

CREATIVE WORLD

I always feel like an outsider: Shruti Haasan



MUMBAI, AUG 27/-/ It has been over a year since Shruti Haasan made her last appearance on the big screen and the actor says it was a conscious decision to stay away from the camera as she wanted to reassess her career. Shruti, 32, who is the elder daughter of veteran actors Kamal Haasan and Sarika, says she took the decision to take a break to 'reorganise' herself. "I took a conscious decision to take a break for one year. I thought it was important to take a break and reassess what I wanted to do. I believe when you get in to a rut you need to reassess," Shruti told PTI. The actor is now working on a Hindi as well as a Tamil movie and is venturing into production in a partnership with her mother. "I am producing films and getting back into music full time. So, I needed to step back and kind of reorganize things. I believe it is important for an artist to take some time off to be with themselves. "I have been in films, but I always feel like an outsider. I think that's my strength and my weakness. But I like to keep it to myself and do my job. I am not someone to look back and think about it," she added. Shruti was speaking on the sidelines of Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2018, where she walked the ramp for designers Saaksha and Kimmi. The actor said, even though she is conscious about her appearance, she does not believe in strictly following the fashion trends. "There is a lot of emphasis on fashion these days. There are a lot of actors putting in much more efforts than I do. I can see that, people are very particular to know what is in vogue. I am not like that. I have always followed my own instincts in terms of fashion. Sometimes it works sometimes it doesn't, but I always feel good about myself. "I am conscious. But I don't let myself follow every trend, because some of them are really ridiculous. For me it is more about feeling comfortable and confident, she said. Saaksha and Kimmi's collection titled 'Rasas', presented a kaleidoscopic swirl of colour and freedom of movement. The designer duo picked bold colours, playful prints and original embroideries for their new range, which also incorporates extensive use of Bandhani, Patola and Kat. They also reintroduced the craft of tradition of Gujarat's Kotwalia tribes with the help of metal-and-thread interweaving techniques. (PTI)

It was great fun shooting for Hello Hello': Malaika



MUMBAI, AUG 27/-/ Malaika Arora Khan will be seen grooving to the beats of Vishal Bhardwaj for a special song in his upcoming film 'Pataakha' and the dancing diva said she had a great time filming the track. Celebrated poet-lyricist Gulzar has penned the lyrics of the song, which was sung by Rekha Bhardwaj. "It was great fun shooting for the song. I have immense respect for Vishal sir and Gulzar sahab. Rekha has sung the song. They have created magic in the past and I am very happy to be a part of this track. I love the title of the film and title of the song," Malaika told PTI. "Pataakha" is a comedy-drama about two sisters, Badki and Chhutki, and is based on an acclaimed short-story by renowned writer Charan Singh Pathik. Featuring Sanya Malhotra, Radhika Madan, Sunil Grover and Vijay Raaz, the film releases September 28, 2018. Malaika, who was the showstopper for designer Anushree for the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2018, said she is completely against the beauty standards set by the society. "I am not for any kind of biases. Beauty is in everything. I feel there shouldn't be any biases. I believe beauty lies in the eyes of a beholder. The beauty standards set by the society are utterly wrong and in today's day and age of media attention and focus one has to be a lot more aware and careful about it," she said. Malaika said she realised very early in her career that it is impossible to please everyone and hence she believes in following her own rules when it comes to fashion. "I started out in the entertainment industry very early. And I think I was lucky to get the platform to be the way I am or dress the way I am. I am really happy I had those opportunities. I realised it very early in my career that you can't please everybody. Once I understood that I was confident a lot more. I am not someone who thinks too much," she said. Anushree's collection titled 'Sitaras' was inspired by the romanticism and femininity of vibrant celebrations. It brought together sensual colours with delicate handcrafted three-dimensional applique flour, butterflies, leaves and fictional characters. It also featured tone on tone thread work that was highlighted with delicate hand-dyed beads. (PTI)

Saffronart to host fundraiser auction for Kerala flood relief

NEW DELHI, AUG 27 /-/ In the wake of the devastation caused by unprecedented floods in Kerala, Saffronart's StoryLTD will conduct an online no reserve fundraiser auction on August 29-30. The Kerala Flood Relief Fundraiser Auction will feature 32 works of modern and contemporary Indian art, including artists Ram Kumar, Manjit Bawa, Thota Vaikuntam, K G Subramanyam, Riyas Komu, and Dhananjay Singh.

In what have been the worst floods to affect Kerala in over 90 years, at least 200 have lost their lives and over four lakh people have been displaced. For the fund raising sale, there will be no buyer's premium, and proceeds will be donated to the Government of Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund, the auction house said. Kerala has been home to many Indian artists who have contributed significantly to the emergence of Modern Indian art, including 19th century painter Raja Ravi Varma.

It has also been the venue for the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which has been a pillar of the South Asian art community. "We are deeply saddened by this devastation, and we hope that this fundraiser auction will contribute in helping those in need during this national disaster. "As we do our little bit to stand with Kerala, we urge you to do the same. Please open your hearts and give generously towards this cause. Your contribution will help the people of Kerala rebuild their lives," Saffronart CEO and co-founder Binesh Vazirani said. The auction will take place online and all lots can be viewed on storyltd.com. (PTI)

Fate of Priya cinema hall in Kolkata hangs fire

KOLKATA, AUG 27 /-/ The fate of iconic Priya cinema hall in south Kolkata, where a fire had broken out recently, continues to hang in balance with the owner today saying that he was unsure if the building would be used as a single-screen theatre or for some other business activity. Arijit Dutta, the owner of Priya Entertainments, said he was flooded with requests to reopen the theatre. "All my family members and friends want me to re-open the 60-year-old theatre as public sentiment is involved with Priya Cinema. The single-screen theatre had witnessed special screenings of many cult Bengali films in the past few decades. I am yet to take a call on the matter," he said. The fire had started at the first-floor office of the cinema around 10.15 pm on August 4, leading to a panic among the late-night show viewers. They were all safely evacuated. After inspection, authorities at the fire department

claimed to have found shortcomings in the safety measures at the cinema hall. In a notice, the department asked the owners to install water sprinklers and smoke detectors within the auditorium for getting a "no-objection" certificate. Dutta said he was ready to abide by the directions of the fire department, but insisted that the suggested norms were not common features in single screens across the country. "To my knowledge, no single screen in the country has the equipment suggested by the officials. However, we are ready to go by the directions, considering public safety aspects," he asserted. West Bengal Fire Services Director General Jagmohan, on his part, said the recommendations were made to avoid a similar incident in future. "It is up to the owners to implement the suggestions. Once they enforce the guidelines, our



team will inspect the site and act accordingly," he stated. Talking about his plans for the five-storey building at Deshapriya Park in south Kolkata, Dutta said he was weighing his options. "I am having second thoughts on whether the property will be used for screening films any more after enforcing the fire safety measures. I may use it for some other business model too. The decision is yet to be taken," he added. (PTI)

John Krasinski attributes his success to wife Emily Blunt

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 /-/ Actor John Krasinski believes his wife Emily Blunt is the reason for his recent success. The 38-year-old actor starred alongside Blunt in "A Quiet Place", which he also directed and co-wrote. The horror film has been a massive hit in the United States and other countries with even critics praising it for the visuals and story. Speaking with The Independent, Krasinski credited Blunt for teaching him "so much about how to go about the business." "I honestly feel I wouldn't have this career if I hadn't met her, because she's taught me so much about how to go about the business," the actor said. "She's been my secret ingredient," he added. Krasinski said it was Blunt who encouraged him to direct "A Quiet Place". "I was originally just going to star and Emily told me I had to direct it. She knew it was a huge opportunity for me, and in the madness she just let me be myself," he said. The actor said after the film, their bond has become stronger than it ever was. "It without a doubt made our marriage stronger. I think we were both surprised by that. Not that I thought it would get worse but we were much more in love after the movie. We leaned on each other in a way we never had," Krasinski said. "I also certainly wouldn't have felt as comfortable watching someone else pretend to give birth in a bathtub," he joked. Krasinski will be next in Amazon's 'Jack Ryan' series, which is based on Tom Clancy's novels. (PTI)



Meghan Trainor arrives at the iHeartRadio MuchMusic Video Awards (MMA) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada —REUTERS

Ethan Hawke delivers stinging critique of superhero films

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 /-/ Ethan Hawke has some harsh words for Hugh Jackman-starrer "Logan", which the actor said was a "fine superhero movie" but not a great film. In an interview with The Film Stage ahead of his Lifetime Achievement Award at the Locarno Film Festival, Hawke, best known for Richard Linklater's Before trilogy and "Boyhood", explained the difference between a good movie and a good superhero movie. "Now we have the problem that they tell us 'Logan' is a great movie," Hawke said.

"Well, it's a great superhero movie. It still involves people in tights with metal coming out of their hands. It's not Bresson. It's not Bergman. But they talk about it like it is," he added. The actor said Hollywood studios promote their films as a fine piece of art just to make their money. "I want to see Logan 'cause everyone was like, 'This is a great movie' and I was like, 'Really? No, this is a fine superhero movie,'" Hawke said. "There's a difference, but big business doesn't think there's a difference. Big business wants you



to think that this is a great film because they wanna make money off of it," he added. (PTI)

Tom Hardy says he is signed on for two more 'Venom' films

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 /-/ Tom Hardy has said that he is ready to play Marvel antihero Venom in more than one film as he is contracted with Sony for three movies. The 40-year-old actor is all set to debut as the character in Ruben Fleischer's "Venom", which also stars Riz Ahmed and Michelle Williams. In an interview with Total Film Magazine, Hardy said he would be open to reprising his role as Eddie Brock and his alter-ego, Venom, should the film be a success. "I'm open to whatever you want to do with it. We've signed up for three of them. So it's very much an open case. We'll see what people's responses are to it," Hardy said. "I think it's an awesome character. I love playing both of them. It's an amuse-bouche, and for Sony, it's the Venom-verse launched in isolation, as it were," he added. The British star also hinted that the Spider-Man spin-off will serve as a standalone trilogy. "We all prepared for it to be a standalone universe. So what if Sony want to attach to it at a later date, it's a fulcrum piece. But let's see what happens when it lands," Hardy said. (PTI)

Designers have become conscious about what their creations do to environment: Amit Aggarwal

MUMBAI, AUG 27 /-/ Designer Amit Aggarwal has always given importance to recycling and sustainability in fashion and he is happy that the new generation is well-aware of the consequences the world has to face if they do not make their production process environment-friendly. The designer says even the consumers are equally conscious about the harm their clothes will cause to the earth. "Designers have become more conscious and aware about what they create and how they create. I believe the new educated generation understands how to create something which is unique and healthy and something which won't cause harm to the nature. "The clients are also equally aware about why sustainability is



necessary in fashion. I always believe that one should have lesser pieces in their wardrobe, but something which they can use for years or probably hand it over for the generations to come," Amit told PTI. The designer showcased his first ever menswear range last night at the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2018. Actors Shahid Kapoor and Disha Patani walked the ramp for the designers in the show presented by Nexa. Known for his futuristic approach, Amit took visual inspiration for this collection from kinetic movements and energies, interpreted through dynamic and vigorous composition of lines. He said he decided to come up with the range because he believes men are now not

afraid of experimenting with their clothes. "Whenever I travel internationally I see men dressed up in very alternative ways and also making a lot of efforts in dressing up. I have also seen that enthusiasm in a lot of men here. I thought maybe as country we have a little space of how men should be dressing. "I thought it was important to introduce something little experimental for them. Because there are hardly any options available. We have tried to create a quirky vibe for the men, which I believe designers don't really explore. And that is something which can easily make it to the men's wardrobe. The collection was a smooth blend of culture and modernity, as it restored vintage phulkari, the traditional Indian metallic embroidery technique. "We have restored it by using our signature polymer details and contemporary intricate hand embellishments. The phulkari patterns are very angular and geometric so they kind of jelled well with my sensibilities," he added. The silhouettes of the collection were created using textiles that are undulate and mold over the body, morphing them with sharply cut patterns and shapes. The colour palette comprised of arctic and pearl white, granite, silver grey and black put together to best represent the sophistication inspired by NEXA. (PTI)