



CREATIVE WORLD

Too passionate to do films that don't matter: Shahana



NEW DELHI, OCT 11 /-/ Shahana Goswami may have been away from Hindi cinema but the actor is impressed with the changing landscape and hopes she gets to be a part of movies that matter. Shahana's breakout performance was "Rock On!" as a frustrated wife of a musician, a role that she reprised recently in the sequel but the film was not successful. The actor is in the limelight again with the positive word-of-mouth for her latest release, "Tu Hai Mera Sunday". In an interview with PTI, Shahana says her absence from Bollywood was not out of choice. "I have not been offered those kinds of roles that I would want to do. Having said that, there is some good work being done in India. I want to do more work here."

"But it has not come my way. Today, things are different where even stars want to do different types of projects. Maybe, I don't fit the bill as an artiste for them. But then I'm not interested in the work that I don't want to do. I'm too passionate about my work to do films that don't matter." The 31-year-old actor, who has worked in movies such as "Ru Ba Ru", "Firaq", "Ra One" and "Heroine", says she carefully chooses her films because she believes people forget to experience life when they get into a race. "When your pace gets faster, the need to do better, ambition and competition increases. You may forget to live that one important moment of your life. Sometimes we don't even have time to understand what we are feeling in the moment." The actor says "Tu Hai Mera Sunday" explores that feeling of complacency about day-to-day life. She plays the role of Kavya Ranganathan, a modern woman who hardly gets time to live her life between her job and caring for her father with Alzheimer's.

"But her character's life turns a new leaf when she meets Arjun (played by Barun Sobti). That's when she gets an opportunity to find time for herself. They build a friendship, which blooms into romance. "This is something which I feel is a definition of modern love for me. It's refreshing, equal and gender neutral," she says. With the film, Shahana hopes the people will be reminded of her as an actor. "I'm happy this movie is coming after a long time. Time also gives people a break from the clichés. This film will revive the memory of me, since I haven't had a Hindi release in the past five years. "I hope it also makes people take note of the fact that I have always tried to portray different roles in my career. I don't want to do only dramatic roles. There's a lighter side to me. At the end of the day, I'm an actor and I'm hungry for different roles," she says. (PTI)

Don't wish to speak about it anymore:

HRITHIK ON KANGANA ROW

MUMBAI, OCT 11 /-/ Actor Hrithik Roshan today said he was done with speaking on his controversial feud with Kangana Ranaut. The 43-year-old star, who broke his silence on the issue last week via a statement and interviews to two TV channels, said he will refrain from talking about the matter on any public platform from now on. "I am writing this in response to the several interview requests that I am getting from various media houses. I have given two. Due to the media dynamics of our times there is a justified pressure on me to give more. "I would apologise to those who have made these well meaning requests and would humbly say that I don't wish to speak on this issue. I have had to give out my side of truth under some very compelling circumstances," Hrithik wrote on Facebook.

The "Kaabil" actor said he does not wish to make "a spectacle" out of the matter. "In the interest of civility and human dignity we should not make a spectacle of this issue. Media is an integral part of our civil society and they would know that continued discourse on this issue is gaining toxic dimensions," he said. Commenting on the current scenario in the media, Hrithik said he was in no position to suggest "which story should be covered or not, but if this under investigation case is factually covered through the developments of police investigation and courts, that would be a breather for a lot of us." He thanked the people who have come out in his support, including close friends and collaborator Farhan Akhtar and co-star Yami Gautam. He, however, requested people "to stop taking sides in this issue." "Before this is dangerously hijacked into a man vs woman, insider vs outsider, privileged vs non privileged issue we must stop. Please don't support me. Don't take sides," Hrithik added. The actor clarified that he was not seeking to close the issue but merely suggesting that "the investigations be the only spokesperson." (PTI)

Stars can only dictate the opening weekend: Nitesh Tiwari

MUMBAI, OCT 11 /-/ Filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari believes that stars may have the power to pull a crowd on the opening weekend but it is the content that decides the fate of a movie in the long run. The director, who was behind one of Hindi cinema's highest grossers "Dangal", says audiences trust word of mouth more than the star presence. In an interview with PTI, Nitesh says, "People are expecting content in films. Historically, box office has been given importance and the opening weekend does matter. One thing that has changed is the multiplication factor of audience which is strongly driven by content. "The opening weekend is dictated by stars. It is word of mouth for a film, which means here the content does the talking. There are films which opened to poor response but if it was genuinely good then it got picked up due to word of mouth." The director believes the stronger the word of mouth is the better the business a film does at the ticket window. "The moment the word of mouth spreads it is no longer a star's film, the film becomes a star. If there is a star and strong word of mouth then it becomes huge film like say 'Dangal' and 'Bajrang Baijaan'," he adds. Nitesh, who has worked with Aamir in "Dangal" and Amitabh Bachchan in "Bhoothnath Returns", feels audiences should give more people a chance and make them stars. "It is a rarity to have a star and a great story together. We have very few stars today to do all kinds of films. How many films a superstar can do in a year? One or maximum two right? Even if we have say ten superstars and all films they do have great content, the number of good films churned by them is low as compared to the number of films being made every year. I think our audience needs to make more stars. I can't make anyone a star, audience does that," he says. (PTI)

Tea, conversation and revolution, all after 11 pm at this JNU shop

NEW DELHI, OCT 11 /-/ Make tea, make conversation and make sure you wash glasses before you leave -- the rules of this unconventional tea shop operating between 11 pm and 2 am in JNU may be simple, but the cause for which it was established is larger. Called the Guerrilla Dhaba, it is owned by nobody, run by volunteering students, and was set up by them as a mark of protest against the administrations decision to shut down canteens on campus at 11 pm over "security reasons". The move, enforced by the Campus Development Committee in June this year, had attracted opposition from a large section of students who considered it a threat to varsity night culture. The then JNU Students Union, headed by Mohit Kumar Pandey, had organised a Tea Protest against the decision.

Now, the one-week-old pop-up establishment -- with no roof, no seating, and a footpath for a home -- has brought back a measure of vibrancy and also hope for women students who would feel insecure walking down the deserted roads on campus at night. "Women were not feeling safe on campus. Some women were stalked on deserted roads. Ever since the dhaba was started, there are always 30 to



40 students near the T-point, making the campus more lively and safe," said one of the dhabas co-ordinators, Swati Simha. According to her, the recent dissolution of the varsity's sexual harassment watchdog -- GSCASH -- was another trigger to start the dhaba. Scores of students have now found an avenue for late night discussions over cups of tea priced at Rs 5 and are also volunteering to run the establishment located near the library on a rotational basis. Reina Gattuso, another coordinator and an MA student at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, said, "Ever since the new VC took over, there has been

major pressure from the administration to curtail democratic culture on campus. There is a threat to student politics, freedom of mobility and socialising. We wanted to counter all the attempts through this facility." Setting up the dhaba is one of the various forms of protests that the students have resorted to in protest against the administrations decisions. Last month, the JNUSU had given a mandate to the election committee of the disbanded the Gender Sensitisation Committee Against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH) to conduct elections, despite resistance from the administration. (PTI)

Sylvester Stallone is directing "Creed 2"

LOS ANGELES, OCT 11 /-/ Sylvester Stallone has announced that he will direct and produce "Creed 2", the eighth installment in the Rocky franchise. The 2015 film, starring Stallone and Michael B Jordan, was a spin-off of the original boxing drama and was directed by Ryan Coogler.

It was a major draw at the box office and earned Stallone his third Oscar nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category. He was previously nominated in 1977 in the Best Original Screenplay and in the Best Actor categories for playing Rocky Balboa, a role that helped him become an international action star. Along with a picture of himself with Jordan, Stallone wrote on Instagram, "Looking forward to directing and producing the incredibly talented Michael B Jordan in CREED 2 next year... One more Round!" In addition to playing Balboa, Stallone has written all the six films in the "Creed" series. He has also directed "Rocky II", "Rocky III", "Rocky IV" and "Rocky V". (PTI)

New fest to showcase handicrafts by women artisans

NEW DELHI, OCT 11 /-/ With Uttarakhand's handicrafts as its central theme, the sixth edition of Shilpkala Utsav, a women artisans' crafts bazaar, opened here today. Organised by All India Women's Conference (AIWC) and Uttarakhand government, the three-day festival is focused on "empowerment of women artisans, promotion of the crafts, paintings, jewellery and midsellmen". According to Rakesh Dhawan, president of AIWC, the initiative will help build women artisans' confidence. "Our motto at AIWC is to empower women at the grass root level. This initiative will help build the confidence of women of the hilly regions of Uttarakhand to become successful entrepreneurs in the years to come," she said.

The festival has a total of 31 stalls from 16 states, out of which 22 are from Uttarakhand. They have on display a variety of handcrafted collections of textiles, crafts, paintings, jewellery and accessories. Along with selling the traditional crafts, the artisans will also demonstrate their skills during the festival. As an added attraction, cultural performances by artists from Uttarakhand will also be organised. Ritu Singhal, convener of Shilpkala Utsav, called out to women artisans to step out and be economically self-reliant. "We will continue to encourage more women artisans to step out of their homes, reach out to their customers directly and be economically self-reliant. We have miles to travel and many hands to join in our journey in fulfilling our objectives," Singhal said. The crafts festival will conclude on October 12. (PTI)



Jia Aur Jia: A film about girls to come of age

KOLKATA, OCT 11 /-/ JIA AUR JIA is the first full-length attempt at telling the audiences what it is that brings girls to come of age to be women. While it is an absolute fun film written in the commercial mold, JIA AUR JIA is a film that asks pertinent questions, while fighting the high stakes of a magical journey called life. The trailer promises one of a kind female bonding and glorifying how two females with different mindsets can also get along and have a

shot in Sweden. A story about two starry different women (Richa Chadha and Kalki Koechlin) that share the same name. Together, they embark on a life-changing journey heading towards the same fate. The film is

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Anupam Kher is new FTII chairman

NEW DELHI, OCT 11 /-/ Veteran actor Anupam Kher was today appointed chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India, succeeding Gajendra Chauhan who had a controversial tenure as head of the Pune-based institute, officials in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said. Kher, 62, said he was "deeply humbled and honoured" to be appointed chairman of the "iconic FTII." "I will perform my duties to the best of my abilities," he said in a tweet. Kher, a graduate from Delhi's National School of Drama (NSD) who has appeared in over 500 films and many plays, was conferred the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts. His predecessor, best known for playing Yudhishtira in the TV show Mahabharata, helmed the institute for about two years. Chauhan's tenure, which ended in March this year, was marked by a 139-day strike by students protesting what they perceived was a politically-motivated appointment. Kher's wife Kiron Kher, the BJP MP from Chandigarh, was amongst the first to congratulate him. "Congratulations my dear @AnupamKher for becoming FTII Chairman! Know you will do a great job!" she said on Twitter. Born on March 7, 1955, in Shimla, Kher completed his education from the D A V School in the city. He has

previously held the post of chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification and director of film industry's most prolific and versatile actors. Kher made his acting debut in 1982 with "Aagman", but the 1984 Mahesh Bhatt film "Saaransh" was his breakout role. Then just 28, Kher played the role of a retired middle class man grappling with his son's death. After "Saaransh", he went on to star opposite many big Bollywood celebrities, including Anil Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar, sometimes as the villain, the comic relief or the friendly father. In 2002, he attempted to become director with "Om Jai Jagadish" but the film was not a success. Kher is one of the few Indian actors to have crossed over to international cinema with films such as the 2002 Golden Globe nominated "Band It Like Beckham", Ang Lee's 2007 Golden Lion-winning "Lust, Caution," and "David O Russell's Playbook". Kher has also written and starred in a play about his own life called "Kuchh Bhi Ho Sakta Hai", which was directed by Feroz Abbas Khan.

Kher's colleagues and contemporaries congratulated the actor on his new appointment. "Excellent change. @AnupamKher finally replaces Gajendra Chauhan



or whatever his name is as FTII Chairman. Finally the government is listening to us!" said journalist-adman-filmmaker Pritish Nandy. Director Prakash Jha also praised the decision of the government. "Welcome step! After @prasonjoshi, @AnupamKher!! Moving in the right direction... Thank you for this @smritirani," he said. "Congratulations Shri @AnupamKher ji, for being appointed as @FTIIOfficial chairman," said actor-politician Paresh Rawal. Director Madhur Bhandarkar tweeted, "Heartiest congratulations to @AnupamKher sir for being appointed as the Chairman of FTII. (PTI)