

## Priyanka-supported Sikkimese film's trailer to be shown at Cannes

Actress-producer Priyanka Chopra's Sikkimese production "Pahuna" will have its trailer screened at the upcoming edition of the Cannes Film Festival, says the movie's director Paakhi A. Tyrewala.

The prestigious gala is due to begin from May 17, and apart from Bollywood actresses Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Sonam Kapoor and Deepika Padukone, India will be represented on the platform by the team of "Pahuna".

Paakhi didn't disclose much about the trip to the French Riviera, but told IANS over the phone: "Its trailer showcasing is in Cannes this year."

Talking about the "Mary Kom" star and her mother Madhu's involvement in the project, the debutante director said: "When Priyanka got on board, things got very easy. The Sikkim government is almost like a co-producer of the film. The project started from March 2016. Priyanka got on board in December.

"She came to India and met me. Soon, the film's recce began and we started shooting in March. Priyanka as a producer is extremely supportive. She has a vision and sees the world very differently from most of the producers I've seen."

She said for Priyanka, who is supporting the film through her and her mother's banner Purple Pebble Pictures, it's not only about money.

"She is financially very sound, especially her mother. They know their numbers and still have a vision. 'Pahuna' doesn't have a regional market. They saw it as world cinema. So, it



feels good to have somebody by my side who exactly understands it."

Priyanka often flies in and out of India due to her commitment to the American TV series "Quantico", apart from Hollywood film "Baywatch", which is ready to hit the screens on June 2.

But apart from acting in international and Bollywood projects, she also manages to take out time to produce regional films. In fact, she also made an appearance in her debut Marathi production venture "Ventilator". Will she do the same in "Pahuna"? "No," said Paakhi.

**Any known faces in the film?**

"It has local talent -- Amol Subba and Ishika Gurung," said the director, based in Mumbai.

Since she stays miles away from the northeast state, how did it strike her to make a movie based on it?

"I was in Sikkim 13 years ago. I was an Art of Living teacher. I fell in love with the state. Then the story came to me," she said.

"The whole idea was not the lack of competi-

tion, but the fact that we will be the first feature film there. There have been (Sikkimese) films, but they have been more like home videos. There's no film industry as such.

"The idea was to start a film industry in Sikkim. A lot of people don't even know that it is a part of India. They think one needs a passport to go there. I believe stories bring people together."

**Didn't language pose a problem for her?**

"I don't know the language that well. I had a local boy, Bishwas. He helped me with the dialogues in Nepali and Sikkimese," said the wife of director Abbas Tyrewala, to whom she gives full credit for encouraging her to make the film.

"Whenever I would say 'I can't do it', he would say 'You have the passion. Hold on to it!'"

She also got help from the Children's Film Society, India (CFSI).

"Had it been just CFSI, it would have been just a regional film. 'Pahuna', which means a visitor, is an international film. It's a big story in a small area," she said about the

movie which will premiere in Sikkim in October.

**Is it a children's film?**

"It can be viewed by children, but it's not a children's film. It's about children. When you say a children's film, you see it as a simplistic film or just an entertaining film."

"We are dealing with issues like gender bias, idea of currency... Money is money, but there is a currency divide, impact of older people on children, our fear of the unknown."

Last month, Presidential approval was given to a parliamentary panel recommendation that the National Film Development Corporation either dub regional movies in Hindi or carry subtitles. Does she consider it a good move?

"I think it's a smart move to increase the market of regional films. Look at 'Baahubali'. It is doing so well. Ideally, I would like it to be only subtitles, but a lot of people don't want to read while watching a movie."

"I'd say take it (regional film) to every state and dub it accordingly."

## It's too early for a memoir from me: Vidya Balan

Actress Vidya Balan says she wants to gather more experiences in life before sitting down to write her memoir.

The actress also said that writing a memoir requires certain amount of discipline, which she lacks.

"I think it is too early for a memoir from me. I still want to gather many more experiences in life before I get down to that, because it requires a lot of discipline which I don't think I have. I am only disciplined on the set," Vidya said in a statement.

The actress was last seen on screen in "Begum Jaan" and "Kahani 2: Durga Rani Singh", which will beam on the small screen on Sunday on Zee Cinema.

After back to back intense roles, Vidya is busy with slice-of-life comedy film "Tumhari Sulu".

Talking about the film, Vidya said: "I am doing a film called 'Tumhari Sulu'



which is a light-hearted film about a housewife who suddenly finds herself doing the job of a late night radio jockey. So that allows for a lot of funny moments."

Ahead of Mother's Day

on May 14, Vidya looked back to the time spent with her mother.

"I remember in the scorching heat, my mom and I were walking back from school and we pass this huge open space

where a mad woman used to stay. Every afternoon, I was petrified of the fact that she might spot me and run to me. And, I would always feel so secure holding my mother's hand," she said.

## Kylie asks Kanye to boost Tyga's 'stalling' career



Reality TV star Kylie Jenner might have split from Tyga but she still cares for the rapper as she has reportedly asked her brother-in-law Kanye West to help Tyga in his stalling career.

"Everything in Kylie's life from work to her relationship is perfect. She can see Tyga struggling and feels bad for him," a source told hollywoodlife.com.

The source added that Kylie doesn't want to see him falling apart just because "they aren't together".

Tyga wants her back, but Kylie "is not on the same page" since she is now happy with rumoured new boyfriend Travis Scott.

After the breakup, Kylie noticed that Tyga's career is "stalling", and so she reached out to Kanye for help.

"Kylie is so concerned, she has talked to Kanye to see what he can do to help give his career a boost," the source added.

## Not thick skinned but practical in film business: Rohit Shetty

Popular Bollywood filmmaker Rohit Shetty, known for making entertaining movies, says he takes criticism sportingly because he is practical about film business and understand others' opinion about his work.

Asked if he is wise or thick skinned in dealing with criticism of his films, Shetty told IANS here: "I am not thick skinned... I am quite practical in film business. If I talk from the business point, my film is a product and as a businessman, I know my product will cater to a certain group of customers and not impress the whole world."

"So, it is wise to serve to my potential audience. But that does not mean I would abuse critics and get defensive. I understand their point as well."

Shetty is known for his commercial potboilers "Golmaal", "Golmaal Returns", "Singham", "Singham Returns", "Chennai Express" and "Dilwale". He has directed stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Deepika Padukone and Kareena Kapoor Khan.



Does criticism hurt him?

"It's not about being emotional about it... It is a matter of choice. If I will start making films to impress critics, I might just lose my target audience and that is risky. But yes, I am sure one day I will bridge the gap by making something that will impress both," said Shetty, who is all geared up to host the adventurous TV reality show "Khatron Ke Khiladi 8".

As he is coming back to the show after two years,

asked if he missed the show, he said: "Well, I was occupied in shooting films and ads. But I watched a few episodes. I think Akshay Kumar is a better host than me when it comes to stunts."

"However, this season, we tried to bring some more entertaining elements. And some surprising elements will be unveiled as the show goes on air."

"Khatron Ke Khiladi 8" will be shot in Spain, and the show will air on Colors TV end of May.

## Don't want to act just for money: Tanya Sharma



Actress Tanya Sharma, who plays Meera in the long-running TV show "Saath Nibhana Saathiya", says she can't be part of any show just to earn money.

Earlier this year, there were rumours about her quitting the show.

Now, in a statement, she said: "I have seen actors who accept roles which have importance for a while and later they continue to be part of it as it becomes easy source of income for them."

"But I don't want to be part of any show just to earn money. I love to act and explore different shades. I'm a jolly person who really loves to dance and act as its my passion. As an actress, I want to grow."

"Being a part of '...Saathiya', I feel blessed as my producer and the creative team are concerned about my role. They understand me as an actress. And bring up the concepts for me which really help me to explore new shades and new looks," she added.

Tanya plays actress Devoleena Bhattacharjee's daughter in the Star Plus show.

## Nicole Kidman puts wedding dress on display at exhibition



Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman on Thursday put her wedding dress on display, as part of an exhibition showcasing the history of wedding fashion here.

The Academy Award winning actress' Balenciaga gown, designed by Nicolas Ghesquiere for her 2006 wedding to Australian country-western singer Keith Urban, is just one of the myriad of dresses on display at the Powerhouse Museum, Xinhua news agency reported.

The custom-made ivory gown by the leading French designer, made of silk

organza and lace with an empire line silhouette, stunned guests at Kidman's Sydney wedding, where she was serenaded by Urban with one of his own songs.

The exhibition "Love Is...Australian Wedding Fashion" features more than 60 wedding outfits worn by notable Australians, including gowns by famous Australian and international couturiers.

At Thursday's opening, Powerhouse Museum curator Glynis Jones told Xinhua the exhibition is not just about weddings, but about history as well.

"We are really fortunate

to have Nicole's dress on loan," Jones said.

"Wedding dresses amaze on different levels, sometimes a dress has an amazing dramatic silhouette or beautiful embellishment. But with Nicole's dress, we see that it is very subtle and very beautiful, with all these amazing historic references in the design and those subtleties are what make it so lovely."

"The concept of the exhibition is to explore Australian wedding styles and place it in the context of the economic, social and political changes that were happening at the time and the impact that had on fashion and trends."

The glamorous exhibition not only features gowns worn by Australia's rich and famous, but timeless wedding dresses worn by women from the colonial era, right through to the now. One of the other feature pieces of the exhibition is Australia's oldest surviving wedding dress, worn in 1822.

While the gowns may steal the show, men's fashion is also included in the exhibition, with designer suits from Tom Ford, Versace and Moschino all on display.

### HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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