



on a new career

INTITATED ABOUT HER ACTING DEBUT IN MUZZAFAR ALI'S LATEST FILM

is so beautiful that I really did not have to do anything. I could trust them blindly. The costumes are lovely and very elegant.

What kind of roles would you want to attempt in the future?

I think I would like to do all kinds of roles. In my opinion, it's more important who is making the film and what the script is. I want to be a part of good projects and don't wish to act for the sake of acting. I would like to do something if I feel I have a relevant

role, if I can do justice to the film and if I feel it's a good project that inspires or excites me.

Which leading man would you most like to star opposite in a film?

I would like to star opposite Salman Khan because I feel like if I am going to do an out-and-out Bollywood film, there is no other actor who personifies commercial Bollywood cinema like him. He has been my crush since forever, so it would be like a dream come true. Having said that, all the other actors are so talented and so good. I think it's not really about the actors but more about the film.

Who is your acting role model?

I do not really have a role model – I know it sounds weird. I love films and I love acting. I admire a number of actors like Meryl Streep and Kate Winslet. From Bollywood, I like Parineeti (Chopra) and Alia Bhatt from

my generation. But I do not want to really emulate anyone or be like one of them. I think it's really important to have your own niche and find your own style (in any industry). As a dancer, I have a unique dancing style; similarly with acting, I would also like to have my own style to stand out from the others and be original.

'I could not have asked for more'

have turned into a business. I have found a new passion for acting, which is also great. There is nothing really more to me and I feel I am really blessed to be able to do whatever I love doing.

What are your biggest non-work passions?

I have turned all my passions into work and that's the best part about my life. I have tried to make a career and a living out of things I am passionate about, which is classical dance, fashion, styling and merchandising. I think I could not have asked for more in my life.

What is your all-time favourite movie?

There are so many films, it's very hard to choose. I love *Umrao Jaan* (not because it is directed by Muzaffar Ali). I really love the film. I took it to college and watched it 100 times. I loved *Pakeezah* and (the original) *Devdas*. Among the newer films, I love *Lootera*, which was very beautiful and I enjoyed *Queen*, which was a very cute movie. I love all Sooraj Barjatya films because they are wholesome Indian family entertainment. I would love to work with Soorajji. I love so many films and can't think of all the names right now. I am a big movie buff.

What inspires you?

What inspires me is working with people who I know can get the best out of me, working with like-minded people, passionate people whether it's my director, dance guru or a really good designer. It's more of having the exchange of ideas and learning from people and being in an environment which is artistic, full of knowledge and full of hope. When you are with like-minded people, you can bring out the best in yourself and them, and this really inspires me.

Finally, why do you love cinema so much?

Cinema is a place where you go for different things – it's a place where you can laugh, let go of your reality and forget your troubles for those two-three hours. It takes you to a new place, which is nice.

Cinema has inspired me to do things in my life. I love it because of fashion – it has had the best fashion moments in history and shows what the trends are.

I love the music in films, when a particular scene, thought or mood is described through music. I love watching music coming to life in cinema.

Movies give me so much more than just entertainment.

Priya Mulji



Follow Priya Mulji on www.twitter.com/priyamulji or log onto <http://priyamulji.wordpress.com>



Don't accept negativity from anyone

I'M A positive person, but like everyone else, I can have an off day sometimes and be a little moody. But if someone has done nothing bad to me, I would never treat them badly.

Recently I've been in a situation that can only be described as shady and I was in it against my will, so I stepped away. It wasn't something I was happy about and I've never been a quitter, but at that point, enough was enough and I had to walk away.

I'm almost 33 and single, and I wondered, "is this what life is really like?" Then I got a grip on myself, realising that everything happens for a reason and it isn't something that is permanent.

The thing that struck me about the situation I found myself in was all the negativity directed at me by women. Why do some women take so much pleasure in ruining someone's life? I hadn't done anything to them and I never would have. Some people are generally just programmed to be mean, I guess.

Here are a few things you can do to combat this if you're faced with such a situation. First, if you think someone has it in for you, don't panic. If it is a work situation, then you have rights, especially if you have been there a while. Keep your head down, work hard and the rest will just fall into place.

If a friend or family member is making your life a misery, it is best to confront them, find out what exactly the problem is and work it out. If it isn't something that you can resolve, then maybe it is time to end the friendship and part ways.

If it is a family member, then you're just going to have to work things out or figure a way out to be civil when you are around each other. I realise in Asian families this is easier said than done, but trust me, having a rift and hating each other is worse than finding a way of just being civil. If need be, get a mediator to find a middle ground.

Going back to my situation, I realised it wasn't me in the wrong or anything bad about the person I am. It was down to their insecurities and agendas. Maybe it was just envy on their part. You just have to realise that some people will always have a reason to hate you, even if you haven't done anything. This is a form of bullying and no one should ever have to tolerate it any form, and people shouldn't be allowed to get away with it. I've been there myself with cyber bullies.

At the end of the day, what goes around, comes around, and karma will always be your best friend.

