

CREATIVE WORLD
I would love to play a grey character: Divyanka Tripathi



MUMBAI, APRIL 11 /- Divyanka Tripathi is known for her goody two-shoes characters on television but the actress says she is willing to experiment and play negative roles. However, Divyanka says the medium has to be a web series or a short film. "I would love to play grey shade characters but not for a daily soap. I generally go into the depth of a character. In daily soaps we shoot for long hours and I can't live with that negativity." For a film, short film, web series, I would still be comfortable playing grey shade roles as they are short-lived. The content is very limited too, so you can switch off easily. I would love to experiment but in a different medium," Divyanka told PTT.

The actress is currently a contestant on dance reality show "Nach Baliye" along with her husband, Vivek Dahiya. The two got married last year after meeting on the sets of Ekta Kapoor's show "Ye Hai Mohabbatein." There is a lot of pressure in relation to the expectations that our audience and fans have from us. Yet we are taking it easy because our motive has been to come on this platform and enjoy and do something different," Divyanka says the platform is also giving them an opportunity to spend a "quality time" with each other as they are busy with their respective shoots. "We are newly weds and thankfully this platform is also giving us an opportunity to spend more time with each other. I shoot everyday and post shoot, I reach rehearsals. Vivek is usually already there rehearsing but we still get some quality time. We are enjoying this process of growing together." The two are one of the most popular couples in the TV industry and the actress says their parents inspire their marriage. "Our parents are relationship goals for us. They are so loving and so caring towards each other - our papas still love our moms so much at this age and support them," she says. (PTT)

Nepotism debate blown out of proportion: Nimrat

NEW DELHI, APRIL 11 /- Actress Nimrat Kaur feels that the nepotism debate has been blown out of proportion. "When you talk about nepotism it is in each and every profession. For example, a lawyer's son will have an easy way of being a lawyer just by the virtue of having grown up in that environment... and having access to that environment. "By the same logic, even an actor's kid will have that advantage. But then it holds true for just one time as the final word is always with the audience," Nimrat told PTT. The 35-year-old actress, who was here in the city for the launch of Audi A3 Sedan, says eventually what matters in life is "where you are going to and not where you are coming from". And coming from a humble background with her first car being a second-hand Maruti Swift to now a proud owner of Audi, Nimrat terms her journey as a "privileged" one. "It has been a long journey with too many years and too many experiences. But a blessed and amazing journey from the time I used to take trains, autos to cabs... And now life has obviously changed," she says.

Talking about the road ahead, the actress is excited about her upcoming web series titled "The Test Case" as she gets to play the role of an army officer, something which she says is "very close to her heart." "My father was an army officer, and now getting to play the role of an army officer myself is like life coming a full circle. It's a story of the first woman commander in army. Yes, it is a fictional account since India never had a woman commander in army," she says. Directed by Nagesh Kukunoor, the web series will be aired in Ekta Kapoor's Balaji digital space initiative AITBalaji. (PTT)



Cooper, Irina Shayk welcome their first child

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 11 /- Actor Bradley Cooper and his girlfriend Irina Shayk have welcomed their first baby. The 31-year-old Russian supermodel, who has been dating Cooper, 42, since spring 2015, gave birth two weeks ago, reported People magazine. However, no other details were made available. Shayk's pregnancy news came out in November after she showcased a baby bump while walking the runway at the 2016 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. The two were first romantically linked in May 2015 when they were spotted kissing in New York City. (PTT)

We have a very robust democracy: Shabana Azmi

KOLKATA, APRIL 11 /- Actress Shabana Azmi has expressed optimism about the state of the society in the country, saying India has a very robust democracy and people fight back whenever the necessity arises. "We have a very robust civil society, very robust democracy that fights back when necessary with all its strength. It thus creates space for women to negotiate for more space," Azmi told the audience during a discussion here on Friday. When asked to comment on reports of moral policing, imposition of dress code on girls, arguments against triple talaq and romeo squads, she says, "India is a country where people are living in the same place but in absolute contradictions and this encapsulates our multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society."

"Similar is the position of women in this country. There are a lot of very empowered women. But again there are cases of female feticide also in India," she says. Asserting that the whole situation was not "entirely depressing", Azmi says, "When I look at the whole picture, I am an optimist. I feel glass is half-filled not half-empty." The 66-year-old actress plays one of the three female protagonists in Aparna Sen's "Sonata" along with Lillete Dubey and the director-actor. (PTT)

Salman Khan shares poster of 'Sairat' actor's next project

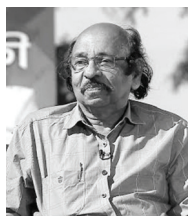
MUMBAI, APRIL 11 /- Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has shared a poster of "Sairat" actor Akash Thosar's next film "FU". The movie will be directed by Salman's friend, actor-filmmaker, Mahesh Manjrekar. "Sairat through #AkashThosar is back with @manjrekarmahesh's #FU." Salman posted on Twitter, alongside the poster which reads "He Is Back." "FU" will release on June 2. This is Akash's second film. The actor's debut Marathi film "Sairat", directed by Nagraj Manjule, was a superhit. (PTT)

Poets need freedom to reshape the world: K Satchidanandan

NEW DELHI, APRIL 11 /- Poets should have the freedom to "disturb and agitate", so they can reshape the world by opposing an escaping reality through their verses, award-winning poet K Satchidanandan has said. Speaking at one of the sessions during "VAK: The Raza Biennale of Indian Poetry", he said poetry was the freedom to "conceive, to create alternative worlds". The freedom to disturb and agitate is one of the most important rights a poet has, especially in the history we find ourselves living in today. "Poetry is the freedom to conceive, to create alternative worlds, different ways of seeing, going beyond reality to escape it. Or perhaps even oppose the real and inhabit other realities," he said. The poet, who

opened the discussion with the poem "Prayer" by Spanish poet Francisco X Alarcon, said the primary freedom for a poet is to imagine God in ways he wants him to be. "The primary freedom of any poet is to imagine a God in ways he wants him to be. Because poetry ultimately is freedom of imagination beyond language. The freedom to conceal and create alternative worlds, in different societies. "Poets need the freedom to relate to the world in their own terms, to respond to world events, situations and contexts in their own ways and to use language as they see fit," he said. Satchidanandan exemplified poems by Pablo Neruda to certain the importance of "conversation" which a poet

does through his verses. "The conversation could be done within ideologies or out of them and in act of poetry, this border line is very thin because even when poets speak they may look very different. Pablo Neruda poems on love, society and mystery are a good example of it," he says. The Sahitya Akademi awardee says that poets create their best works when their freedom is denied and they are under pressure. "Readers get best out of poets when they are under pressure, and feel that the freedom is denied and history is passing through a dark tunnel. The freedom of poetry is to create multitudes and contradict oneself and approach to anything in different ways," he says. Organised by Raza Foundation, the ongoing poetry festival, is hosting 45 poets writing in over 15 Indian languages while providing a platform for the regional languages of the country. (PTT)



Urdu poets from Japan, US to grace Delhi at annual symposium

NEW DELHI, APRIL 11 /- Urdu lovers are in for a treat with a bevy of poets from across the globe, including from the US and Japan, set to converge in the national capital for the annual Jashn-e-Bahar Mushaira 'this week. The 19th edition of the mushaira (poetic symposium), organised by the non-profit Jashn-e-Bahar Trust, will be held here on April 14 and will see the likes of Javed Akhtar and Mansoor Usmani sharing stage with other eminent poets. Among those set to enthral the audience with their couplets and ghazals will be So Yamane from Osaka, Japan. Other poets include Akbarul Kabir from New York, Faruq Danish from Toronto, Canada; Basir Kazmi from Manchester, UK; Shahjahan Jaffery from Kuwait City, Kuwait; and Aziz Nabeel from Doha, Qatar.

The 'mushaira' will be held at the Delhi Public School, Mathura Road. Member of Parliament Shatrughan Sinha will be the chief guest and Sumendra Khatau, Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will be the guest of honour at the mushaira. The event will be held in the presence of Manipur Governor Njima Heptulla. Shamsur Rahman Faruqi will preside over the poetry event. Among the Indian poets, Popular Meeruthi, Gauhar Raza, Dr Nusrat Mehti, Dr Naseem Nikhat, Aqeel Noman, Aalok Shrivastav, Meenu Bakshi and Hussain Haider will also be participating. "With the firm belief that Zabaan-e-Urdu and its poetry unite people across class, creed and cultures, we at Jashn-e-Bahar Trust, strive to present the diversity in the practice of Urdu verse and its cross-cultural, and now global, richness to our audiences," says Kamna Prasad, founder of the Jashn-e-Bahar Trust. "Every year, more than 5,000 people attend mushaira, Jashn-e-Bahar. This is testimony not just to the popularity of the mushaira but also to the fact that Urdu, our beloved language, is very much alive and continues to resonate with the sensibilities of people of all ages," says Prasad. This year, the mushaira also travels to Patna, another stronghold of Urdu, where it will be held on April 15 at the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall. (PTT)

It is not impossible to make a foothold in Bollywood: Gurmeet

MUMBAI, APRIL 11 /- He became a household name after his successful stint on TV and now Gurmeet Ghoudhary is trying to make a mark in Bollywood, which he says is difficult but not impossible. After starring in hit shows like 'Imamyan', "Geet" and "Punar Viva", Gurmeet made his Hindi film debut with "Khamoshian". He has also been part of "Wajah Tum Ho" and the recently released "Laali Ki Shaadi Mein Laddoo Deewana". "It is difficult but it is not impossible to make a foothold in the film industry. It is difficult to get the kind of work you want to do. It is difficult to reach this far especially when you are not from a film family. But I have come a long way from being no one to doing television shows to films," he told PTT. Gurmeet enjoyed immense success while doing TV but none of his films have been a hit. "I was sad (referring to failure of his films) as I thought those films were good. But unfortunately my work was appreciated. The best part is I am getting



work." The actor says he believes in working hard and giving his best. "The positive thing is the film industry is helpful to those who are talented and grounded. I am a small-town boy who first did television and now doing films. There are so many who want to get into acting but don't get opportunities. I feel privileged," he says. The 33-year-old actor isn't keen on returning to television and do daily soaps that brought him name and fame. (PTT)

Indian writer-director's play makes a mark in Dubai

DUBAI, APRIL 11 /- Dhruvi Shah, a Dubai-based writer and director from Mumbai, is being hailed as an avant-garde presenter and performer following a successful staging of her play "I". According to Shah, "I" is a lyrical composition of a journey of four distinct voices unraveling their identity through the growing stages and cycles of life. Shah's play was staged as part of a "Queens of Drama", an theatrical collage held here from April 6-8. "Using introspective tools and complex techniques of self-discovery, these four voices begin to unfurl their universality, collapsing the boundaries between their exploration and the audience," Shah told PTT.

According to her, amalgamation of theatre, dance, sound and light and several eclectic means of expressions, this production was a celebration to all things that make us human, and our integration to life's beauty and mystical wonders. Shah channels her surreal interpretations of the mundane, while remaining grounded time in the rawness of folklore. Her explorations in theatre, movement, literature and music are intended to expand perspectives. Utilizing a myriad of theatre frameworks and movement genres such as: Butoh, Bak Mei, Yoga, Kalaripayattu etc., she marries existential debate with unconventional tools, techniques, and narratives, to create stage experiences that are often profound in observation and layered in insight. "Queens of Drama" was a series of five short plays based on the common goal of addressing women's issues with fun, sarcasm and empathy. All five of the short plays were written and directed by talented, local female artists. "This second edition of 'Queens of Drama' had women writing and discussing stories about women, and discussing topics that are not generally spoken about, but really do," Rashmi Kotriwala, Festival Director, Queens of Drama, 2017 and Co-Founder of The Junction, said. (PTT)

Assam scientist leads breakthrough research on black holes

JORHAT (ASSAM), APRIL 11 /- The last meal that the supermassive black hole of the Milky Way had was six million years ago, when it consumed a large clump of infalling gas before burping out a colossal bubble of gas weighing the equivalent of millions of suns, a new research led by an Indian scientist from here has found. With the help of the NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, Ronngom Bordoloi and his team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge found that several distant quasars can be seen through the northern half of the Fermi Bubbles, an outflow of gas expelled by the Milky Way galaxy's hefty black hole. The Hubble Space Telescope probed the quasars' light for information on the speed of the gas and whether the gas is moving toward or away from Earth. Based on the materials speed, the research team estimated that the bubbles formed from an energetic event between 6 million and 9 million years ago. "Six-nine million years might sound like a long time in human years. But this time scale is very different. It's like the blink of an eye. Just to give you the scale, the universe is approximately 13.7 billion years old, and the dinosaurs became extinct around 65 million years ago. So the last meal that the supermassive black hole of the Milky

Way had was after the dinosaurs became extinct," says Bordoloi. "For the first time, we have traced the motion of cool gas throughout one of the bubbles, which allowed us to map the velocity of the gas and calculate when the bubbles formed," he says. "It was a very strong and energetic event. It may have been a cloud of gas flowing into the black hole, which cooled off jets, making forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says. A black hole is a dense, compact region of space forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says. A black hole is a dense, compact region of space forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says. A black hole is a dense, compact region of space forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says. A black hole is a dense, compact region of space forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says. A black hole is a dense, compact region of space forming the twin lobes of hot gas seen in X-ray and gamma-ray observations. Ever since then, the black hole has just been eating snacks," he says.

orbiting the galactic centre, and if they fall into the black hole at some point, we might see a good light show." What the snacks consisted of is somewhat unclear: "It could be a gas cloud falling in or even some stars orbiting near the galactic centre that fell in," says Bordoloi, who has been using NASA facilities like the Hubble Space Telescope since his graduate school years. According to him, the kind of gas flow observed is called a nuclear outflow. "Such outflows are important regulatory mechanisms in the life cycle of a galaxy since his graduate school years. According to him, the kind of gas flow observed is called a nuclear outflow. "Such outflows are important regulatory mechanisms in the life cycle of a galaxy since his graduate school years. According to him, the kind of gas flow observed is called a nuclear outflow. "Such outflows are important regulatory mechanisms in the life cycle of a galaxy since his graduate school years."

"By studying the flow of gas into and out of the galaxy, we can study the fate of the Milky Way. We can start to predict if it will keep forming stars (currently there is almost one new star born in the Milky Way every year), or whether it will run out of gas supply and become an old and dead galaxy," he says. On the challenges ahead, he says, "One big challenge is to actually see which theoretical predictions can explain the observations we see here. It is always fun to push our understanding of a subject by comparing the models with observation. (PTT)