



Young and married stars

by DIMPLE SANGHANI

A NUMBER of leading Bollywood stars actually got married very young and were just teenagers when they tied the knot.

Eastern Eye went back in time to find out more about what happened when big stars decided to settle down so young.

Noor Jehan: The teenager got married to older director Syed Shaukat Hussain Rizvi in 1943 as a 17-year-old, a year after the release of their film *Khandaan* and just before she became the undisputed queen of Bollywood. They migrated to Pakistan during partition and became a power couple there. They had three children, but the marriage ended in 1953 in divorce. Noor Jehan then married Ejaz Durrani in 1959, a union which also produced three children and ended in divorce in 1979.



Asha Bhosle: The legendary singer was just 16 when she eloped with Ganpatrao Bhosle and married him against her family's wishes. Although the couple had three children together, it turned out to be an abusive marriage, which ended in divorce 11 years later.

Dharmendra: The legendary actor was just 19 years old when he married his first wife Prakash Kaur in 1954, before his first lead role in *Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere* (1960). Despite them having children together, the marriage became strained by his stardom and high-profile affairs. He never officially divorced Kaur and there have been persistent stories that he converted to Islam just so he could marry Hema Malini in 1980.

Dimple Kapadia: The teenage sensation quit Bollywood after her smash hit debut film *Bobby* (1973) and married superstar actor Rajesh Khanna, who was 31 at the time. Although she was said to be just 16, many believe Dimple was younger than that at the time of the nuptials. They separated after having two daughters together, but were never officially divorced. The actress stepped back in front of the camera in the 1980s to resurrect her career.



Divya Bharti: The young actress became a huge star after her first few films and married older producer Sajid Nadiadwala when she was just 18. The two had met on the sets of *Shola Aur Shabnam*. The marriage ended tragically a year later when she fell from the fifth floor of her Mumbai apartment.



Sunidhi Chauhan: The singing sensation was 18 when she converted to Islam and eloped with choreographer Bobby Khan. The marriage was beset with problems and only lasted a year. In 2012, Sunidhi tied the knot with music composer Hitesh Sonik and is now happily married.

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ANISHA GORECHA DESCRIBES HER WEDDING, OUTFITS

by PRIYA MULJI

ANISHA GORECHA met Kunal Patel at college when they were introduced by mutual friends. He eventually asked her to the Christmas ball and that was the first step to a romance, which led the Nottingham-based couple to get married.

Eastern Eye caught up with Anisha to find out more about their big day.

Tell us about your wedding?

We had a traditional Hindu ceremony with around 370 guests. I wanted an elegant look with the room looking bright and airy. We decided on a light wood mandap with fresh flowers. When I walked in the room, I was amazed at how different it looked. Our priest was great. He really made us feel at ease, which meant I wasn't nervous at all.

What was the biggest challenge of putting the big day together?

Organising the wedding while working at the same time. We had also just bought a house, so Kunal was spending a lot of time working on that, which made it difficult to find the time to send e-mails, liaise with and have meetings with our suppliers. But it's important to make the time, as communication is the key to making sure everything runs as it should on the day.

How much did your husband help?

Kunal helped a lot. He came to all the meetings we had with our suppliers. It was important to us that we picked everything together and luckily we had the same look in mind, so it wasn't too difficult.

Tell us about the challenges of putting the guest list together?

Our venue was big enough to accommodate all the guests we wanted to be there. However, we did have trouble with the reception guest list as we only wanted really close family and friends, and didn't want to offend anyone either, which made it difficult to find a happy medium.

What was the venue like?

It was the Belfry Hotel, which was perfect for our wedding as it was close to our houses and big enough to hold all our guests comfortably. It also had a spa, which was great for me as I stayed there the day before and managed to have a nice and relaxing spa day with my family and friends.

Tell us about your outfit and make-up on the day?

For the wedding, I wore a custom Shyamal & Bhumika lengha outfit. It was mainly gold with a red velvet blouse and it was exactly how I wanted it. It took a long time to find what I wanted as everything was extremely 'blingy' with a lot of crystals, which wasn't what I wanted at all. But the team at Bibi Ldn did an amazing job of making my outfit look perfect.

My make-up was quite simple, with a light smoky eye and a natural lipstick, as I didn't want to overpower my outfit by having a bright look.

My reception outfit was a pink, mint green and gold floral Anushree Reddy lengha. The moment I saw it, I knew I wanted it for my reception. I also wanted a completely different look for that occasion, so I had my hair down with smoky eye make-up as my lengha was not heavily embroidered.

Were there any last-minute emergencies or did all run smoothly?

Kunal and I both got ill the week of the wedding. I had family bringing me all sorts of medicines, but they didn't work. I just ran off adrenaline and luckily we were both fine on the day.

How did you feel during the ceremony?

My main feeling was excitement about our new life together, but I

'Our priest made us feel at ease'



was also sad to be leaving my family. I'm extremely close to my parents and there was an element of sadness as I would be leaving them. It was mixed with happiness, too, as after being together for nine years, Kunal and I were both ready and more than excited to start this new chapter of our lives.

Tell us more about the wedding reception?

The reception was crazy. To put it simply, it was a rave. We had around 270 guests at our reception, so it was just our close family and friends and we wanted everyone to relax and let their hair down, and they definitely did. It was full of food, drink and a massive amount of dancing.

What is the most memorable moment from the big day?

Standing in the mandap in front of Kunal as he saw me for the first time that day.

We were both just smiling and it kicked in then that after all the planning, we were finally getting married.

What does it feel like to be married?

It's a lovely feeling. It's nice to know that no matter what, you've got that one person who will always be there for you. It's also a nice feeling knowing that we have both gained another family, too.

Finally, what top tip would you give girls planning their wedding?

We had an event planner who took on most of the responsibility, which was a weight off our shoulders. I would tell everyone planning their wedding to choose a good event planner as they will make a big difference in planning and the run up to the wedding. Also, don't stress. Everything will come together on the day.