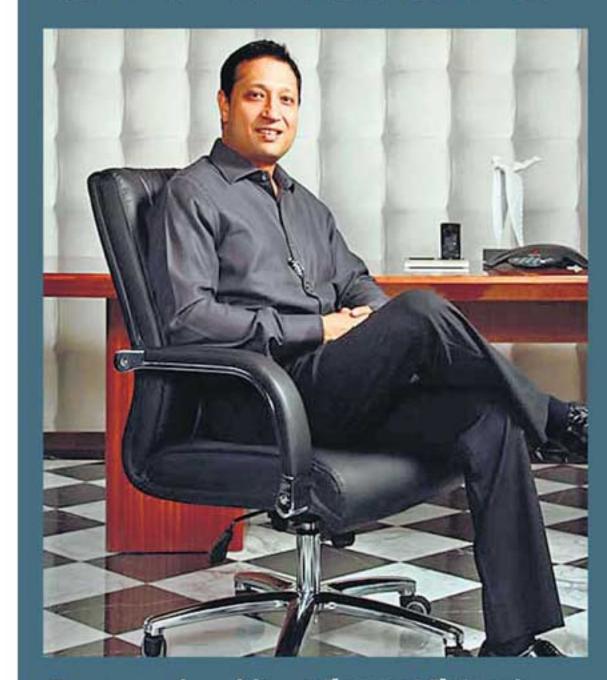


Guys, you must get a whiff of these scents!

Shilpa and Manyata exchange mommy notes

Designs on Indore



Renowned architect Jimmy Mistry, is disturbed that not even a single city monument has astonishing architecture. But, he hopes that will change soon...

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qualified mechanical engineer, Mistry never thought that one day he would be a renowned architect and in fact, it was only in Italy several years back that he realised how deep his fascination for design actually was.

in Italy studying different techniques of design and branding. So, when I returned to India, I was clear that I was genuinely interested in is architecture, and made it my profession," confessed Mistry, who also launched the unique Della Adventure Club in Lonavala, taking his love for



adventure sports a step further. And even after winning prestigious awards like the city. It is famous for art and Urban Heritage Architecture culture, food and hospitality, but Award-2003, Young Design Practice Award-2001, Young Achiever Award-2004 and as a work of astonishing being nominated for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur award-2004, among others, it's his design of the Della House in change things. Mumbai, which remains the

closest to his heart. Della House, there were will get to see the buildings approximately 200 artists they had always seen in working together at a time, doing Parsi and Persian art work simultaneously, which is

difficult," Mistry explained.

But his most prestigious projects include designing Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher lounge and Bajaj Pro biking's showrooms, because of the 'challenge' quotient in them. "Designing for a nationalinternational brand is always a challenge, because it apart from the owner, several other people are also associated "I spent close to three years with the brand. Moreover, dealing with the firms' own consultants and their rigid vastu experts and astrologers is too much sometimes!" laughed Mistry, underlining that for him, factors like vastu and feng shui are nothing more than a headache, when applied non-scientifically.

Designing seven townships (Richmond Park, Grande Exotica, Maple Woods, Bloomberg Township, Silver Mansions, Silver business park and Mittal Corp) and one school (Educom Millennium School) in the city, Mistry explained how each project is equally interesting.

"Modernisation is yet to take off in full swing in Indore. So, it will be interesting to see it happen and be a part of it," Mistry continued.

"I have been in Indore for several years, and have an emotional attachment to the there's not a single monument here which may be categorised architecture. This bothers me a lot," he rued, adding that it is also what motivates him to

"The scope of architecture here excites me. Hopefully in "While constructing the the coming years, Indorians photographs!" Mistry ended on an optimistic note.



His disappointing track record at the box office hasn't stopped John Abraham from pushing the envelope as an actor or producer

heart, so just because one outing didn't

work, doesn't mean I'll stick to the safe

path the next time around. I'll never give

Aakanksha Naval-Shetye a_shetye@dnaindia.net

ohn Abraham's date diary is choc-a-bloc with shoots all this year the actor has as many as seven films in hand. Even when not shooting, he will be extensively busy with his ad and film productions that include scripting a film that he hopes to direct too.

"I feel like I'm in my best phase ever," exclaims John, as we catch up with him for a quick tete-atete. About his multi-roles as an actor and producer, John reveals that no matter what the mantle, there're just no boundaries for him when it comes to pushing the envelope!

You are shooting round the clock. Doesn't girlfriend Priya Runchal complain?

Well, anyone who's close to me, understands me well enough to know how important my work is for me. So, no, no complaints!

As an actor, you have clicked better in commercial entertainers than in experimental cinema. Are you planning to cut down the risks as far as films go?

No, I am planning to increase the number of the commercial entertainers I do (smiles). Well, I am an adventurer at

up taking risks. Why my very first production Vicky Donor deals with a topic like sperm donation.

So, you are not

afraid of failing?

DEAL I've faced criticism and brickbats right from my initial days as an actor. But I believe in accepting them, with as

much dignity as I accepted the bouguets that followed. I have never been afraid of taking risks

and that's what I will continue doing, whether as an actor or producer. Sure, the ideal combination would be to do

films that are both commercial entertainers, but also challenging to me as an actor. But let's face it. No film comes with a hit guarantee and each time it's a new gamble. I'm just glad that most times, it has well been worth

> the risk. The coming year has you tapping

almost all genres... Doing comedy is always fun, but I really love doing hard-core action flicks and dark thrillers too. I like to play characters that have an edge; films, where the protagonist may not always be the good guy.

Like Manya Surve, that you play

in Shootout At Wadala?

I've never played a character like that before, and when Sanjay Gupta (film-maker) approached me for it, I could see the layers that the character had. It automatically jolted me out of my comfort zone and that's what I'm always looking out for.

What's Kala Ghoda about?

That's a dark political thriller that I'm doing with Aditya Bhattacharya. He's a brilliant film-maker, and has that vision that can take a film beyond the expected. His film Raakh (1989 starring Aamir Khan) was so much ahead of its time. It was Bollywood's loss that he didn't make films here. I just knew that he had to make Kala Ghoda.

'Girls in many areas of our country need healing'

...says singer Raageshwari Loomba, as she talks about the causes that she feels really need to be addressed

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hen you empower a woman, by a ripple effect, you empower an entire household — the children as well as the man of the house. On the other hand when a woman is unfulfilled and unhappy, then the balance of the planet shifts radically towards unhappiness," she says.

"Women are born nurturers. The gifts that the world celebrates-great education, great safety and great health

 should be available to them freely. Sadly that isn't the case, especially in the rural areas of our country," rues the songstress whose spiritual inclinations lead her to believe that what this planet needs most is healing.

"Girls in many areas of our country need healing from the trauma of living a life where people have a caustic approach to them and their rights as



HEAL A GIRL'S WORLD: Raageshwari Loomba

disease as in the case of cervical cancer and they need healing from the trauma of being teased, or worse still attacked by either their own family members, or outsiders. For many of them, living is akin to being in a war zone where they're discriminated on the basis of their gender, or by other issues such as lack of education, lack of money or physical helplessness," she says.

human beings. They need healing from

reel

Raageshwari believes that love among people is what will change the day. "I'm sorry to observe that we have become immune to people's problems and people are shutting down on others' sufferings. We need to take the lid off our hard exterior and tune into our warm, beautiful selves, into our connectedness where we are all part of one world. Instead of so many divisions at every step what we need is something that unites our hearts in a shared humanity. And feeling love and compassion in our hearts for others can change the world around us," adds the singer, who's feels more than passionately about these causes.



Bollywood's Romcomin'

B-Town witnessed a deluge of romcoms all of last month and even March began on a love-story note

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hile February was the most 'lovedup' month of the year, courtesy the Valentine's Day, it wasn't too different at the BO either, as the romcom genre ruled.

Right from Ek Main Aur Ekk Tu to Jodi Breakers and from Ekk Deewana Tha to Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh's Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya, almost every week in the month saw at least one love story hit the marquee.

And while, March too began on a 'love'ly note with London Paris New York, and will have another one come up this week too with Chaar Din Ki Chandni starring Tusshar Kapoor, that's where the love affair of the box office with romcoms ends.

"Love stories have always found audiences here. But despite the high number of films in the same genre, it was still interesting

> for the audience, all they were very

tracking different lyst Bharti from each other. "Those films would have

Despite all belonging to the done just as good or bad, no same genre, no story resembled each other and that's an interesting point," feels

trade an-

alyst

Taran

Adarsh.

Inciden-

matter when they would have released. A senior distributor however has another point to offer. "I think the cinemagoers have had more than their quota of onscreen love

LOVE ALL: Ek Main Aur

Ekk Tu and Jodi Breakers

tally, it was only the first

romcom of the season that

went on to rake in the most

alysts insist that an over-

dose of the same genre had

nothing to do with the fail-

ure or success of the films

say that, because there was

"It would be unfair to

an excess of

genre, peo-

ple lost in-

terest," says

trade ana-

Pradhan.

same

Point it out, but trade an-

moolah at the BO.

that followed.

for now. Though love is the main ingredient in almost all Bollywood films, it was hard to miss the sudden deluge of romcoms there was these past few weeks."



The debate whether or not to rope in celebs for a fashion show continues...

Filmi tamasha in fashion season?

Sujata Reddy r sujata@dnaindia.net

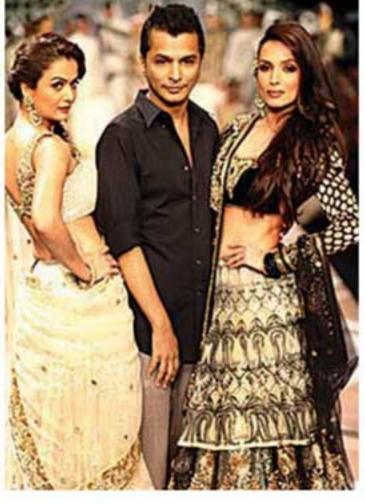
never dying debate, noticed or steals the limelight away from it, was sort of revived again at the ongoing fashion week.

mar and Vikram Phadnis had the out and smile at the same time. entire venue buzzing with Bollyramp, those like ace designer James Ferreira kept miles away from the filmi crowd.

show, at an evening slot, grabbed eyeballs, as some cats in the crowd

were overheard saying, for all the wrong reasons. The designer was seen running to and fro, escorting his celeb guests right up till their whether or not Bollywood seats. Actor Sonakshi Sinha had a helps a fashion collection get fashion slip up, as she stepped on to her flowy gown while getting down the stairs. Her heel got stuck in the seams of the gown and the shutter-While the likes of Kushali Ku- bugs lapped up her struggle to get it

But that was just the beginning of wood celebs on the front row and the the big Bollywood tamasha that was in store for the day. The front row crowd with the likes of actors Karisma Kapur, Arbaaz Khan, Neha Dhu-Kushali had actor Dia Mirza as pia, Neil Nitin Mukesh and Jugal her showstopper while Vikram's Hansraj, cheered for showstoppers Malaika Arora Khan and sister Amrita Arora Ladakh. Neha kept teasing



Amrita every time she walked by causing her to blush. All this during the show.

And how were the clothes? Didn't really notice, but the showstoppers definitely looked stunning. As one eager Bolly bee pointed out, it was all in good fun. On the other hand James's show was deprived of known faces and the designer himself said that the clothes should be the talking point at a platform that is meant to highlight just that.

The flamboyant designer even brought his karigars on stage for the final bow. "They are the real showstoppers. I can cut a garment but it is up to them to execute it the way I imagine them to," he said. And rightly so.

(right) Dia Mirza wearing designer Kushali Kumar's creation; (left) Vikram Phadnis with Amrita and Malaika Arora Khan