myself better... There is some magical power in saris," the "Queen" actress said during the launch of Taneira, a flagship handloom sari store by Titan, here on Monday.

Kangana also expressed concern over the condition of Indian weavers. "No doubt, the trend of saris is always there, but not as much as it should be. We have a lot to do. Till now, our weavers are suffering. There were thousands of handloom firms which have disappeared. With synthetic fibre gaining popularity among youth, handloom weavers are suffering, so we have a long way to go," she said.

For the inauguration ceremony of the store, Kangana was dressed in a hand-crafted Banarasi moonlight blue coloured



sari from Taneira's collection. She was accompanied by her elder sister Rangoli.

Pic shows Kangana Ranaut at the launch of Tata's Taneira store in New Delhi.

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Shahid Quashes Health Rumours

MUMBAI, Actor Shahid Kapoor on Monday said he is totally fine, contrary to rumours that he is suffering from stomach cancer.

"Guys I am totally fine please don't believe random stuff," Shahid tweeted.

There were reports doing the rounds on social media that the "Uda Punjab" star is suffering from stomach cancer.

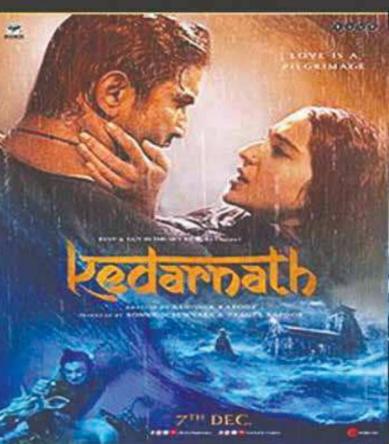
On the Bollywood front, Shahid will be seen in the Hindi remake of Telugu blockbuster "Arjun Reddy" titled -- "Kabir Singh". The original film, starring Vijay

and Shalini Pandey in the lead, revolves around a medical student who falls in love with his junior and how their relationship evolves.

The film will be shot extensively in Mumbai, Delhi and Mussoorie. Shahid will sport four different looks in the film and has been preparing for it over the last three months. Workshops with all the actors are right now in full swing.

It is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde.

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