

## Rima Das Film Gets Special Berlin Mention

BERLIN: National Award-winning filmmaker Rima Das' Assamese feature film "Bulbul Can Sing" received a 'Special Mention at the Berlin International Film Festival 2019.

The film was competing in Generation 14 Plus category at the festival.

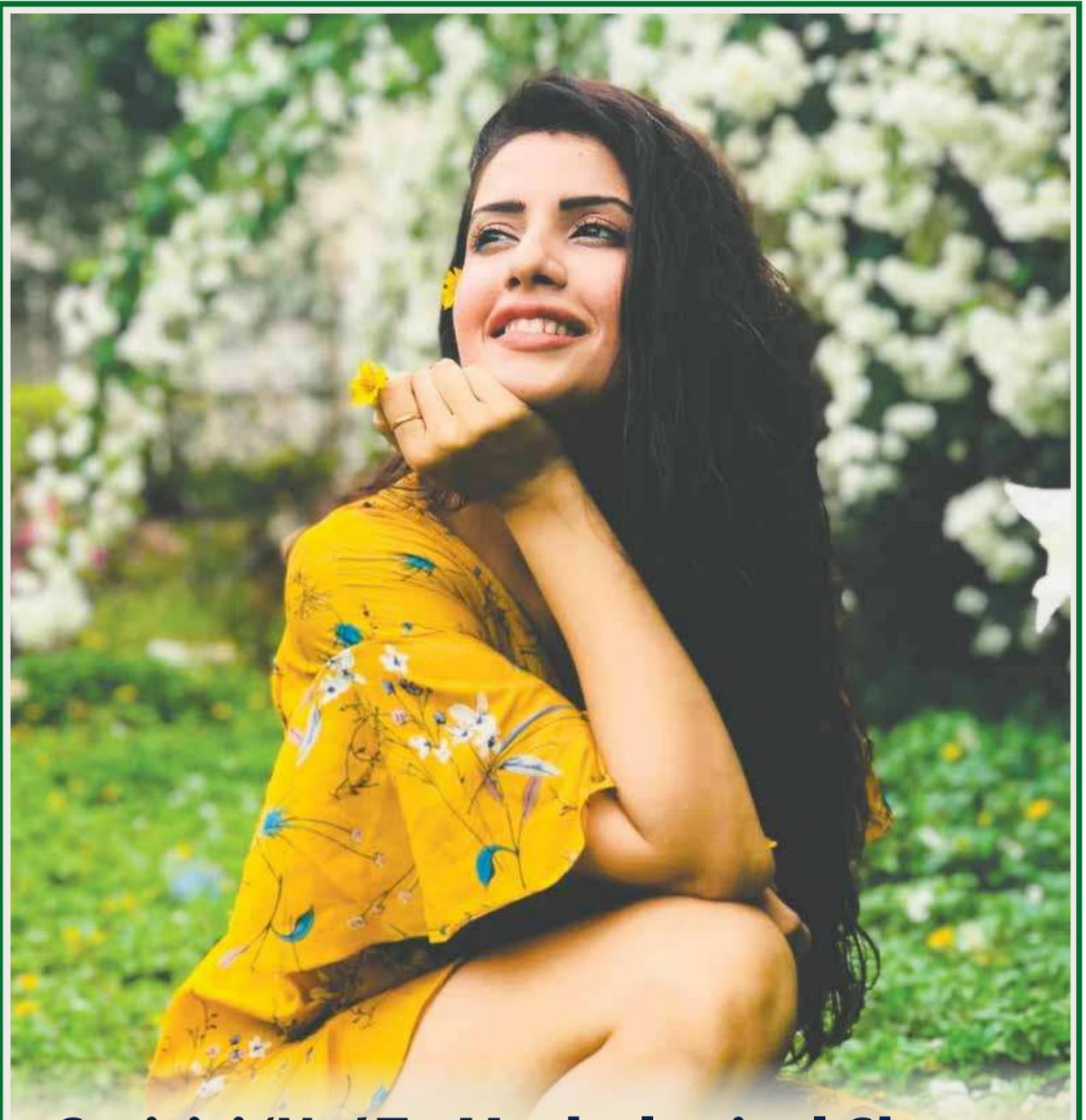
"I am extremely pleased and honoured to receive this important award as a special mention



from international jury Berlin Generation 14 plus at the Berlin International Film Festival 2019," Das said in a statement.

"Bulbul Can Sing", which had its European premiere at the fest, is a visceral coming-of-age drama about a teenage girl, Bulbul, living in a village in Assam, fighting her way through love and loss as she figures out who she really is. Das got the mention on Friday.

The third Assamese feature of writer-director-producer Das, "Bulbul Can Sin" had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2018, followed by the South Asian premiere at the Busan International Film Festival and Indian premiere at the Jio MAMI 20th Mumbai Film Festival.



## Smiriti 'No' To Mythological Shows

**Mumbai:** Actress Smiriti Kalra doesn't enjoy watching mythological shows, and says she is not keen on doing that either. "I don't enjoy watching mythological shows as much as other shows. I am not keen on that. I am being considered for a few projects, but will talk about them when the time is right," Smiriti

said in a statement.

"The market is evolving and lot of interesting stuffs are coming. The web platform is an adventurous space to be in and I see myself acting in a web show soon," said the actress. She has been a part of shows like "Suvreen Guggal - Topper of The Year", "12/24 Karol Bagh",

"Itti Si Khushi" and "Dil Sambhal Jaa Zara". Talking about her work slate, she said: "I have always picked up different projects in my career, irrespective of the fact whether it is a TV show or a short film. If I was offered a historical, I would love to play characters like Jhansi Ki Rani or Indira Gandhi."

## My Public Image Hurt My Career: Neena Gupta

MUMBAI: National Award winning actress Neena Gupta says she got stereotyped and was offered only negative roles in the early days of her career due to her public image and personal life.

"I suffered as an actress because of my public image. So I think it is important to maintain a certain image in the public eye to get roles in cinema," the actress said in an interactive session with actor Rajit Kapur during Act Fest, here on Saturday night.

"The society has not changed even today and that is why I want to tell all the aspiring actresses especially -- do not be very candid at your professional space. I really suffered," she said.

Starting her career with the film



"Gandhi" in 1982, Neena acted in several films like "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", "Khalnayak", "Mandi"

among many others. In recent times, her performance in the film "Baadhai Ho" has got huge

appreciation.

Neena, 59, is the mother of fashion designer Masaba Gupta who is the lovechild of Neena and the iconic West Indian cricketer Vivian Richards.

"I had a child out of wedlock and that proved me as a strong headed woman which I am; but back then, a strong woman can only play a vamp! So I ended up playing mostly negative roles in films.

"Girls, if you want to smoke, do not smoke in public or do not be physically friendly to a male friend also... all these are perceived as a sign of strong, liberated, independent woman... that might just offer you a certain type of role," she said.

## Jeetendra And Jaya Prada On TV Show

MUMBAI: Veteran actors Jeetendra and Jaya Prada, who have acted together in over 20 films, will reunite on-screen, this time for a TV show.

The stars will be special guests on "Super Dancer Chapter 3". Contestants will be performing on their popular songs from the 1980s and 1990s.

"I am very excited to see the talented kids of the dance show," Jaya said. Jeetendra said: "My grandson Lakshya is energetic and enthusiastic like these 'Super Dancer' contestants," he added.

## If Jhansi Ki Rani Can Dance Why Not Rani Padmavati?

By Subhash K. Jha

Director Krish Jagarlamudi is done with the bickering with Kangana Ranaut.

"I've had my say. No more. If she wants to believe she directed all of 'Manikarnika', so be it. Everyone knows the truth," asserts Krish and vows to not get into any more war of words with the film's aggressive leading lady and co-director.

However, one major issue that needs to be addressed is the singing and dancing that the Queen of Jhansi is seen indulging in with her subjects. In an elaborate song and dance sequence, Rani Laxmibai embarrasses the hell out of her husband, the King of Jhansi (played by Jisshu Sengupta) by dancing with the people of their state in a pregnant condition.

A source very close to the film says that the song and dance during times of raging battles was Kangana's idea.

"Ek toh Rani, oopar se garbhvati (firstly a queen and above it, pregnant). How can she be shown dancing in that unbecoming fashion? Krish was totally against the idea. The song-and-dance was added on by Kangana after Krish left," the source says.

Significantly, when another Queen, Padmavati in an epic film in January 2018, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Padmaavat", got up from her throne to take to the dance floor with her ladies-in-waiting, all hell had broken loose. Deepika's Rani Padmaavati was shown dancing to the Ghoomar song in the most graceful and queenly manner in a closed environment with the women from her durbar.

Bhansali said: "We wanted the Ghoomar song and dance to retain its purity since this was being performed by Rani Padmavati. Every step and every move in the dance form celebrates the grace of royal-

ty. "This is our dance tribute to the brave Rajput women of Rajasthan. I heard how little children performing the Ghoomar dance at a school in India were stopped.

"I'd like to tell those disruptive elements that you can't stop something as beautiful and innocent as this from reaching out to the hearts of people across the world."

Bhansali's heart swells with pride to see Ghoomar reaching into the hearts and feet of American kids. Says the director: "What better illustration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make In India policy? I feel our culture is so rich and varied. We've so much to give the West. Why not take our culture and art forms to the West rather than continuously borrow their lifestyle and culture?"

All hell had broken loose with fringe groups demanding that the song-and-dance be removed or else they would cut

off Deepika's nose.

Says a source very close to the "Padmaavat" team: "When we showed Deepika dancing in the Queen's inner chambers, we had to digitally cover Deepika's midriff before the censor board allowed the Ghoomar song.

"Now in 'Manikarnika', again about a Queen, Kangana's Rani Laxmibai jumps off her seat and breaks into a street-side jig with the commoners. That was okay? What is good enough for Rani Laxmibai is not befitting for Rani Padmavati? Please figure out that one."

When pressed for a response, Krish said: "I don't know where the singing and dancing came from. It wasn't there when I was directing 'Manikarnika'."

The question remains: Why was it not right for Rani Padmavati to dance when everyone seems okay with the Rani Of Jhansi shaking a leg, midriff forgotten?