OK!
PAKISTAN
FIRST FOR CELEBRITY
ISSUE 11, MARCH 2015

237 NEW SPRING LOOKS

LILY JAMES
CINDERELLA COMES TO LIFE!

SABA QAMAR
"I WANT TO CHOOSE ROLES THAT SPEAK TO MY SOUL"



ON THE LIST
WORLD CUP FEVER

DR. FEHMIDA MIRZA
ON MAKING HISTORY



KRISTEN STEWART
ON MOVING FORWARD AND EXPLORING NEW AVENUES

PLUS: NOORI, AMY ADAMS, NIGAR NAZAR, SAEED AJMAL, THE OSCARS & SHARMILA FARUQI'S WEDDING DIARY



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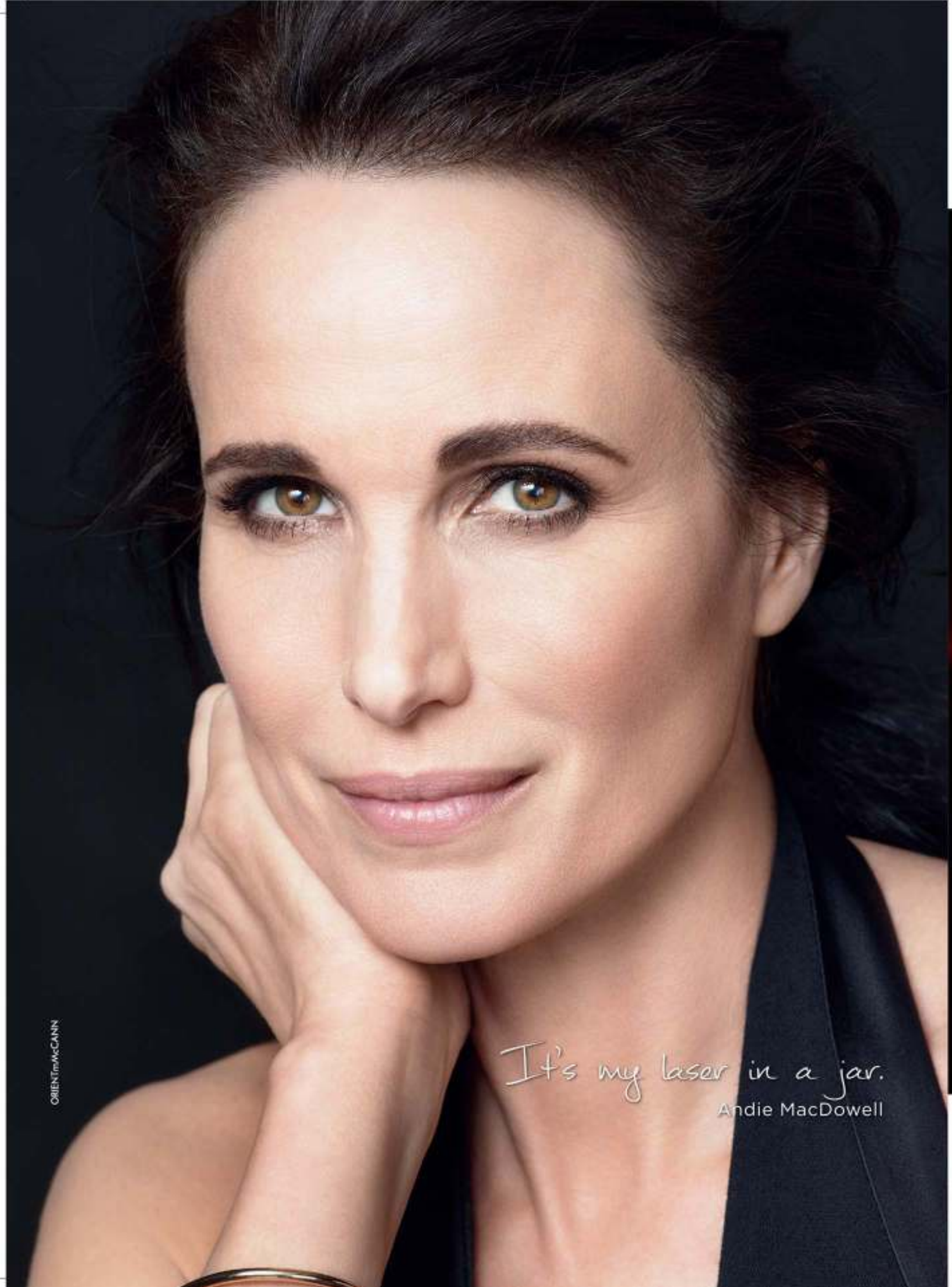


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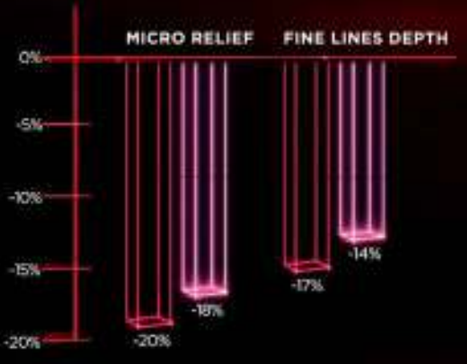
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PUBLISHER'S LETTER



It's hard to believe in fairytales these days, but *Cinderella* is casting a spell on people world over with the release of the highly anticipated adaptation of Disney's classic fairytale. *OK*! brings you a tête-à-tête with Lily James as she discusses her role as the iconic Disney princess!

With the ICC Cricket World Cup in full swing, we round up some of our favourite cricketers from around the world and catch up with internationally acclaimed bowler, Saeed Ajmal. Our fashion pages bring you the hottest runway trends as well as the most dazzling celebrity looks from the Oscars and the Grammy Awards. Sharmila Faruqi shares her wedding diary exclusively with *OK*! Pakistan and Nadia Hussain reveals her beauty secrets.

As an ode to Women's Day, *OK*! Pakistan brings you an exclusive interview with the extremely brave and inspirational Dr. Fehmida Mirza as she talks about her most memorable moments as the first female speaker of the National Assembly, and discloses details of her life-changing battle with breast cancer.

I hope that her courage inspires breast cancer victims and survivors to share their stories in order to raise awareness and improve healthcare facilities in our country.



Saher H Paracha
CEO, PUBLISHER &
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR



ZUHAIR MURAD HAUTE COUTURE 2015



MAC
Cinderella
Eye Shadow Palette
in Stroke of Midnight





ELIE SAAB
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SCARLETT JOHANSSON AS DISNEY'S CINDERELLA

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"Have courage and be kind for where there is kindness there is goodness and where there is goodness there is magic"
–Cinderella



CAROLINA HERRERA

JIMMY CHOO
'Cinderella Slipper'



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Editor's Note



Our March issue pays tribute to exceptional ladies who have achieved milestones in their respective fields. One such personality is Dr. Fehmida Mirza, the first woman to hold the prestigious office of Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Dr. Fehmida believes in blazing her own path in life and, in conversation with *OK*! Pakistan, she talks candidly about her foray into politics and how her recent illness motivated her to set up the Pakistan Breast Cancer Trust in order to help other women. We also feature an interview with Nigar Nazar, the creator of the famous cartoon character, Gogi. Many of us have grown up reading the comic strip, and over the years, Nigar Nazar has helped change mindsets by underlining the importance of respect and education for women. She has won many accolades and was recently honoured by the BBC on their 100 Women of 2014 list.

Our cover star for the month is Kristen Stewart, who achieved phenomenal fame with her debut movie, *Twilight*, and recently played a pivotal supporting role in *Still Alice*. The actress revels in change and says she is eager to explore new avenues, both as a person and as an artist.

This month we also met Saba Qamar over a cup of coffee. Saba is basking in the success of the popular TV serial, *Digest Writer*, and will soon be seen in a biopic called *Main Manto*, wherein she enacts the role of the legendary singer, Madam Noor Jehan.

Growing up, my favourite fairy tale was *Cinderella*; I think what I found most appealing about the story (apart from the sparkly glass slippers!) was Cinderella's innate kindness, and how it was the essence of her personality even in the most trying of circumstances. So, of course, I am excited about the live action, contemporary adaptation of the iconic princess tale. The movie has generated immense interest world over, and Saks Fifth Avenue and Harrods recently unveiled enchanting window displays to celebrate the release of *Cinderella* this month. I am happy to feature an exclusive interview with the leading lady, Lily James who has brought the fairy tale princess to life. This year, Lily is also slated to appear in an adaptation of *War and Peace* and we can see a superstar in the making here!

Wishing all our readers many dream-come-true moments! Enjoy the issue.

Sara

Sara Amir Turab Ali
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Editor's Picks



Simone Werle's Fashionista: A Century of Style Icons



Inara by Sophia Khan's gold plated silver, three pearl drop earrings

Sotheby's will present an iconic Amrita Sher-Gil self-portrait on 18 March, 2015 in New York. 'India's Frida Kahlo' will appear on the international market for only the third time in history





"Where there is kindness, there is goodness. And where there is goodness, there is magic!" A Cinderella themed window display at Harrods, London



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OK! JAPAN – KANA SUGAMORI
OK! LATVIA – ZITA VEVERE
OK! MIDDLE EAST – GEMMA WHITE
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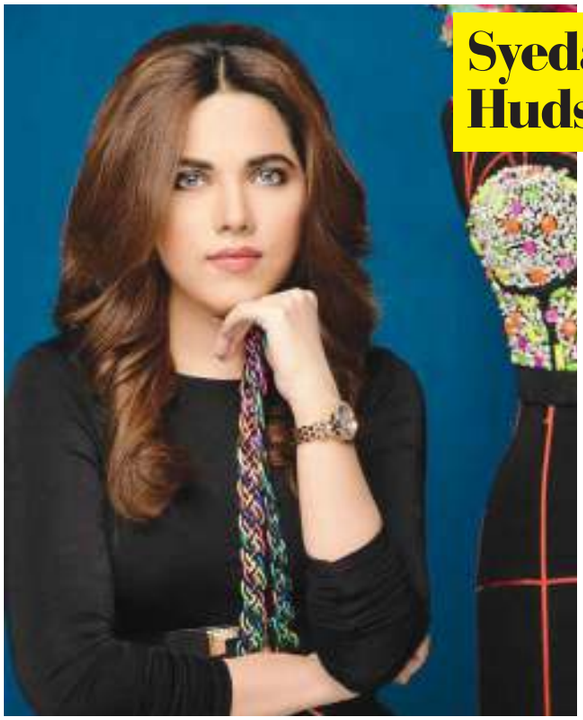
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Syeda Amera to represent Pakistan on Hudson River's Floating Runway

Renowned model and entrepreneur Jessica Minh Anh, who produces the world's most unconventional catwalks, will be bringing a brand new fashion experience yet again, to the Big Apple on March 19th, 2015.

Syeda Amera has been selected by the global fashion sensation to represent Pakistan and to join Jessica Minh Anh's ninth history making catwalk on the Hudson River in New York City. J Spring Fashion Show 2015 is part of Jessica Minh Anh's series of unconventional catwalks at the most iconic venues in the world following the phenomenal successes on the Eiffel Tower, Grand Canyon Skywalk, London's Tower Bridge, and One World Trade Center 6

The Pakistani fashion designer who launched her label in 2008 aims to help women dress in a style that would complement their personality by offering a range of different smart casuals. Syeda Amera has gained herself recognition through her unique and powerful designs. The talented designer participated in Pakistan Fashion Week USA 2014 in New York and will be bringing an ultra-feminine collection to the grand catwalk this time. The glamorous collection will include glittery beads, sequinned texture, mini dresses, and transparency.

Jessica Minh Anh said, "Syeda's designs embody the elegance of a woman while giving her that needed edge. I am attracted to the stunning shades of aqua and blue, beaded details, and dynamic patterns in her collection. I believe the world will fall in love with her".

Thanks to the panoramic view from the boat, New York's famous skyline and its architectural masterpieces such as the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, and One World Trade Center will be the iconic backdrop for the sensational catwalk.



Mizmaar announces comeback with new lineup

Mizmaar, the Pakistani band that rose to fame back in 2003, is making a comeback after seven years and will be releasing their new single, *Jee Loonga*, on 25th March, 2015.

Formed by Kashan Admani, fusion pop-rock band Mizmaar caught the media eye with their debut album *Kash* in 2003. Along with an exciting new vocalist that fans have been speculating about, the rest of the line-up includes Kashan Admani and drummer Alfred D'mello, while the mystery vocalist will be revealed with the release of Mizmaar's comeback single.

Mizmaar is creating a lot of buzz on social media with the news of their comeback.

Armeena Khan signed up for Reham Khan's first movie

Caanadian film actress and model based in London and Dubai, Armeena Khan has just landed a lead role in Reham Khan's upcoming movie project. Armeena Khan has previously starred in the British film *Writhe*, which was directed by Shiraz Khan and screened at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

After her successful debut performance in *Bin Roye*, alongside Mahirah Khan and Humayun Saeed and following a good response to *Yalghaar*, she is now all set to star in the romantic comedy produced by Reham Khan and Imran Kazmi. The film aims to portray the Pakhtun community in a fresh and positive light, considering all the negative news that constantly surrounds the region.

While the story and script are reportedly ready, the two male leads are still to be decided. The film is scheduled to start filming after Ramadan and it certainly seems that along with the Pakistan film industry, things are going in the right direction for Armeena Khan as well.



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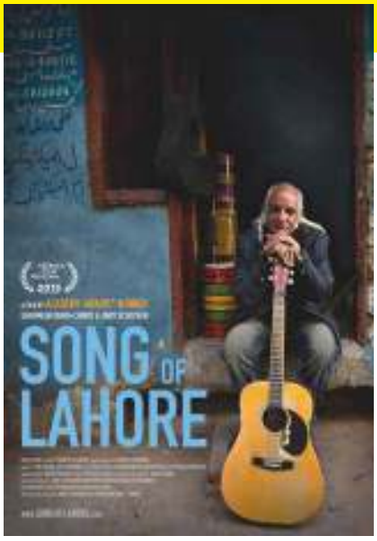
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"Song of Lahore" by SOC Films selected for World Documentary Feature Competition prize at the prestigious 2015 Tribeca Film Festival



"Song of Lahore", a documentary by Oscar winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Andy Schocken on the acclaimed Sachal Studios and their journey across the world, has been selected for the World Documentary Feature Competition at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival. "Song of Lahore" is one of 12 international documentaries and the only Pakistani entry which has been selected for the prize and will be in contention for the following awards: Best Documentary Feature, Best New Documentary Director and Best Documentary Editing at the acclaimed film festival.

"Song of Lahore" is a documentary which focuses on the music community of Lahore, which until the late 1970s, was world-renowned for its music and talent. In 2004, Izzat Majeed founded Sachal Studios to create a space for traditional music in a nation that had rejected its musical roots. After convincing a number of master musicians to pick up their instruments again, they quietly released some classical and folk albums, but an experimental album fusing jazz and South Asian instruments brought Sachal Studios worldwide acclaim. "Song of Lahore" turns the spotlight on Sachal Studios and charters the ensemble's journey to reclaim and reinvigorate an art that has lost its space in Pakistan's narrowing cultural sphere.

The twelve films selected for the 2015 World Documentary Competition represent the year's highest achievements in nonfiction storytelling. The 14th annual Tribeca Film Festival will take place from April 15 – 26, 2015 at locations throughout downtown Manhattan.

Attiq Ahmed wins *Elle Decor* award

Pakistan's Attiq Ahmed has been named the co-winner in the Young Talent category by the Indian edition of *Elle Decor* at the 13th annual Elle Décor International Design Awards (EDIDA) in India for works produced during 2014.

The 38-year-old architect and urban planner shared the award with Indian artist and designer Valay Gada. Along with being the founder of Turning Tables and the Office of Conservation & Community Outreach, which is dedicated to the study and analysis of Lahore's urban environment, Attiq teaches at the National College of Arts, Lahore and serves on the board of AG Publications, which produces *Newsweek Pakistan*). His work has gained immense appreciation and accolades in India and Pakistan.



Elle Décor says Ahmed "imagined a collection that takes cues from both Colonial and Mughal eras, where he relies on his contemporary aesthetic to create intuitive, 'Made in India' works" using "an array of materials like wood, metal, brass, marble and more."



Ali Zafar is a father once again

Congratulations to Pakistani actor and singer Ali Zafar and his wife Ayesha Fazli on the birth of their second child, a baby girl.

The 34-year-old singer is already the proud father of a four-year-old boy, Azaan, who has apparently named his baby sister Alyza – which means happiness.

Alyza was born on February 23rd, 2015 in Lahore.



Burka Avenger nominated for International Emmy Award

Burka Avenger, Pakistan's first ever full length 3D animated TV series about a female superhero was nominated for the International Emmy Kids Award in the Animation category. The nominations spanned 17 countries and were announced by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. This was the first time a Pakistani show was nominated for the prestigious award.

The official Emmy Award ceremony was held on February 20, 2015 in New York. *Burka Avenger* is the brainchild of Pakistani rock star and social activist, Aaron Haroon Rashid, who attended the award ceremony on behalf of his production company, Unicorn Black. *Burka Avenger* has also received several other international awards and accolades including the prestigious Peabody Award. *Time* Magazine named the *Burka Avenger* character as one of the most influential fictional characters of 2013.

TEXT: FIZZA FURQAN


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HOLLYWOOD CONFIDENTIAL





SHAKIRA INTRODUCES BABY BOY SASHA

Smitten Shakira and her partner Gerard Pique have shown off the first photo of their cute newborn son, Sasha, who was delivered by caesarean in Barcelona earlier this year. The singer, 38, and her footballer boyfriend, who plays for Barcelona FC, also posted a cute snap of Sasha's tiny feet with the caption: "I have Daddy's feet; it looks like I've been playing football my whole life." The couple met in 2010 and already have a two-year-old son, Milan, but Shakira has previously admitted she'd like 'eight or nine kids', saying: "Motherhood is everything to me." Posting the snap of Sasha on the Unicef World Baby Shower website, the proud parents encouraged fans to make donations for midwifery kits, medical equipment and vaccinations for the charity at www.worldbabyshower.org.



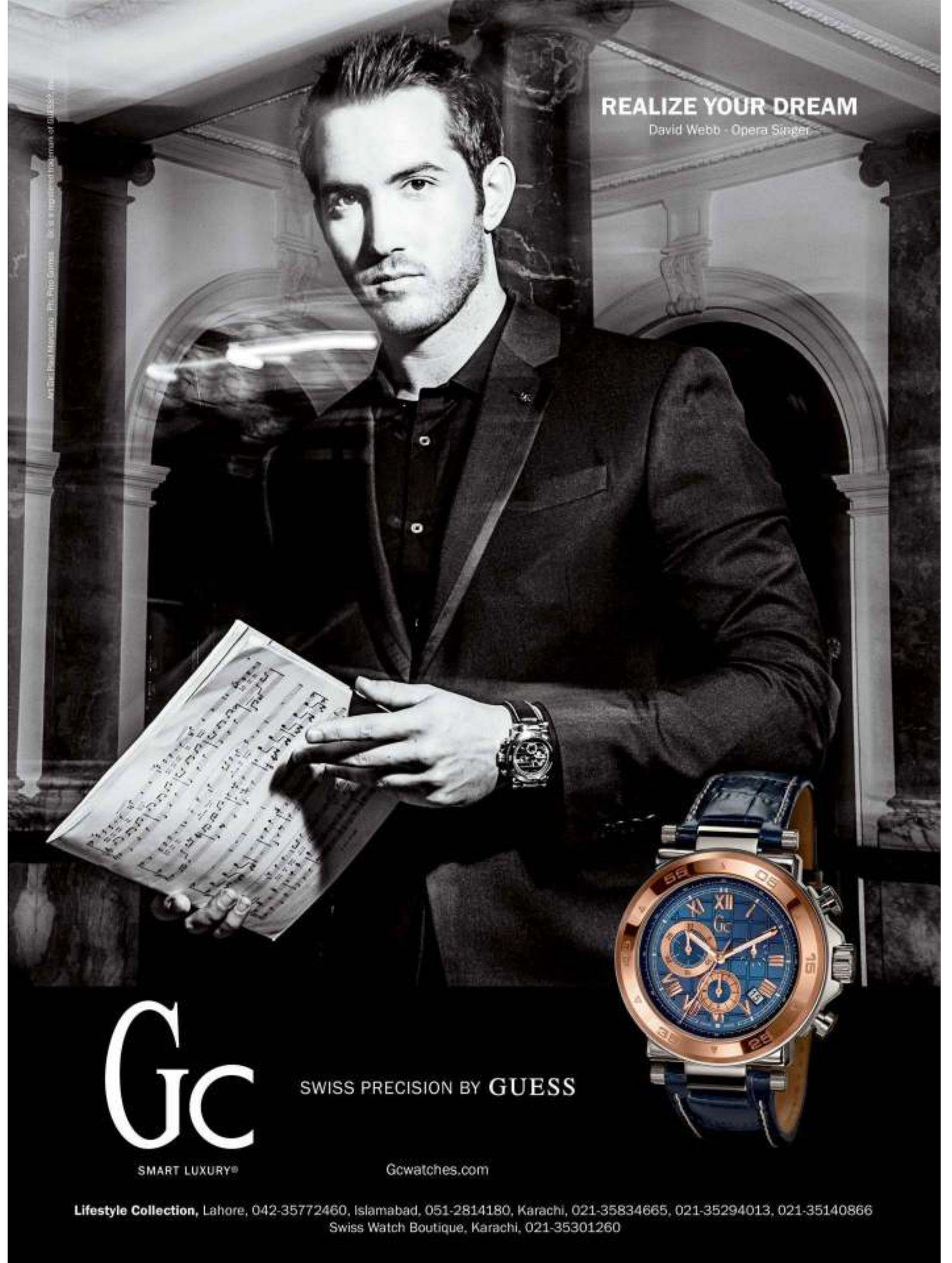
NORTH FUMES ON THE FROW

The A-listers were out in force at New York Fashion Week, as Kim Kardashian took her seat alongside Beyonce Knowles, Jay Z, Sean 'Diddy' Combs and US *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour in the front row of Kanye West's debut Adidas line. But unfortunately for 34-year-old Kim, their 18-month-old daughter North West wasn't as impressed as the rest of the crowd. While the crowd looked on to see Kanye's new creations, the little one threw a strop and started wailing uncontrollably. One spectator who clearly didn't see the funny side was notoriously frosty Anna, 65, who looked visibly unimpressed as she appeared to be inching away. However, North's granny and Kim's mother Kris Jenner, 59, were clearly amused by her granddaughter's behaviour. She posted the snap on her Instagram account, with the caption: "Best pic AHAHAHAH North got a little fussy waiting for Daddy's show to start!!! We took her backstage for a snack right after this but just had to share... love the patience of @Beyonce #AnnaWintour @kimkardashian #NYFW #YeezySeason #mommymoment."

UMA'S FACE RAISES EYEBROWS

Hollywood actress Uma Thurman has hit back at the 'mean' comments directed at her after she stepped out on the red carpet, showing off a smooth forehead and stretched skin around her eyes. Surgery experts were quick to speculate that the star had undergone a procedure to remove eye bags, claiming that she wasn't wearing mascara to minimise the risk of infection, as well as fillers and Botox. But Uma, 44, explained in an interview: "I know I look weird. I don't know, I guess nobody liked my make-up. I've been doing this for years and years and years. People say things nice and they say things mean and it's just like 'whatever'. You take the good with the bad."





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JOHNNY DEPP AND AMBER HEARD ARE FINALLY MARRIED!

For someone who usually keeps his personal life under wraps, Johnny Depp has been uncharacteristically open about falling for Amber Heard, and now the happy couple has tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at their Los Angeles home. The couple also held a second wedding at Johnny's private 45-acre island in the Bahamas, Little Hall's Pond Cay. It is said that the wedding - which comes two years after Amber began wearing a hefty diamond engagement ring - took place on one of the island's six beaches, named after friends and family, including Johnny's daughter Lily-Rose, 15, and son Jack, 12, whose mother is French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis. "He's completely in love and can't wait," a source said ahead of the nuptials.







MORE FAMILY TRAGEDY FOR JULIA AS MUM DIES

Just a year after losing her half-sister Nancy Motes to suicide, Julia Roberts has once again been struck by family tragedy. The A-lister's mother, Betty Lou, sadly lost her battle with lung cancer at the age of 80. Soon after the news broke, the 47-year-old actress was spotted hugging a female friend outside her mother's Los Angeles home, before heading inside to organise her personal effects. Betty Lou was reportedly diagnosed with a malignant tumour in November 2013, and is believed to have moved in with her famous daughter and her husband, Daniel Moder in recent months before passing away at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH TIES THE KNOT

British heartthrob Benedict Cumberbatch has gotten married to his fiancée Sophie Hunter! The *Sherlock* star tied the knot with the pretty theatre director, 36, in front of family and close friends during an intimate, romantic church ceremony on the Isle of Wight on Valentine's Day. The pair invited a host of celebrity guests to the nuptials, which took place at the 12th century St Peter and St Paul's Church in Mottistone. His TV sidekick Martin Freeman, 43, is believed to have acted as Benedict's best man on the day. Keira Knightley, 29 - who starred alongside Benedict in *The Imitation Game* - was thought to have attended the big day, but was actually in LA at the Writers Guild Awards.



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN, INSTAGRAM

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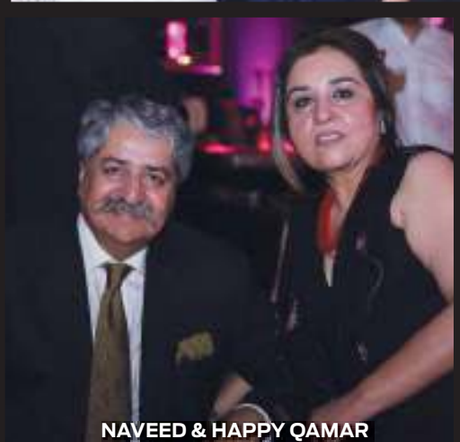
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KARACHI • Uzma Court, Clifton. Tel: 021-35834665, • Dolmen Mall, Clifton. Tel: 021-35294013,
• Ocean Mall, Ground Floor, Clifton. Tel: 021-35140866 • Swisswatch Boutique, The Forum, Clifton. Tel: 021-35301260


RANA SHAHID KARIM, MOMAL SHEIKH, JAVED SHEIKH & AYESHA KHAN


SABA OBAID


SHOBA ISPAHANI


MR & MRS BEHROZ SABZWARI


NAVEED & HAPPY QAMAR

KARACHI

Special Olympics Ball

This year the annual Special Olympics Ball took place on Valentine's Day in Karachi. Those in attendance were dressed to kill and danced the night away to music played by fabulous musicians who were flown in from Ibiza just for the event.


RONAK LAKHANI


SAMINA & MALLI


HAMEEDULLAH PARACHA & SHAMAELA PARACHA


MARYAM & ABSAR PAGGANWALA


IQBAL LAKHANI


FIDO ZAHID & YUSAF PARACHA


ATIF KHAN & NADIA HUSSAIN


HABIB PARACHA


ARMEENA KHAN


AYESHA OMAR


MAIRA PAGGANWALA & QASSIM SHAH


ALIZEH LAKHANI & ANUSHKA LAKHANI


POMME & KAUKAB SHAHBAZ


NIDA AZWER & KIRAN AMAN


HUMAYUN SAEED


AMIN GULGEE


DEEPAK PERWANI


UMAIR TABBANI




NADYA MISTRY


ARJUMAND RAHIM


ANISA RASHID KHAN


ZAHRA SAEED


MR & MRS BAHAUDDIN




HASAN & HINA RIZVI

SASHEEN ABBASI


SARA & SYED TARIQUE HUSSAIN

SARAH OVAIS & AFZAL LEGHARI


SALIM KARIM, FAHAD ISHTIAQ & JEHANZAB ISHTIAQ


SANA BUCHA & SARA GILANI


ZAKI & SADIA PASHA


ANGELINE MALIK


ATIKA & ASGHAR MERCHANT


NUBAIN ALI, WARDAH SALEEM & TAPU JAVERI


NAZISH & FAISAL MEMON


MARYAM & SHAZIL


HIJRA ALAMGIR & HINA KHAN


SAHER H PARACHA


UZMA & JAMIL BAIG


AADIL & ZARA MANDIWALLA


BENAZIR AZEEM


MARIA WASTI


SEEMA JAFFER


ANOUSHEY ASHRAF


WASEEM & NAILA AKHTAR


HASAN ZUBAIR, MAHVISH HASAN, RABEEA & JEHANZEB ISHTIAQ


SYMA IQBAL & NEERA MANSOOR


KAMRAN & MAHVISH HABIB


IDRIS HUSSAIN


FAROOK DITTU


SARA WASSAN, MAHIN NAWAZ & TOOBA ISHTIAQ


PINKY DURRANI & AMRAH HASEEB


SAQIB MALIK


IMRAN ABBAS


SADAF MALATERRE & FRIEHA ALTAF


TAHIRA RAFIQ


FATIMA SYED & ASIM BADER


FAUZIA


ARYAN


KHUSH MOMO PASHA


FARWAH TAPAL


MOHIB & AAMINA SHEIKH


MARIUM SOOMRO


FATIMA MALLICK


SARWAT GILANI


FATIMA SALEEM


JAVERIA


TEHSEEN


CYMA & FRIEHA ALTAF


FOUZIA, NADIA, SADAF & AYAZ


ANOUSHEY ASHRAF


SAADIA NAWABI


HUMAIRA, MUNYBA & OMAR


NATASIA & RANA KHAN


SHEREZAD RAHIMTOOLA



KARACHI

Wella Academy

The launch of WELLA Academy took place in Karachi recently with the event being inaugurated by the German Consulate General Mr. Klinner Tilo. The immensely successful launch was organised by Catalyst PR & Marketing.


NAEL & JIHAD


RUKAIYA ADAMJEE


FOUZIA


KLINNER TILO


ALIZEH PASHA & NAUSHEEN


SAMAR MEHDI


MATHIRA & MOOMAL


LUBNA LAKHANI


ZAID & HIMA


CHEENA CHAPRA & SUMEHA KHALID


NAZNEEN TARIQ


AZRA AHMED


EMANE HAQUE & KHADIJA HASHIMI


T U DAWOOD


HUMA & AMIR ADNAN


ISHRAT UL EBAD KHAN

KARACHI

7th Ladiesfund Women's Awards

The 2015 Ladiesfund Awards took at the Sindh Governor House in Karachi in the presence of Chief Guest, Dr. Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan and Lifetime Achievement award winners Noorjehan Bilgrami and Zubeida Mustafa.


NILOFER SAEED & MEHREEN ILAHI


MARYAM & MAIRA PAGGANWALLA


MOMINA DURAID


POMME GOHAR


ANISA RASHID KHAN, SHAFAQ HABIB & RAHEEL TARIQ KHAN


NAZNEEN TARIQ


TEHMINA KHALED


SHAMAEEL ANSARI


SABEENA & AMBREEN SALEH


YOUSUF BASHIR QURESHI, ABDUL KADER JAFFER & PERVEZ MADRASWALLA


JEAN FRANCOIS


SARA & NOORJEHAN BILGRAMI


ZUBEIDA MUSTAFA

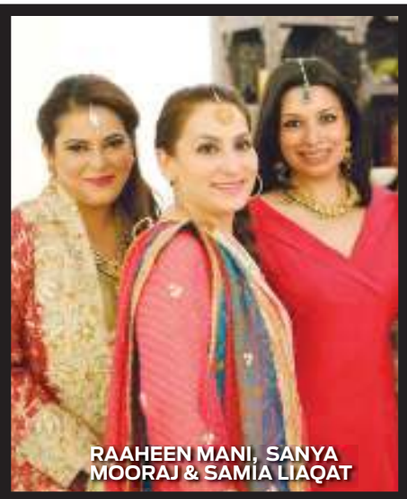

SABIHA & MELIHA CHUGHTAI


RUMANA HUSAIN


SHELLEY, TOOBBA, NARGIS, ZAHIDA & TASNIM


MONA SHAH


ZEENAT S AHMED


RAAHEEN MANI, SANYA MOORAJ & SAMIA LIAQAT


SADAF, BINA, SEVEEN & SANYA MUNEER


SARA SAIGOL MUSHTAQ


BILAL & SAFINAZ MUNEER

KARACHI

Seveen & Salahuddin

Seveen Muneer and Salahuddin Bawany's wedding was perhaps one of the most talked about weddings of the season. The couple celebrated their marriage with family and friends from across the country.


ZOHA SHAFI CHINOY & PIA CHINOY


MAIRA & ZOHAIB SALMAN


SALAHUDDIN BAWANY & SEVEEN MUNEER


MAHEEN TASEER, SEHR PIRZADA & AAMNA TASEER

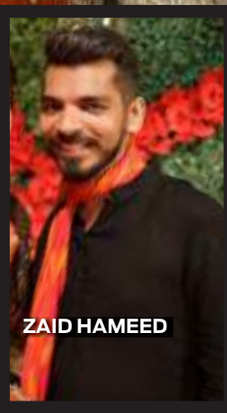

ZEINA KARIM


TALYA JALIL


AMAL & AMINA BAWANY


SUFIAN BAWANY


MUNAWAR, FAHD, ZAIN, TANIA MUNEER, TURHAN & ADNAN


ZAID HAMEED


AYESHA TAMMY HAQ


NOOR US SABAH GAILANI & SANA HAFEEZ


TEHMINA ALI & ZARA LALJI


SAEEDA LEGHARI & SAFINAZ MUNEER


KAHIF CHINOY, MARYAM AKRAM & ANUSHE HUSSAIN


AYESHA DAWOOD


ZARLASHT & MEHRBANO CHINOY


NIGGI NOOR KHAN, JAMAL MIR, BABAR TAJAMUL & AMBER SAIGOL


FRIEHA ALTAF


FEEHA JAMSHED


ZEVAIR, KULSUM, ALTAF HASHWANI & SANYA MUNEER


SUKAINA TAQI


MINHAL MALIK


SABRINA DAWOOD & SANAM AGHA


WARDAH SALEEM & ABDULLAH YOUSUF


SABERA TAPAL


SAMEERA DADA


AHAD RAHMAN, SALAUDDIN BAWANY, NASSER RIZVI & ALI HABIB


ANUSHA BAWANY


SHAPUR, RAZIA, MASOOD PAGNAIR, SADIA KHAN & SHARYAR POLAD


MAHEEN KARIM


ALI RAZA & NIMRAH GHUMRO


SAMIRAH, SAMIHAH, SAMIA & ANUSHKA


ZAINAB HASHMI


SORAYA RAHIM, SEHR PIRZADA, AYSHA BARI & MAHA AHMAD


DANIAL & FIZA BAWEJA


AALE, IRSHAD & ERUM MOWJEE


TAPU JAVERI


AMIRAH MUNEER & DANISH AMJAD


IZDEYAR SETNA & SEHAR AHMED

KARACHI

Aale Mowjee's Big 30th

Aale Mowjee's 30th birthday was a fabulous affair that recently took place at her residence. Party-goers enjoyed the fun-filled night out with everyone in attendance looking glamorous and cameras going 'click click' all night long!


SHAHZAD FURQAN & AMINA RASHID


MINAIL & MASHAL ADAMJI


MERAAL MALIK, FIZZA FURQAN & ZARA MANDVIWALLA


KHUSH PASHA


KUMAIL TAPAL & AFZAL LEGHARI


NIDA ALVI & SHAH MUNIR


HENNA QAISAR, ALIZEH IMTIAZ & ZAID HIDAYATULLAH


SARA WASAN


TURAN & SHANI


WARDAH SALEEM


KIRAN IKRAM, MALIHA AZIZ & ZAHRA MERCHANT


SIKANDAR RIZVI & AYESHA OMAR


ANUM KHAN


SHARMANE SAYEED


ALISHA & HASAN MANDVIWALLA


IMAN & UMAIR BAIG


AZAR KALWAR & ALIZEH HABIB


SARA TABANI


AYESHA KHAN


HINA & HASAN RIZVI


DURREE & TAIMUR SHAH


NADIA SAYEED


SAMEER & SABA DADA


TEENA DURRANI


ALI SHIRAZI & NADIA MERCHANT

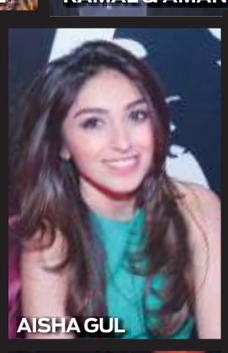

SOHA HAFEEZ


KAMAL & AMAN PIR


ADNAN CHINOY


ARSHA & SUBHAN ALI KHAN


AMAN & NAADIR MUSTAFA


AISHA GUL


ZARMEEN & ZIAD BASHIR


NOOR & RAHIL


ALIZEH LAKHANI


ADIL SHAIKH & SHEHZOR JUMANI


MUHAMMAD ALI SHAH BUKHARI


NIDA AZWAR & SAMIHAH GANNY


OMAR,HIRA, LINA AHMAD, AALE, NIDA PARACHA & FAHAD MUNSHI


ZAHIR & SHEREZAD RAHIMTOOLA


SANA & MONTI JUMANI





AYESHA FAROOK HASHWANI



SHAMSHA HASHWANI



ZEELAF MUNIR

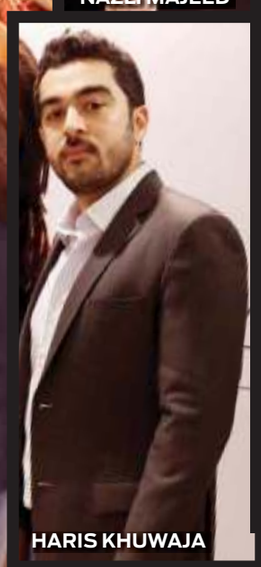


MRS MURAD



MENAHIL & NAZLI MAJEED

FARIHA HASHWANI



HARIS KHUWAJA

KARACHI

Shamsha Hashwani Store Launch

Having designed clothes for years, Shamsha Hashwani has finally launched her much-awaited boutique in Karachi. The designer's collections comprised a range of wearable outfits from casual pret to more intricate wedding wear that Karachiites loved!



FRIEHA ALTAF



ZEBA HUSSAIN



MOMAL SHEIKH



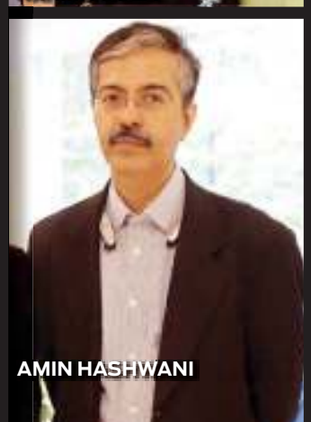
SUROOR & SHEREZAD RAHIMTOOLA



ZAHIR RAHIMTOOLA



NADIR FEROZE, SHAHRINA & MAHA BURNEY



AMIN HASHWANI



ALTAF HASHWANI WITH FAMILY



HABI HASHWANI


SHAHID KHUWAJA


SABA OBAID & MASOOMA ADAMJEE


MUBARAK ALI


NAZI SHAIKH WITH SISTER


MAIRA & MARRIAM PAGGANWALA


MALIHA AZIZ & AMNA


MINZA


NIZAM HASHWANI


SULTANA SIDDIQUI


AFSHAH GHAZI


MRS GHUMRO WITH DAUGHTERS


FARAH LEGHARI


SEEMI


DAULAT RAHIMTOOLA


LALA & FARHEEN MUKATY


DR SADIA


MR & MRS SHER ISFAND YAR

KARACHI

Popup by Kiran Aman

Jewellery designer and entrepreneur Kiran Aman launched a popup boutique at the Misha Lakhani store in Karachi. Her bespoke jewellery collection was a perfect blend of ethnic and funk.


TARA UZRA DAWOOD


ZAINAB MUHAMMAD


KIRAN AMAN


RUQAIYA ADAMJEE


SUMEHA KHALID


MEHER BANO QURESHI


AMNA ZAHID


FARESHTEH ASLAM


RONAK LAKHANI


SALIMA FEERASTA


SAMRA MUSLIM


MALIHA REHMAN


MAHWISH RIZVI, AYESHA AAKIF, TUBA, AMBREEN & MARIA ANWAR


ADNAN PARDESY


UZMA MAZHAR


ALIZEH PASHA


MOHAMMAD MOIZ


ANUSHEH SHAHID & ABDULLAH ZIA


FAIZA LAKHANI


ALIYA CHINOY & SHAZIA ZUBERI


ALI XEESHAN


NATASIA KHALID


FRIEHA ALTAF


SADAF MALATERRE


MADIHA IMAM

KARACHI

TDAP Fashion Show

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) opened the 2015 Expo Pakistan Exhibition with a two-day fashion show in Karachi. With some of the country's design moguls including Sana Safinaz, Maheen Khan and Deepak Perwani participating, the shows proved to be a hit.


HUMA ADNAN


NILOFAR PIRZADA


MAHEEN KHAN


DEEPAK PERWANI


MAIRA, ALIZEH & SANA HAFEEZ


TARA MEHMOOD


AMIR ADNAN


ALINA

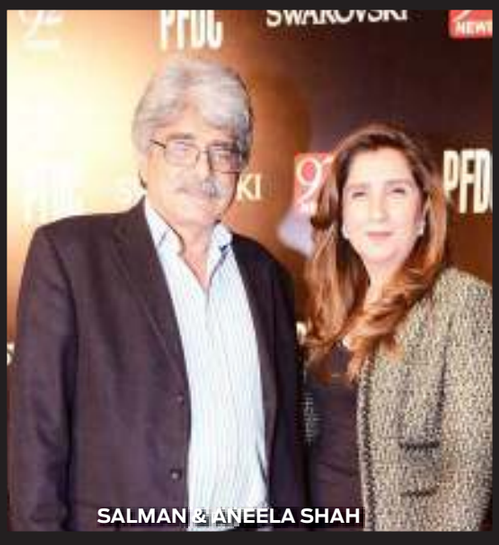

ZOYA MAHMOOD & IMRAN BAIG


NAZISH


NIMRA, MEHREEN & EIMAN


MUNIRA & RUBAB


MOHSIN ALI


SALMAN & ANEELA SHAH


HSY & FARESHTEH ASLAM


ALI ZAFAR


NUSCIE JAMIL



LAHORE

Crystal Couturiers

Crystal Couturiers presented by PFDC & Swarovski was a high fashion event that took place in Lahore. The one-day event consisted of eight of the country's hugely talented designers including Fahad Hussayn, Elan, HSY, Karma, Libas, Nomi Ansari, Saira Shakira & Sublime.


NOMI ANSARI


KAMIAR ROKNI


ZARA PEERZADA


NATASHA SALEEM


MARIUM MUSTAQ


NABILA


SAAD ALI


SABA RANA





SIDRA & GUL



TABISH


HAIYA BOKHARI


SARA SHAHID


MOMINA SIBTAIN


FOHA RAZA


TAHIRA SYED


SADAF ZARRAR


REHAN BASHIR


ALEENA & IRUM NAQZI


ANDREW MOJICA & NATASHA


MAHEEN KARDAR



MR & MRS NAZIM SHEHZAD


CARA DELEVINGNE


MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL


OLIVIA WILDE


GWENDOLINE CHRISTIE


TAYLOR SWIFT

LONDON

Elle Style Awards

The 2015 Elle Style Awards took place at the newly opened Sky Garden in London where the best in British fashion was celebrated. Taylor Swift won the coveted title of Elle Woman of the Year while Rosie Huntington-Whitely won Model of the Year. Some designers who received awards include Mary Katrantzou for her red carpet designs, Erdem for Designer of the Year and shoe designer extraordinaire Manolo Blahnik for Lifetime Achievement.


MARY KATRANTZOU


DIANE KRUGER


MANOLO BLAHNIK


ROSIE HUNTINGTON


LINDSAY LOHAN


LEIGH LEZARK


ELLIE GOULDING

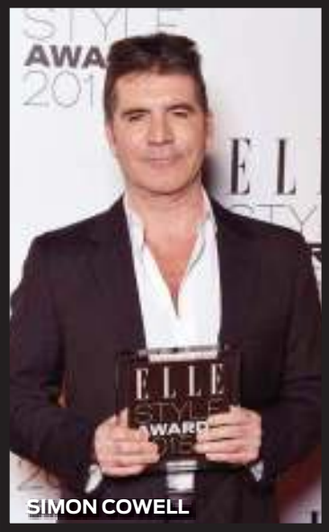

ATLANTA DE CADANET


NICK JONAS


ISABELI FONTANA


PIXIE GELDOF


ALEXA CHUNG


SIMON COWELL


HENRY HOLLAND


ASHLEY WILLIAMS


DAVID GANDY


JOURDAN DUNN


NAOMI CAMPBELL


LAUREN SILVERMAN


DAISY LOWE


CHRISTOPHER BAILEY


LUKE EVANS


REBEL WILSON


MOLLIE KING


CALVIN HARRIS


ABBEY CLANCY

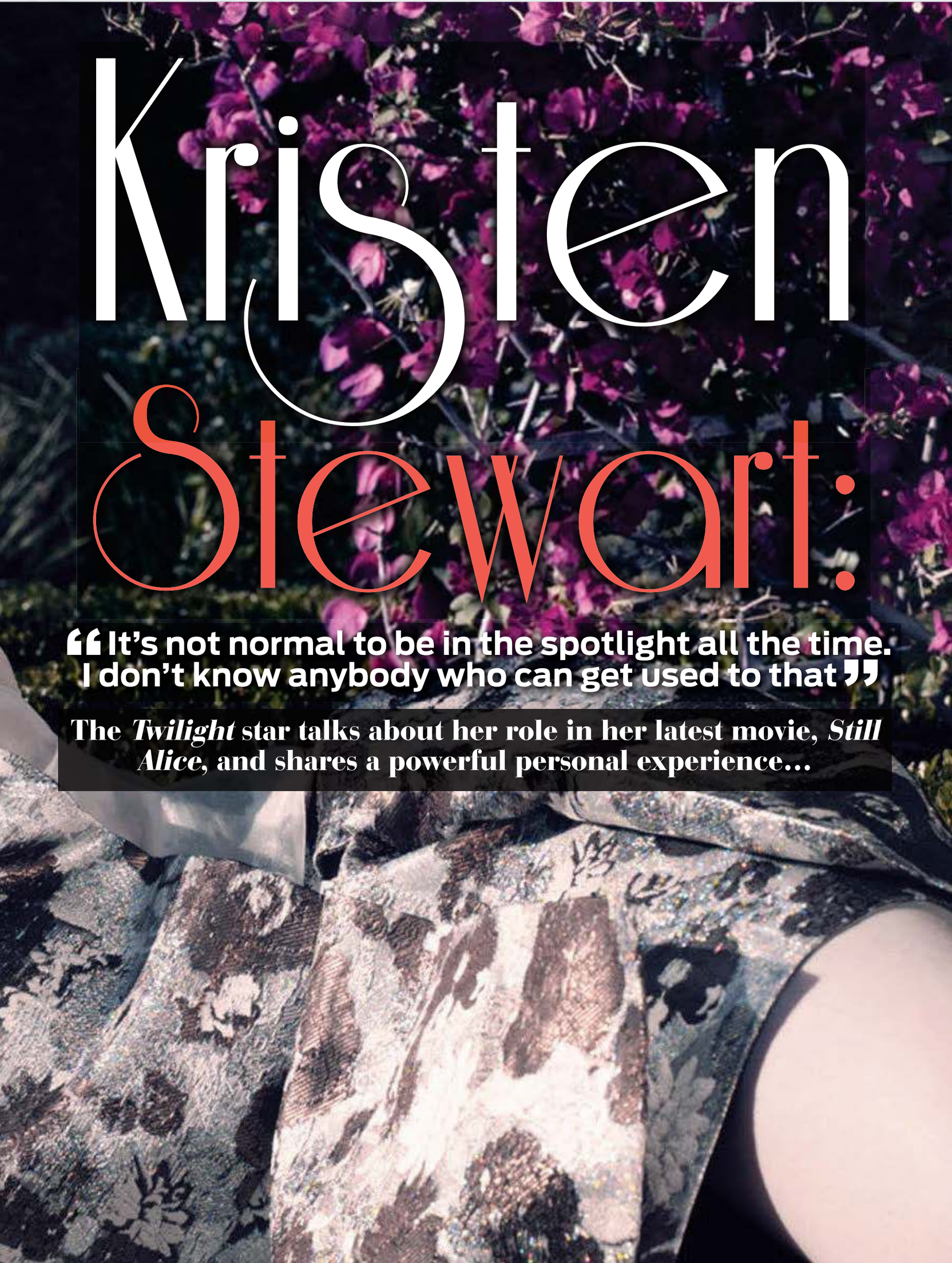

LEWIS HAMILTON



Kristen Stewart:

“It’s not normal to be in the spotlight all the time. I don’t know anybody who can get used to that”

The *Twilight* star talks about her role in her latest movie, *Still Alice*, and shares a powerful personal experience…





KRISTEN STEWART, JULIANNE MOORE & KATE BOSWORTH ATTEND THE CINEMA SOCIETY WITH MONTBLANC AND DOM PERIGNON SCREENING OF *STILL ALICE* IN NEW YORK

At 24, Kristen Stewart is one of the highest paid and most popular young actresses in Hollywood. Having starred in four *Twilight* films, and been the subject of a publicly scrutinised on-again-off-again relationship with her co-star Robert Pattinson, Stewart seems to have shied away from the media since that franchise wrapped up in 2012.

The brunette beauty has a pivotal supporting role in the family drama, *Still Alice*. She plays Lydia, the slacker daughter in a family of successful professionals. Her character's parents (played by Alec Baldwin and Julianne Moore) are both successful university professors, her brother (Hunter Parrish) is an emergency room doctor and her sister (Kate Bosworth) is a high-powered attorney. Lydia aspires to be an actress and has moved across to L.A. in hopes of getting work, while the rest of her family has remained tightly knit back home in New York. However, the family's world begins to unravel when mom (a stunning Julianne Moore) is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease.

While the rest of the family struggles to be supportive, given their limited time and unfamiliarity with the disease, it is Lydia who steps up to the plate to help her mom out, providing the understanding and emotional support Alice needs as her degenerative condition robs her of speech and memories.

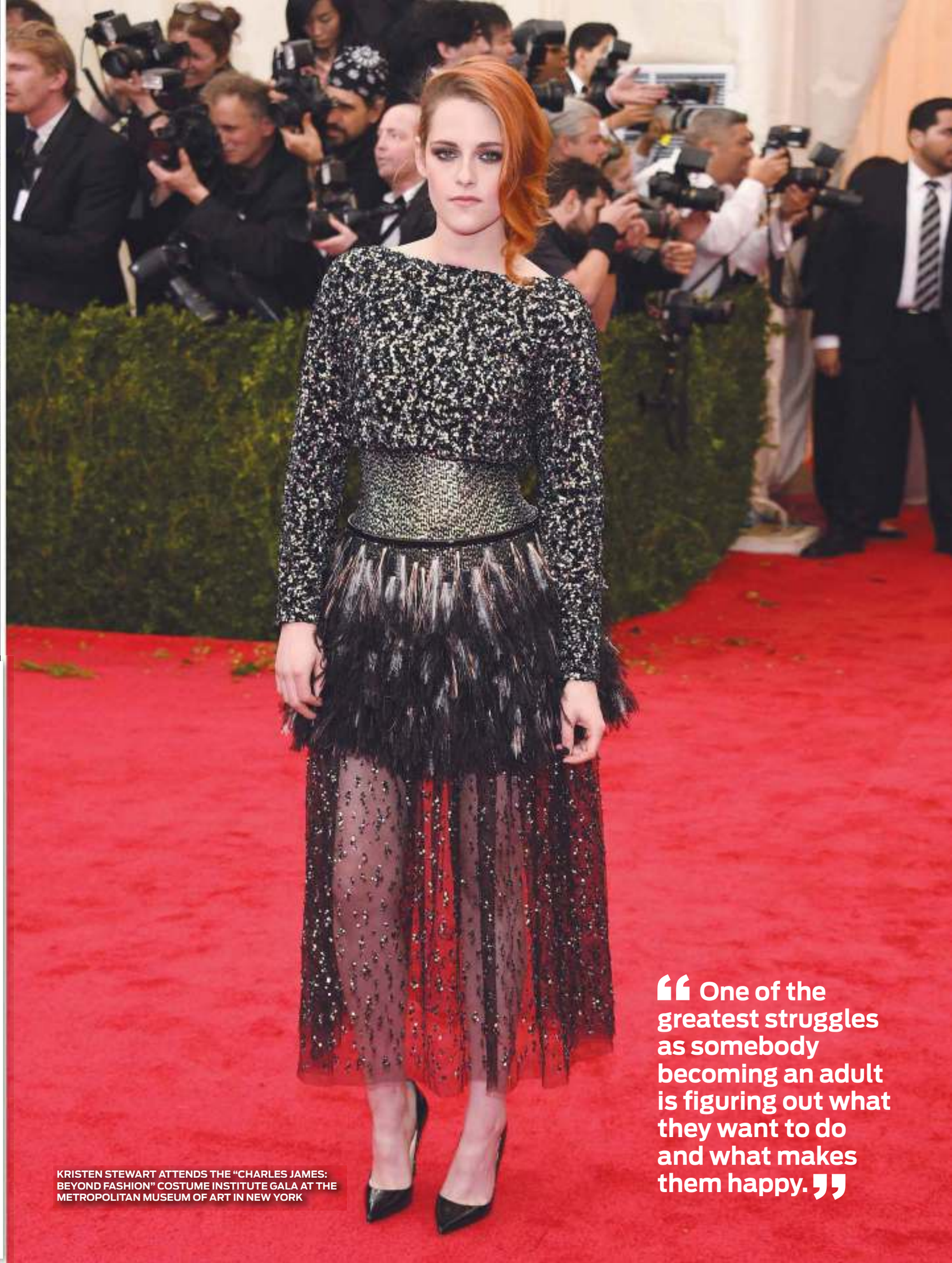
With her hair cropped short and dressed casually, Stewart recently spoke about stepping into the role as the black sheep child who becomes a pillar of strength when difficulties arise. Although she has not had to deal with a sick family member in her own life, she recalls an early childhood incident that revealed to her how people, well meaning as they are, cannot cope when a relative becomes incapacitated. That experience provided useful background in tackling her character.

In this film, you play the role of an aspiring and struggling actress. How challenging was it to come back to the mindset of a struggling actress when you are, in reality, a megastar?
Kristen Stewart: One of the greatest struggles as somebody becoming an adult is figuring out what they want to do and what makes them happy. I think Lydia actually figured it out quite early. The courageous thing to do is to stick with it and see it through; see if you were correct. I admire her for the same reasons why I admire some of my friends who have not achieved what they ultimately would have liked to in their wildest dreams. They are still working for it.

But your dreams did come true, right?
KS: I am fortunate enough to have outlet after outlet at my disposal. I am still looking for them though. With every project you feel like you are trying to find your place to vent. For any actor, that is typically the feeling that drives you to do it. I can relate because if I stopped working tomorrow, I would have these impulses and feelings to get out and have these desires to explore. I can ▶



AT THE 40TH CESAR FILM AWARDS AT THEATRE DU CHATELET IN PARIS



KRISTEN STEWART ATTENDS THE "CHARLES JAMES: BEYOND FASHION" COSTUME INSTITUTE GALA AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART IN NEW YORK

"One of the greatest struggles as somebody becoming an adult is figuring out what they want to do and what makes them happy."

> **“With every project you feel like you are trying to find your place to vent. For any actor, that is typically the feeling that drives you to do it.”**

still completely relate. I feel that way every time I am approaching the idea of taking on a responsibility as great as saying that, “I am good enough to be in your movie.” It’s a huge statement to make and every time I do, I think, “Is this the right choice?”

Your character in the movie is very accepting and mature about her mom’s condition; she asks questions the other two siblings are afraid to ask. If you were in a similar situation in reality, would you be like your character?

KS: I think that it is easier for a person who lives and indulges in the ambiguity of life. Lydia is this artistically inclined person that is not entirely comfortable having the answers. She does not profess to tell you exactly what she wants. What she is telling you is, “I don’t know what I want, and that is okay and I am traversing that.” That is easier for a child to appreciate and live in the moment. You can’t have a final answer about how it is all going to work out. You can’t call it by a name so it’s still worth living in that potentially wonderful moment as opposed to someone who wants to map it all out and not be able to solve it in the end.

What is your key objective in life today?

KS: I can relate to my character in that aspect because I definitely don’t have the answers and it’s not what I am looking for either. I’m not the kind of person who says, “I just need to feel concrete or I just need to feel like nothing’s going to change.” I revel in the change. She [my character] is not emotionally stronger, it is not strength, it’s just the way people are. I think within this story and within anyone’s story or anyone’s reality that might be similar, I hope to God that they have someone who doesn’t need the answer and is just willing to sit there and forget every other sentence and still enjoy the afternoon.

Have you had any personal experience with Alzheimer’s?

KS: I’ve never had any personal experience with Alzheimer’s. I’ve never had a family member or a loved one with an illness like that. I have one story that I can tell you though. I would like to feel the same way had I not had this experience but I was a kid at a family friend’s house for dinner; I walked into a room and there was an older lady there. And I had this strange experience. We started speaking and I very quickly found out that there was something wrong. I was little; I didn’t know what it was but I was very aware that she was what you would say somebody with Alzheimer’s disease is like or someone who is just old. “Oh, she’s old. She doesn’t know what she’s talking about. She’s crazy.” And then I had this exchange with her that just slammed both of us into our bodies and into that moment with such force that you could feel it. We were emotionally connecting, and I could see in her eyes that this was precious, and that it was going.



KRISTEN STEWART ATTENDS THE CHANEL SHOW AS PART OF PARIS FASHION WEEK HAUTE COUTURE S/S 15



TAYLOR LAUTNER, KRISTEN STEWART & ROBERT PATTINSON ATTEND THE *THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2* IN SPAIN

Then she asked me where her sister was or something, and I said, "I don't know. Bye," and I walked out. Later, we had dinner and she was absent from the table. She was sitting at another table and completely, utterly, and I don't mean to be dramatic, but she was being ignored, and I felt like as much as her body and mind were limiting her, her soul is singing and she definitely is not being heard. I remembered that for a long time.

That's pretty powerful stuff...

KS: This recollection I had was the first thing I shared with (writers-directors) Wash Westmoreland and Rich Glatzer when we talked about the script. I don't judge at all the family that was to this kid, who had never been there more than 30 seconds, appeared to be ignoring her – that is probably not the case. They probably have these connections where they fuel each other and give each other a lot but what really stuck with me was that people were forgotten and they're not lost, and everyone could be so much happier and have so much more to hold, and they want it. So that made me so emotionally invested in this in a way that I wouldn't have had, had I not seen that.

You have obviously moved on after your huge success with the *Twilight* series. Do you miss the attention you were getting during those years?

KS: No, I don't. I had a great time making those movies, and I don't want to ever live without the memory. But it is important as an artist and as a human being to move forward and explore new avenues. I am doing that right now. And I am very grateful for that.

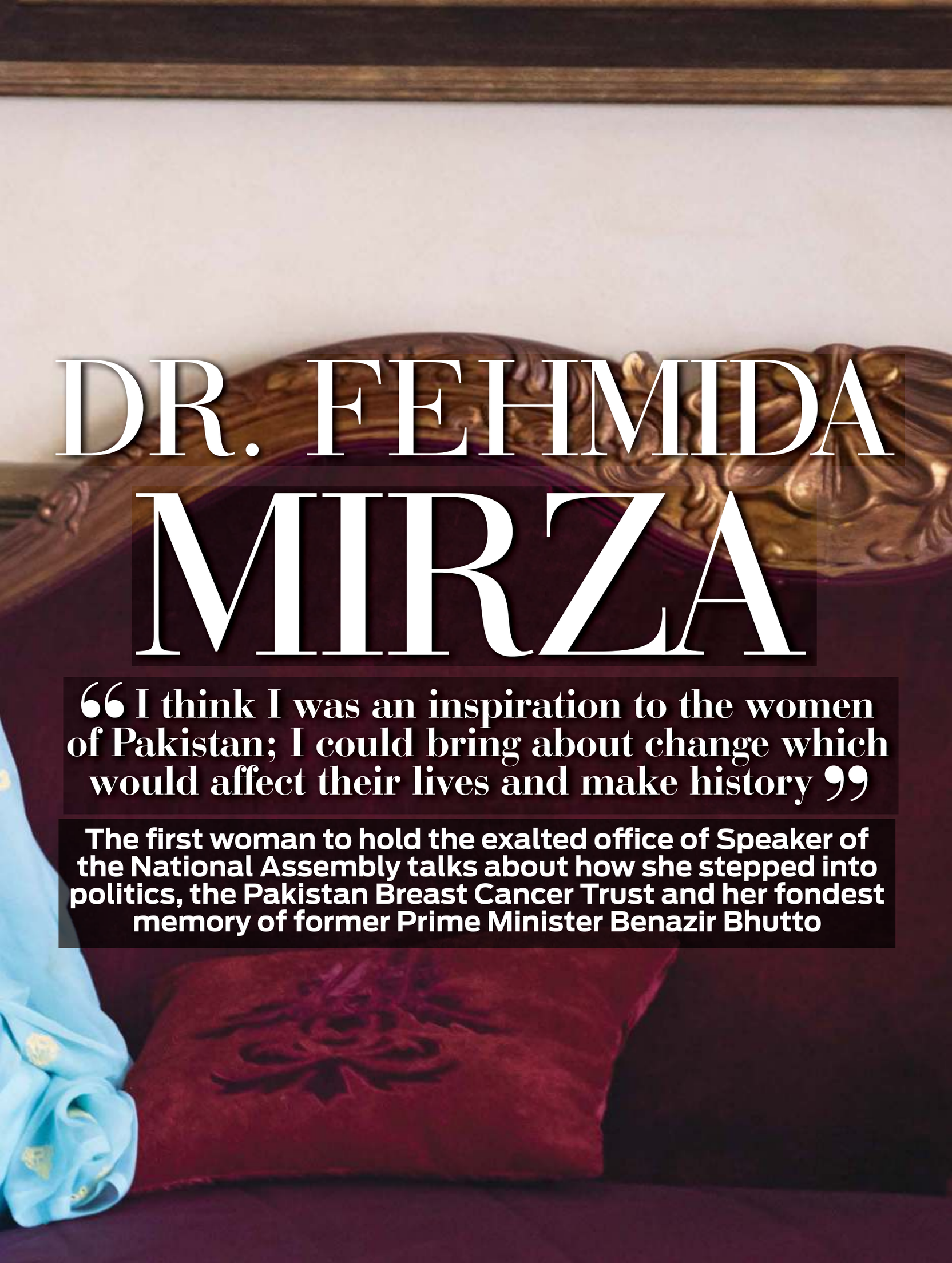
Can all the media attention that intrudes deep into your personal life be a little too much at times?

KS: Absolutely. I was very stressed out at times. It's not normal to be in the spotlight all the time. I don't know anybody who can get used to that. You feel like a deer in headlights. It's better now, and I feel a little bit more relaxed. It helps in allowing me to concentrate on what I want to accomplish as an artist. OK!

INTERVIEW: PHIL THOMPSON/THE INTERVIEW FEED
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN


SCENE FROM *STILL ALICE*





DR. FEHMIDA MIRZA

“I think I was an inspiration to the women of Pakistan; I could bring about change which would affect their lives and make history”

The first woman to hold the exalted office of Speaker of the National Assembly talks about how she stepped into politics, the Pakistan Breast Cancer Trust and her fondest memory of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto



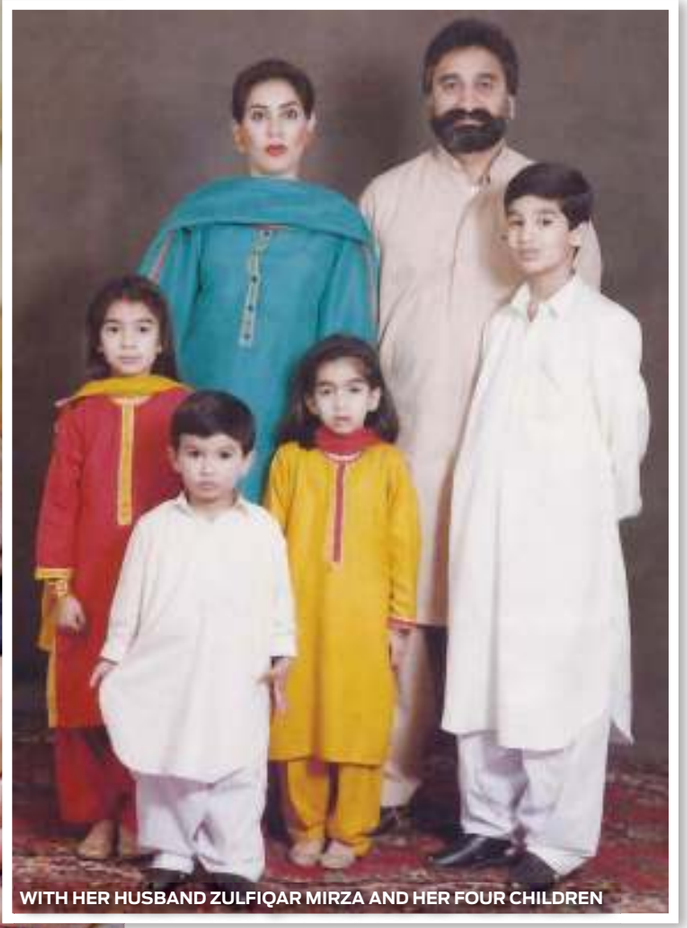
In 2008, Dr. Fehmida Mirza turned heads world over when she became the first female Speaker of the National Assembly in the Muslim world. And that's not all, during her term in office, Fehmida passed several legislations including the historic 18th Amendment, which was passed only days after she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Fehmida displayed immense strength and grace in both her role as speaker and her battle with cancer. "I didn't tell anyone about my illness as I had a responsibility to my party and to the parliament," she reveals to *OK*! Pakistan. "Nobody knew about it till all my commitments, responsibilities and key tasks were completed. That's when I shared it with my leadership and family. My doctor was really upset and said that I should immediately step down."

She firmly believes that all this happened to her for a reason; Fehmida recently established the Pakistan Breast Cancer Trust to raise awareness and provide information to under-privileged women fighting breast cancer in the rural areas of Pakistan.

Trained as a doctor by profession, Fehmida graduated from Liaquat University of Medical Health and Sciences, Jamshoro in 1982 specialising in pediatrics and gynaecology. "Being a doctor, health is very important to me and even when I was speaker, I used to encourage the women parliamentary caucus to focus more on health and we did some tremendous legislation on that, be it burn victims or issues like reproductive health," she shares with us.

Hailing from an influential Sindhi speaking political family known as the Qazi's of Hyderabad, she married Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza in 1982 and has four children. Fehmida had never really planned to pursue a political career, but having being born into a political family, it all came to her naturally. She joined politics in 1996 and successfully contested the elections in Badin (her husband's former constituency) on a non-reserved seat in 1997 and has never looked back.



WITH HER HUSBAND ZULFIQAR MIRZA AND HER FOUR CHILDREN

You are a doctor by profession. Tell us about how you stepped into politics. Did you always want to be a politician?

Fehmida Mirza: Some people are born in politics, some 'achieve' politics and with some, it's thrust upon them. In my situation, I feel that I have had a little bit of everything, and having been born in a political family, this is all I had seen growing up. My father-in-law, brother, uncle and cousins were all politicians so I was always involved in social activities. But I didn't really have the desire to make it a career or come into politics. It all started when the PPP government was removed in 1996; it was a very difficult time. BB [former prime minister Benazir Bhutto] allotted

my husband's ticket to me to stand in elections but even then, I didn't realise this would set the stage for me – to achieve what I have achieved in the last 20 years.

You were the first female Speaker of the National Assembly in a Muslim country. Tell us about your experience and what it meant to you.

FM: It was a tremendous honour which carried tremendous responsibility as the world's watchful gaze was on me. It was a local position but at the world stage – being the first woman speaker of the Islamic world. People were watching, and I think it was just a big honour. It was a big challenge also yet a wonderful experience; sitting in that chair and looking at the legislature – to me, that's the highest forum. I think I was an inspiration to the women of Pakistan too; I could now bring about

> "Now when I look back, I think it was such a difficult time for me. The word cancer itself is like a death sentence but I feel nothing is without purpose."

change which would affect their lives and make history. In almost 42 years of Pakistan's democratic history, there are about 22 amendments which have been made to the constitution – I managed and facilitated the most important one which was the 18th amendment where the parliament was strengthened and the powers were given back to the legislatures. Institutions were built.

What was your most memorable moment as Speaker of the National Assembly?

FM: The first day after taking oath; I remember sitting down in that chair and looking over the sea of legislators, press and the public. In the speaker's gallery was my family and I remember them looking at me. My mother had a smile on her face, proud of her daughter's accomplishments. I think that was the moment which just stuck with me; it was a proud moment.

Did your illness change your perspective of life?

FM: In the second last year of my speakership, I discovered a lump in my breast. I got the test done and was told that it was malignant. It was the most challenging time for me because it was when I was also supposed to give the ruling for the prime minister – whether or not he was disqualified after the Supreme Court's decision. Now when I look back, I think it was such a difficult time for me. The word cancer itself is like a death sentence but I feel nothing is without purpose. When it happened to me, sure, I had thoughts in my head that why me and why now. But now I understand; it has totally changed my perspective of life because I feel there is a purpose in life – there is always a purpose behind everything. So if I had this illness, there had to be some purpose behind it. I have survived and seen the weakness in our health system, specifically with breast cancer treatment. There are so many cultural taboos and women don't want to talk about it. I didn't make it a weakness – I used it as my strength. When I went for elections, after my chemotherapy, I didn't hide it – I spoke about it. I shared my experience and I want other women to also come forward and talk about it. All the survivors are role models. We need to have faith in God. That's the purpose of my trust [Pakistan Breast Cancer Trust]; women should not hide their illness – they need to talk about it. I was blessed because I had family support and I could afford the treatment. But what I saw was that it was such an expensive treatment and it's difficult. No hospital in Pakistan has specialised breast cancer units so I was lost at the beginning – I didn't know which hospital to go to, what kind of treatment to opt for, how to go about it or who I should talk to. So the purpose of this trust is to let women know where to go right away and get help.



WITH THE LATE BENAZIR BHUTTO



Tell us more about the Pakistan Breast Cancer Trust?

FM: Like I said earlier, I feel like everything has a purpose – it happened to me while sitting in such ▶



“It was a tremendous honour which carried tremendous responsibility as the world’s watchful gaze was on me. It was a local position [SPEAKER] but at the world stage.”



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DR. FEHMIDA MIRZA…

Favourite cuisine?
Japanese

Three things you don't leave the house without?
Meeting my children, my phone and my glasses

If you weren't a politician, you would be...
A mother...just a mother

Are you a strict mother?
I don't think so, but my children will be in a better position to answer that

Favourite destination?
I think London because my daughter is there

Your fitness and beauty regime...
I don't really have any regimes but I believe in eating healthy – salads, juices, thinking positive and walks

Three people who inspire you?
Fatima Jinnah, Benazir Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto – her strength and how she faced everything is so inspirational

What can you not live without?
My family

Words you live by?
"The purpose of life is a life of purpose." – Robert Byrne

Do you like to shop? Who are your favourite designers?
There was a time when I liked to shop. But now more than shopping, I like traveling and sightseeing. There are designers that I like but my focus is the Breast Cancer Trust – I buy bags, but not very expensive ones. Shoes, I just need a nice comfortable pair. It depends on the design also – I'm not that brand conscious. I just need comfortable shoes and a big bag



THE PRESIDENT OF FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BERNARD ACCOYER MEETS WITH FEHMIDA MIRZA IN PARIS, 2009

a position. The problems and difficulties that I saw from the diagnosis till treatment – I knew that if I survived, I would be able to facilitate other women, educate them and increase awareness of this type of cancer in rural areas where hospitals are in such pathetic conditions. It's really unfortunate that we don't have a baseline data in our country; according to figures on the internet, Pakistan has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia but we have no facilities or real data available. I spoke on the floor of parliament – the first time someone spoke openly about breast cancer – that we should have a national action plan for this. And the first step has to be to gather data, and all government hospitals should be told to compile their records. So then I formed this Trust because there are so many different organisations that are working but we had to bring all of them under one platform and work together to create awareness. It's a curable disease if diagnosed early. And we have so many female health workers who we can train and educate regarding immunisation and early detection. They educate women about family planning so they could also teach these women about self-examination.

What does a day in the life of Fehmida Mirza look like?

FM: It varies – when I'm in Badin, I'm a politician. When I'm in Islamabad, I'm a legislator and in Karachi, it's a little more chaotic because I'm a mom. In your household, there are multiple duties and responsibilities – checking on your children, meals in the house, looking after the business and all sorts of family commitments.

You are a busy woman. How do you manage your work and family life?

FM: I think women are blessed – they can multitask. One just needs to prioritise tasks depending on situation to situation. And yes, the children – family is important. I believe that whatever time you give them, it should be quality time. Whatever you are doing, you have to put your heart and soul into it.

What do you like to do in your free time? Are you a good cook?

FM: I'm a decent cook, I would say, but I don't have so much free time. But whatever I do cook, my children would say, "Mom, you should cook." And they would ask me to cook on the weekends.

> "I THINK WOMEN ARE BLESSED – THEY CAN MULTITASK. ONE JUST NEEDS TO PRIORITISE TASKS DEPENDING ON SITUATION TO SITUATION."

Did you pamper them?

FM: Yes, I used to. I don't really get free time anymore but whenever I get time I like to spend it with my grandchildren. My best free time is with my three grandchildren. I've also started golf now.

Your husband is also a politician; did he encourage your decision to enter politics and do you think it would have been possible without his support?

FM: No, it wouldn't have been possible and he did encourage me a lot. In fact, when BB decided to give me the ticket, he seconded it right away. He did a lot of work in his constituency as a member of the parliament, and at that time, the PPP was in government. There was a choice to either have some male member from the family or me. But when BB said, "I want Fehmida to contest," he supported it right away, and I think it would've been difficult without his support.

People perceive Pakistan as a patriarchal society. Can you tell us what it is actually like to be out in the field as a woman in politics?

FM: I think this is where perception parts with reality. Pakistan has a very rich history of women in politics like Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, and *Shaheed Mohtarma* Benazir Bhutto, with the latter being the first female prime minister of Pakistan and the Islamic world and me, being the first female speaker – we don't see this pattern in established democracies. It is such a good feeling being a legislator – you are bringing change and doing something to change people's lives. In my own constituency, when I started my campaign, not many women were ready to come forward at first. But gradually, women felt encouraged and started to come out. I witnessed this change.

Was it difficult living in the public eye? What advice would you give women who are interested in becoming politicians?

FM: They should have faith and confidence in themselves. It's not really difficult – it's just about



CHINESE PREMIER WEN JIABAO WITH FEHMIDA MIRZA PRIOR TO THE ADDRESS OF JIABAO DURING A JOINT SESSION OF PAKISTAN'S PARLIAMENT IN ISLAMABAD, 2010

how you carry yourself. For me, maybe coming from a political background, it was somehow inculcated in me because this is what I saw. But then at the same time, you need to have faith in yourself. Being a doctor helped me a lot as well – I saw so much misery closely in government hospitals so I wanted to do something for the masses and allow me to interact with them. I think everyone should know that their life has a purpose and they should do something good – whatever little they can do. Everyone should bring about some change around them.

Do you expect your children to follow in your footsteps and would you encourage your daughters to enter politics?

FM: I just hope they do whatever makes them happy. My elder daughter is a doctor but if either of my daughters wants to join politics, I will support them 100 percent but it will be their choice. My son is already in politics...whatever makes them happy.

If you became president for one day, what immediate change would you bring about and why?

FM: As a speaker, I did get the opportunity to become president several times; an acting president position. That is part of the oath a speaker takes. But in our country, in the parliamentary system, the president is more of a head of state and does not have that kind of power. I don't think there's much you can do for an hour, a minute or a day, but if a woman could become president then it would send a message to the women of Pakistan that no position is only for a man.

What is the one thing you would want to change – something really close to your heart, possibly?

FM: The health and education sectors are two areas which have been left on the back burners – that is where we need to focus.



WITH THE FIRST WOMAN SPEAKER OF LOK SABHA, MEIRA KUMAR AT THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 2012

What is your fondest memory of Benazir Bhutto?

FM: Oh, there are so many. Just being with her... But I think the fondest memory I have is when she visited Badin, which was soon after our election in 1997. At that time, there were only three women sitting in opposition because we didn't have special quota back then; the other three women were Benazir Bhutto, her mother and me. I got a chance to spend a lot of time with her in parliament in Islamabad but especially in Badin where we were up all night – she was sitting on my bed. We chatted, laughed, cried and discussed so many things.

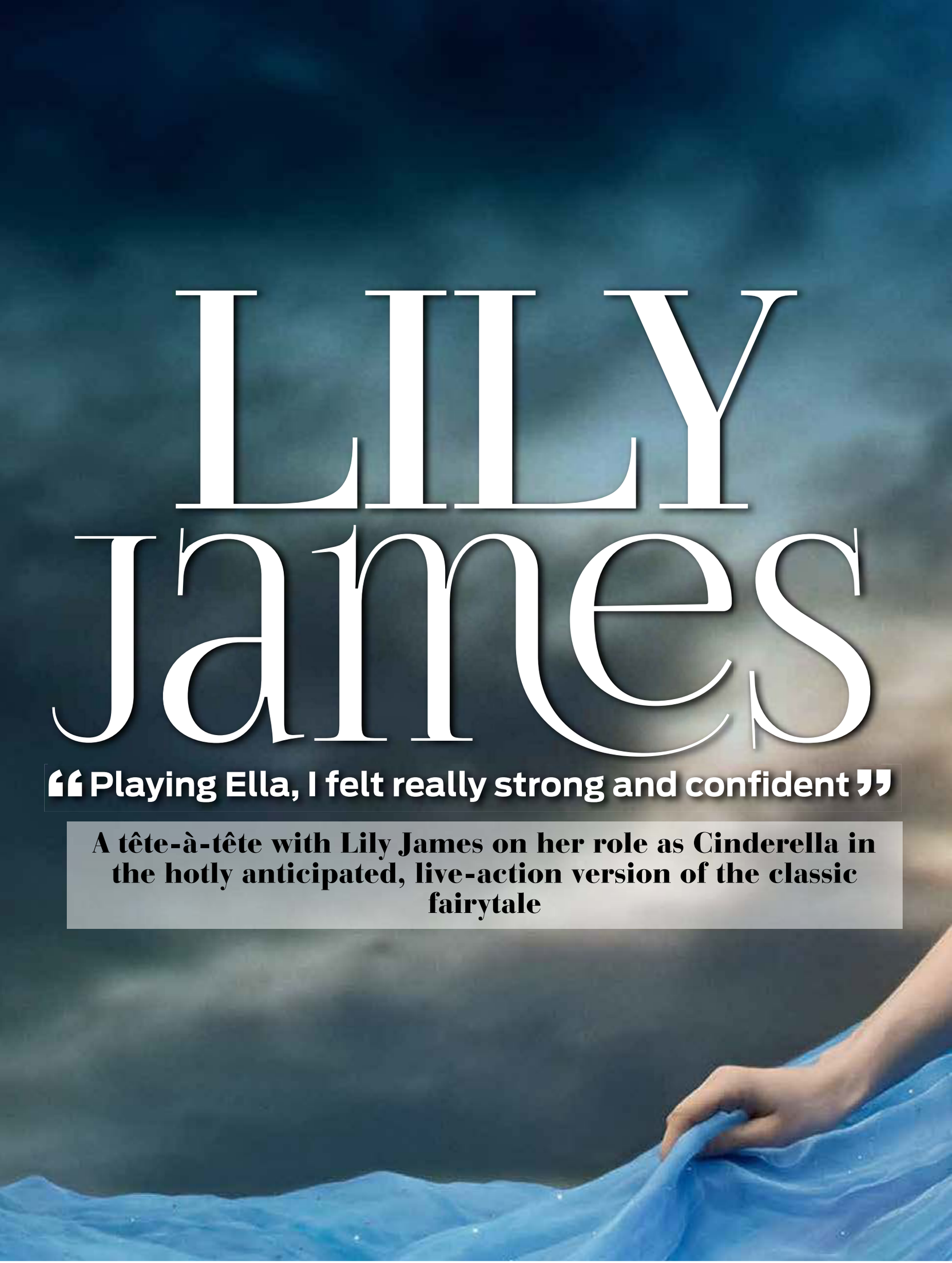
What was the most important thing you learnt from her?

FM: Sensitivity towards issues, people and family – it's something I don't see much now. That is the best quality a person can have – as an individual and as a leader. Her focus was the marginalised section of society and the women of Pakistan – in fact women all over the world.

Tell us about your last meeting with her.

FM: Our last meeting was on December 17, 2007 at a *jalsa* in Hyderabad – but there were lots of people around. The last meeting me and my husband had with her was at Bilawal House. My opponent had challenged me and my husband's nomination as well as mine in court to contest in the election in court. So we were just sitting and laughing about it – that's when the court had allowed me but they were still sitting on my husband's nomination papers. So then she said, "*Biwi ki dua lia karo – biwi ki dua logey tau decision ajayega*." When she was allotting and my husband had applied for the ticket, she said, "I have to speak to your wife first. If she allows you to be in politics, only then I'll give you the ticket." And then we were called and I still have that picture with me when she asked me, "Do you want him in politics?" She was larger than life. OK!

INTERVIEW: SAHER H PARACHA
PHOTOGRAPHS: KOHI MARRI, AFP, COURTESY FEHMIDA MIRZA



LILY James

“Playing Ella, I felt really strong and confident”

A tête-à-tête with Lily James on her role as Cinderella in the hotly anticipated, live-action version of the classic fairytale





STILLS FROM DISNEY'S *CINDERELLA*



Born Lily Chloe Ninette Thomson in 1989, the beautiful British actress is better known by her stage name, Lily James. She has been acting on a professional level since she graduated from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2010, and has appeared in plum film and theatre projects including *The Seagull* at Southwark Playhouse, and *Othello* at the Crucible in Sheffield. She is best known, perhaps, for her role as Lady Rose MacClare in the period drama, *Downton Abbey*, and has garnered warm reviews for her portrayal of the irreverent character.

2015 looks all set to be Lily's year as she stars in the title role of the Disney film, *Cinderella* opposite Helena Bonham Carter and Richard Madden. The Kenneth Branagh production is generating massive publicity and Lily has drawn a lot of interest for bringing the fairytale princess to life, especially on the red carpet for the film's premieres. We catch up with the charming actress to talk about all things Cinderella!

I understand you didn't audition for Ella or Cinderella, but for one of her sisters, right?
Lily James: Yes, that's right. When I first auditioned, I went in for one of the sisters. Then Lucy Bevan, the casting director, said, "You should read for Cinderella too." So, I did and then it was a very, very long process of auditions and screen tests. Months went by!

What was your first reaction when you learned you got the part?
LJ: Ken [Kenneth Branagh] rang me and said, "You've got the part!" I acted very calm but when I got off the phone, I screamed. I couldn't help myself. I was so shocked. It was one of the most surreal, exciting moments I've ever had. I wasn't sure if he really said, "I want you to be my Cinderella" or if I dreamed it up. When it sank in that I had got the part, I felt really nervous. I had a few months to learn how to horseback ride for the role. When I started taking the lessons, I thought I had a lot of time, but in reality, it wasn't that much time.



The experience from start to finish must have felt like a fairytale?
LJ: Yes, it was overwhelming. It was incredible! When I first put on the blue dress, I knew I was Cinderella. It's such a magical gown – so luscious. It helped me get into the part. There were many layers to the dress and thousands of Swarovski crystals – amazing, really!

Did you like the original story and the character?
LJ: Yes, I did. It was one of the stories I grew up with and I was really into. I also loved the animation film, especially the music of it. The story affected me deeply.

Did you think the script was faithful to the story?
LJ: Yes, pretty much, although Chris Weitz, the screenwriter, changed the character of Cinderella,

> “When I first put on the blue dress, I knew I was Cinderella.”

especially in her relationship with the Prince.

Can you describe it in detail?
LJ: She is not a victim. She doesn't wait around for the Prince to save her. The script wanted her to be in charge of the choices she is making. And through this and the strength and courage that she has, she's able to choose to stay in the house. When the Prince does come along, it's a chance meeting and you get the sense that they are actually saving each other. She is not dreaming of the Prince and wishing upon the stars; she is busy living her life. That's very profound. They're equals when they meet.

It seems to be a very modernised version...
LJ: Yes! The old-fashioned ones are the stepsisters. They're waiting around for the Prince. One says: "I wonder what he looks like and what he is about!" And the other one says: "Who cares what he looks like and what he is about. He is a Prince!"

Do you think the Prince falls in love with her because she's a modern girl?
LJ: Probably. These two characters really fall in love before they know whom the other is. Even at the end when he comes and she knows he is the Prince, she says: "This is what I am. Take me or leave me!" This is the greatest risk that she's taking to tell him who she truly is. So, in our version, she's a much stronger character than in the original.

What would be your version of the Prince? What qualities should he have?
LJ: I think he has to be understanding even if you are pissed at him. That would be my perfect Prince. He shouldn't be a weak character just because he is a Prince. He should be charismatic, sexy, naughty and intelligent – all that.

Sophie McShea, your *Downton Abbey* alumni, plays one of the two wicked stepsisters. She's a mean girl!
LJ: Oh yes! But I paid it back when I laced her corset! She could barely breathe [Laughs]

What was your first impression of Richard Madden?
LJ: I had a very good impression of him from the very start. I totally adore him – he's amazing! What's so great about him is that he brings so much to the part. He is funny, charismatic, sexy and vulnerable.

Did you have to get in shape to fit into the dress?
LJ: I did yoga. And on the days when I was wearing the dress, I went on a kind of liquid diet. I didn't want to burp into Richard Madden's face; that would have been very impolite! It was not easy to wear that dress, I can tell you!

How long did it take you to take it on and off?
LJ: It took a long time to get it on, I don't know exactly how long, it varied, and then 20 minutes to take it off. Going to the toilet with our dresses on wasn't possible so we got these portable things that we had to put under the skirts. It was something else!

You look extremely thin in this dress with the corset so tight. Do you think thin equals beautiful?
LJ: Oh, my God, not at all! I think beautiful means to be healthy, confident and natural. Being thin or not thin is ▶



AT THE 65TH BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN GERMANY



“THE SLIPPERS DIDN’T FIT MY FEET. I DON’T THINK THEY FIT ANYBODY AND ACTUALLY THE PRINCE SHOULD STILL BE OUT THERE SEARCHING FOR HIS BRIDE!”

LILY JAMES ATTENDS THE PREMIERE OF *CINDERELLA* AT THE EL CAPITAN THEATRE IN CALIFORNIA



KENNETH BRANAGH, CATE BLANCHETT, HOLLIDAY GRAINGER, LILY JAMES, SOPHIE MCSHERA & RICHARD MADDEN ATTEND THE PREMIERE OF DISNEY'S *CINDERELLA* AT THE EL CAPITAN THEATRE IN HOLLYWOOD

not the question here. The corset really makes the difference here!

How did *Downton Abbey* change your career and your life itself?
LJ: Well, I think it has changed but not in the way people would expect. My lifestyle hasn't changed and I'm not recognised on the street. I'm still pretty anonymous. As an actress, what you really want is to be seen and this is what the show has given me. It gives you the kind of profile that you want. I'm very happy and grateful.

It seems like you're living kind of a Cinderella story?
LJ: At the moment, I have a really, really great time traveling around and doing press for this film that I really love and I'm so proud of. I'm so grateful and happy to be a part of all that. To act with Cate Blanchett and be directed by Kenneth Branagh, I couldn't feel more happy and proud.

I love the scene when Cate tells you that she was also in love once but it didn't work out. This is the scene that is very modern and I don't remember it from the original. Was this one of the changes?
LJ: Yes, of course, that was one of the modernised scenes. That was done in the script and Ken was keen to make it feel as real as possible in this fairytale. In order to achieve that you have to make the characters three-dimensional. He gave us a back-story so we could understand why they are who they are. You see that the girls are mean because their mother bullies them. And the mother is treating them the way she does because life was not treating her well and she is bitter. She's hurt by the world and she is carrying stuff in her heart that makes her hard. Through all that, I understood my character much better and I knew why she behaved the way she did.

But through all this, she is very kind. How can she do that?
LJ: Yes, she stays very kind and that's important so we can relate to her. Otherwise she would be just like the others. It is not always easy for her to stay calm and kind. She is even capable of telling her stepmother, "I forgive you!" And it came easy to her.

What was harder to play, Ella, or the princess?
LJ: Of course, Ella is a lot easier to play – she's just a normal girl. But with the princess, I knew that people have such tremendous expectations about who she is. I had to meet them.

How about the slippers? Did you really dance in them? They didn't look so comfortable!
LJ: No, I didn't dance in them at all. The slippers didn't fit my feet. I don't think they fit anybody and actually, the Prince should still be out there searching for his bride! They were made of Swarovski crystals and they could break very easily; they were so delicate.

> "THE EMPHASIS IS ON BEING KIND AND COURAGEOUS. IN THAT SENSE, IT'S A MODERN FAIRYTALE."

What do you think will be the next level of roles in your career?
LJ: This is something I don't want to think about. I'm living in the moment and the press tour has taken out all my time and energy, which is good!

What do you think is the deeper message of the movie?
LJ: I think it is to have courage and be kind, and all will be well. It's so simple but that's the essence and I believe in it. It's so true. And if you can remember that in difficult times, it will help you to get through. Courage is something everybody wants to have but kindness is underestimated! Her spirit is unique and powerful and you could look up to it. In that sense she is a role model.

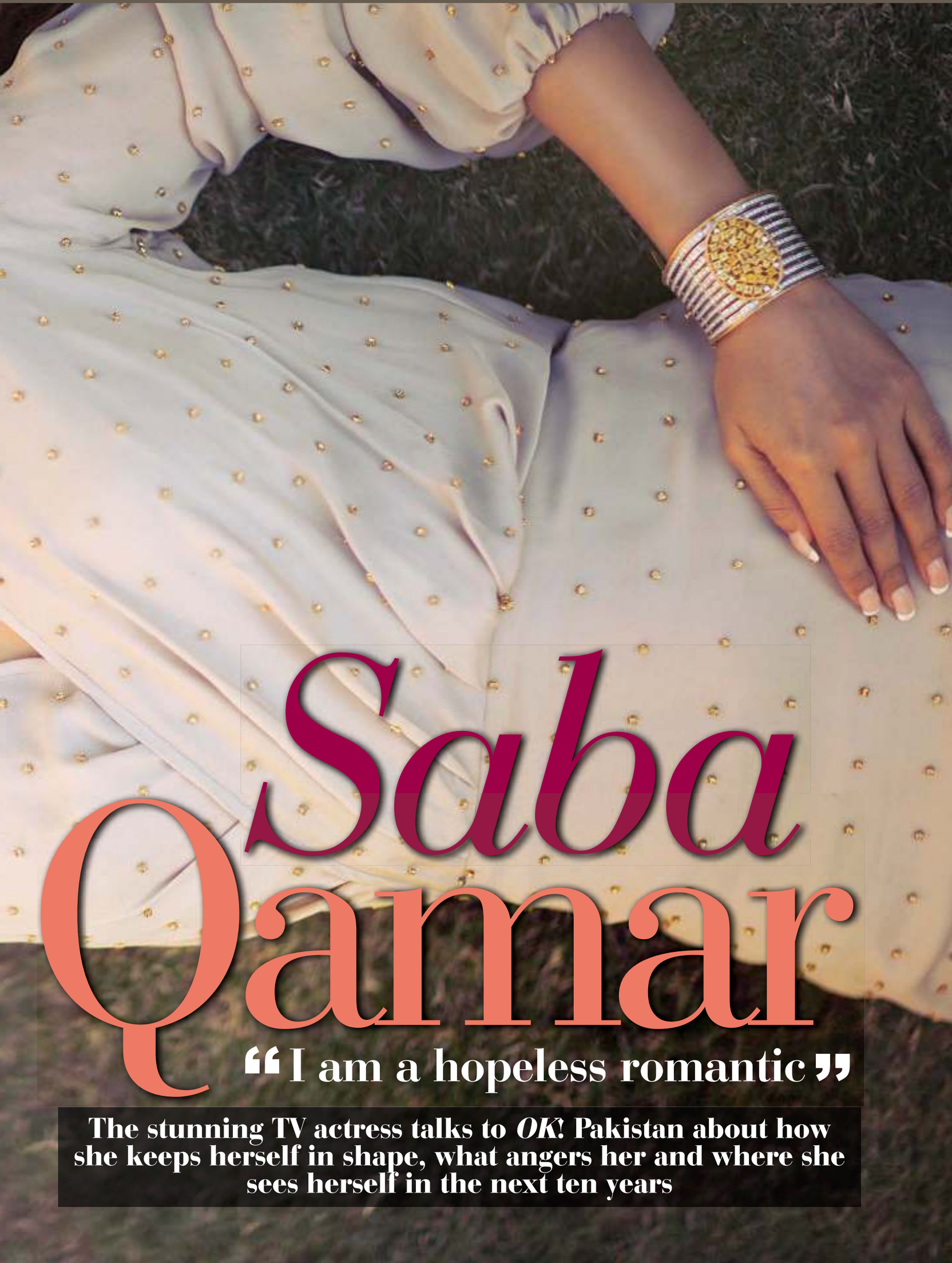
Girls very often have unrealistic expectations about relationships. In what way do you think this movie adds to the delusions?
LJ: I mean, it's a fairytale and the best possible outcome of the situation is to love and be loved. But the emphasis is on being kind and courageous. In that sense, it's a modern fairytale. Another change is that the stepsisters are beautiful and not ugly like in the original. They are ugly from the inside but beautiful from the outside.

That brings me to the fact that the movie is not cynical, not for an instant...
LJ: Ken is an ethic storyteller and he wanted to make this about family. He keeps the movie very intimate and he gave it very light touch. He did the whole movie with delicacy. When he was directing the emotional scenes, he had tears in his eyes. His energy was really infectious and he helps you to keep your heart open.

Is there anything in Ella that is also in Lily?
LJ: I think when you play a part, you end up bringing in your own experience and you use your life to enrich the role, and vise versa. Playing Ella, I felt really strong and confident. And I did love yoga! Ken gave me a meditation tape. And I learned to be kind with myself and therefore also with others.

Do you remember your first Disney movie?
LJ: Let me think! Probably, *Snow White*. I loved all the Disney princess movies. I was completely infatuated with all of them, especially with Belle from the 1991 version of *Beauty and the Beast*. She was my favourite. I had the little slippers and would parade around the house before my brothers sort of beat me up and shattered my dreams of being a princess. [Laughs] OK!

INTERVIEW: TERRY MALLOY/FAMOUS
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN



Saba Qamar

"I am a hopeless romantic"

The stunning TV actress talks to *OK!* Pakistan about how she keeps herself in shape, what angers her and where she sees herself in the next ten years

From being an expert impressionist on satirical TV show *Hum Sab Umeed Say Hain* to playing more studied roles in *Maat*, *Pani Jaisa Pyar* and *Digest Writer*, Saba Qamar has donned many hats on the small screen – and we love them all!

With nearly a decade's worth of diverse projects under her belt, Saba will soon be seen in a biopic called *Main Manto*, an eagerly awaited example of her latest forays – and one that has now spent quite some time in post-production limbo. She plays the role of the iconic Madam Noor Jehan, and credits the part with helping her completely shed her inhibitions as an actor.

Her ten years in the industry have also been instructive in terms of interpersonal relationships. Amidst the expected TV politics of seniors versus juniors, there have been occasional hints of scandal as well. Saba reveals that certain unpleasant episodes in the past have taught her to be wary of trusting all and sundry. In collaboration with Labels, *OK*! Pakistan sits down with Saba as she shares details of her upcoming project *Main Manto*, her dream projects and a whole lot more.

How was the experience of playing the role of Madam Noor Jehan in *Main Manto*? What drew you to the role?

Saba Qamar: The movie depicts her life from the age of 16 to her mid 30s. I only have five to six scenes as Madam Noor Jehan but they are crucial. For me, playing this role has been a very significant experience because it has allowed me to become bolder in my acting. I've never met her in person but Sania Saeed and Sarmad Khoosat gave me detailed cues on her mannerisms and movements – they told me things like how she would refer to every man as '*jawaan*' and how she would chew her cardamom pops; about her *saris* and make-up. They gave me a lot of confidence and made it fun.

When is *Main Manto* expected to hit screens?

SQ: I think even Sarmad, the movie's director, doesn't know for sure when the movie will be released. It's definitely in the process of being released soon; the film will be released first and then a TV serial will be derived from it. I think Madam Noor Jehan's family had some reservations about not being asked for permission which was their right; so some re-editing is underway to accommodate any qualms they may have.

You've done an item song called *Mastaani* in upcoming production, *8696*. The video received a rather negative response – tell us about that.

SQ: The response to that was very harsh, and rightly so. Firstly, I want to clarify that it wasn't a movie, but more of an experimental telefilm. The director, Azeem Sajjad is an old family friend. He said, "My heroine has left, so please do this song for me as a favour." I had some reservations but I was promised discreet lighting and shooting angles, so I decided to do it as a favour to a friend; I trusted him blindly and thought that he would keep his word. I actually earned a very small amount of money for it as opposed to what I earn even on one appearance on a morning show – so money wasn't my objective either. I felt like it was such a poor song, and I regretted doing it immediately afterwards. So I went back to Azeem and told him that I didn't have a good feeling about it and offered to re-shoot the song – I told him that I would even pay him for the cost of the project. He said he would talk to the producer but two days later, he released the video without my knowledge! I found out when a friend called and told me. When I went to the director, he offered to re-shoot the song but the damage was done – so I refused. I felt a friend betrayed me and that you shouldn't do any favours for anyone. I have left it up to God. Hazrat Ali once said that when you



go to the end with someone, you either get a good friend or a good lesson – I learnt a lesson. There are no friends here.

Which project of yours has been the most fun to work on for you?
SQ: *Main Manto* was great fun! We would work from one morning to the next and still feel fresh. Working with Sarmad is always a great experience. He's very fun-loving and never lets you get bored. He's a good entertainer; a good friend; a good person. Working on *Aina* and *Pani Jaisa Pyar* was a lot of fun too, although the prior was shot during the elections in very difficult conditions. The team was on set in Karachi when the convoy was held at gunpoint by a gang of 22 men and was robbed of everything including the original script.

These days, TV shows are all about weeping women, and domestic abuse is sometimes portrayed as a norm in society. How do you feel about that?
SQ: I don't want to play any roles where a woman is unnecessarily subservient. As Saba Qamar or as a person, would I ever put up with physical abuse? Absolutely not. So why portray women as a weak species on screen. Domestic abuse is a tragic reality – I have seen it happen to women in my life and it is scary. It has put me off – you just cannot trust anyone.

An actor whose work you've been inspired or influenced by...
SQ: Amongst the men in our industry, I think Noman Ijaz is excellent with his expressions. He was one of my first co-stars and he has given me some great advice. He told me that my eyes are an asset, and that I should use them to emote. Anne Hathaway is someone who inspires also – love her work! Tabu, Irrfan Khan, Rubina Ashraf and Sania Saeed as well. Saba Pervez is a very natural actor. I think it's very important to be emotionally sensitive and have experiences in life to be able to understand the process of conveying feelings. I never use glycerin for tears. It is a game of feelings. Other things are also important and help build your character, but expression is key.

> "I'm at a stage where I would prefer if a guy tells me that he wants to get to know me as opposed to telling me that he loves me just for the sake of it."



Your parody of movie star Meera has been exceptionally accurate! Has she ever been upset with you?
SQ: I have mimicked several actresses on TV, and if they have been bothered by it, they never said anything directly. Politicians tend to love their parodies though, and from what I have heard, they compare their personal ratings even in the assembly as well at times!

Tell us about politics in the industry.
SQ: I was 19 when I started out in 2004, and I haven't even had the time to scratch my nose. If you think you are right, then you will be fine. I am very professional on set and try to keep the environment very positive for everyone. However, I have come to realise that that itself can sometimes lead people to suspect selfish motives. I used to be very sensitive when I first started out but I know now that you can't change anyone but yourself. There is a lot of petty bickering that is always going on between older actors and new ones. I stay away from people who are a source of negative energy. But these kind of people can only make you stronger; they kill your innocence which is by no means a good ▶


“ Acting is a game of feelings. Other things are also important and help build your character, but expression is key. ”



thing. However, I always try to stay positive. I feel that you get whatever is destined for you, and thankfully, all is going well.

If you could invite three people to dinner, who would they be?
SQ: My yoga instructor and mentor Anisa Sikander, my best friend Atif Manzoor and Bilawal Bhutto. I like him! I know people say all sorts of things about him but I feel that when you force someone to say certain things and speak a certain way, it will always sound forced. I think there is such an innocence about him.

With such a hectic schedule, how do you deal with stress and stay in shape?
SQ: Well, music helps a lot. I never listen to sad songs, and I am a hopeless romantic! I feel like I don't need a group of people to be happy in life. Listening to Kishore Kumar or Lata Mangeshkar, or any kind of light music helps me deal with stress. I love watching movies and reading books, too. *PK* was a great movie – I watched it several times! As far as keeping myself fit is concerned, I am very careful about what I eat. I think if you follow some of our religious tenets on diet, you will stay fit. When having a meal, [don't stuff yourself] stop when you feel there's still space for more. I walk occasionally. I run and do yoga as well; weights as well when I feel my arms need toning. When I need to meet a weight loss target, I don't stop eating altogether – instead, I cut carbs out of my diet and stop having late night meals.

What are your thoughts on working in Bollywood?
SQ: I'm very cautious, and wary of being misused following one or two odd incidents where things didn't quite add up. But I think more than that, there are certain kinds of roles that I would be very attracted to. Kangana Ranaut has done some films in which I felt the role was particularly interesting, such as *Tanu Weds Manu* and *Queen*.

> "I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANY ROLES WHERE A WOMAN IS UNNECESSARILY SUBSERVIENT."

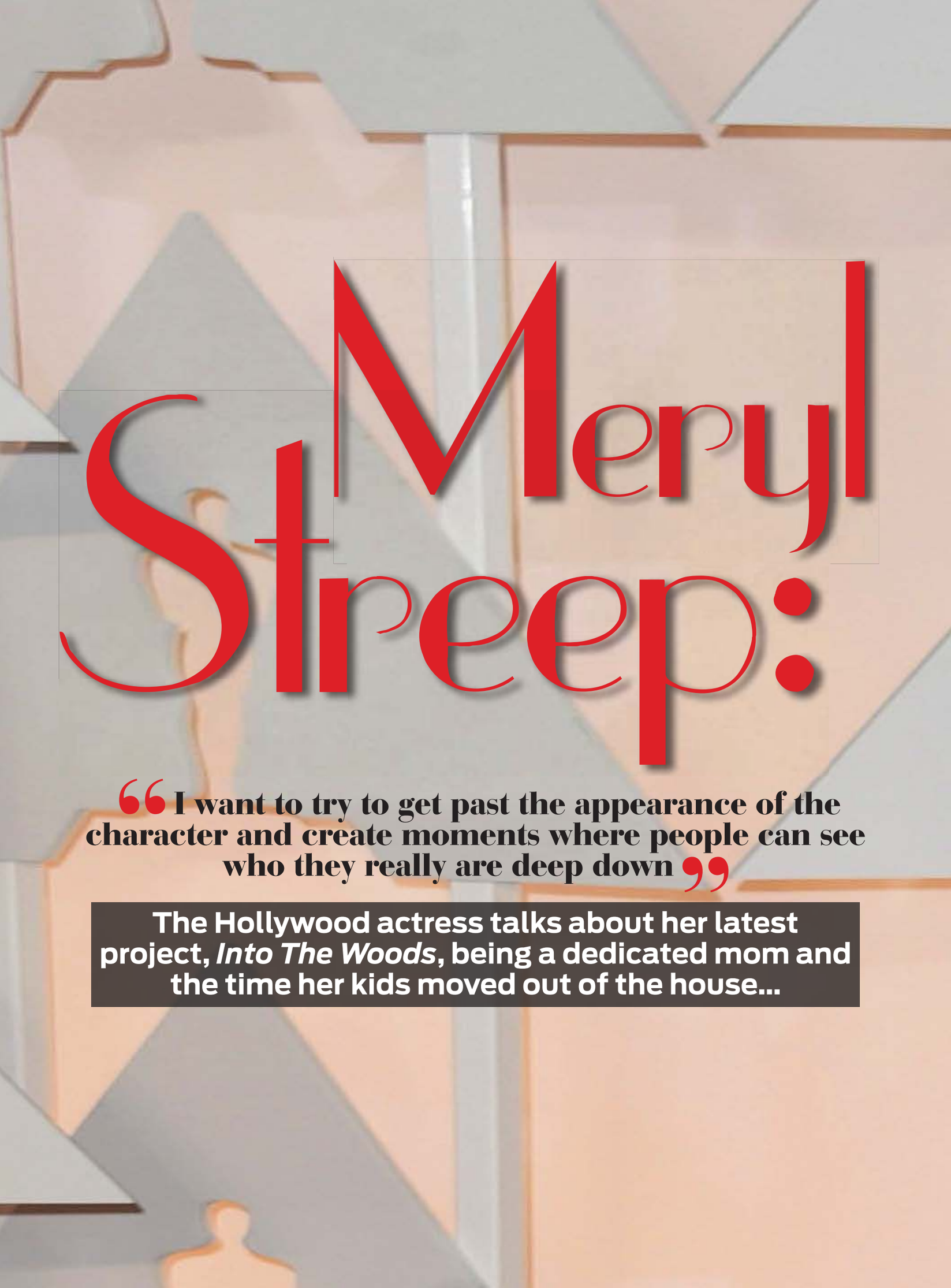
Also, Amir Khan's role as *PK* was amazing, and something I would love to do if ever written for a woman; his character is very strong. Tabu's role in *Maqbool* was great too. The storylines we cover here are usually about terrorism – we need to explore more.

What makes you angry?
SQ: When people lie, and get caught. That kind of betrayal is extremely disappointing. I often say, "*Dramay wali auraton kay saath dramay na karain*". I am not fake and I don't think I could ever stand someone who is. I'm at a stage where I would prefer if a guy tells me that he wants to get to know me as opposed to telling me that he loves me just for the sake of it.

Tell us about some of your upcoming projects.
SQ: I am reading the script of a play called *Sangat* by Zafar Mairaj *sahib*. It looks like a great project and I was told it's the kind of role an actor dreams of. This year, I have decided to only choose roles that are artistic and speak to my soul. It's no longer about money. And Zafar *sahib* gave me some excellent advice too; he said that I should move away from sitcoms. Apart from that, I would love to open a restaurant at Bedian Road in Lahore – it would have a Lollywood theme. Staff members would be dressed up as icons like Sultan Rahi greeting customers at the door and Madam Noor Jehan at the reception; waiters would be dressed in bell-bottoms with polka dots. I would name it 'Lollywood Tonight!' With a good menu and fun environment, I think it could really stand out.

Where do you see yourself in the next ten years?
SQ: One can't really say; how can you know? But maybe at a beautiful place with a cool breeze, a cup of coffee and a good book – at peace. OK!

INTERVIEW: KHADIJA AMJAD
PHOTOGRAPHS: MUZI SUFI
STYLING & COORDINATION: ALYZEH RAHIM SHIRAZI
HAIR & MAKE-UP: SEEMA AT PIVOT POINT/RAVISSANT
WARDROBE: MAHEEN KARIM & NIDA AZWER @ LABELS
JEWELLERY: SHEREZAD



Meryl Streep:

"I want to try to get past the appearance of the character and create moments where people can see who they really are deep down"

The Hollywood actress talks about her latest project, *Into The Woods*, being a dedicated mom and the time her kids moved out of the house...





JAMES LAPINE, WYATT SMITH, ANNA KENDRICK, MERYL STREEP, ROB MARSHALL & DION BEEBE ATTEND THE SCREENING OF *INTO THE WOODS* AT THE ACADEMY THEATRE IN NEW YORK

A legend in her own time, Meryl Streep shows no signs of slowing down. Now 65, she continues to find great roles at an age where few actresses remain gainfully employed. And despite amassing three Oscars, 18 nominations, and sundry other awards and honours, Streep remains fiercely ambitious even though she admits to driving herself "crazy" each time she commits to a film.

That wasn't the case, however, when it came to her new film, *Into The Woods*, the screen adaptation of the beloved Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical. Directed by Rob Marshall, the film may well become a classic for the dazzling way in which it blends several of Disney's most beloved fairy tales and characters into a single narrative. Streep jumped at the chance to play the witch who preys over a magical forest and sings, cackles, and otherwise torments Cinderella and company.

"I was overwhelmed when I first saw the musical performed on Broadway," Streep recalls. "I remember coming out of the theatre and singing to myself – that's how much I love Sondheim's songs. I feel very fortunate to be part of this film and I'm lucky to still have these kinds of opportunities to make movies and do what I love at an age where many women are sadly cast aside. It's almost a miracle."

Streep headlines a star-studded cast that includes Anna Kendrick (a singing sensation as Cinderella), Johnny Depp as the wolf, Chris Pine as the Prince, and James Corden as the baker, Emily Blunt as the baker's wife, and Christine Baranski as Cinderella's evil stepmother.

Though she delighted in the chance to sing again following her acclaimed performance in *Mamma Mia!*, Streep found it hard to be working on *Into the Woods* while at the same time doing press for *August: Osage County* last November, a performance that earned her yet another Oscar nomination. Recalls Streep: "It was a very strange thing to be working with Rob Marshall and singing so many wonderful songs and then spend time talking about a very dark film which felt like several circles of hell to shoot."

It was in the '80s that Meryl Streep first established herself as the greatest actress of her generation in films such as *Sophie's Choice*, *Out of Africa*, and *A Cry in the Dark*. Though the '90s saw her play in notable films like *Death Becomes Her* and *The Bridges of Madison County*, Streep was more interested in spending time with her sculptor husband Don Gummer and their four children, Henry, Mamie, Grace, and Louisa on their Connecticut estate. It was during the time her children were entering adolescence that we barely heard of Meryl until she earned an Oscar nomination for her work in *The Hours* (2002). That marked the beginning of a career renaissance that included box-office hits *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006) and *Mamma Mia!* (2008) before taking home yet another Oscar, her third, as Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady* (2011).

Today, Streep and Gummer live in the Tribeca area of New York. Two of their children are pursuing acting careers: daughter Mamie Gummer, 31, and Grace Gummer, 28.



U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA PRESENTS THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO MERYL STREEP AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Meryl, what was special for you about playing the witch in *Into the Woods*?

Merly Streep: It's rare to be able to work on a film that has this kind of heightened reality. Rob Marshall created this beautiful, magical world for me and everyone else in the cast and it becomes so much easier to lose yourself in the process.

Is it very different for you as an actress to play in this kind of fantasy film as opposed to playing in a regular drama?

MS: You don't approach that differently. It's still acting. You're still involved in the process of transforming yourself into your character and becoming part of that world you create with your fellow actors on set. What made it more fun for me was being able to go to work every day, ▶



“Rob Marshall created this beautiful, magical world for me and everyone else in the cast and it becomes so much easier to lose yourself in the process.”

AT THE GALA SCREENING OF *INTO THE WOODS* AT THE CURZON MAYFAIR IN LONDON



MERYL STREEP'S DAUGHTERS, MAMIE & GRACE, AT THE BERNARD B. JACOBS THEATRE IN NEW YORK

> **"I was insecure about myself and my appearance, and then with my acting, I wanted to get past all that and find the truth in the women I was playing."**

wear a crazy costume and let my imagination fly with this character who is really out of this world on many levels.

What kind of evil tricks does the witch get to play on the characters in her world?
MS: The witch sets the whole machinery of impossible tasks in motion so she can have her wish, which is to not be ugly. Her mother put a curse of ugliness on her because somebody stole the beans – the baker's father. So her metamorphosis is that Rapunzel, whom she loves more than anything in the world, will love her because she'll be beautiful. Of course, women think that if they're beautiful, they will be loved. The thing is, you can get your wish and Rapunzel will still hate you. It's such an interesting problem that Sondheim sets up. Everybody has a wish, and everybody gets their wish. That's just the end of the first act...it's an ambitious thing.

Many people don't know that you studied opera as a teenager. Does that make singing something you look forward to in a big musical like this?
MS: When I was 13, I didn't like opera – ewww! I liked cheerleading and boys – that was what I was interested in, and Barbra Streisand, The Beatles and Bob Dylan. But I loved singing. I loved it. And I did have a very good coloratura. But it's a voice I don't have anymore. It was very high, light and free. It's become deeper over the years.

Was music part of your upbringing at home?
MS: My father was a pianist. Well, actually he was a businessman who would rather have become a musician. He composed songs and has also published a few. And he wrote a musical together with a friend; very funny, a lot of great ballads and love songs. He was just a romantic. And I sang with him at the piano. My mother would have liked to have been a lounge singer, she sang at home continuously.

Was it different preparing for *Into the Woods* as compared to *Mamma Mia!*?



MERYL STREEP & HUSBAND DON GUMMER ARRIVE FOR A DINNER AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON

MS: [Laughs] This time my children (who are now adults and have left home) didn't have to put up with me driving them crazy with all the home singing exercises I normally do to get ready for a role like this. Doing *Mamma Mia!* was different because I had grown up with so many of the ballads like *Dancing Queen* which just lifts you up and I had more fun making that film than almost



MERYL STREEP PLAYS THE ROLE OF THE WITCH IN *INTO THE WOODS*



anything I ever did. *Into the Woods* is a darker kind of story but the singing is always enjoyable.

Do you try to identify with so many of the great women characters you've had the opportunity to play during your career?
MS: I try to become part of them and imagine that I'm like them in different ways. My main goal is to find their essence and impart to the audience their soul and basic humanity. I want to try to get past the appearance of the character and create moments where people can see who they really are deep down.

Where does that instinct to find the underlying essence of a person come from?
MS: It probably comes from my childhood where I often felt neglected and misunderstood and I was always trying to show people who I was really like. I was insecure about myself and my appearance, and then with my acting, I wanted to get past all that and find the truth in the women I was playing. When I speak to young actors and they want me to give them very specific advice on technique and such things, I try to tell them that they should also be investing themselves in learning about the world. "Educate yourself in everything but acting. Learn about everything else. Learn about the human condition." That's the kind of actor I wanted to be. I'm curious about everything and everybody, and not limit myself with a certain kind of acting. I wanted to understand what made people, all kinds of people, not just those from New Jersey, where I grew up.

Did you try to tell your children to find a different course in life other than what their mother followed?
MS: What I advised them would fill several volumes. People want to do what they want to do. My husband and I always thought, "Well, maybe we'll get a molecular biologist out of them, but that just wasn't going to happen with their parents' DNA." So we have artists! [Smiles] Not that they listen, but I just told them the same thing I tell any young actor: find out what kind of actor you want to be. There are a million different ways to enter this profession and showbiz is a pretty big tent. There are a lot of different kinds of actors, so educate yourself for the kind you want to be.

Do your daughters talk to you about your film roles a lot?
MS: Not very much. But my youngest daughter wasn't so happy to see me play Violet (the cancer-stricken woman in *August: Osage County*). After seeing the film, she said to me: "Mom, you're great, but everyone is going to hate you!" [Laughs]

You and your husband moved to New York several years ago when the last of your children left home. How is your life different now?
MS: A lot changes when your children are gone. It takes a while to settle into a different kind of life but then you discover you have to find new ways to fill your day and get to enjoy that time together. You start seeing your friends more often and get to do many more things together that you weren't able to do when you're living with your children. So we have been able to use this time in our lives to get closer in some ways.

You've often said that your family is your greatest triumph. How does it feel to see your children grown up now and making their way in the world?
MS: It was heartbreaking at times when they were in the process of leaving the house and going away to university because I've always loved and dedicated myself to my children. Acting might be my passion, but my children have always been my greatest joy in life...I still love it whenever we can get together and I can fuss over them. I just worry that some of them (Mamie and Louisa) have followed me into acting and have to deal with the same disappointments and stress that I had to deal with. OK!

INTERVIEW: JAN JANSSEN / THE INTERVIEW FEED
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN



Nigar NAZAR

"As one matures and faces the realities of life, themes of cartoons switch from fun and frolic to meaningful subjects"



The eminent cartoonist talks to *OK*! Pakistan exclusively about being named one of the 100 Women of 2014 by the *BBC*, what inspired her to create the famous comical character of Gogi and what an average day in her life looks like...

Inspiration always comes from within, and the country's most recognised cartoonist Nigar Nazar has proved that time and again. She started her career in the '70s with her comic strip, *Gogi,* and went on to publish books on social themes as well. She used her art to convey these messages (sometimes taboo in society), and promote education. A timid village girl called Tahira was profoundly touched by one of Nigar's books on girls' education and convinced her parents to send her back to school. There can be no bigger achievement for Nigar as she tells us how proud she was when she heard about the incident.

Today, she continues to strive to make a difference in society and bring social issues such as sexual harassment and domestic abuse along with other cultural issues in front of the public eye. The jovial and affable Nigar talks to us about her journey as a cartoonist and her future plans.

How did you end up becoming a cartoonist? Did you always have that artistic innate drive?

Nigar Nazar: I was always fond of drawing. Art was always of interest to me but since I was good in my studies, I was encouraged to become a doctor. But the artist in me would always pop up in some way or the other! I would take journals from my class fellows in our Botany class and draw diagrams for them. It was when the teacher noticed the entire class had similar drawings that I was caught! [Laughs] However, during my pre-medical days, my academics took a U-turn. I got permission from my parents to allow me a year to study a subject of my own choice. I later joined the Fine Arts department at Government College Rawalpindi and since then, there has been no looking back. Being an acid comic book reader, I always missed reading comics of our own – local ones. After waiting a long time, I finally decided it was time to create comic strips myself. It was difficult because there were no art colleges to teach this specific genre of art. It was partly self-taught and partly due to my work experience with local newspapers such as *The Sun Daily*, *The Morning News*, *Dawn*, *The Muslim* and *The News*.



Being named one of the 100 Women of 2014 by the *BBC* must have been a great feeling. What was your instant reaction when you found out?

NN: I was actually quite surprised at being noticed since my work had not been in the mainstream lately. I never stopped drawing but I was curious at how I was tracked down. I had just been busy with children's storybooks, decorating hospital walls with colourful, cartoon art and bus wrapping – never really ▶

> When I feel strongly about a certain scenario or topic, then I feel that I am inspired to deal with it in a witty and humourous way.



NIGAR NAZAR WITH TAHIRA



WITH TV ANCHOR AIKO DODEN DURING THE JAPANESE TEAM'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN FOR THEIR DOCUMENTARY ON NIGAR NAZAR FOR THEIR PROGRAMME, *ASIAN VOICES*

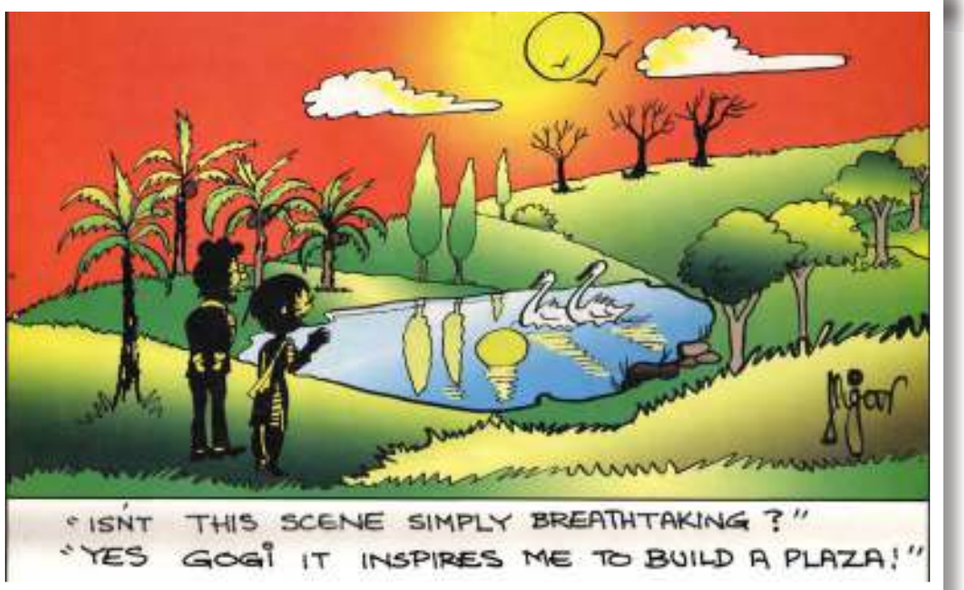
publicised anything apart from putting it up on social media occasionally.

Our society is undoubtedly male-dominated; you are the only woman cartoonist on a professional level. Tell us about the hindrances and difficulties you faced when establishing yourself.

NN: As a woman [in the professional world], I faced several hindrances that any other woman would; juggling household responsibilities and raising children along with professional commitments. My husband was a diplomat and thus I ended up having a rather chequered career – wives weren't able to acquire jobs back in the day due to different [location] postings of their husbands. As a result, I would apply my skill and creativity in embassy events – stage designs, voluntary work, etc. Creating humour when we would reach home was a challenge. All I could do was try, and I did. I ended up completing three compilations of Gogi books, nine illustrated books and five comic books on social issues termed *Gogi's Awareness* comics. These were in Urdu, English and Pashto. It wasn't till five years ago that I officially opened The Gogi Studios. That's when I started taking up bigger projects like bus wrapping – public buses in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad plus coasters for Gujar Khan). The hospital project was also very refreshing to me. I have done art in four hospitals till date. Outreach programmes for public school



"I haven't yet found that easy path towards happiness...it is not a static state – it's an active state."







children and disadvantaged communities have also been exciting.

What inspired you to create Gogi – has your subconscious shaped her personality or is she just a fictional cartoon character you made up?

NN: When I began to create the Gogi comic strip, I knew the central character would be a young, educated, modern, liberal woman who was often misunderstood; one who would be passionate to contribute towards nation building. She is my alter ego and the voice of womanhood in Pakistan.

The subjects you touch upon - sexual harassment, domestic abuse, cultural issues, etc - are rather profound. How do you portray them via a comic strip? How do you find the right balance between making it funny and subtle yet getting such a serious message across?

NN: When I feel strongly about a certain scenario or topic, then I feel that I am inspired to deal with it in a witty and humourous way. It takes some thinking, yes. Sometimes I succeed and sometimes I don't, and that's OK. And that's because every single comic strip created by a cartoonist has never been a hit.

How has Gogi's character grown over the years? We know that she isn't just the bubbly girl she once was when the comic started!

NN: As one matures and faces the realities of life, themes of cartoons switch from fun and frolic to meaningful subjects that affect one's daily life. Gogi is an urban Pakistani woman struggling with her frailties in the context of gender discrimination. Finding humour in the given situation is a challenge so it's nice when I see people actually chuckling through the Gogi strips.

Do you feel cartoon strips can help shape society? If yes, in what way?

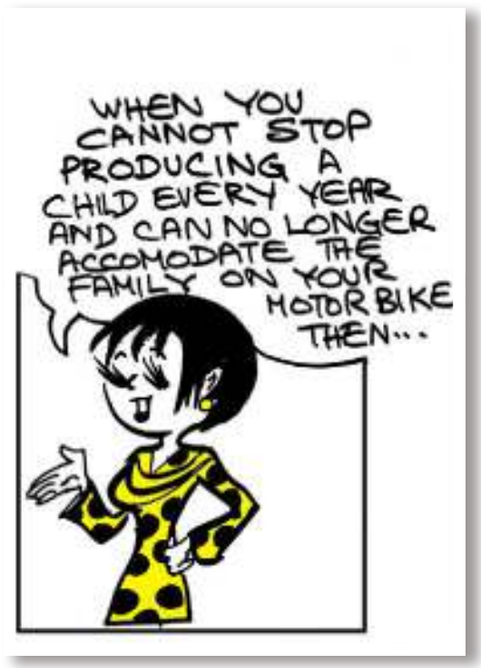
NN: Cartoon strips can't but graphic novels definitely can. If *Uncle Tom's Cabin* can help bring about a revolution in favour of Black Americans, then an effective story which is put across with illustrated images can also have an impact. I am proud to say that one of my Gogi Awareness comic books has a strong testimonial. It is a true story of a village girl [Tahira] who went back to school after reading my book on girls' education called *Fruits of Learning* or in Urdu, *Ilm ki Daulat*. Tahira who lived in the village of Karhai in Chakwaal, was kept from going to school as her parents couldn't afford to send all her siblings to school. Fond of learning and reading, Tahira used to come first in her class. Her record was brilliant but with a heavy heart she had to forego school. In 2011, I decided we would send out 500 sets of our Gogi Awareness comic books as *Sadqa-e-Jahria* to schools in villages. Five schools in the ▶

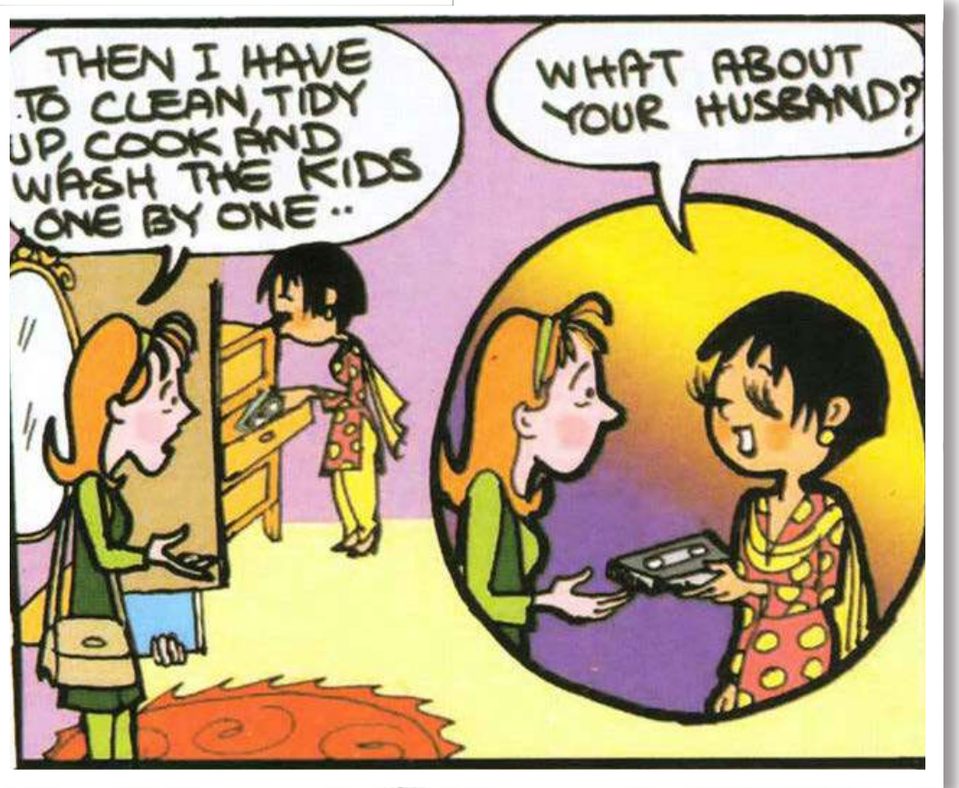




district received our books. Tahira's brother took the set of seven comic books home. Tahira was overjoyed to see these colourful comic books and one by one, she lapped them up. When she came to the one on girls' education, it struck a chord and she got her parents to sit down with her as she read the story to them. As she closed the book, her father [a *subedar*] said to her, "Tahira, from tomorrow you shall go to school too." She then wrote a letter thanking me for changing her life. It means a lot to me – more than any award. She also enclosed a picture of her dad and a photocopy of her mother's CNIC.

What has been one of your favourite Gogi comic strips till date? A message that you feel strongly about or a subject that means something to you.
NN: It's the one about the attitude some families have about the birth of a girl.





Tell us a little about yourself; what keeps you busy? What does an average day in your life look like?
NN: My day starts at *Fajar* with prayer; I sit down afterwards and write down ideas and tasks for the day. I try to do my morning walk and exercise but I am not able to it with regularity as the work pressure mounts at times. I enjoy having breakfast that my husband, an omelette specialist, makes for me and we have our morning chat. The working day would start with a meeting at the studio which is at the Centre for Innovative Entrepreneurship at NUST in Islamabad. After checking my email, I overlook ongoing projects. Otherwise, there is almost always an event to attend, address or discuss. A quick light lunch followed by my 40 winks of 'beauty sleep', which isn't always possible though. I then prepare the lesson plan for the course I am teaching; Cartooning Leading to Animation. Then by 4pm, it's time to go home and prepare a hot meal. That's when family time starts. We try to have an early dinner but don't always succeed.

> "When I feel strongly about a certain scenario or topic, then I feel that I am inspired to deal with it in a witty and humourous way."

Which comics have inspired you throughout your life? Which comics do you regularly read?
NN: *Calvin and Hobbes*, *Stone Soup*, *For Better or For Worse* and *Blondie*. Lately, it has been *Qahera* which is by an Egyptian female cartoonist.

What else is Gogi Studios up to? Any future plans in the pipeline?
NN: I am busy preparing an exhibition of cartoon illustrations based on Japanese Heiko poetry for February. A campaign on health, environment and safety for Coca Cola, a tree book for children along with an awareness campaign on the environment and Gogi comic strips with child characters for young readers of *Uran Tashtiri* and Gogi comics for Daewoo's monthly magazine are all also in the pipeline. My new year resolution is going to be to catch up with my friends and to feature Gogi comics in a mainstream newspaper on a regular basis. OK!

INTERVIEW: EIMAN MASROOR
PHOTOGRAPHS: SEHRISH JEHANGIR, FACEBOOK





Amy Adams

“I can be very stubborn and opinionated”

The Hollywood actress talks about her latest project, *Big Eyes*, how motherhood changed her approach to work and how she has always been a reserved woman…

With five Oscar nominations over a span of nine years, Amy Adams has established herself as one of Hollywood's finest actresses. In films like *Doubt*, *The Master*, and *The Fighter*, she captivated audiences and critics alike with the intensity and vulnerability of her performances. And in last year's *American Hustle*, she displayed a sultry side that the somewhat shy actress had hitherto kept under wraps.

TThe 40-year-old actress is seen in a very different role in her latest project, *Big Eyes*, which premiered in December 2014. It's a biographical drama directed by Tim Burton that sees her play American artist Margaret Keane who became embroiled in a clash with her husband Walter (Christoph Waltz, excellent as always) over the authorship of a celebrated series of paintings of children with large, sad eyes that gained mass appeal in the '50s and '60s. As part of a self-serving marketing strategy, Walter Keane promoted and sold the paintings as his own until the couple divorced and Margaret found the courage to finally assert herself as the real artist.

"Margaret really believed that as a woman, people would not buy her art," says Adams. "Her husband convinced her that [as a man] he could sell more art at a higher price than a woman...but eventually she felt that she could no longer live with that lie and decided to come forward."

Big Eyes marks Tim Burton's triumphant return to form after a recent string of critical and commercial flops (*Frankenweenie* and *Dark Shadows*). His typically bent take on the world is ideally suited to exploring a tumultuous relationship and the scandal that

"I've gained a lot of confidence in myself and I've been able to use that in my work. You need to have a fearless attitude when you're acting if you want to create a performance that reaches people."

rocked the art world. Margaret Keane's battle to be recognised as the artist behind the paintings resulted in a court battle that turned into a farce at times when her ex-husband Walter decided to act as his own attorney and behaved erratically.

"We had to tone down the wilder aspects of the trial because it was so crazy that audiences wouldn't have believed it," Burton explained. "The judge actually had Walter's mouth duct-taped shut during some of the trial...Walter was completely over the edge by that point." Adams donned a blonde wig to play Margaret Keane and benefited from the opportunity to meet the real-life artist (now 87) and discuss her long battle for recognition despite many doubters in the patriarchal art world. Walter Keane passed away in 2000.



TIM BURTON, AMY ADAMS AND CHRISTOPH WALTZ ATTEND AN EVENING WITH THE DIRECTOR AND CAST OF *BIG EYES* IN NEW YORK

Adams lives in Los Angeles together with her fiancé of several years, actor Darren Le Gallo, and their four-year-old daughter, Aviana, a name adapted from the Italian city of Aviano in Northern Italy where Adams was born while her father was serving in the US military. Adams and Le Gallo also co-starred in the film, *Lullaby*.

Amy, what drew you to the role of Margaret Keane?

Amy Adams: It's fascinating for me to be able to play an artist. Playing Margaret was a great opportunity to get to explore her mind and situation. My fiancé is an artist and it's such a unique story; I'm so glad to have been able to tell her story. I also got to speak to Margaret which was the key for me because there wasn't a lot of information on her that I could research. She's a shy and introverted person, and expresses herself best through her art.

There are many outrageous moments between Margaret and her husband; the courtroom battle also took on a farcical tone?

AA: Their life was very surreal and so was the whole story about how she was manipulated by her husband into hiding in the background while he proclaimed himself as the real artist behind her paintings. But she fought to have the truth revealed and ultimately, she was vindicated and won her rightful recognition.

Did you study the way she painted?

AA: I was mainly concerned with the way she handled the brush and applied the paint, and especially the way Margaret created the eyes, which was what attracted so much attention to her work. But of course, I could never master her technique.

Are you much of an artist yourself?

AA: I'm good at arts and crafts, and I'm also good at sewing, as I've discovered repairing my daughter's clothes! [Laughs] ►



AMY ADAMS ARRIVES AT THE 85TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS AT HOLLYWOOD & HIGHLAND CENTER IN CALIFORNIA

> **“In my late twenties, I got to a place where I realised that I was approaching my career and my personal relationships in the wrong way and that I needed to change my attitude or I would be a very unhappy person. I felt very insecure and lost.”**

What was it like meeting the real Margaret Keane?
AA: She’s very shy and reserved, and it took a long time in our conversation before she even made eye contact with me. She’s a very strong woman though, and she still paints. I really admire her.

Your career has steadily gathered momentum specifically over the last several years and you’ve been taking on many different kinds of roles. How satisfying has that been for you?
AA: I’ve gained a lot of confidence in myself and I’ve been able to use that in my work. You need to have a fearless attitude when you’re acting if you want to create a performance that reaches people and you can’t hold anything back inside yourself in terms of finding the emotional level that you need to project. So I keep pushing myself as far as I can go and hope for the best!

In the past, you’ve spoken of having achieved a kind of breakthrough in your life that started you on the way to success. Tell us about that.
AA: In my late twenties, I got to a place where I realised that I was approaching my career and my personal relationships in the wrong way and that I needed to change my attitude or I would be a very unhappy person. I felt very insecure and lost. I knew I had to rethink a lot of things about my life. I stopped worrying and stressing myself about everything, and I began to take more chances and learn to trust my instincts more. It was a scary time for a while but it turned out to be a very good decision.

Your sensual performance in *American Hustle* shocked a lot of people because we had never seen that side of you before...
AA: In *American Hustle*, my character was an idealised version of myself and I don’t know if I would ever have the courage to present myself that way in real life. I thought for a while that I would never wear a really low cut dress after doing that film but then I kind of saw that I could be a little bolder in my fashion tastes. [Laughs] Now I don’t mind wearing more revealing outfits. It’s kind of empowering to wear sexy clothes.

In recent years, we’ve started to hear you talk about how the public impression of you as this very sweet and cheerful person has often been at odds with your tougher sides. How true is that?
AA: [Laughs] I think when I did *The Master* and *The Fighter*, people started wondering if I was as sweet as they thought! [Laughs] I’m pretty strong-willed when it comes to certain things and I can be very stubborn and opinionated – I’m trying to be less, though. I’m generally a pretty cheerful person and I



WITH HER FIANCE DARREN LE GALLO AT THE 11TH ANNUAL JOHN VARVATOS STUART HOUSE BENEFIT IN LOS ANGELES



WITH HER *AMERICAN HUSTLE* CO-STARS BRADLEY COOPER, JEREMY RENNER, CHRISTIAN BALE & JENNIFER LAWRENCE

admit that I smile a lot in life. But when I get angry, I'm not very pleasant to be around and I'm not someone who will back down from a confrontation if the need arises. Earlier in my life, I would let things go and just back down but then I saw that that doesn't do you any good.

Have these strong women roles you've been playing of late been a useful outlet for your dark side?

AA: It really has been good for me. We all bottle up anger or negative energy and sometimes you need to get rid of that and in my case, I have a creative outlet for all those darker emotions and frustrations. All that pent-up anger is very useful when you play characters that have a more aggressive and nasty side.

> **"I enjoy having a lot of friends outside the film business and I try not to isolate myself from the everyday world because that's where I draw a lot of my inspiration in my work."**

Have you changed your way of living in recent years, now that you've become a very famous actress?

AA: No, not really. I enjoy having a lot of friends outside the film business and I try not to isolate myself from the everyday world because that's where I draw a lot of my inspiration for my work. I like meeting people who have interests outside of my narrow world and I love feeling that I can have a pretty normal life. I still prefer to run in the park rather than train in a private gym with a personal trainer. I take my daughter to school every morning and I often speak with other parents. It's important to me not to let myself get trapped in a celebrity bubble. I would dread that feeling.

How has your life or approach to your work changed now that you're a mother?

AA: I try to be careful not to take my characters home. Since my daughter has started to understand more things, I don't want to confuse her too much by coming home and being any different from how mommy usually behaves. In *American Hustle*, I was glad that I was able to leave Sydney on the set behind me. It also allowed me to be much more focused on my character during the time I was working on the film. But we always seemed to be working so hard all day long that there wasn't really much time to feel relaxed. So when I would come home, it was really nice to be able to be with my little girl and just enjoy my time with her.

You named your daughter after the Italian air force base where your father was stationed and where you were born?

AA: Yes. I wanted her name to connect her to my own story in life and how much I still love Italy. My fiancé and I have always been impressed by the deep sense of culture and style you find in Italy and I'm sure we'll spend a lot of time over there with our daughter. I still feel a sense of attachment to Italy. I often sing Italian songs with Aviana and she just loves it.

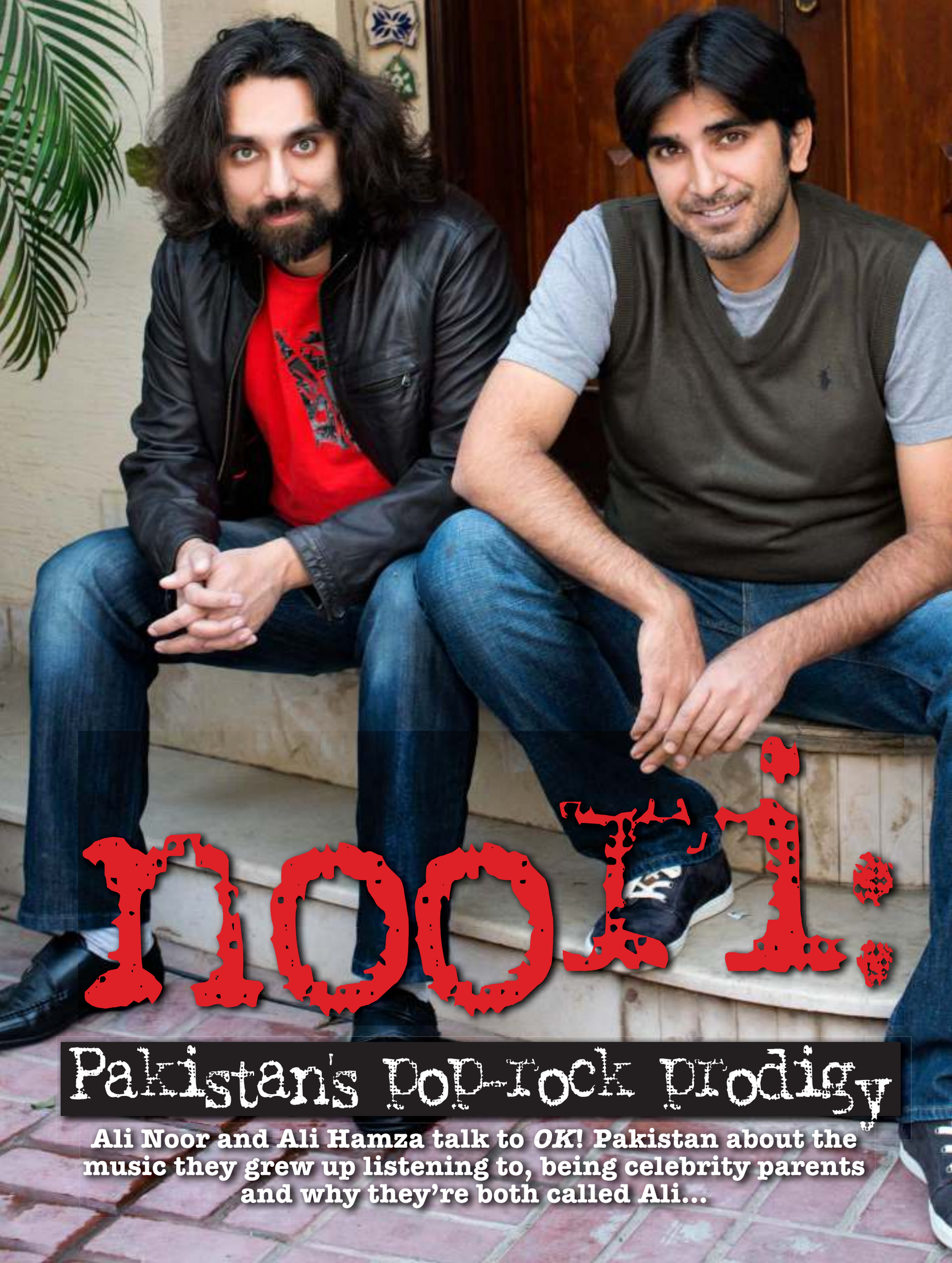
You're often described yourself as very reserved. Why do you think you're like that?

AA: I grew up in a big family [four brothers and two sisters] and I was always happy to let other people have the attention. I always liked the feeling of being in the background and unless I'm working, that's still my natural state. I remember when I was starting out, I loved doing musical theatre and felt so happy when I would get to sing and dance, I still had to overcome my anxiety about performing in front of people. But then it turned out to be one of the happiest times of my life. And I'm still at it! OK!

INTERVIEW: VERONICA PARKER/FAMOUS
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN



AT THE EE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS (BAFTA) AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN LONDON



noor.

Pakistan's pop-rock prodigy

Ali Noor and Ali Hamza talk to *OK!* Pakistan about the music they grew up listening to, being celebrity parents and why they're both called Ali...





A POWER-PACKED NOORI CONCERT

They've been compared to the Foo Fighters and accused of copying music but the fact remains that there's really no one like Noori. The pop-rock band has a unique sound, knows how to fuel up a concert and has a huge fan following. They hit the music scene about 12 years ago with their debut album, *Suno Ke Main Houn Jawan*, and the success it received was colossal.

Since then, Noori has faced its highs and lows – the band started off with Ali Noor and Ali Hamza, two new members (Ali Jafri and Gumby) were later added, the band disbanded and later reunited to record their live album a few years ago. Today, it's just Ali Noor and Ali Hamza but the fans have stood alongside their favourite pop band come any storm. Here, they take a moment and talk to us about what inspires them, their favourite musicians and a lot more.

What inspires you when creating music?

Ali Noor: It can be many things but usually it's some kind of story or event that I've read about in the newspaper or a movie that I've watched. I usually write about very personal things; issues about life outside of ourselves [the band]. What inspires us is the way things exist and how they impact the inside of ourselves.

Ali Hamza: When we make music, there are a lot of inspiring factors – it's very difficult to pinpoint within the process. Every song has a different set of inspirations and stimuli.

Do you feel musicians need to have a uniqueness to their sound in order to survive?

AN: I think the sound that a band or musician develops over time is not something that happens very consciously. It's sort of a subtotal of all the musical experiences you've had growing up and all through your life; you listen to various forms of music, and as you start evolving, you start becoming comfortable with a lot of things, musically. As time passes, people start relating with the kind of sound that you have – it's a natural byproduct of that journey. People start calling it unique because that's just the way you make your music. I just don't think it's right to say that, "OK, today, I'm going to try and create a unique sound to survive." I just feel that if you want to survive, the most important thing is your originality, and that comes from being honest with what you want to say. This is what will ultimately lead you to having that unique sound.

AH: Every band has its unique sound; it is determined by the specific musicians who play their instruments in a certain way with a certain style. For the sake of a band's survival, the uniqueness of their sound does help as people are able to associate it with the band. However, the band's growth really depends on their ability to innovate and experiment.

Do you feel it's easier for musicians to make a name today as opposed to back when you started? How has the industry evolved since then?

AN: It's definitely much harder to make a name for yourself today. People have become a lot more distracted with so many events happening around them and the music industry doesn't exist either. And when I say it doesn't 'exist', it doesn't mean people don't make money out of music – it means that earlier there was a kind of expectation that people would take out time and listen to music; they would expect a new song from a musician/band. That is definitely no longer the case. That's how it was when I was growing up. But I do believe that in today's time, there are more opportunities and flexibilities when it comes to sharing your music. It's just a matter of finding the right kind of mechanism with which you can connect with your fans; that's the opportunity we got when we were coming out. I still believe that there are possibilities but they just need to be tapped into or figured out.

AH: I think it's actually a lot easier to make a name today as opposed to earlier times because of the platforms and technology available. Everybody is always connected via the internet, and tools/software to compose music are readily available – this is something musicians lacked access to back in the day. ▶



“We believe that life should be spent keeping oneself productive – mentally and physically. We are not bound to do anything, but free to do whatever we wish to do.” - Ali Hamza



VERY QUICKLY...

Favourite travel destination?
AN: Abbottabad
AH: All the northern areas of Pakistan – Gilgit Hunza

If you weren't a musician, you would be?
AN: A lawyer
AH: An academic

What would we find on your bedside table?
AN: Water, tissue box and my phone
AH: Bedside lamp with pens, a glass of water and a packet of cigarettes

All time favourite song?
AN: *All This time* by Sting
AH: None

Favourite cuisine?
AN: Chinese
AH: Pakistani

Favourite musician?
AN: These days, it's definitely Ellie Goulding
AH: Tori Amos, Pathanay Khan, S.D. Burman, Hemant Kumar, Giants, Beethoven and Vivaldi



> "If you want to survive, the most important thing is your originality, and that comes from being honest with what you want to say." - Ali Noor

In your opinion, which current musician or musicians have a lot of potential?
AN: I feel there are a lot of artists who are coming up and have the potential to go much farther than we have come. They don't have to deal with the problems we had to face when we first started out. SYMT is one band that I can relate with; they are songwriters, they make music themselves. That's how we used to do it when we started to make music.

Who do you consider competition, and why?
AN: I have never functioned on a competitive basis in my life. It's just something that doesn't exist for me; I've never thought of music as a race or competition that I need to win. And to be honest, I don't think there is any competition. Competition in our music industry probably means when someone takes your concert or certain spot. And we don't function in that zone either.
AH: I am anti-competition; whether it's competition in the education system, job market or anywhere else. I think it's pretty ugly when competition turns into downplaying others or creating space for yourself to succeed. I have never believed in competition – it's counterproductive.

Tell us about music you grew up listening to – which musicians have inspired you throughout your lives?
AN: Well, listening to music is a very important part of my life. I am always listening to music. In fact, I listen to music more than I actually make music!



WITH MUSIC SENSATIONS ALI ZAFAR AND ATIF ASLAM

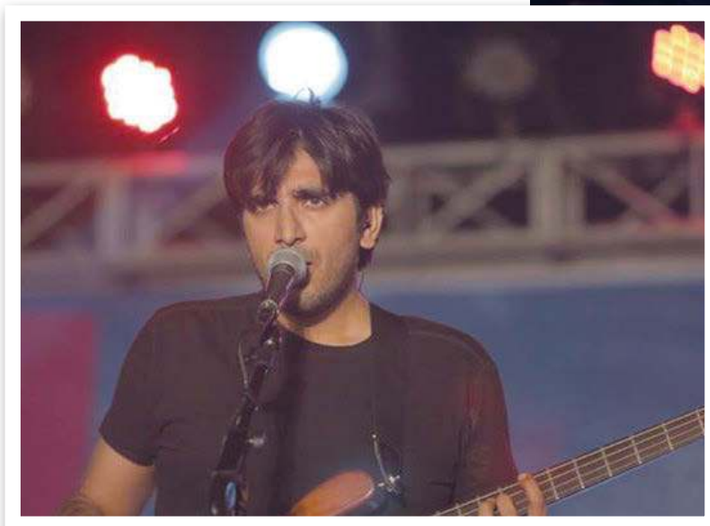
[Laughs] Initially, it was all about glam rock for me – that's definitely what got me going. I remember watching Def Leppard's video, *Pour Some Sugar on Me*, and I knew that this was something I wanted to do. Eventually, I also got interested in Skid Row, Faster Pussycat, Motley Crue, Poison and all that stuff. But what really inspired me musically was the grunge scene – Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Soundgarden and Stone Temple Pilots. I think that's what we really connected with and that's the kind of music we decided to make. Those were my formative years and that's when we got a chance to learn the instruments and sing. Then I discovered Sting and Peter Gabriel – and what I truly enjoy listening to are female singers. I realised that I had a clear cut inclination to female vocalists and songwriters over male artists; Tori Amos, Sarah McLachlan, Fiona Apple, Florence and the Machine, Elli Goulding, etc. I feel like I have always been more inspired by them – I don't know how much of that reflects in our music but female artists are way more exciting musically for me.
AH: I have grown up with a lot of variety – in music. My mother plays classical music and a brand new instrument which stretched the boundaries of music – it's rediscovering the whole purpose of

music. So I think that's my core driving force; when I was told that music is not just a tool to entertain people but is a tool of triggering certain processes within yourself and others so you're motivated to do better things in life. Then after that, I was exposed to eastern music, old Bollywood songs and folk. When I reached adolescence, Ali Noor's influence of western rock music, jazz and funk all started to come into play. I've been exposed to different genres of music since I was four so I feel like that has helped me expand my appreciation of music – and all kinds, not just a specific type.

What do you do in your free time?

AN: I guess I'm free all the time. There's no distinction between work and free time for us – that's the price you have to pay for being a musician in Pakistan. You are only working when you have a concert coming up; you're free the rest of the time. And you have to find work during that time.

AH: I am a free man and have a lot of free time but I try to keep myself busy and involved in life as much as I can. Ali Noor and I are very involved in our grandfather's institute, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Arts and Philosophy – we take it as our passion. Even as far as Noori is concerned, it's never been about making money – it's always been about exploring our creativity. If I had gone the professional route, I would've been an economist and Ali Noor would've been a lawyer but we chose not to. We believe that life should be spent keeping oneself productive – mentally and physically. We are not bound to do anything, but free to do whatever we wish to do – it's about having the freedom to choose. It's an abstract I answer, but that's how we live.



Why are you both called Ali?

AN: Our parents got it all mixed up I guess; they probably thought that sir names are supposed to come first. In fact, I don't even have my own name. My father is called Ali Kazim and my mom is Noor Zehra so they made 'Ali Noor' out of it. And Ali Hamza just seemed like a nice name so I guess that's why they named him that.

Tell us about one of your favourite venues where you have performed.

AN: We've performed in numerous places and it's quite hard to actually pinpoint one special venue. The first few performances that we had, however, that we remember very vividly were at Alhamra [Art Center]; those performances were a lot of fun, and it's because it was the first place where we got the chance to perform.

AH: Every venue has its own charisma. In fact, it's the audience too – where there's a great audience, that's where the magic happens. At the same venue, we've had a great audience at a time, and at a later date, the audience wasn't so interactive. So it really just depends on that, too. However, there is this one place that I remember – The Rock Musicarium in Islamabad. That's where we recorded our first live album. It was a memorable experience.

When is your next album coming out and what should your fans expect?

AN: The next album is coming out very soon and we have finally started working on it. Our fans should expect that we are still at it and we are trying to make it happen because this place isn't very conducive. It's hard to focus on something in a time when there's no industry. Today, an album is genuinely a labour of love and it's getting harder and harder to produce songs. So whenever we do, I think it's a great achievement in itself.

AH: Our fans have become really cynical about us not taking an album out – and it's not like we've said it out loud or announced that we are taking an album out on a certain date. We are trying to create something but still need a little more time.

Do your kids know they have celebrity parents; how do you protect them?

AN: We don't function like celebrities – we don't think we are celebrities. We don't even think that Pakistan has an industry where celebrities exist like they do in other countries. Or at least not in our field, so the children are pretty much comfortable. Every once in a while, someone will come and ask for an autograph or a picture. It makes them really happy, and my elder daughter says she wants to be a rock star too!

> "It's far more important to use your failures as your real teachers rather than your successes." - Ali Hamza

AH: We are pretty normal people – there's actually nothing to protect. My kids are too young but Ali Noor's eldest daughter Sanjana has now reached an age where she is aware that her father is a celebrity. We were at a restaurant once and I remember her asking her dad, "*Baba*, why aren't people recognising you – aren't you supposed to be famous?" [Laughs] But we told her that not everyone recognises us. She said, "OK, but when I grow up, I will be recognised everywhere because I'll be the biggest rock star!"



ROCKSTARS AT HEART

What's the secret to your success?

AN: I don't think I'm successful [Laughs] and I don't think there's any secret because there are no secrets if you're successful; success is just a by product of your journey and to me, success would be just not dying or getting completely destroyed in a journey that is specifically a hard one. If there's a secret, I think it's just to keep going and not giving up.

AH: The secret to my success is to learn from failures, not from the successes. It's actually far more important to use your failures as your real teachers rather than your successes. The latter are the extra bits that get you started on your journey but what's important is learning from the mistakes you make.

Lahoris are known to be big foodies; do you conform to the trend?

AN: Absolutely! If there's any addiction that I have, it's eating and I am obsessed with food. I need to have food – it has a very hefty toll on my health and on my ability to look lean and thin but unfortunately being Lahori means you have to pay a very hefty price and I guess I'm very proud of it because that's what the ultimate happiness is for me. OK!

INTERVIEW: SHEZREH MIRZA & EIMAN MASROOR
PHOTOGRAPHS: FAISAL FAROOQUI

OK! PAKISTAN'S LIST OF THE *Hottest Cricketers*

With the ICC Cricket World Cup running in full swing, here are our top ten favourites from around the world, giving tremendous performances on the field and winning the hearts of dedicated fans...

Shahid Afridi, Pakistan



Boom Boom Afridi is a sure shot qualifier in the hottest cricketers list, hands down, and winning the Lux Style Award for Most Stylish Sportsmen twice has only added to the hunk's reputation of being a style icon! Apart from his massive fan following, the heartthrob holds the records for having played more ODI matches than any other Pakistani, the fastest ODI century in 37 deliveries, flaunts the distinction of having hit the most sixes in the history of ODI cricket and ranks third on the list of leading wicket takers in the Twenty20 format. Is that all? No. The 34-year-old father to four beautiful daughters also received the Pride of Performance Award in 2010 and is also part of UNICEF's anti-polio campaign focusing on the tribal belt of the Waziristan region.



AB de Villiers, South Africa



This 31-year-old chap is regarded as one of the finest batsmen in the world at the moment; he holds the second position in the ICC Test batting rankings and the first position in the ODI batting rankings. He has also secured the record of the fastest 50 and 100 in ODI cricket as well as the fastest century in ODI history! If there's a cricketer who masters the skill and patience to achieve what he sets his mind upon, it's AB de Villiers. In fact, simplifying his achievements to just cricket would be wrong as he is the epitome of what a sportsman should be – he has excelled in golf, rugby, badminton, tennis and swimming as well. It might just be his impeccable game, but Villiers seems to have an unusually attractive charm making him a favourite amongst the ladies!



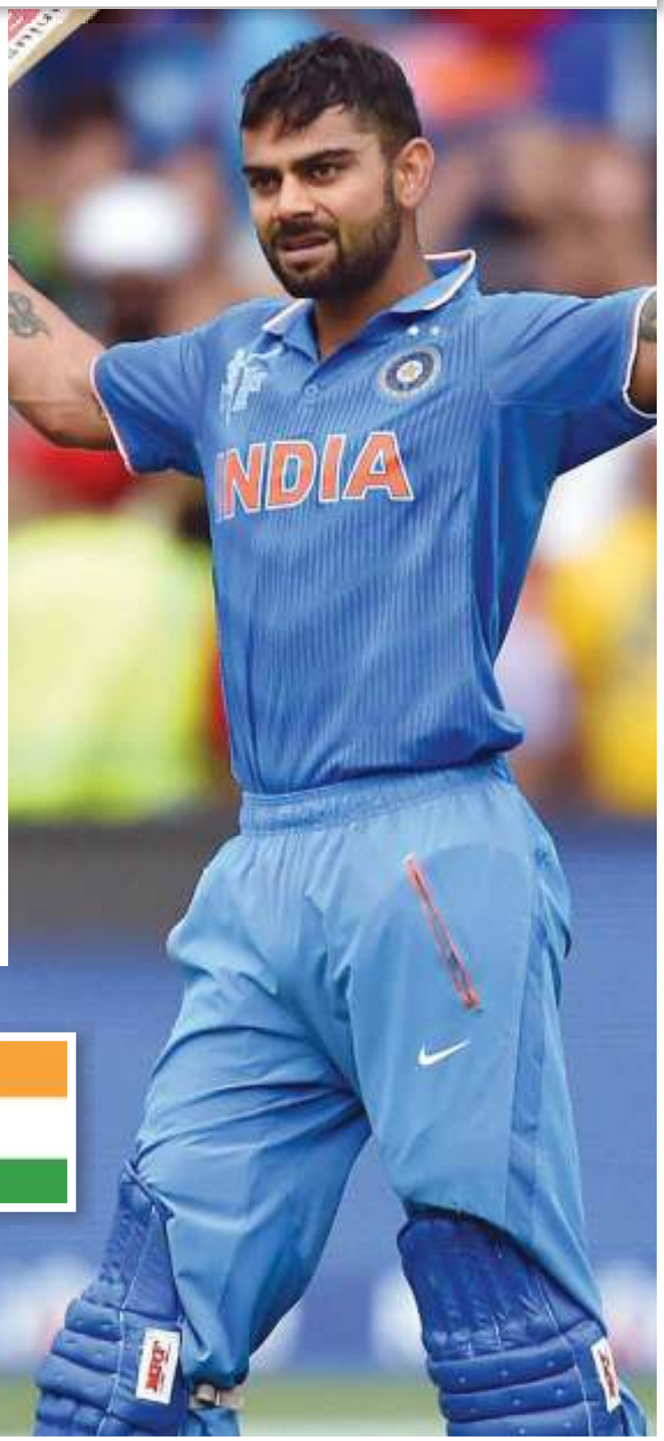
Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan

Current Test and ODI captain, Misbah-ul-Haq is widely known for his composure with the bat, his unflappable temperament and persistence, which makes him a frontrunner in our eyes. Around four years ago, Misbah rose to the occasion and made his mark as a top-class batsman along with proving his leadership skills – since then, there has been no looking back. He was captain when Pakistan won one of its greatest Test series; a 3-0 sweep over England back in 2012 when the latter was one of the best teams. He is also a record holder for the highest run scorer as a Pakistani captain, and also the most successful Test captain the country has seen with 15 wins! Perhaps it is Misbah's calm approach and strategic game plan that has made him worthy of the utmost respect of his team, the cricket board and the fans.



Brendon McCullum, New Zealand

A complete treat to watch, Brendon McCullum isn't just your average cricketer. Coming from a family of cricketers - brother Nathan McCullum, a first-class international cricketer and father Stuart McCullum, who long served as a first-class player to Otago - it comes as no surprise that Brendon had the game flowing through his veins since he was born. Along with being the current captain of the New Zealand cricket team in all three forms of the international game, he also plays for the Otago Volts at provincial level and the Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League. Valued as the leading career scorer in Twenty20 International cricket, McCullum is the only player to score two Twenty20 international centuries. It could be the star player's electrifying performance on the field but he sure is popular amongst his female fan following. Inspired by his father, McCullum's son, Riley is following in his father's footsteps as well.



Virat Kohli, India

Captain of the Indian Test team and on *Forbes*' list of one of the World's Highest-Paid Cricketers, Virat Kohli is a strong contender on our list of hotties! With his right-handed middle-order batsman skills, Kohli holds multiple records including the fastest century by an Indian batsman, the fastest to 17 hundreds in ODI by any batsman and the number one position as an ODI batsman in 2013. With his heavily tattooed arms, youthful charm and dashing looks, 'Cheeku' has undoubtedly been eye candy for women since he made his debut; he swept Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma off her feet instantly and is currently dating her! He is also the recipient of accolades such as Man of the Tournament during the 2014 T20 World Cup, the ICC ODI Player of the Year 2012, Ceat International Cricketer of the Year 2013-14 and the People's Choice Awards for Favourite Sportsperson of the Year 2012.



Kumar Sangakkara, **Sri Lanka**

Hailing from the Sri Lankan cricket team is former captain, Kumar Sangakkara who is in no need of an introduction. The left-handed top-order batsman is the second-highest run-scorer in ODI matches and the fifth-highest run scorer in Test matches as of February 2015. Described as the most polished and prudent of batsmen, Sangakkara ranks at number one in ICC test rankings and is the first cricketer ever to score 150+ scores in four consecutive Test matches along with being the fastest 12,000 runs scorer and breaking the record for highest ODI wicket keeping dismissals. In addition, the father of two received an award for Test Cricketer of the Year and the People's Choice award for the second year running. Since his debut, it was apparent that Sangakkara was destined for more than just batting stardom.



Steven Finn, **England**

Selected in the 15-man squad for the 2015 Cricket World Cup, the right-arm fast-medium bowler took a hat trick in his first World Cup debut against Australia, becoming the first English player to take a hat trick in a World Cup match! Stepping into cricket at the age of 16 as Middlesex Country Cricket Club's youngest ever debutant in first-class cricket was only a baby step towards his successful career. He has now played more than 40 ODI matches and 11 Tests, and during November's ODI series against Sri Lanka, he was England's most experienced seamer. As of January 2015, Finn is amongst the fastest active bowlers in the world. Standing 6' 7" tall, the 25-year-old is certainly eye-candy, not to mention England's rare bowling talent – and he does complete justice to word 'hot'!



Chris Gayle, West Indies

A batsman that has strived like no other is Chris Gayle – he became the first man to reach a double century in World Cup history, reaching the milestone in just 138 balls in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. Amongst the thrusting Jamaican all rounder's other achievements is scoring two triple centuries at Test level and captaining the West Indies cricket team from 2007 to 2010. Despite having been surrounded with controversies in the early days of his career, the big hitter has earned himself a significant place in cricket. Apart for his imposing physique, characteristic hitting, hand-eye coordination and timing, Gayle has scored more than 8,800 ODI runs and claimed 158 wickets. With 21 centuries, 46 fifties and a five-wicket haul to his name, working out how to restrain the big hitter will be a priority for other teams during the tournament.



Aaron Finch, **Australia**

Top order Australian batsman Aaron Finch who plays for Yorkshire Vikings, Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Victoria, the Melbourne Renegades and the national cricket team, wrote himself a place in the history books for holding the world-record for the highest innings in a Twenty20 International match – 156 against England in 2013. Ranked as the world's best batsman in T20, finch also holds the position of captaincy of Australia's Twenty20 team. Having received the title of Player of the Series and Man of the Match twice, Finch has established himself as a star in limited-overs cricket in Australia. Surely, ignoring the first-class players well-built and aggressive looks wouldn't do justice to this player's captivating allure!



Ahmed Shehzad, **Pakistan**

Hard-working and aggressive, our national team's right-handed opening batsman, Ahmed Shehzad made his way from playing domestic cricket for Habib Bank Limited to becoming the first Pakistani batsman (and one of six cricketers in the world) to have scored centuries in all three international formats of the game – Test, ODI and T20 International. He is also the first Pakistani opener to hit four sixes in a Test Innings. A relatively young player, Shehzad has garnered himself significant appreciation for more than just his skill on the field; his popularity amongst the ladies seems to be off the charts! He has often been compared to Virat Kohli by critics on both sides of the border but the heated debate still holds – who is the hottest of them all? OK!

FEATURE: FIZZA FURQAN
PHOTOGRAPHS: AFP, SHUTTERSTOCK

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OK! BEST DRESSED



Yummy-mummy-to-be, Keira Knightley looks radiant in a Valentino Couture dress paired with Chanel jewels at the 2015 Academy Awards.



Georgina Chapman dazzles in a beautifully embroidered black & gold Marchesa gown paired with floral diamond studs from the Marchesa Eternal Collection at the 2015 Oscar Awards.



Jennifer Lopez steals the show in a fairytale-like dress by Elie Saab, Salvatore Ferragamo clutch and Neil Lane jewels at the 2015 Academy Awards.



Starlet du jour, Taylor Swift rocks a Julien Macdonald gown, Giuseppe Zanotti mules and Lorraine Schwartz jewels at the 2015 Elle Style Awards.



Nicole Kidman dons an on-trend column gown, clutch and heels by Louis Vuitton along with some impressive Harry Winston jewels at the 2015 Academy Awards.



Sleek and chic, Jennifer Aniston wears an Atelier Versace column gown with Fred Leighton jewels at the 2015 Academy Awards.



With a body like that, it's no wonder Heidi Klum chose to wear a sheer metallic dress by Versace at the 2015 Elton John Aids Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party.



Emma Stone shimmers in an Elie Saab Haute Couture dress paired with Christian Louboutin matching heels, Tiffany & Co. Jewelry and a Lee Savage clutch at the 2015 Academy Awards.



Chrissy Teigen looks smokin' hot at the 2015 Academy Awards in a Zuhair Murad gown, Oroton clutch and Norman Silverman Diamonds jewels.



Looking haute in an all black number with a trending thigh-high slit, Nabila attends the Special Olympics Ball in Karachi.



Mahvish Hasan glams it up in a Maheen Karim dress and a YSL clutch at the Special Olympics Ball in Karachi.



Dressed in her own eponymous label, Nida Azwer makes a statement in a printed dress, gold earrings and a Bottega Veneta clutch at the Special Olympics Ball in Karachi.



Aale Mowjee looks drop-dead glam in a Shehla Chatoor ensemble and statement cuff at her birthday party in Karachi.

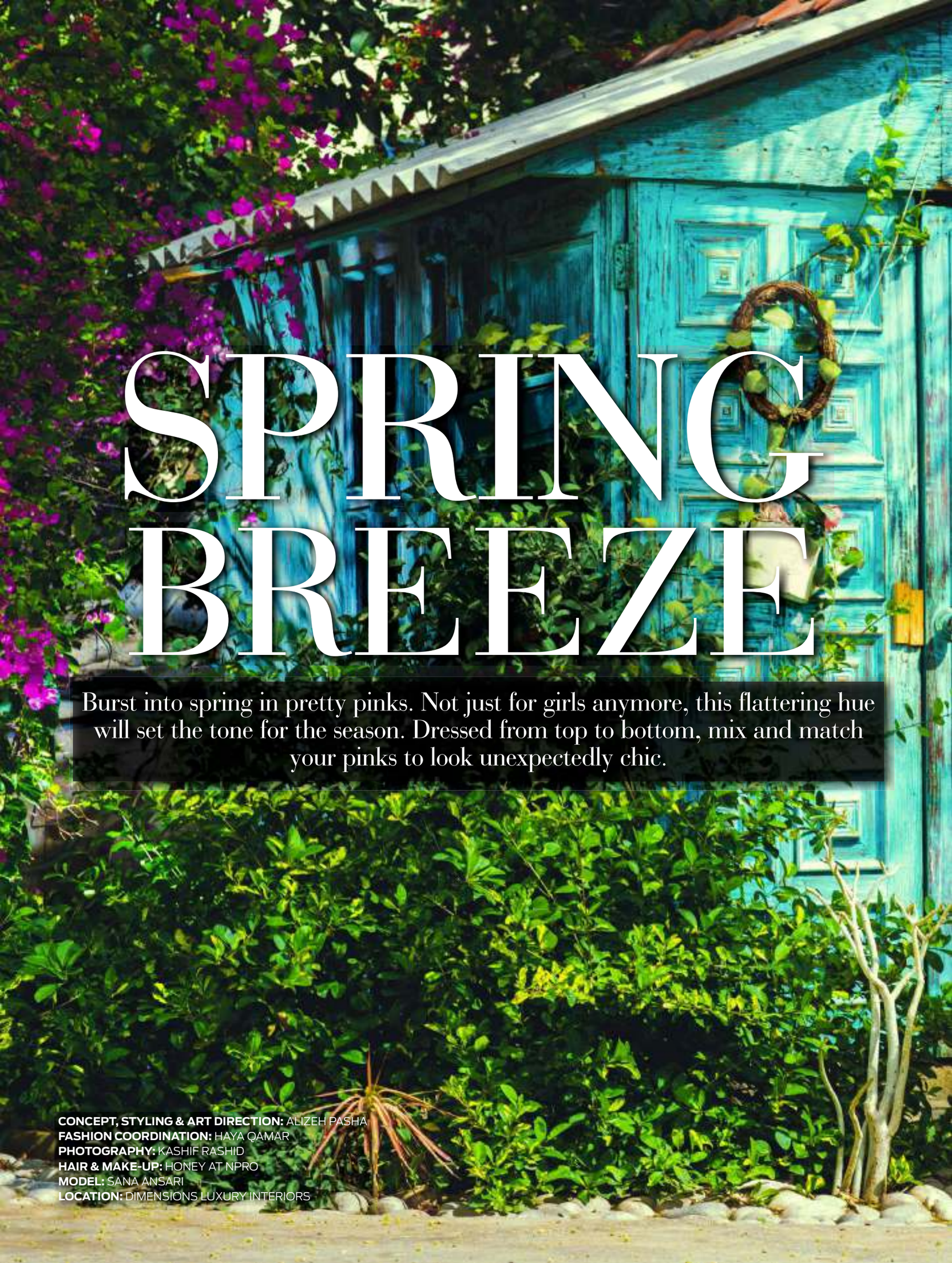


Khadijah Shah dazzles the red carpet in a meticulously embroidered Elan dress at the PFDC & Swarovski Crystal Couturiers event in Lahore.



Fouzia Aman is the epitomé of sexy in this curvaceous black lace gown paired with a Bottega Veneta clutch at the Special Olympics Ball in Karachi.

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, KASHIF RAFIQ



SPRING BREEZE

Burst into spring in pretty pinks. Not just for girls anymore, this flattering hue will set the tone for the season. Dressed from top to bottom, mix and match your pinks to look unexpectedly chic.

CONCEPT, STYLING & ART DIRECTION: ALIZEH PASHA
FASHION COORDINATION: HAYA QAMAR
PHOTOGRAPHY: KASHIF RASHID
HAIR & MAKE-UP: HONEY AT NPRO
MODEL: SANA ANSARI
LOCATION: DIMENSIONS LUXURY INTERIORS



ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH SUNSHINE AND A LITTLE PINK.
Cropped top and Skirt: Tabassum Mughal
Necklace: Stradivarius
Rings: Street buys, Bali



"I BELIEVE IN MANICURES. I BELIEVE IN OVERDRESSING. I BELIEVE IN PRIMPING AT LEISURE AND WEARING LIPSTICK. I BELIEVE IN PINK." AUDREY HEPBURN

Dress: Feeha Jamshed
Earrings: Outhouse Jewellery
Sandals: Jimmy Choo



THINK PINK
Pink Jeans: Mango
Tank top: Mango
Cape: Sania Maskatiya
Shoes: Christian Louboutin
Earrings: Outhouse Jewellery

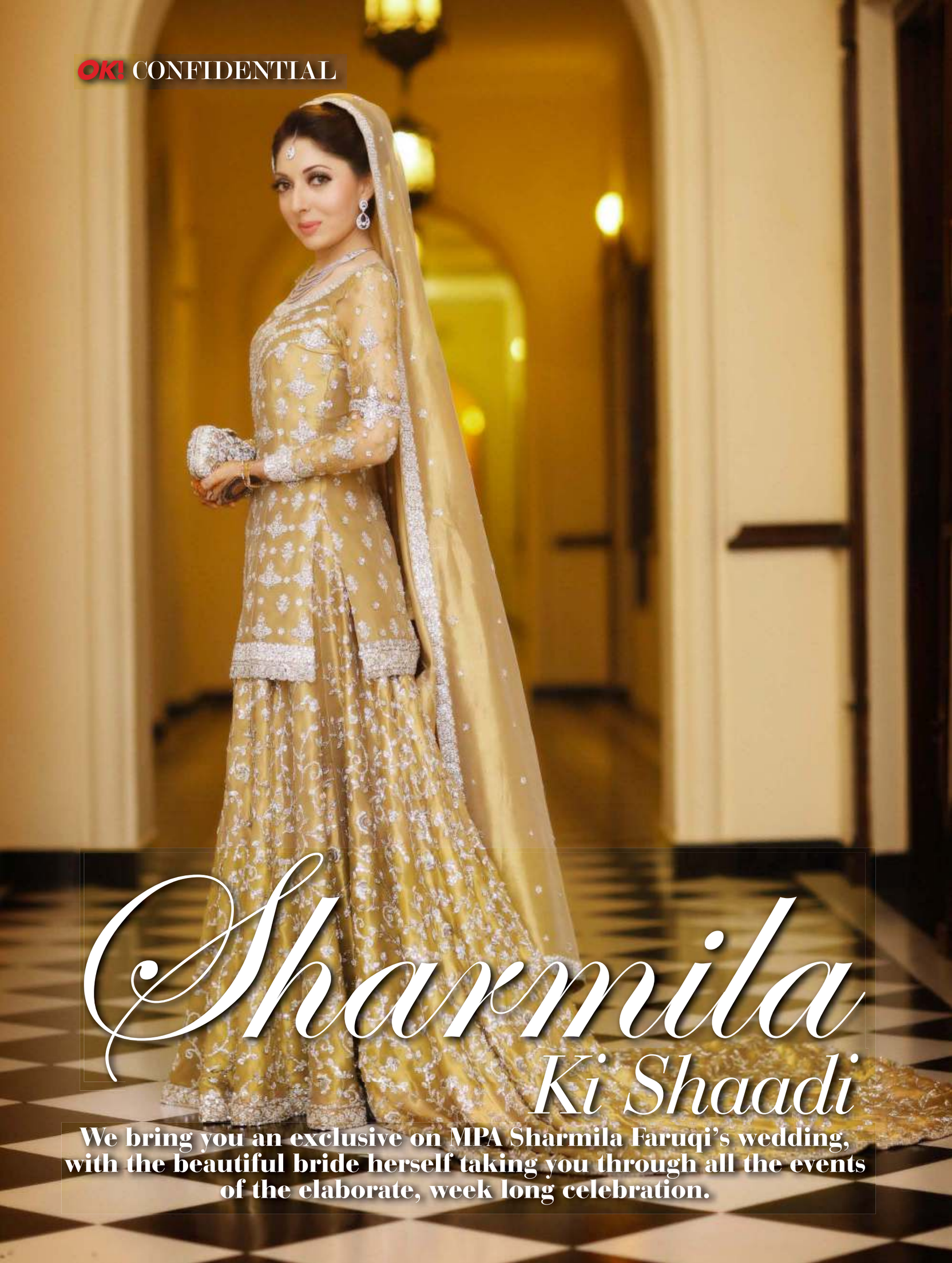


INTO THE BLOOM
Top: Mango
Skirt: Misha Lakhani
Necklace: Outhouse Jewellery
Hand Harness: Outhouse Jewellery



"EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING PINK IN HER WARDROBE. IT IS THE COLOUR OF HAPPINESS." CHRISTIAN DIOR

Shirt and Skirt: Delphi
Necklace: Outhouse Jewellery
Rings and Bracelets: Mango



Sharmila Ki Shaadi

We bring you an exclusive on MPA Sharmila Faruqi's wedding, with the beautiful bride herself taking you through all the events of the elaborate, week long celebration.











Tell us about the proposal.

A month after we met Hashaam proposed on 14 February, 2011 (Valentine's Day), a month after we met. From a room full of flowers, candles, balloons and a limited edition red Lady Dior handbag, he proposed in true romantic style by going down on his knees, with our favourite song *"main tenu samjhavan ki"* playing in the background. He was so sure I would say "yes" that he had also arranged for fireworks to go off! Not to forget the beautiful red dress his mother sent, which he made me wear before proposing!

We heard the dances were amazing. How did the dance practices go?

Oh, yes! The dances were to die for...it really couldn't be better than this. We started practicing three months before the wedding. Since I was extremely tied up with my office work and assembly session, my friend and sister Laiqa Hassan stepped in to coordinate the dance practices at her home. It wouldn't have been possible without her. Team Bride, as we called it, was amazing! I personally chose all the songs especially the *qawwali*, the skit and of course, the PPP song "*Dila Teer Bija*". All our friends were so charged and dedicated we could have climbed Mount Everest! It was crazy fun till the last day. All of us will cherish every moment spent together all our life! Hats off to our choreographers Shezzy and Ghani. We all have become one happy family since then. A very special thank you to Hassan Rizvi for choreographing my dance. He is just wow! A big thank you to Team Bride.

Who planned the bachelorette? Did you enjoy it?

I planned it myself, and it turned out just like I had always wanted it to be. There was music, fun, dance, food, and laughter! We all wore sari's and I planned the colours around my Sabyasachi sari, which was in pink and orange. It was a night to remember. I enjoyed myself to the hilt!

Who did your hair and make-up?

For the bachelorette and the Sukhbir music night, it was Anam Farooq Khan. I loved her make-up and no one does my hair better than Shazdeh Akhter. For the *mayun* and *nikah* it was the amazing Shamain. For the *mehndi*, *baraat*, *sangeet* and *valima* it was the lovely Mariam Khwaja, who my sister-in-law flew in from Lahore. Mariam was better than my expectations. I wasn't a fussy bride but I knew what I wanted so it went smoothly. Infact, I used to get ready much before time.

Who designed your bridal outfits?

It had to be the iconic Bunto Kazmi all the way. She is unmatchable. And she went that extra mile for me, for which I love her. I always knew no one could do what I wanted except Bunto-ji but she outdid herself with my outfits. The colours were decided by Hashaam for all the events. Infact, for the *valima* he especially got the gold lamé from London.

For the *mayun* I had planned Mrs Kazmi's lovely *chatta patti gharara* which was a replica of Bunto-ji's own *nikah* dress, except for the yellow and orange colours. For my Sukhbir night I wore Ali Xeeshan and that dress was a dream. For the *sangeet* night in Lahore it was the perfect Faiza Samee *angrakha* with a *farshi*. For the *mehndi* I wanted an original Mughal *peshwaaz* to match ▶



my *dohri* set in green, red and electric blue. The *baraat* was a blood red and gold *farshi* with the longest trail Bunto-ji could manage! And the *valima* gold lamé *lehenga* was everyone's favourite.

How did you manage your bridal preparation while simultaneously working ? Was it difficult ?

It wasn't easy at all, I must admit, what with my office work, meetings and the ongoing assembly session. It was crazy juggling between event managers , printers, dress designers, caterers , wedding invites going haywire, dance practices, *dholkis* and what not! My assembly was in session till the day of my *baraat*! And since I wanted to be involved in every detail of my wedding I would always be pushed for time. Hats off to my parents who were hands on with everything. There was so much fun and excitement all around!

How was your experience going to vote on the day of your marriage?

It was awesome! Something I have never experienced before! The media and my assembly colleagues were as excited as I was. No one expected me to turn up on my *rukhsati* day for voting. But for me, my political duty comes first. My inspiration has always been my leader *Shaheed* Benazir Bhutto, who so effortlessly managed her personal and political life. Nonetheless it was a very special moment for me, from '*jiyali* to *gharwali*'. No one will be able to break this record! My assembly colleagues and the assembly staff kept pampering me from the moment I reached the assembly. The media was so overwhelmingly supportive, too.





Most memorable moment during your wedding?

So many...but the first has to be the one when I rode in on a white horse on my *mehndi* and Hashaam in a true blue romantic style carried me off the horse and onto the stage. The other has to be when Hashaam on our *nikah* said "*Qabool hain*, *Qabool hain*, *Qabool hain*" three times and everyone started clapping! Such memorable moments...priceless!

Would you like to share any beauty tips with prospective brides ?

Drink as much detox water as you can. And a relaxing body massage before the wedding is a must. Stick to your own foundation on your wedding events and don't feel shy to tell your make up stylist what you want. Unlike most brides I never went for any facials or ubtan scrubs. Just enjoy your own wedding, nothing to beat that inner glow which comes from within.

Your five must-have beauty products?

Body shop butter lip balm, MAC mineralize skin finish powder, Lancôme black kohl eye pencil, a cucumber hand cream and my Dior sheer lip gloss. What would life be without these!

Any advice you would like to give other brides-to-be?

It's OK to be bridezilla! It's OK to have mood swings...It's your wedding and you should have it your way, I was involved in each and every detail of my wedding, from event themes to the menu to the guest list to my hair and make-up etc. Don't feel shy to say what you want because you know yourself better than anyone else. You will receive advice from everyone but just do what you are comfortable with. Just be yourself. Enjoy your wedding. Be happy and don't feel shy to dance at your *mehndi*!

Please share some personal details about your *Nikkah*, *Cavalli Qawalli*, *Mehndi*, *Rukhsati* and *Valima*?

First of all, a big thank you to my amazing parents who put up with all my crazy demands for the *shaadi*! My wedding invites were an improvisation of my parents' wedding invites. The different card colours were the event themes. I always wanted










the invites in Urdu and I had it my way!

For the *mayun*, I wanted marigolds all over. Two flower vendors ran out of marigold but we weren't done. The marigold canopy was a beauty. I came in a *doli* covered with marigolds gifted by Laiqa, with my friends dancing to "*Bohay Bariyaan*", and it was so beautiful I didn't want to get off it. It was followed by a musical evening by Ustaad Aftab; The Sukhbir night's theme was the décor of the Roberto Cavalli club in Dubai, with the ice blue lighting and animal prints and huge chandeliers. Mehreen Danish did a fabulous job. It was a night to remember.

The *nikah* had to be candleabras, drapes, flowers all in deep ruby pink and silver to match my Bunto Kazmi *gharara*. I wasn't the hidden bride in a room till my *nikah* was done, rather I was there on the stage with Hashaam and our families and friends doing the *nikah* wows followed by a *ghazal* evening with Humaira Channa. We had different themed food at every event. The *mehndi* was the grand bazaar theme and I must comment that Reema Siddiqi of IRIS events did better than what I told her. We sat for hours discussing every detail. It was called Sharmila's *Prem Gali*. I always wanted to ride in on a white horse at my *mehndi* and despite apprehensions from everyone that I would fall off, I managed well. The horse was a beauty. Shazia Khushk sang "*Danay pe dana*", with my friends carrying the most beautiful *mehndi thaal* I have ever seen (it was a gift from Laiqa) and I rode in on a horse behind them along with my parents on my side. It was just amazing! The dances were fantastic and oh, just so perfect! Team Bride rocked. Hashaam's side was great, too. The *mehndi* was a kaleidoscope of colours.

The *baraat* was in ivory and gold with a tinge of red to compliment my red dress. Candles, flowers and huge Roman pillars right next to the water in Beach Luxury gardens where my parent's got married. What with the humungous attendance I never got to see the décor eventually! My friends and family wore *teekas* and *jhoomars* and *mathaa pattis* at all events. I am a huge *jhoomar* fan and I made sure to wear one on every event, including two on the *mehndi*! *Alhamdulillah* everything went smoothly and effortlessly including the crazy rainy weather forecast. I did everything I ever wanted to do on my *shaadi*. I danced at every event except of course the *baraat* and *valima*. I wasn't the shy and quiet bride. The Lahore *sangeet* and *valima* were so exciting, what with the downpour in Lahore and my lovely in-laws pampering me.

Where are you going to make your home?

Karachi. But since Hashaam's family lives in Lahore we would be visiting them often. OK!

TEXT: SHARMILA FARUQI
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY: SHARMILA FARUQI, IRFAN AHSON, NINA ALAM, ALI KHURSHID



87th Annual Academy Awards

Celebrities from around the globe flocked to the eagerly awaited 87th Academy Awards, more commonly known as the Oscars, in California. Oscar fashion is always high fashion with the A-listers in attendance always dressed to impress. Here's to Hollywood's special night of celebration honouring the best of the best.


COMMON
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DAKOTA JOHNSON
CHERYL HINES
EMMA STONE
BRADLEY COOPER
CHRISSY TEIGEN
PATRICIA ARQUETTE
KERRY WASHINGTON
MICHAEL KEATON
SOPHIE HUNTER & BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH
REESE WITHERSPOON
JASON BATEMAN & AMANDA ANKA


MILES TELLER &
KELEIGH SPERRY
ANNA KENDRICK
JENNIFER HUDSON
MARION COTILLARD
NANCY CARELL &
STEVE CARELL
JARED LETO
GIULIANA
RANCIC
CHRIS PINE


MARGOT ROBBIE
NICOLE KIDMAN
ADAM LEVINE &
BEHATI PRINSLOO
CHRIS EVANS
FAITH HILL


SIENNA MILLER
KAROLINA KURKOVA
RYAN SEACREST
ZOE SALDANA
MERYL STREEP
AMERICA FERRERA
PATRICIA ARQUETTE
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
CHANNING TATUM & JENNA DEWAN TATUM
MELANIE GRIFFITH
JOHN LEGEND
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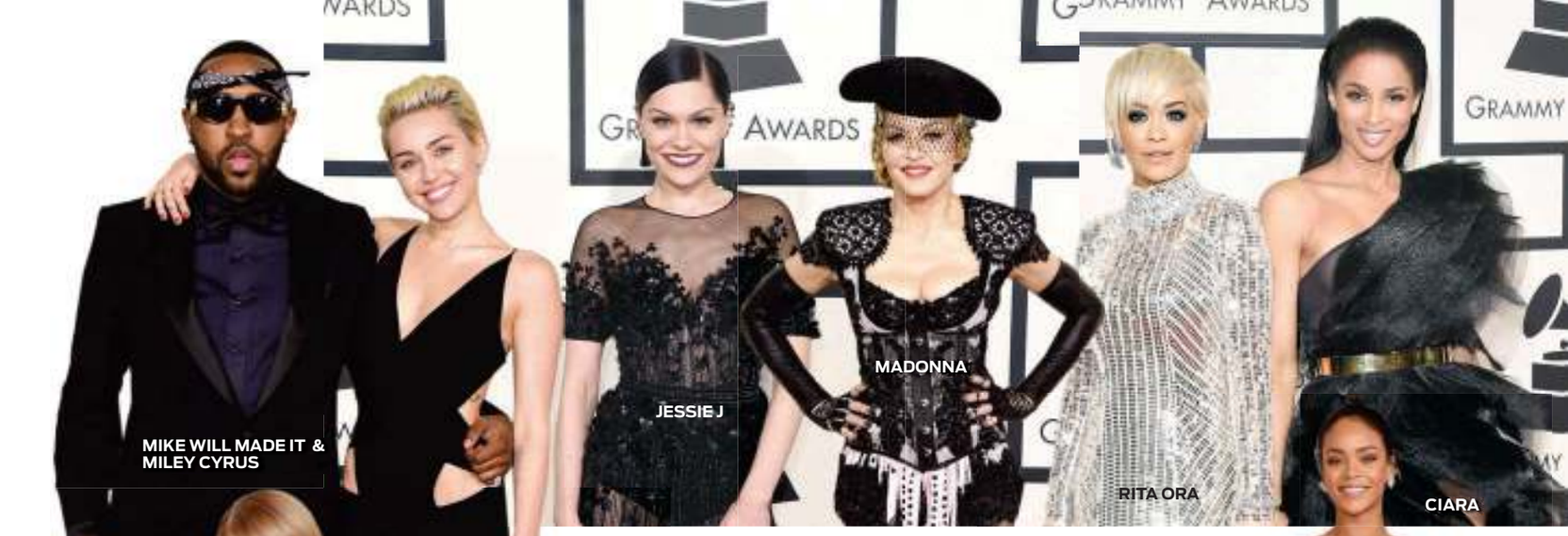


Vanity Fair Oscar Party

The ever so popular Vanity Fair Oscar Party is one event that is always well-attended with nominees and winners from awards shows socialising with not just one another but A-listers from the fields of fashion, media, tech and sports. The attendees enjoyed the Vanity Fair photo booth at the custom-designed venue in Los Angeles while sipping champagne and munching on the traditional In-N-Out burgers.



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY



Grammy Awards

The 57th annual Grammy Awards took place at the Staples Center in Los Angeles this February where celebrities made quite the impression decked up in the latest designer-wear from Paris Couture Week. Sam Smith was one of the top nominees this year winning Record of the Year, New Artist, Song of the Year and Pop Vocal Album, while much to everyone's surprise, Beck won the prestigious title of Album of the Year with his album *Morning Phase*.





PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY



BAFTA Awards

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is an independent charity that celebrates art forms of the moving image including film and television through their annual awards ceremony. This year, The *Theory of Everything* was awarded for Adapted Screenplay and Eddie Redmayne for Leading Actor from the same film, while Julianne Moore won Leading Actress for *Still Alice*.



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, WENN


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TREND REPORT A/W15

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