

CATE BLANCHETT IN TALKS FOR GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S FILM >>P4

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## LUCKNOW

# 'DON'T REMEMBER MY LIFE WITHOUT MOVIES'

Tabu, who started as a child actor, says she has learned a lot from cinema

Rishabh Suri

Very few actors have survived the test of time, but Tabu has managed to achieve that through the diverse range of work she has done in the past quarter of a century. The child actor of Hum Naujawan (1985) later made her Bollywood debut in a lead role in Vijaypath (1994), on this day 25 years ago. Cast opposite Ajay Devgn, she went on to win accolades and best debut awards for the same.

It's been a long journey, but ask her how it feels today and Tabu laughs, "My God! I can't believe these figures about myself. We don't realise so much time has gone by. It never feels like 'it's the end' and you can look back. Of course, you reminisce, have memories, and the experiences stay with you. Some have been fantastic, some challenging, some disappointing. I look at it as 'life' and not just as my career, because my life and career have been together. I don't remember my life without movies as I started so early. When I look back... it's been a roller coaster, and lot of learning, lot of growth."

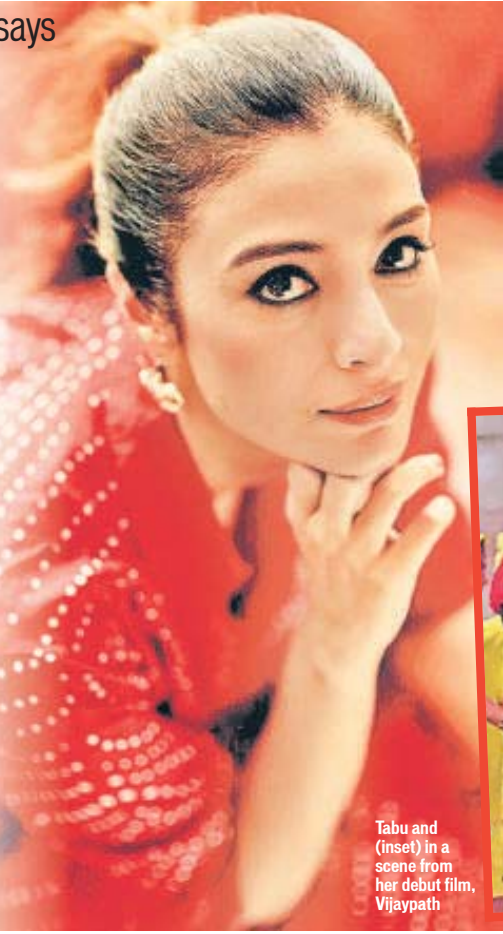
As an actor, Tabu has kept herself relevant by never sticking to any one genre. Be it comedies such as Biwi No.1 (1999), Hera Pheri (2000), thrillers like Andhadhun

(2018), or even international biggies such as The Namesake (2006), Life of Pi (2012), she's proved her mettle in every sphere. She adds, "There has never been a phase where I was doing only one kind of cinema. The acceptance I gained from the audience, producers, directors, who thought they can cast me in Haider, Jai Ho (both 2014) to Drishyam (2015) ... was very reassuring, and one of my greatest strengths. I don't discriminate (between genres)." But even after 25 years, her criteria of choosing a film remains the same.

Tabu reveals, "I must be convinced that my character is important to the film, whatever genre it belongs to. Unless I am making a choice for some other reason. For me, it's still very important to be clear about why I am doing a certain film!"

That her career and life have been so closely related, makes the 47-year-old actor feel how she turned out as a person also has to do with the work she did. "Some film experiences have been part of my progress personally, some have been great professionally. Nothing was a plan. Of course, it's not that you are just 'floating'! You have some kind of pursuit. For me, it's always been for a better life, to evolve to the next point. I am hungry for new experiences!" shares Tabu.

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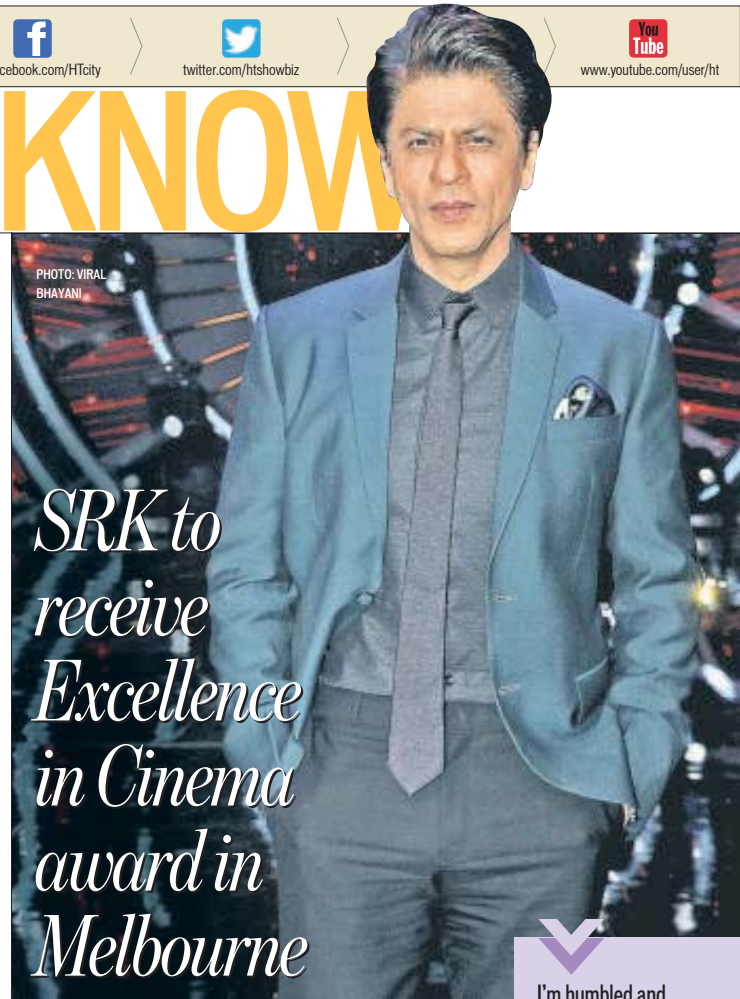
Tabu and (inset) in a scene from her debut film, Vijaypath

### STOP PRESS



#### RAGHU RAM, NATALIE SET TO BE PARENTS

Coedies fame Raghu Ram and wife Natalie Di Luccio are set to welcome their first child. Raghu, who married for a second time, last December, announced the news on social media. "1-1-3 #Overthemoon #Comingsoon" was his caption to a picture of him holding hands with Natalie, and a pair of baby shoes. On Insta he wrote: "Getting ready for the biggest adventure of my life yet!"



## SRK to receive Excellence in Cinema award in Melbourne

Juhi Chakraborty

Shah Rukh Khan adds another feather to his hat – the actor is set to be felicitated with the Excellence in Cinema Awards at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). Khan is also the chief guest at the festival. Helmed by the Victorian government, in Australia, the IFFM is back for its 10th edition in the cultural city and will celebrate "courage" as its central theme in 2019.

Khan, who has films such as Darr (1993), Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Devdas, (2002), Kal Ho Naa Ho (2003), Swades (2004), Don (2006), Chak De! India (2007), My Name Is Khan (2010) and Dear Zindagi (2016) will be presented the award by Her Excellency Linda Dessau, who also happens to be the first

female Governor of the State of Victoria.

"I'm humbled and honoured for this recognition. It will be a great experience to share the stage and the podium with my fellow industry members, who are all coming from various parts of India to celebrate cinema in Melbourne. I look forward to meeting Her Excellency, Linda Dessau," says Khan.

The felicitation will take place on August 8 at the iconic Palais Theatre in Melbourne, which is one of the city's heritage landmarks.

The actor has a huge fan following worldwide because of his extensive film repertoire and his inspirational life story. The festival wants to pay tribute to Khan's continuous contribution to cinema and popular culture in India with this award.

Festival director Mitu

I'm humbled and honoured for this recognition. It will be a great experience to share the stage with my fellow industry members.

SHAH RUKH KHAN ACTOR

Bhowmick Lange says, "When we think of one of the pioneers of Hindi cinema, Mr Khan's contribution ranks among the highest. He has established Hindi cinema as a global phenomenon, leaving an impact on millions across the world. He's an iconic figure for Indian cinema and this honour is to recognise his years of contribution."

Past recipients of this award from Bollywood include names such as Rishi Kapoor and Rani Mukerji.

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## Delhi 6 would make for a good remake, says Kunal Kapoor

Sangeeta Yadav

Remakes have proved to be quite a hit formula in Bollywood. While some feel that this trend gives a perfect opportunity to the young audiences to watch old classics in a new way, actor Kunal Kapoor says it also is a treat for actors as they get the chance to step into the shoes of popular characters from past films.

"The reboot of popular classics is only going to open

new avenues for the new age actors and for us also to experiment and bring the best to cinema by revamping the old with a modern twist," says the actor, last seen in this year's Noblemen.

Asked which one film he thinks can be a good remake and that he would like to star in, the 41-year-old actor says, "Delhi 6 (2009), directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, can make for a good reboot. The premise of the story is very developing and it can

make for a fantastic film. Somebody should attempt to make this film again."

The actor believes his blockbuster film Rang De Basanti (2006), too can make for a good remake. "It holds a very strong narrative and storytelling but if the characters wouldn't have died in the film, it would've been a good idea to explore a sequel," he adds.

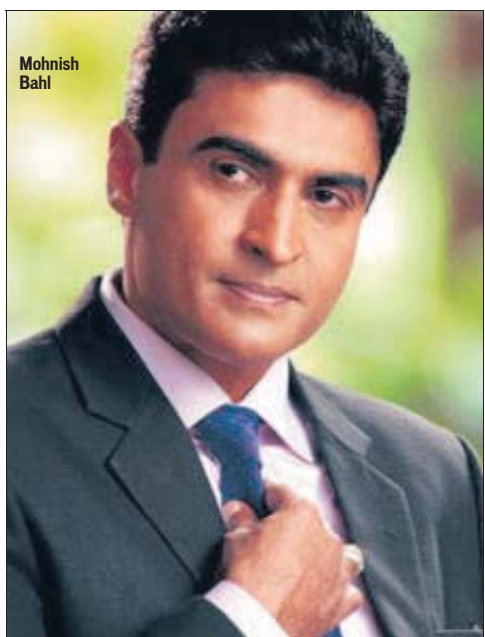
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PHOTO: SHIVAM SAXENA/HT

## Amit Sarin's focus is to get started on his Hollywood project

Amit Sarin, a popular name in Indian television, moved to the US earlier this year



## 'I'm the senior actor who has shockingly survived for 38 years'

Rishabh Suri

Actor Mohnish Bahl has been around in showbiz for long. His acting career started with Bekaraar (1983), and he went on to star in iconic films such as Maine Pyar Kiya (1989) and Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994) as well as TV shows. Decades later, he continues to be active in both TV and films, his next being Panipat alongside Arjun Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.

On what changes he observes in the industry after all these years, he says, "When you compare cinema, the execution of projects, we do it in 35-40 days now. Earlier, it was a longer process. One shot took longer, since there were

more lights in place. Also, we never immediately got to see what we shot. Now there's the PR machinery. Things are quicker, which is good. It has become more corporatised."

But there is a flip side to it as well. "There are no independent producers anymore. In a way, that's unfortunate. Earlier, there used to be 15-20 films on the floors, at a time.

Today, I don't believe you can survive, financially, if your source of income is limited to cinema. I don't believe you can, and I speak from personal experience," he shares.

Mohnish also feels that it is important for actors to not just count on films now, and do

work beyond it. "My last film was Jai Ho (2014), five years ago. I am doing Panipat now. It's not possible for me to survive financially on a film every two-three or four years. In the 1990s and early 2000s, you'd regularly see Shakti Kapoor, Gulshan Grover and me. I don't see that much now. I get treated as the senior actor who shockingly survived for 38 years.

I get all the respect due to being a senior actor (laughs), and I am grateful for that. I have financially managed to get myself to some stability. I am not dependent on my next pay cheque from the movie business. So I enjoy myself when I go to a shoot," he adds.

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Shreya Mukherjee

Earlier this year, actor Amit Sarin made news for starting his own international production house in Los Angeles and permanently moving to the US along with his wife and children. He even announced his first film — Tiger Heart — being helmed by Dwight Little of Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid (2004) fame.

When asked how much work on the film, which is based on tiger conservation, has progressed, Amit shares that the casting is taking time because the actors were in talks over date issues. "Films like this take time. We can't hurry into things as that might

affect the project. So, right now we are finalising the cast and also trying to figure out an estimated time when we can start working on the same," says the actor, known for his TV shows Kyunki... Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi..., Lipstick and Kkusum.

The film will be shot in India and has five important characters, one of which will be portrayed by Amit. For the other four, he is scouting for talents in Hollywood.

Talking about how his life has changed in the US, the actor adds, "Since the time I have come here, life is all about work. I want my film to go on the floors as soon as possible. That's my focus right now. As far as my personal life

is concerned, I have started everything from scratch and trying to adjust on an everyday basis.... I miss India a lot but now that I have decided to stay and work here, I want things to fall in place."

Amit gives credit to his wife Vineesha for being a strong support system. "I'm a perfect example of the saying that behind every successful man there is a woman. All this would not have been possible without such an awesome support system. She pushed me to move out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to quit TV and take the risk of doing something new. She is always by my side and helps me take decisions," he says.

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