



Life, Variety

The Echo of India □ Port Blair □ Tuesday □ June 13, 2017

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CREATIVE WORLD

Katy Perry ready to bury hatchet with Taylor Swift



LONDON, JUNE 12 / -- Pop star Katy Perry said she is ready to bury the hatchet with fellow singer Taylor Swift. The "Blank Space" singer had accused Perry, 32, of sabotaging her tour by stealing her backing dancers. Perry said she now wants to move on and wishes only good for her, reported *People* magazine. "I am ready to let it go, forgive her and I'm sorry for anything I ever did, and I hope she same from her."

I love her, and I want the best for her. And I think she's a fantastic songwriter, the "Roar" singer said, while speaking to *Thrive* CEO Arianna Huffington on the *Thrive* Global Podcast. Perry's comments about forgiveness come after she recently claimed Swift tried to "assassinate her character" during their ongoing feud. "No one has asked me about my side of the story, and there are three sides of every story: one, two, and the truth," she had said. Earlier, Swift wrote the song "Bad Blood" about their fight and Perry seemed to hit back with her recent single "Swish Swish".

Entertainment like a medicinal dose for the public: Boman



NEW DELHI, JUNE 12 / -- Actor Boman Irani's most notable performances have been in films like "Mumbai Monks", "Jolly LLB" and "3 Idiots" but he has been equally great in Bollywood comic capers.

His characters from "No Entry", "Housefull" series and "Happy New Year" have become popular, thanks to his impeccable comic timing and the actor says comedies should not be dismissed as something "senseless". "It is not a plan to have a balance of comic and serious films, it is a mindset. We, actors, are entertainers. It is a part of our social fabric to make sure that people are also entertained. People need an escape of sorts through movies. It is not to be treated like something totally senseless," Boman told news agency PTI. The 57-year-old actor says actors should be able to entertain the audience through their work. "It is important to entertain people who do not have the opportunity to travel. They require entertainment as a staple diet in their everyday life. Entertainment is a big medicinal dose for the public. I feel that we must acknowledge that."

In his 16-year-long film career, Boman has several memorable roles to his credit including Dr J C Asthana, Professor Viru

Exhibition highlighting life of Thambi Naidoo opens in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, JUNE 12 / -- An exhibition comprising historic photographs and artefacts from the life of Thambi Naidoo, one of the most trusted lieutenants of Mahatma Gandhi during his stay in South Africa has been opened at the iconic Apartheid Museum here.

The Naidoo-Pillay exhibition at the museum was put together after two years of research by historians from the University of the Witwatersrand History project. The museum comprises of historic photographs, video recordings, documents and artefacts

from the five descendants of Naidoo who had emigrated from Mauritius at the age of 14 in 1889. Naidoo, who worked alongside Gandhi in fighting oppression through Satyagraha movement in South Africa, became a chief mobiliser of especially the Tamil community where he hailed from.

After being shipped off from India as slaves to the fertiliser fields of the British colony of Mauritius, Govindasamy Krishnasamy known as Thambi and his family boarded a passenger boat to South Africa in the

1870s. Naidoo's wife, Parenthama Pillay, would also join the fight for freedom, organising a 300-strong march of Indian women, most of whom were ordinary homemakers, to resist the unjust laws being put in place against Indian South Africans.

From among his nine children, Thambi sent four sons with Gandhi when the latter returned to India in 1914, insisting that they be trained at an ashram in India to devote their lives for the good of people.

Narasamy (Roy), Pakirisamy (Pakiri), Barasathi and

Balakrishnan, were referred to by Gandhi as "my four pearls."

After Pakiri's death at the ashram in Ahmedabad, Barasathi and Balakrishnan returned to South Africa, while Roy stayed on to study under the poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan before returning home in 1928 to dedicate his life to the liberation struggle. He was elected deputy president of the Transvaal Indian Congress and campaigned for vote for Indians, the repeal of segregationist laws such as the Ghetto Act and the Pegging

Act, and non-racial alliances.

Roy and Ama's five children, Sthanthe, Indres, Murthie, Rammie and Prema, all joined the liberation movement, suffering persecution, detention, solitary confinement and torture. All but the late Indres were present at the launch of the exhibition, which was attended by scores of veterans of the freedom struggle. The family also befriended African National Congress leaders such as Nelson Mandela, with many political meetings taking place around the kitchen table of their home in downtown Jo-

hannesburg. One of the posters in the exhibition quotes Mandela recalling a meal he once had there. "Ama, wearing that free and easy smile of hers, presented us with a meal of crab and rice. It was my first time to see these creatures cooked and merely the sight of them made me feel sick... I tried to be as graceful as was possible. Thereafter I became much attached to the Naidoo and enjoyed crabs very much," Mandela had said.

The exhibition will tour the country after ending a two-month run at the Apartheid museum.

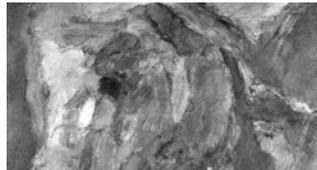
Tyeb Mehta's 'Falling Figure' sells for over Rs 4 cr

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12 / -- A 1965 painting from Tyeb Mehta's 'Falling Figure' series fetched Rs 4.27 crores, leading the Summer Online auction by Saffronart. The artwork was earlier estimated at Rs 2-3 crores.

"The market for contemporary Indian art is seeing a revival, with collectors showing interest in standout works by top-tier artists."

Contemporary artists are increasingly in the spotlight due to the combined efforts of biennales, art foundation, art fairs, galleries and museums in South Asia, as well as international institutions which are returning their attention to the region." Hugo Weihe, CEO Saffronart, said. Estimated at Rs 1.92-3.2 crores, Francis Newton Souza's 'The Herald' sold for Rs 2 crores.

Considered to be a significant work from the artist's finest phase, the artwork combines clear imagery with stark emotion, and reveals Souza's own views on humanity. The oil on canvas



painting was part of a private collection in South America and was originally believed by the owner's daughter to be the work of a South American artist. However, it was subsequently revealed to be from Souza's successful 1961 exhibition at Gallery One in London. Other highlights of the auction included works by Valay Shende, Atul Dodiya, Adeela Suleman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Arunkumar H C, Senaka Senanayake, Surendran Nair and Dhananjay Singh. Shende's untitled sculpture of a buffalo made from welded metal discs, sold at Rs

43 lakhs, Dodiya's 'Five Drops from Vesuvius' sold at Rs 33.8 lakhs, Sri Lankan artist Senaka Senanayake's oil on canvas sold at Rs 7.29 lakhs. Installations by Pakistani artist Suleman and Bangladeshi artist Lipsi sold at Rs 5.95 and Rs 5.37 lakhs respectively. Works by modernists like Ganesh Pyne, B Prabha, Sadanand Bakre and Thota Vaikuntam also witnessed energetic bidding.

An untitled artwork by Prabhakar at Rs 24 lakhs, a 1956 watercolour by Pyne sold at Rs 15.55 lakhs, and an abstract oil on canvas by Bakre sold at Rs 12.86 lakhs.

MUMBAI, JUNE 12

He has juggled between commercial and independent movies but actor Ranvir Shorey believes working in indie circuit is more frustrating due to the inconsistent success rate of off-beat cinema.

Ranvir says every five years there is a discussion about how indie cinema has grown by leaps and bounds when one project becomes successful, but then everything falls flat. "One indie film does well, for example a 'Bheja Fry' that gets money for another 20 indie projects. But as soon as the first 8 projects release and flop out of the 12 remaining ones, six will never take off, three will remain incomplete and the others will be shelved," the actor told news agency PTI. Ranvir, says the onus lies with the independent filmmakers to make sure the medium remains consistent in delivering good content that is also commercially vi-

Working in indie cinema frustrating: Ranvir Shorey



able. "Working in independent cinema is far more frustrating than mainstream because it is difficult to get money to make such films. The only way independent cinema can come out of its own rut is by learning to be more consistent."

An indie filmmaker should feel responsible for others as well." The actor has featured in several critically acclaimed indie films like "Tili" and "Khosla Ka Ghosla" while also featuring in commercial movies including "Ek Tha Tiger" and "Singh is King". In this age when commercial cinema is setting new records, and fewer indie films are making a mark, Ranvir says making independent films "was never easy and it keeps getting tougher." According to Ranvir, the way forward for an independent film is to be an amalgamation of a powerful story which also brings in numbers. His latest "A

Death in the Gunj" is playing in cinema halls while the actor is excited for his forthcoming "Kadvi Hava", directed by Nila Madhab Panda. The film, which got a special mention at this year's National Awards, features Ranvir as a young bank loan recovery agent and Sanjay Mishra as a blind old farmer. The film is about two ordinary people fighting for survival.

Abhishek yet to take a call on Kashyap's film with Aishwarya

MUMBAI, JUNE 12 / -- Actor Abhishek Bachchan said he and his wife, actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, are still in early talks regarding filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's upcoming production.

Recently, Aishwarya had confirmed that the duo was approached by Kashyap to star in a film titled "Gulab Jamun", to be directed by Sarvesh Mewara. When asked about the status of the project, Abhishek told reporters last night here, "That film is not Anurag's film. It's by a new director and he (Anurag) will be producing it. We are still discussing it. We can't announce anything yet. I have always maintained that it is better if the film's producer announces it," Abhishek said during an event to celebrate 20 years of "Border".

The film was directed by JP Dutta, who

also gave Abhishek his Bollywood break with the 2000 drama "Refugee". "After few months of the release of 'Border' JP saab came to me and offered me my first film. I am here as an actor today because of him and JP films. I owe them everything," the 41-year-old actor said. Asked about the trend of remakes and sequels, the "Dhoom" actor said, "I think a film like 'Border' is still very fresh in everybody's minds, so it will be difficult to remake that. Today, sequels are in trend but there is only one person who can make a sequel to 'Border' and it is JP Sir. If he says no, then guess there will be no sequels."

"Border", released in June 1997, had Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty, Akshaye Khanna and Jackie Shroff in pivotal roles. The movie was based on the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

'Mixtape' webseries to give fresh take to old songs

MUMBAI, JUNE 12 / -- A new web series titled "Mixtape" will feature 26 well-known singers and give a fresh take to old songs with an acoustic arrangement of music.

Produced by music label T-Series, the web series will have 17 episodes, featuring a lively duet and solo performances on a mix of all time favourite Bollywood songs. "Digital is a great platform to work these days as it gives the audience a first hand connect. Having such a massive

catalogue of songs, we always wanted to do something on these lines. We are delighted that Mixtape is finally coming to life with such great talent from the industry," Bhushan Kumar, T-Series managing director and chairman, said in a statement.

The line-up of singers include Shreya Ghoshal, Shaan, Salim Merchant, Tulsi Kumar, Jubin Nautiyal, Ayushman Khurrana, Armaan Malik, Aditi Singh, Hardy Sandu, Neeti

Mohan, Sreeram Chandra, Kanika Kapoor, Nakash Aziz, Harshdeep Kaur, Jonita Gandhi, Aditya Narayan, Palak Muchhal, among others. Presented by Kings and powered by Saavn, "Mixtape" is set to premiere on June 15 with Neha Kakkar and Mohammed Irfan kicking off the first episode.

The show is directed by Ahmed Khan, while Abhijit Vaghani has given the music for the entire season.

Tropical regions to witness more rainfall due to climate change: NASA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12 / -- A new study conducted by NASA scientists warns that the amount of rainfall in the tropical regions will increase as our planet continues to get warmer.

According to the new study published in the journal *Nature Communications*, most global climate models may underestimate the decreases in high clouds over the tropics seen in NASA observations, reports Xinhua news agency. Globally, rainfall is not related just to the clouds that are available to make rain but also to Earth's "energy budget" - incoming energy from the sun compared to

outgoing heat energy, according to the study, titled "Tightening of Tropical Ascent and High Clouds Key to Precipitation Change in a Warmer Climate".

High-altitude tropical clouds trap heat in the atmosphere, but if there are fewer of these clouds in the future, the tropical atmosphere will cool, and cooling water vapour in the cold upper atmosphere condenses it, turning it into liquid droplets - rain, or ice particles. It releases its heat and warms the atmosphere. "This study provides a pathway for improving predictions of future precipitation change," said Hui Su of

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

When compared climate data from the past few decades with 23 climate model simulations of the same period, the research team found that most of the climate models underestimated the rate of increase in precipitation for each degree of surface warming that has occurred in recent decades. For data, the team used observations of outgoing thermal radiation from NASA's spaceborne Clouds and Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) and other satellite instruments, as well as ground-level observations.

