

'I have given up television'

Sexy **Surveen Chawla** tells *Ahmedabad Times* why she's moving on to bigger things

Times News Network

Surveen Chawla has played Chaaru in *Kahin Toh Hoga Kay*. But it is her dancing with cricketer Sreesanth in *Ek Khiladi Ek Haseena* that has really brought her fame and acclaim. So what was her experience like? She was, after all teamed up with one of the most maverick cricketers of team India. Surveen replies, "It was my first reality show. I took this up because this show was truly different in content and conceptualisation." And what about her chemistry with Sreesanth? Surely, that was crackling right through! "Sreesanth and I shared a good rapport. However frankly, we didn't have the time to explore each other as individuals. We were a team and a good team at that," says Sreesanth.

So, what next? She tells us, "I have given up television. I just wrapped up shooting for a Kannada film and have signed two Telugu films." Surveen says that it is quite a challenge working in South Indian films: "After the pack-up there is no pack-up for me. I have homework for myself: to mug up the dialogues, to understand them and emote accordingly. All this is quite time-consuming. But nothing comes easy." Any Hindi films on the platter? "I am part of a film titled *Carry on Pandu*. I am paired with Ranvir Shorey. It's a satirical comedy about Indian police

officers and the police department in general. And I am on a three films deal with a popular film production house," says Surveen.

So has she bid *adieu* to television forever? "Yes. I always planned for films. Television was a learning experience for me. I could gain so much practical knowledge of the industry. I give the entire credit to what I am today to the television industry," she avers.

Surveen tells us that her parents have always supported her. "I am blessed to have such loving and caring parents. I am going to be in Chandigarh this Diwali after four long years. I will be able to celebrate the festival with them," reveals Surveen. And what does Surveen prefer doing when she leisure time? "I love spending time with my dog; I catch up with my friends as well. Since I practice Buddhism, I have my time marked out for meditation and mantra-chanting as well," replies Surveen. And how does she beat stress? She laughs as she replies, "I have two exhaustive ways to destress myself—I dance or go for long drives!"

Way to go girl!

SHRUTI JAMBHEKAR



Country club of india rocks Dubai

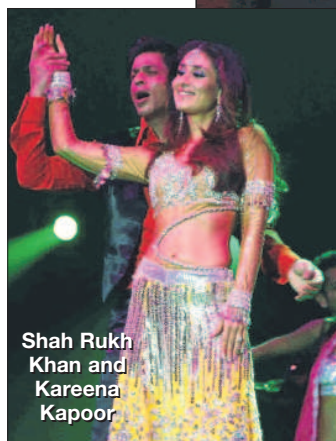
The festive season is here and there are umpteen numbers of reasons for one to celebrate but ask the members of The Country Club of India. They sure have a reason more than just the festival. The much awaited Shah Rukh Khan show along with Kareena Kapoor, Katrina Kaif and Arjun Rampal — *Temptation Reloaded 2008* was finally showcased in Dubai and the members of the club had the privilege to be a part of the extravaganza which had superstars like Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Arjun Rampal, Anushka Dandekar and Ganesh Hegde having set the venue on fire with their electric performances.

The much awaited world tour of Bollywood *badshah* Shahrukh Khan, presented by The Country Club Group, on October 25, 2008 at Dubai Festival City was a huge success which attracted a large crowd of more than 25,000 people. The show hosted by MTV VJ Anushka Dandekar and dazzling performances by reigning Bollywood queens Katrina Kaif and Kareena Kapoor, the rocking Arjun Rampal and popular Bollywood choreographer Ganesh Hegde was one of the most successful shows that happened in Dubai for a long time.

Rajeev Reddy, CMD, The Country Club Group said "I would like to thank all our global friends from different countries including India for



From left: Rajeev Reddy, CMD CCIL along with Jt MD Siddharth Reddy presenting the Country Club Kool Dubai card to Shah Rukh Khan



Shah Rukh Khan and Kareena Kapoor

their participation in making this event a huge success. We are extremely grateful to the people of Dubai for their overwhelming response for this show. I am also thankful to the stars and all the other performers for giving us this thoroughly entertaining evening. The Country Club's involvement in the show and global participation of their investors and members has made this event a huge success."

Rajeev Reddy, CMD CCIL along with Jt MD Siddharth Reddy presented the Country Club Kool Dubai card to Shah Rukh Khan at the press conference a day prior. The show

started off with Arjun making an entry on the stage from amongst the audience, atop a crane. He performed to some of the hit numbers from the movie *Rock On!!*. This was followed by dazzling performances by Katrina Kaif and Kareena Kapoor. And then the most awaited act of the entire evening when Shah Rukh Khan was offloaded on the stage in a King Khan chair. He held the audience enthralled by his performance of the famous number *Dard-e-Disco* and hits from some other famous movies.

The crowd went berserk when Shah Rukh called couples from the audience on stage to dance with him and they were presented the 'Country Club Kool Global Dubai Card' which entitles one to a lifetime membership at all the Country Clubs.

Pakistan's goodwill ambassador

Pakistani-actor **Mikaal Zulfikar** is all set make a mark in Bollywood, finds AT

Times News Network

He is intelligent, good-looking, net savvy, converses in fluent English and he from Pakistan. Our Bollywood hunks better watch out for some serious competition that's coming their way from across the border. We are talking about model-turned-actor Mikaal Zulfikar, who will make his

debut in with Jagmohan Mundhra's *Shoot on Sight*. Mikaal was even considered for Rakesh OmPrakash Mehra's *Dilli 6*, which later went to Abhishek Bachchan. "I was also to star in *Khuda Ke Liye*, but I didn't take it up. Whatever happens, happens for the best," he says.

Instead of opting to debut in a romantic or action film, Mikaal decided to take up the challenge and play a terrorist in *Shoot at Sight*. The newcomer is enjoying his stay in Bollywood. "To star in a Bollywood project is very prestigious. I feel so much at home here," he says. Wasn't Mikaal vary of playing a stereotypical Muslim terrorist? "I am an actor, and I am playing just another character which will showcase my talent. Moreover, I feel, it's an apt role, which shows how educated, youngsters are influenced by wrong people in the name of God," says Mikaal.

Jag had approached Amitabh Bachchan for a role in the film, but the actor turned down the director. Does he regret that? "When he agreed to do the film, I had a lot of corporate houses financing the film, but when he opted out so did everyone else. So I went to Naseer," he says.

And why cast a Pakistani actor as a terrorist? "I had approached Vivek Oberoi, Sharman Joshi, and Kunal Kapoor. But they were apprehensive about playing a terrorist. I met Nafisa Ali who suggested Mikaal's name and around the same time I met Vinod Khanna who also mentioned him. Everything fell into place," explains Jag.

Mikaal wants to be Pakistan's goodwill ambassador to India. But isn't there Pakistani-actress Meera, who claims to be one too? "I am sure people who have dealt with her know the truth by now. Meera is a blooper in this initiative. She can't be the representative of our culture," says Mikaal.

Pics: Sachin Gokhale



Zaheda Azmi with Rushda and Sakib Shaikh



Milind Deora



Farhan Azmi and Suniel Shetty



Jaya Bachchan (left) and Jaya Prada

Shaadi ho toh aisi

Zaheda and Abu Asim Azmi's daughter Rushda tied the knot with Sakib Shaikh over the weekend, and after the *nikaah* ceremony followed a grand reception with the top rung of politicians and corporates in attendance. Yes, heavy-weights were all over the venue, congratulating the couple, greeting one another and exchanging pleasantries. From the CM Vilasrao Deshmukh to Union Aviation Minister Praful Patel to Chhagan

Bhujbal, Amar Singh, Sanjay Nirupam and the young Milind Deora, the political clout was very much there. The occasion was one where politicians from different parties kept their differences aside, and mingled together happily. Anil Ambani, Jaya Bachchan, Jaya Prada and Suniel Shetty were among the other high-profile guests from the corporate and entertainment sectors. Everybody enjoyed the lavish affair complete with a cuisine that boasted of Indian and continental fare!



Anil Ambani



Mikaal Zulfikar

readerSpeak

Do you think the popularity of test cricket is on the wane?



Nirmal Ramani | 21 | Student

Yes. The stands are normally empty during test matches these days and the concerned authorities need to make it more interesting.



Murugan Vanniyar | 29 | Professional



Lokesh Bhanushali | 27 | Professional

To participate in readerSpeak, send us your pix and phone number at ahmedabadtimes@timesgroup.com or Ahmedabad Times, 139, Fadia Chambers, Ashram Rd, Ahmedabad-380009.

EVENTS

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 Free IQ test camp organised by Magical Methods.
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Till November 11
Workshop
 Workshops on Multiple Intelligence applications and lateral approaches.
 Venue: City Creative Centre, Bodakdev.

GET LISTED
 Write two days in advance with a photograph and information to **Events, Ahmedabad Times, The Times of India** building, 139 Ashram road, Fadia Chambers, Ahmedabad - 380 009. Email: ahmedabadtimes@timesgroup.com

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