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ISSUE 31, NOVEMBER 2016

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HOCANE ON WORK, RELATIONSHIPS AND ASPIRATIONS IN LIFE

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5.46
GRAPE RED

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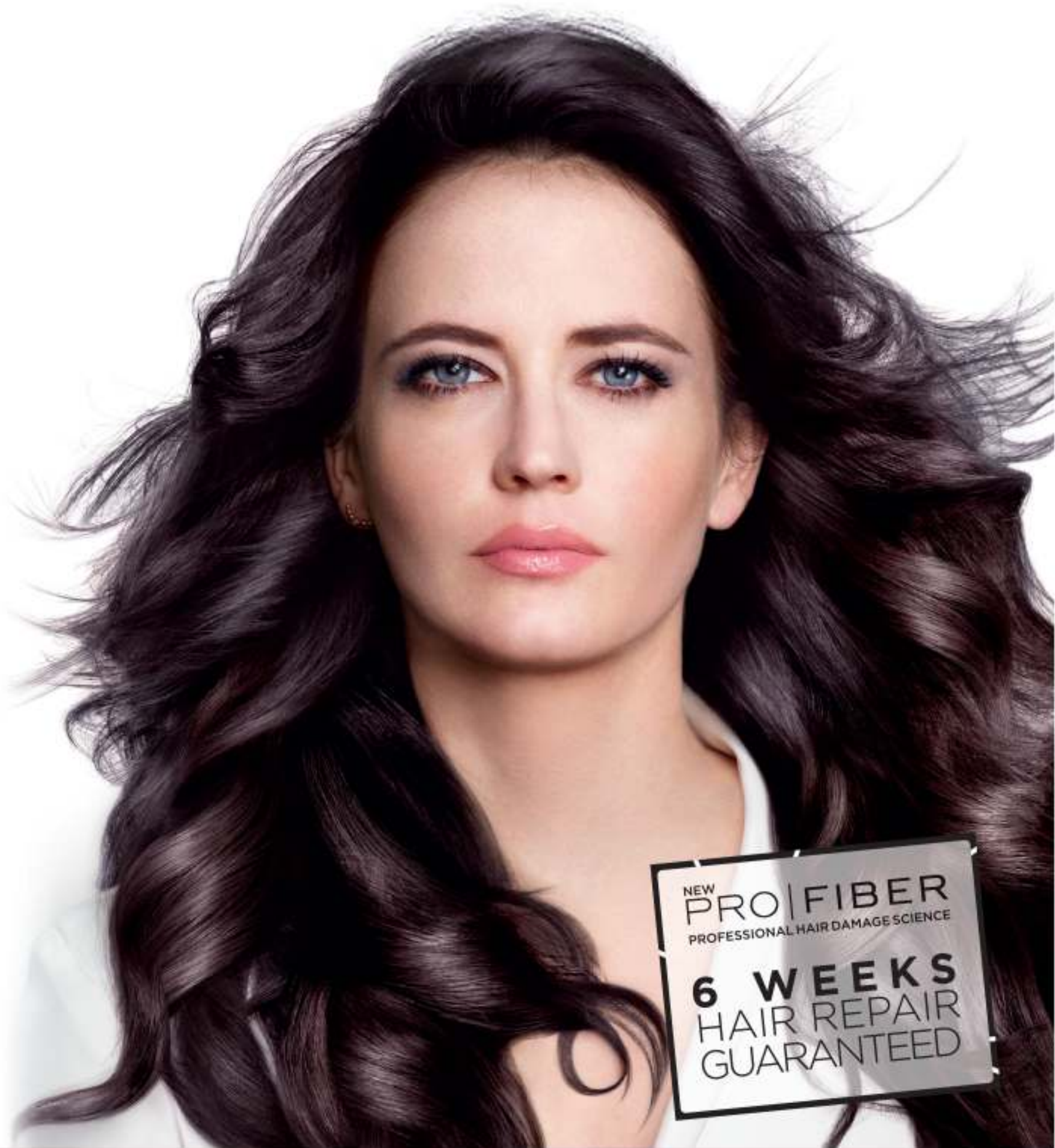
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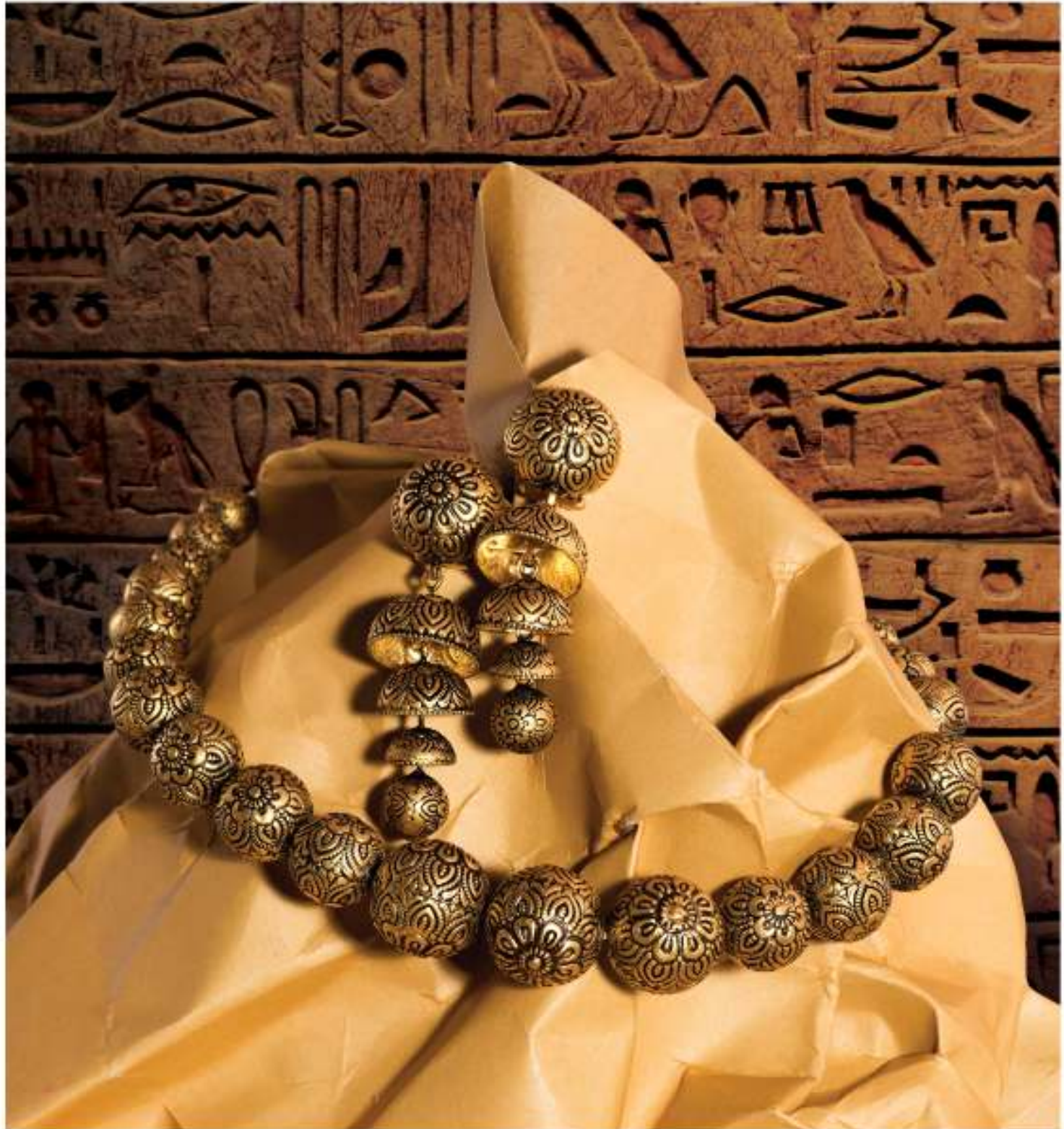
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ORNAMENTS OF CLEOPATRA

On popular demand, Egyptian collection is again available in stores



Editor's Note

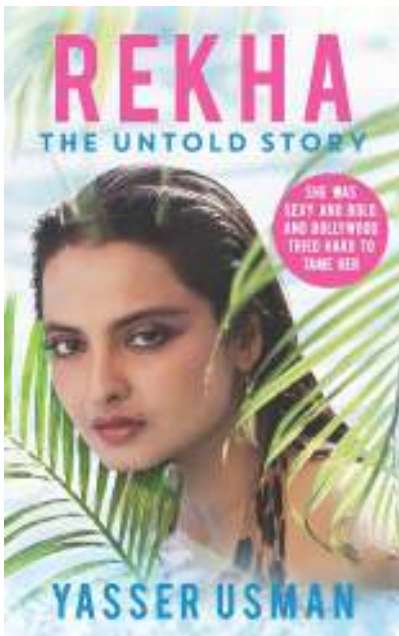


Our bridal issue is packed with a wealth of interviews, beauty, travel and fashion features plus a special supplement on everything you need to know about planning a wedding - just in time for the upcoming season!

Dynamic sisters Urwa and Mawra Hocane talk to *OK! Pakistan* exclusively about their life goals, groundbreaking projects they have in the pipeline and what it's like to work in the same industry. They have a huge following on social media and are giving their contemporaries serious competition these days. Urwa has won accolades for her seamless and understated performance in drama serial *Udaari*, convincing critics that she can mould herself into almost any role. And Mawra has already made her Bollywood debut with *Sanam Teri Kasam* and is now wrapping up a Johns Hopkins funded television project based on a social issue. The siblings reiterate that they would like to take on meaningful, issue-based film and television projects in the future so as to make a positive impact on society and change regressive mindsets.

Editor's Picks

Don't miss our in depth feature on Natasha and Hina Khalid, the make-up and hair maestros behind Natasha's Salon, which has cemented its reputation as one of the top choices for bridal make-up! The ladies share their inspirations and plans for the future in this exclusive interview.



Rekha: The Untold Story

It was truly a pleasure to meet with the lovely Nina Akbar in person. A visionary, philanthropist, health and fitness mentor, Nina is the force behind renowned wellness centers, Sukh Chan, and The Good Life. "My purpose is to educate people about their health, fitness and nutrition and create awareness regarding the importance of looking after yourself and knowing, understanding and listening to your body," she says.

We have a rendezvous with the hugely talented Khadijah Shah, the creative head of both Elan and Sapphire. Khadijah is a perfectionist and her personal touch manifests itself in every detail of her work. "I am an artist at heart," shares the award-winning designer in this conversation with T.U. Dawood, "and I painstakingly develop patterns for all my collections. There is detail and precision at every stage..."

Enjoy the issue!

Sara

Sara Amir Turab Ali
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Printed by Atlas Printing Press L.L.C, Dubai

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Karachi Kings to include Chris Gayle

The biggest and most followed team of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), Karachi Kings are ready to jump back into action, having recently concluded Khiladi Ki Khoj – Talent Hunt at the National Stadium in Karachi. In preparation of the second season, Karachi Kings have made some major changes to the team; the line-up now proudly includes West Indian heavy hitter Chris Gayle a.k.a. 'The Gayle Storm'. We are just as excited as you are! Also included to the team roster is Sri Lankan wicket keeper/batsman Kumar Sangakkara, who will be performing the duties of team mentor as well. That is not all – Karachi Kings are very excited to add Pakistan's very own Babar Azam, who recently made the world record for scoring centuries in three consecutive matches against West Indies. Other team members include some of the country's finest players such as Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Ravi Bopara, Mohammad Amir and Sohail Khan amongst others.



14-year-old Swat girl wins Asian Girls Human Rights Ambassador award

Hadiqa Bashir (14), who was selected out of four names, received the prestigious award at an event organised by the Garden of Hope Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan. She is the first Pakistani girl to receive the Asian Girls Human Rights Ambassador award. And last year, Hadiqa also earned international recognition after being awarded the third Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for dedicating her life to ending the practice of child marriages in the country. Keep making us proud!

Humayun Saeed to star in Punjab Nahi Jaungi

Be it his stints on the small screen or the big screen, Humayun Saeed has never failed to impress; he's been in the industry for years now and is still going strong. And now, following the success of his films *Jawani Phir Nahi Ani* and *Bin Roye*, the actor is set to star in *Punjab Nahi Jaungi* in a lead role alongside Mehwish Hayat. Ahmed Ali Butt, the new comedian on the block, also has a substantial role in the film. We simply cannot wait to watch this movie!



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Angelina wins custody of the kids

News of Brad and Angelina's divorce made headlines around the world, with the shock of the news still reverberating around Hollywood and among their fans. And now that the initial filing has been made, with Angelina leading the charge against 'blindsided' Brad, all eyes have turned to the power plays being made between the couple when it comes to their kids. And it was Angelina, who came out on top amid the news that she had been granted full physical custody of their six children, Maddox, 15, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eight-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

Brad gets supervised visitation:

After the FBI got involved in investigating the alleged altercation on a private plane between Brad and Angelina, during which the 52-year-old actor is said to have been "verbally abusive" to the pair's son, Maddox, Brad hadn't seen his children since Angelina moved out of the family home in mid-September. Now, with their lawyers having worked out a temporary deal between the stars, Brad will be allowed to see his kids, but with serious strings attached. "Brad gets visitation...the initial visit is with a therapist present and the therapist then has the power to either allow Brad subsequent unmonitored visits or insist on being present whenever he's around the kids," reports TMZ.

Random drug and alcohol testing for Brad: With neither his nor Angelina's teams denying that Brad had been drinking when the alleged altercation took place, the *Ocean's Eleven* actor has had to agree to be subjected to random drug and alcohol testing as part of their pre-divorce deal hammered

out by the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services. "Angelina believes Brad has issues with alcohol and [drugs]," says TMZ. "Our law enforcement sources say Brad's first test was negative for drugs and alcohol."

Agreed to family counseling:

In another part of the deal presented to the A-list couple regarding the custody deal, Brad and Angelina have agreed to undergo individual counseling, as well as family counseling, which will see the entire family, including the kids, come together. Insiders say Angelina is keen to "heal" her family following the split, and the temporary deal will be put in place for three weeks, after which time, the County Department of Children and Family Services will either put together another deal for the couple or the case will be handed to the courts to decide if no family agreement can be reached.

'Angie says she will destroy him':

With more details emerging about Pitt's alleged issues with drinking and anger, insiders have revealed that although Brad and Angelina are playing nicely for the authorities, that in public, the Oscar-winning actress is "running a smear campaign" against her estranged husband. "Angie says she is going to destroy him," an insider told US. "If something is broken, she just throws it away." Adding, "Angelina filed the papers a minute before the courts closed. [Brad] didn't have a lawyer or anything. He has been crying constantly. [He] is a shattered man."

Kim Kardashian left traumatised after being robbed at gunpoint

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian feared she was going to be 'raped and killed' after having a gun held to her head in a shocking raid in Paris recently. The A-lister has previously spoken out about being terrified of guns, admitting: "I am so paranoid, so afraid. It's such high anxiety. I just want to be super protective of my kids." Kim, who has campaigned for more stringent US gun laws, revealed her fears in an open letter which ominously foreshadowed a harrowing recent episode on her show. The 35-year-old was attacked in a private apartment by a group of masked robbers, who made off with £8.5 million worth of jewellery including a Lorraine Schwartz engagement ring. Following her ordeal in the French capital, Kim has now returned to her home in Los Angeles. Previously, she had reunited with husband Kanye West, 39, and their children North, three, and ten-month-old Saint, in New York.

Kim's sisters Kourtney, Khloé, Kendall and Kylie have all cancelled public appearances due to safety fears, while filming of the family's reality show *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* has also been put on hold indefinitely. Kim, whose publicist said she was 'badly shaken but physically unharmed' after the terrifying robbery, is now planning to take several weeks off to recover. During the heist, Kim was reportedly dragged out of bed with a gun held to her head, bound with plastic ties, gagged with duct tape and thrown into a marble bath tub as the intruders, dressed as police officers, ransacked her suite in the Hôtel de Pourtalès.

While Kim had previously displayed her jewellery collection on Instagram, it's said she now wants to re-evaluate how she displays her wealth. "Material things mean nothing. It's not all about the money. It's not worth it," the mother of two has reportedly told pals.



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Victoria Beckham on past fashion decisions and insecurities

After She's one of the world's most stylish women, but even Victoria Beckham regrets some of her past fashion decisions. "At some point I thought it was okay to wear a PVC catsuit. When I was pregnant with Romeo, I walked around Disneyland in Christian Louboutin heels, literally at nine months pregnant," the mum of four said. "I don't look at them as mistakes. I celebrate those things. I laugh occasionally but I'm not ashamed of any of that," she told net-a-porter.com's digital magazine *The Edit*, in which she posed in pieces from her new autumn/winter collection.

Despite always seeming so confident, Victoria, 42, also recently admitted to feeling uncomfortable on the red carpet, saying: "I don't know if it's the years of being photographed and the criticism, but I feel exposed, vulnerable and uncomfortable and I can't be myself. I can't wait till I'm off [the red carpet] and we can all just have a drink, throw our heads back and who cares if your lip gloss has worn off?" Having ruled herself out of the upcoming Spice Girls reunion with Mel B, Emma Bunton and Geri Horner, the star went on to admit that she wishes the band well, but the reunion could be tinged with some sadness. "I do think they should sing their own material because what we did in the Spice Girls was so special. If they sang Spice Girls songs I think I might be a bit sad," she said.



Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's short film on Qandeel Baloch

Two-time Oscar-winning film-maker has given us many documentaries and short films which reflect controversial issues prevalent in Pakistani society. Following *Saving Face* and *Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness*, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy is now working on a short film on the late internet sensation Qandeel Baloch; she was murdered by her brother in the name of 'honour killing'. Pop star Madonna has also praised the film-maker on her upcoming film on Instagram.



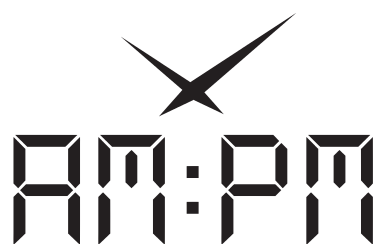
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*«Details make perfection,
and perfection is not a detail»*

Leonardo da Vinci

Shahid Afridi to be immortalised in a biography

The cricketer gained colossal acclaim early on in his career at the mere age of 16 and is one of the most followed and loved cricketers of all time! And now, it seems his life's work will be documented in a biography titled *Shahid Afridi: An Autobiography*. It will be penned down by Emmy-nominated multimedia journalist Wajahat Khan, and is set to release next year. If you love Boom Boom Afridi, gear yourself for one of the most anticipated projects of 2017.



Selena Gomez checks into rehab

After cancelling 34 dates of her Revival tour earlier this year, Selena Gomez has reportedly checked herself into rehab. The 24-year-old singer and actress recently admitted to suffering from 'anxiety, panic attacks and depression' and is now said to be seeking help at a facility in Tennessee, Nashville. She was recently spotted looking downcast in a shopping centre near the rehab facility. A source revealed: "She can go to a very dark place. This break is to focus on her mental health." This isn't the star's first stay in rehab – she checked herself into another facility in 2014 after discovering that she suffers from skin disease lupus. Announcing her withdrawal from social media and scheduled live shows in August, Selena revealed in a statement: "I've discovered that anxiety, panic attacks and depression can be side effects of lupus, which can present their own challenges."

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NIDA AZWER



AIMAN KHAN, FAISAL QURESHI & MINAL KHAN



ANOUSHEY ASHRAF



KHURSHID HYDER



NATASIA KHALID & MEHAK ELAHI



MINA & TURAB RAMZI



RONAK LAKHANI & NAZNEEN TARIQ



ANUSHA BAWANY



NATASHA KAMAL & HINA BAYAT



JUNAID KHAN



NAUMAN ARFEEN



AMNA AQEEL



NUBAIN ALI



BENITA DAVID



ANUSHE SHAHID



SABA OBAID & SHEREZAD RAHIMTOOLA



SHARMEELA FAROOQI



MARYAM & MAIRA
PAGGANWALA



SHEHZAD NOOR



SHAMSHA
HASHWANI



SHAZAH AYUB



ABEER RIZVI



MOHSIN ABBAS &
MAWRA HOCANE



SHIREEN
REHMAN



SARAH LALANI



SAIRA RIZWAN



NINA KASHIF



NEELUM MUNEER



SADAF
MALATERRE



POMME



MR. & MRS.
TEHSEEN FERAZ



ANISA FARUQI



DANISH WAKEEL



NIDA TAPAL



MR & MRS MUNAF



TALHA & SADIA NAWABI



ZOHRA &
SAMIRA DADA



NIDA YASIR & YASIR
NAWAZ



OMAR JAMIL



MALIHA AZIZ



IZDEYAR SETNA



ZURAIN IMAM



MALIHA REHMAN



SALEEMA FERASTA



MOHIB MIRZA



EHTASHAM ANSARI
& FIA KHAN



UMAIR MIRZA



WAJID KHAN



FOHA RAZA



EASHAL FAYAZ



HAREEM FAROOQ



ALIZEH PASHA



SAIMA ACHRIA



FIZZA FURQAN



SANA BUCHA & KHURRAM QADEER BAIG



DEEPAK PERWANI



NIDA AZWER



JAVED SHEIKH & NAZNEEN TARIQ



SAHEER H PARACHA & UNUM MUNEER

KARACHI
FPW 2016 After Party
OK! Pakistan & Bulgari co-hosted the FPW 2016 after party. The event was attended by movie stars, designers, fashionistas, socialites, celebrities & influencers who partied & danced the night away.



NADIA HUSSAIN



NADYA MISTRY



NIDA TAPAL



AYAZ ANIS



KHURRAM & ASHOK



TARA MAHMOOD



FAHAD MIRZA



HUMAYUN ALAMGIR



FATIMA AHMED



MAIRA PAGGANWALA & QASSIM SHAH



NINA KASHIF



FRIEHA ALTAF



HASHAM RIAZ SHEIKH
& SHARMILA FAROOQI



DANISH WAKEEL



YASIR NAWAZ , NIDA YASIR
& MOHSIN FEROZE



MALIHA WAQAS &
KOMAL MALIK



ALIZEH PASHA &
OMER FAROOQI



SHIREEN REHMAN



SARWAT GILANI



ANUSHEH SHAHID
WITH HER FIANCE



BASIT



SADAF
MALATERRE



BILAL ASHRAF



FIZZA FURQAN



ASAD ULLAH



JAVERIA HANIF



ADNAN SIDDIQUI &
MOHSIN FEROZ



HASNAIN LEHRI



SABEEN, NAYAB & SHEHZOR



IMI



MOIZ



GOHAR RASHEED



SARA HIRJI



NIDA ALVI & AINY JAFFRI



TEHSEEN FEROZ



WAJID KHAN



NAUSHEEN SHAH



NESHMIA AHMAD



MEHR & EIMAN



TALHA & SADIA NAWABI



AAMNA AQEEL



UMAIR MIRZA



MR. & MRS BEHZOZ SABZWARI



RABIA BUTT, TABISH & ALIZEH



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FRIEHA ALTAF, MUKHTAR MAI, ROZINA, RONAK LAKHANI & SAHER H PARACHA



BEENA SHAH & FRIEHA ALTAF

KARACHI
The Icon of Courage – Mukhtar Mai
 Catwalk Cares – (a CSR division of Catwalk Event Management & Productions) teamed up with Fahim Jaffar at Côte Rôtie (set within the Alliance Française de Karachi) to host a special lunch in honour of Mukhtar Mai, after her appearance as a show stopper at FPW – Winter Festive'16.



ROZINA MUNIB



ASAD UL HAQ



MUKHTAR MAI & RONAK LAKHANI



AMIN HASHWANI



SHERRY REHMAN



MONTY MASHOOQULLAH



FAHEEM JAFFER



NASIR GABOL



SALIMA FEERASTA



MUNIBA & BUSHRA
AFTAB



MEHREEN SYED



AMYNA
FERASSATA



RUBY ZAHID



SOBIA MUSTAFA &
AHSAN KHAN

LAHORE
Lunch at Cafe Aylanto
Ayesha Sana hosted a lunch for
close friends at Cafe Aylanto
in Lahore. The event was well
attended by socialites and friends.



ASHBA
KAMRAN



AAMIR MAZHAR



NINA & AMBER SAJID



SHIZA HASSAN



IFFAT UMAR



AYESHA SANA



MASOOMA & SADIA JAVED



SOBIA ZUHA & MICHELLE



QYT & SANA



ASIM JOFA, SANA
BUCHA & IMAN ALI



SYMA IQBAL



KHURRAM



SUNITA MARSHAL,
HASSAN AHMED



HUMA SHAH &
MURTEZA

KARACHI
Asim Jofa's Birthday
Sana Bucha along with her friends
threw a party for Asim Jofa's
birthday in DHA Karachi. The
soiree was well attended by all his
loved ones.



UMAIR
JASWAL



SANAM AGHA



SADAF



MULGHALAR
HASSAN



NAUSHEEN SHAH &
AYAZ ANIS



ANWER MAQSOOD



ZARA TAREEN



SALWA & ALYZEH
GABOL



YUSAF JOEY PARACHA



UZMA JEHANGIR & FARAH KARIM
PASHA



ASIYA TAHIR



ZHALAY SARHADI

J.
FRAGRANCES

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- GOLD EDITION -



SYNERGYDENTSU



FOZIA, POMME & KAUKAB



MIRAN



SALEEMA FEERASTA



TAPU JAVERI

KARACHI

Spring Into Wellness

In collaboration with Mantaha Masood, The Caci Centre, The Cooper Institute and several experienced trainers & beauticians, Phenomena recently organised an event to promote wellness, beauty, & the organic life.



FARAZ & MANTAHA



ZARMEENA



RASIKH



SIDRA



ALINA



FARKHANDA



WARDA SALEEM



SHAHNAZ RAMZI

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AFTER: strengthened, hydrated and healthy



Date of preparation: 18th Sept 2016

For full information about the product, refer to product pack

GSK is committed to the effective collection and management of human safety information relating to our products and we encourage healthcare professionals to report adverse events to us on +44 (0) 111 475 7288 or uk_pharmasafety@gsk.com

*Tested on 150 women
after 2 weeks use



AHMED ALI BUTT



YASIR
HUSSAIN



BASSAM SHAZLI



FAYSAL QURESHI



SARWAT GILANI

KARACHI

*3 Bahadur - The
Revenge of Baba Balaam*

*Waadi Animations and ARY Films
released the official trailer of 3 Bahadur
- The Revenge of Baba Balaam, with
the introduction of a new character,
Mitthu. This film is the sequel to
Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's 2015
animated blockbuster, 3 Bahadur.*



SHARMEEN OBAID-
CHINOY



KHALID MALIK



ZEB SHEHNAZ



IRFAN MALIK



SAMRA MUSLIM



SHIRAZ UPPAL



WAJAHAT RAUF



ALY MUSTANSIR



ZUHAB KHAN



ASLAM SHEIKH

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NETWORK
HOLDING
YOUR
PEACE-
OF-MIND
BACK?

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IRFAN MALIK &
JERJEES SEJA



AIMA BAIG



WAJAHAT
RAUF



ABDULLAH
FARHATULLAH



YASIR
HUSSAIN &
SABA QAMAR

KARACHI
Lahore Se Aagey
*ARY Films and Showcase Films
hosted an exclusive media event
for their film Lahore Se Aagey, in
Karachi recently, officially kicking
off the promotions of the film.*



SANAM
CHAUDHRY



HASAN RIZVI



ASAD
SIDIQI



SHAZIA
WAJAHAT



RUBINA ASHRAF



IMMU



IMRAN ABBAS



ANWAR MAQSOOD



ALI HAIDER



MOOMAL SHEIKH



FIZZA ALI MEERZA &
NABEEL QURESHI



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ABBAS & SAMRA



FAZILA SABA



HINA DILPAZEER



KIRAN & ADNAN



FAWAD KHAN & SAFIE HASSAN

KARACHI

Jeewan Hathi Trailer Unveiled

The trailer of Jeewan Hathi was recently unveiled in Karachi, by Matteela Films and Footprint Entertainment. The film is directed by Meenu Gaur and Farjad Nabi, and written by Fasih Bari Khan. Actors of the highly anticipated film include Hina Dilpazeer, Naseeruddin Shah, Kiran Tabeer, Fawad Khan, Samiya Muntaz and Adnan Jaffar.



SAMIYA MUMTAZ



ABBAS



SADIA & SHFAQ



ABID



SANIYA



AHAD & FARHAN



FAIZ



FASIH BARI KHAN



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KHADIJAH SHAH & JEHAZEB AMIN



AMMARA KHAN



ADNAN MALIK



JARRAR SHAH & NIDA BANO



NAZ MANSHA & ANELA SHAH

LAHORE
Palais Indochine
Élan recently showcased their latest bridal collection called Palais Indochine at a beautiful solo show held in Lahore. Fashionistas, bloggers, journalists and IT girls from across the country made their way to the show to witness the unveiling of the brand's fabulous collection.



REMA TASEER



DR SALMAN SHAH



AMIL MANSHA



MEHER TAREEN



MR & MRS KHURSHID KASURI



ZEB BANGASH



FARAZ MANAN



YOUSAF SHAHBAZ



SAHEER H. PARACHA



TOM SANCHEZ & HASSAN SHEHERYAR YASIN



ATTIYA NOON



ARJUMAND AMIN



ZAINAB MALIK



ANBER & MARYA



MAHEEN
KARDAR ALI



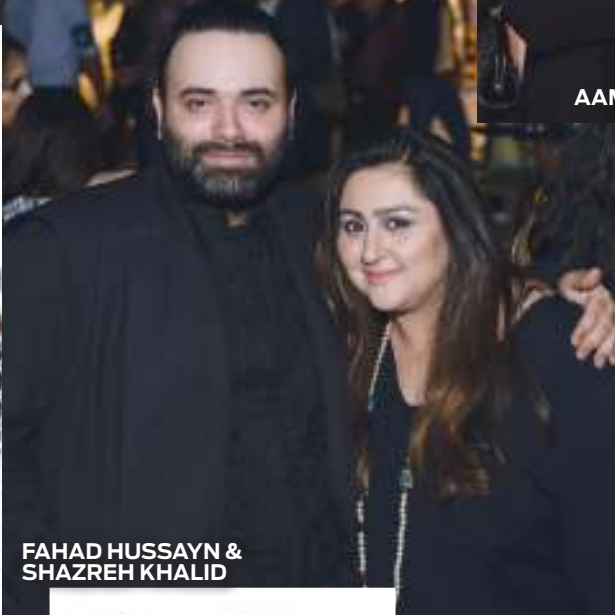
AAMNA TASEER



AAMIR MAZHAR & ERUM
ALAM



FAIZA & KAMILA
RANGOONWALA



FAHAD HUSSAYN &
SHAZREH KHALID



ALI XEESHAN



GAUHAR BANO



NAUMAN & MEHR BANO



AMNA HASSAN TAHIR



ALI SETHI



DEENA REHMAN



SHAZIA DEEN

MOHAMMAD MOIZ



MAHNUM KABIR



ZAHIR RAHIMTOOLA &
SHEREZAD RAHIMTOOLA



SALIMA FEERASTA



NATASHA KAMAL & PURNIYA AWAN



SADAF ZARRAR & AMNA NIAZI



RUBIA MOGHEES



MINHAIL ADNAN



SHERSHAH KHAN



SHIREEN REHMAN



QYT & SANA



MINAHIL QASIM



NASREEN SHAIKH



NINA



NOOR MONNOO



NATASHA SALEEM



SELINA RASHID KHAN & MEHERBANO CHINOY



MEHRIENE QURESHI



SUMRINA KHAN



ZAHRA KHAN



HISSAM HYDER & ALYZEH RAHIM



TANYA KAMAL



AYESHA & NATASHA
MONOO



ALEE HASSAN



ALINA SHAHID



MEHAK RAZA RIVZI



NORAA & HASAN
MANSHA



ADNAN &
NEHZAT



YUSUF
SALAHUDDIN



MYDA MALIK



MEHEK ELAHI



NAILA ISHTIAQ



SHAHBAZ TASEER
& LEENA GHANI



ERUM & ALEENA



IZZA SAMI



IZZAT MAJEED



SALEEHA SHAH



ALIZAH RAZA



SHAZREH KHALID



MOEED & FARYAL



FATIMA FAZLI &
UMAIR FAZLI



FARHAN HAFEEZ & HAREEM SOOMRO



ADEEL HASHMI



DR FARID A MALIK



UMER RIAZ & ZAIBUNISA BANGASH



MAHNUR AHMED & MOMAL AHMED

LAHORE
Tribute To Madam Noor Jehan
EMI Pakistan Ltd, Pakistan's premier record label since 1948, held an exclusive premiere of Gul-e-Daudi (The Chrysanthemum): In Tribute to Noor Jehan - a short film by acclaimed director Umar Riaz.



MINA HUSSAIN



BABAR MEHMOOD



MEHAK ALI & MOMAL AHMED



NABEEL SHAROON



SABA KHAN



MONA ZIA



SANIA CHAUDARY



HABIBA



USMAN LATIF



WILLA HAFEEZ WITH MOTHER



RAKAE JAMIL

Ontex

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Dry

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Economical

[/canbebe.pk](https://www.facebook.com/canbebe.pk)



SISTER ACT: The Hussain aka HOCANE STORY

Urwa and Mawra Hocane talk to OK! Pakistan exclusively about working in the same field, being there for each other, why they changed their last name plus so much more...





The dynamic sister duo Mawra and Urwa Hocane were destined to make a mark since they stepped foot in the industry. With their attention-grabbing stints on the small and big screen, the sisters have managed to create a massive fan following in a very short span of time. From what may have started off as something that was solely driven by their natural instincts, the sister act is now a prominent household name – and one that everyone loves! From their full-filled fights to having each other's back in the best and worst of times, to being each other's support systems, the Hocane sisters are inseparable. The sisters grew up

in Islamabad and are just a year apart, with Urwa being the older sister. They both started out with theatre followed by VJ-ing, television and finally, cinema.

After the huge success garnered by drama serial *Udaari* which centred on a somewhat taboo subject of child abuse, Urwa has not only surfaced as a talented actress but also quite a versatile one who can mould herself into almost any role. The TV show has definitely set a precedent for many more storylines based on subjects that need to be discussed openly to come forth. Pakistani sweetheart Mawra, on the other hand, has given many actresses a run for their money with her heart-warming performance romancing Harshvardhan Rane in her Bollywood debut film, *Sanam Teri Kasam*. Both the sisters have a massive

following on social media and are definitely giving all their contemporaries some serious competition.

The sisters started out their careers at a very young age and climbed the ladder of success quicker than most would've managed to. Their ambition is key, and hard work and persistence set them apart.

Here, they talk to us about their upcoming projects, working in the same industry, their fondest memories of each other plus lots more.

Did you always want to be an actress? Where did it all begin?

Mawra Hocane: Yes, always. If not an actor then someone who stood out in their respective field, but I definitely wanted to be famous in whatever field I chose to be in. However, I'm very grateful for my career. I think it's the best thing that I could've aspired for. It was a rather progressive process, to be honest. Being an actor has been a part of me so the journey never really distinctly began. I started theatre when I was around 15 years old. I was selected for a national TV show following my theatre performance and then for films when the director watched my TV show.

Urwa Hocane: I didn't know what I wanted to be up until I did some theatre. That's where it started off. A friend just randomly asked me to join a theatre

“ I AM A HOPELESS ROMANTIC - ABSOLUTELY. I BELIEVE IN OLD SCHOOL LOVE, IN LOVE LETTERS AND SOULMATES. I LOVE THE IDEA OF BEING IN LOVE. ” – MAWRA

scene in Islamabad as an extracurricular activity. I failed my first audition which motivated me to get to understand why I couldn't do it, and while doing that I found out what I was meant to do.

Mawra, did you ever see yourself acting in Bollywood?

MH: Honestly, yes I did! I even see myself working at a much larger platform than where I am today. I don't know what it would be but I am preparing for it.

After acting in a number of television drama serials, what prompted you to take up a Bollywood script? Did you have Pakistani film offers as well around the same time?

MH: No, nothing that I wanted to do at that point in time; I had just gotten done with my law exam and I was free. Like I said, it was meant to be. It was a female-centric love story which is quite rare to find these days. It had the feel of old classic romance and I really liked the songs so I thought why not!

Tell us a little about your experience acting in *Sanam Teri Kasam*? Did you enjoy working with Harshvardhan Rane?

MH: It was my first film so the experience will stay with me forever. *Sanam Teri Kasam* was tough and soul-stirring. I'm not the same girl who walked into the film. It gave me some life-long lessons, ►



“WHAT PEOPLE TERM CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT MATTER, ISN'T IT IN FACT JUST A DEPICTION OF REALITY? THE ENTIRE TEAM OF *UDAARI* IS PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A DRAMA WHICH HAS PROVEN TO BE PATH-BREAKING IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.”
- URWA

memories and of course in Harsh, my wonderful co-actor I've found a friend whom I'll have till I'm 70 and over.

You are one of the youngest actresses to have worked in a Bollywood film; your thoughts on young Pakistani girls working across the border?

MH: Yes, I am. I was 22 when I started *Sanam Teri Kasam* and it's not easy but then you've got to learn to be your own hero. You've got to fight your own battles. I'm matchless when it comes to hard work so I guess that keeps me going and that's what I'd suggest to everyone. Work hard tirelessly and you'll come out a winner.

Do you think perhaps our industry could use all that talent instead?

MH: I don't believe in "instead". It's a very organic process. Some talent is meant for some projects and it'll keep happening like this. Our country could use it too but there would never be a scarcity of talent if I may say so.

UH: It's their choice. The industry can't decide anybody's fate or choices.

Urwa, do you have any plans of jumping on the Bollywood bandwagon too?

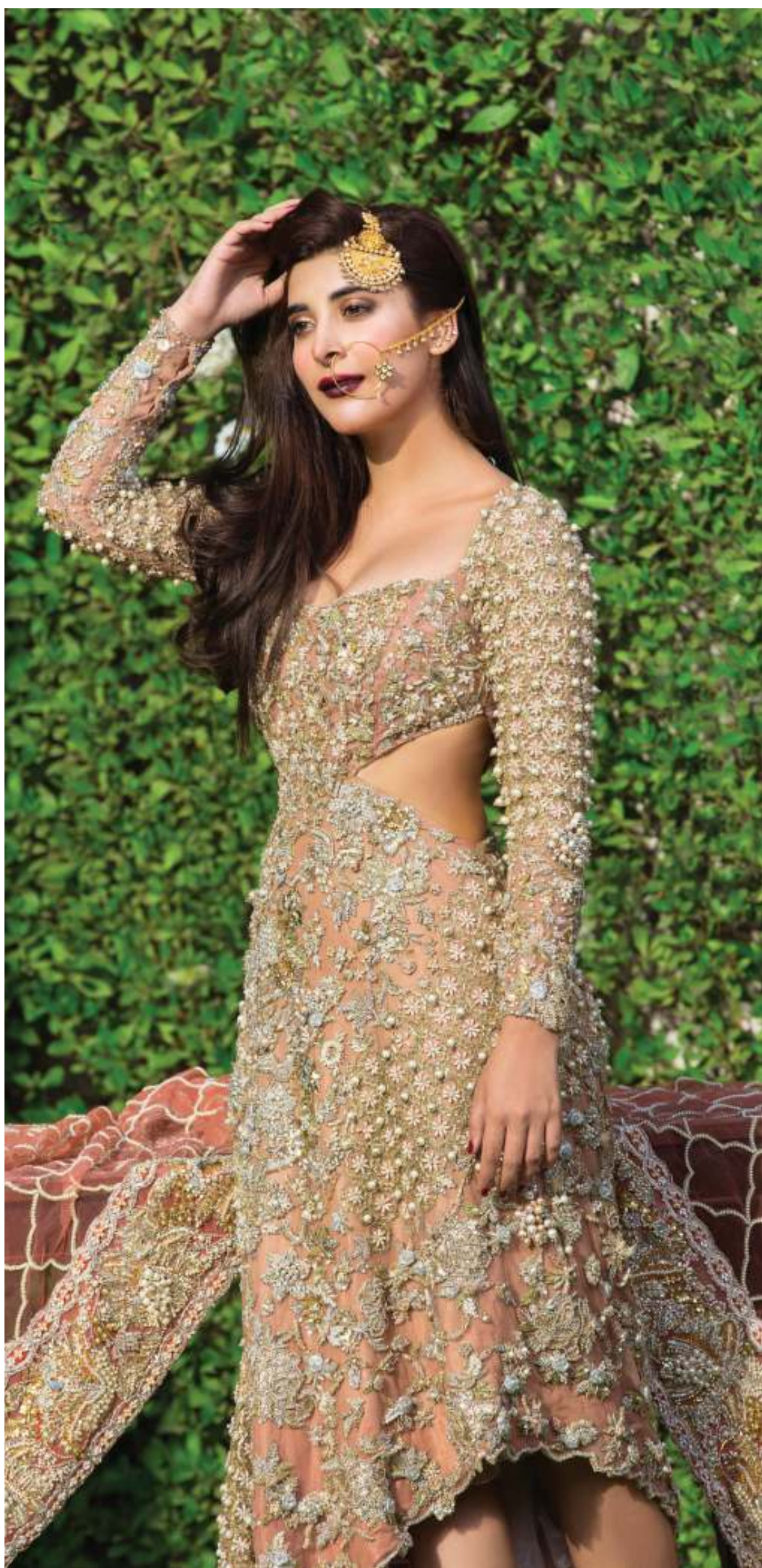
UH: Yes, I have plans to work in Bollywood and Hollywood; I have plans to work globally.

Does being in the same field prove to be an advantage or disadvantage? Are you two competitive?

MH: It's an absolute advantage. It allows me to have double the experience, double the wisdom and double the endurance as compared to any other actors – my own plus my sister's.

UH: It's an advantage for sure because we are both able to guide each other in the right direction as we are both aware of each other's strengths. And of course, we are competitive. That's what helps us grow every day and we love that about each other. What makes us really happy though is that we have been able to propagate sisterhood and girl power not just within the industry but also outside. You see more and more sisters posting selfies together and promoting each other. It's quite adorable!

Urwa, tell us about *Udaari* – it has taken social media by storm and has managed to make a strong impact with its controversial subject ►







“ I LIKE MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS. I AM ALWAYS JUST WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I’M DOING EVERY DAY AND IF IT’S GETTING BETTER OR NOT... ”

matter. How important is it to highlight such issues which prevail in our society?

UH: Isn't it every responsible citizen's duty to not just highlight society's flaws but also work towards eliminating them? What people term controversial subject matter, isn't it in fact merely a depiction of reality? And the entire team of *Udaari* is proud to be associated with a drama which has proven to be path-breaking in a number of ways; not just by shedding light on the most pertinent issue of child sexual abuse but also by way of giving voice to and fighting for the rights of a less privileged section of our society i.e. the *merasis*.

What are your fondest memories of each other? Do you guys ever fight?

MH: I don't know about it being the fondest but it's definitely the most memorable. Urwa may look all petite and fragile but throughout our school days, she used to beat up the boys and girls who would mess with me. Thank you for always keeping me under your wing! Always – protected and loved. She allows me to dream as big as I'd like but makes sure she's there when I fall. That for me is my biggest blessing. And yes, all siblings fight. But we can win the funniest fight competition any day.

UH: Yes, we fight like all the siblings in the world but our fights are too sweet and they mostly just kill boredom and then we get over them in ten minutes max. One of my fondest memories is when we were kids and we used to sneak into the kitchen to find food after our bedtime. That time was always filled with laughing fits, inventing new recipes and a whole lot of mess!

If there was one thing you could change about your life so far, what would it be and why?

MH: There's nothing I'd change. I have had an adventurous and thrilling ride so far. I have learnt so much from my own experiences I wouldn't exchange it for anything.

UH: Nothing actually. I have a peaceful, content life. That's all I ever wanted.

Do you feel like you have an edge over other actresses in the industry? If so, how?

MH: I have always had an edge over everyone else. I believe I know the art of hard work a little more than others since my school days. I have been always been an ace student with too many distinctions on my record and I continue to do that with my work too.

UH: Yes, I do have an edge because I am the only version of myself.

With the influx of numerous fresh faces in the industry, there are more and more projects and acting opportunities arising. Do you feel like that has created a lot of competition amongst the girls?

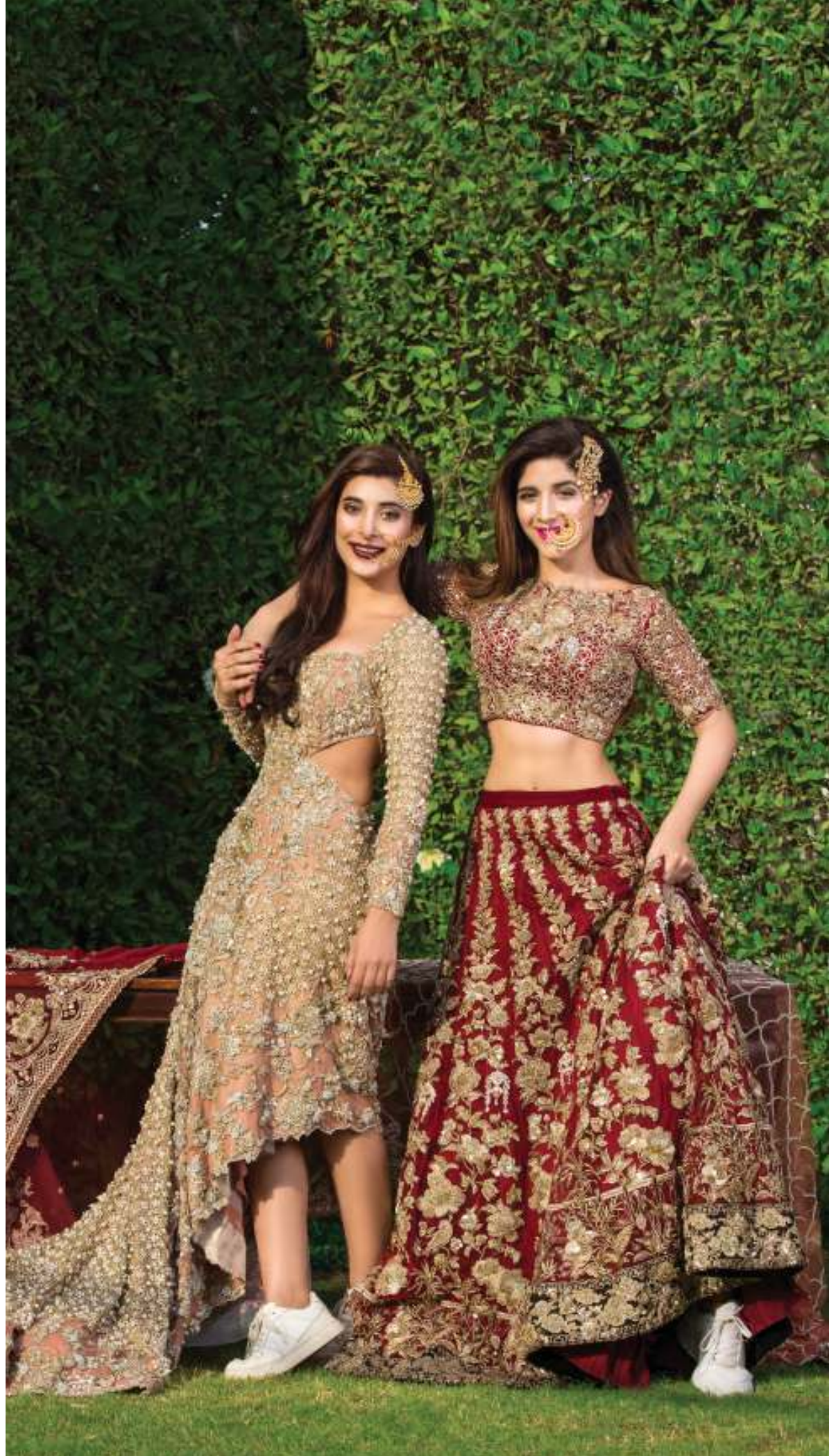
MH: I don't feel there's any competition as yet. I feel there are ample opportunities for everyone to prove their mettle. You just have to remain focused and work hard.

UH: It's excellent that the industry is growing...

You both have managed to move up the ladder of success very early in your career. What has been the secret to your success?

MH: I think it's sheer hard work. I don't remember taking days off. It's also my unconventional choices of work. I believe in quality and quantity both and in exploring new horizons all the time.

UH: I like minding my own business. I am always just worried about what I'm doing every day and if



it's getting better or not...

Mawra, we hear you are a hopeless romantic. So have you found someone you would like the readers to know about? Tying the knot anytime soon?

MH: Oh, not at all; no time for tying the knot as yet. However, I am a hopeless romantic – absolutely.

I believe in old school love, in love letters and soulmates. I love the idea of being in love.

A lot of our readers would love to know the secret to your beauty. What do you do to stay so fresh and fit? Any tips?

MH: I work out almost every day or do yoga. I eat everything. I don't diet at all. I drink a lot of water ►

“MY NEXT PROJECT IS *SAMMI* AND IT'S A SOCIAL-CAUSE BASED SERIAL BY HUM TV WHICH IS BEING PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY...I'M THRILLED TO BE A PART OF IT ESPECIALLY AFTER HAVING WATCHED URWA WORK IN A SERIAL BASED ON A SOCIAL CAUSE, *UDAARI*. ”

– MAWRA

– it keeps you fresh, fit and beautiful.

UH: I believe in yoga; and water is magic.

What's next for Mawra? Any interesting projects in the pipeline?

MH: My next project is *Sammi* and it's a social-cause based serial by Hum TV which is being produced in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University. I play the protagonist in it whose name is *Sammi*. I'm thrilled to be a part of it especially after having watched Urwa work in a serial based on a social cause, *Udaari*, which was a mega hit. It has set a precedent for many more to come, and I couldn't be prouder.

And Urwa, what about you? Any interesting projects in the pipeline?

UH: I have three films in the pipeline right now.

What advice would you give all the young girls who aspire to be like you?

MH: 'Follow your heart, it knows the path' is not just a quotation but the truth of life. Risk everything to achieve your dreams. You just get one chance; make the most out of it. You may seem like a lunatic to the rest of the world but I promise you, you will be living your life to its full potential – something most of us can't even comprehend.

UH: Be yourselves, break out of your shells and follow your dreams. Find the extraordinary in yourselves and keep it alive once you have found it!

What made you change your surname from Hussain to Hocane?

MH: A silly thought in school as a 7th grader. The idea was to make it unique like my first name Mawra.

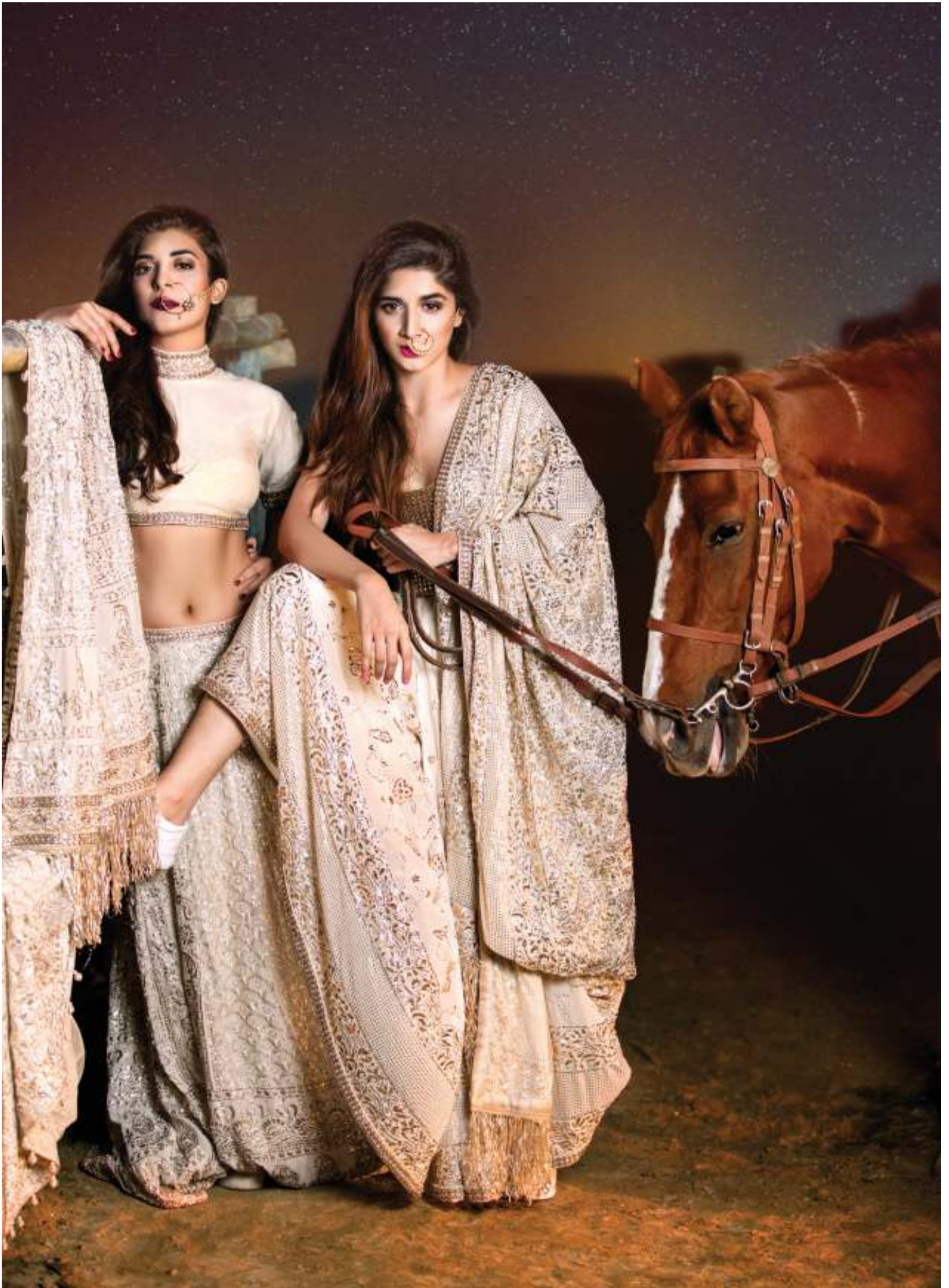
UH: We were teenagers when we felt the need of making the second name cool because we have always enjoyed having unique first names. Thanks to Maa for that!

Theatre, television or cinema – which do you enjoy most?

MH: You have no idea how much I enjoy my ▶







job. The medium doesn't really matter. But yeah, I particularly enjoy shooting songs.

UH: I enjoy everything that challenges me creatively. So I enjoy all three equally.

Your celebrity crush?

MH: Ranbir Kapoor.

UH: Johnny Depp.

Who do you think you would make a great on-screen pair with?

MH: Thank God for wishful thinking – Ali Zafar and Ranbir Kapoor. But I do believe that I would look great with anyone and everyone on screen.

UH: Fawad Khan.

Urwa or Mawra, the more short-tempered one?

MH: Both – depends on who made the blunder!

UH: I think a better question would be who is the funnier one. Neither of us is short-tempered. We can find humour in any situation and then we laugh about it for days.

Urwa or Mawra, the dominating one?

MH: Urwa.

UH: We switch roles like anything.

Tell us one quality that your sister possesses which you wish you had.

MH: Her instincts.

UH: Dressing up every day. I am just too lazy to do that unless I have an appearance.

The last lie you told?

MH: That I'll start keeping a check on what I eat.

UH: That I'll fix my sleeping routine.

You're ideal date would be?

MH: Long and real conversations over tea with the person I am in love with.

UH: My ideal date is spending time with someone you connect with no matter what you are doing. I have already had too many ideal ones with Farhan.

Describe yourself in three words.

MH: Phoenix, dreamer and unconventional.

UH: Kind, aspiring and progressive.

The first thing you notice in the opposite sex.

MH: The vibe.

UH: Sense of humour.

Your biggest pet peeve...

MH: I can't remember the last time I got annoyed by something.

UH: A dirty, unorganised house.

Your favourite local designer?

MH: Elan.

UH: HSY.

Who inspires you the most?

MH: My mother.

UH: Lady Diana.

If you were to compare yourself to one celebrity who would it be?

MH: Priyanka Chopra.

UH: Why should I compare myself to anyone? Everyone is one of a kind, and amazing and beautiful in their own way.

You personal style statement?

MH: Versatile – I can't conform to one style. I'm

always open to all trends.

UH: Anything that I feel like wearing. It varies with my mood!


Your biggest aspiration in life?

MH: To live life to its fullest potential.

UH: I don't have a particular goal. I want to follow my heart and keep growing until I can and then see where that takes me.

If you weren't an actor you would be ...

MH: I'd still be an actor – it just comes to me naturally.

UH: A teacher. For me nurturing the coming generations is the most amazing work to do and I see people around me taking it for granted! That hurts. 

INTERVIEW: FIZZA FURQAN & EIMAN MASROOR
CONCEPT, STYLING & COORDINATION: FIZZA FURQAN
HAIR & MAKE-UP: N-PRO
PHOTOGRAPHS: KASHIF RASHID







Jon Bon JOVI

“ Songwriting is
very therapeutic ”

Lead singer of American rock band Bon Jovi, Jon Bon Jovi on
their new album, *This House is Not For Sale* plus his 54 years in
the music business



TICO TORRES, RICHIE SAMBORA, JON BON JOVI & DAVID BRYAN OF BON JOVI ATTEND A PHOTOCALL AHEAD OF THE MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARDS 2010 AT THE CAJA MAGICA IN SPAIN

American singer-songwriter, record producer, philanthropist Jon Bon Jovi has been rocking for over 50 years now, and the fans are still loving him! Rock band Bon Jovi has been in the biz since 1983 and epitomises what rock music is all about, and yes, Jon Bon Jovi was the founder and frontman.

His musical career, needless to say, has reached heights and continues to go on strong. However, after a rough long tour in 2013 and losing the band's lead guitarist, Richie Sambora, Bon Jovi took a year off from music. Now, he's sharing what he learned and experienced through the lyrics of the new album plus lots more.

How was your summer? Was the album done before?

Jon Bon Jovi: It was, it was. I had the relief of knowing it was done, so I actually spent a good amount of it traveling and at the beach, so it was a real pleasurable summer.

Where did you travel?

JB: I went to Cuba. I went to Africa and then Italy and Dublin. It was great. Really good for a change, and without having to sing when I got there.

Is there a place in the world where Bon Jovi isn't pretty well known?

JB: Oh, I don't know. There's some more than others. Cuba was a nice surprise because nobody knew I was there. It was just a nice surprise.

80

Was it hard work doing the album?

JB: No, it was a jewel. There was so much that went into it. Concurrently, while I was in that period in these last three years, there was a time for doing nothing, coming down from the last tour and everything that was involved in that traumatically, to sitting out in 2014 doing nothing musically, to 2015 starting the writing process, but concurrently recording *Burning Bridges* so I could pout and stomp my feet at the record company; on a parallel course, writing and recording for *This House* so that by May or June of this year when it was complete, I could just say it's released. Just waiting for this time for someone to hear it. Is it any good? I think it's good. No one will say, I haven't played for anyone.

Do you have people around when you write a song?

JB: Well, you don't know who's telling you the truth. That's all you know. I don't know if they tell me the truth, so you have to wait and see what the reaction is in the real world and it's just starting now. This feels like the beginning. The new light, the light at the end of the tunnel. It's a new era.

How was it not doing music for a year?

JB: Fine by me, you know, after the tumultuous *What About Now* tour. I just looked at that guitar sitting on the stand in my bedroom and it would look at me and give me the cold shoulder and not say anything. Just like a lover turns their back on you. I was fine with that!

[Laughs] ►





“ You don’t know who’s telling you the truth. That’s all you know. I don’t know if they tell me the truth, so you have to wait and see what the reaction is in the real world and it’s just starting now. ”

AT THE FANATICS SUPER BOWL PARTY IN CALIFORNIA



So no, you didn't miss it at all?

JB: I'm comfortable and confident enough. It's interesting, you learn this over the years. I don't have any fear that it won't come back again. The writing or the ability, if it's not, I don't force it. If I don't feel like writing, if it's not there, it's not there. It'll come back. So in all of '14 I had no desire whatsoever to touch it.

What do you do when you don't do music for a year?

JB: Well, if you don't know the background of 2013, it was a difficult tour. It was a long tour and then I was trying to buy the football team up until September of '14 and that didn't work out. There was just one more blow that it was just too much, so in January of '15 I was ready to start a dialogue with the guitar. It's like I walk by and I go, "How you doing? Still playing the cold shoulder? Oh okay then, I'll wait," and eventually it says, "Oh, I'm ok, how are you?"

You both knew you would get back together?

JB: Eventually, yes! [Laughs]

It's interesting that in this traumatic year, in this aftermath that you didn't use songwriting as therapy...

JB: Oh, I think it's very therapeutic. Not the year after. I wasn't ready for it. I couldn't have done it. There was no chance, not in '14. No chance, I wasn't ready. You know, in order to get therapy, you have to know that you need it. I was too low. The curb was up. The gutter was a step up from where I was.

The album is so up, powerful, vibrant, youthful and exciting; very up-tempo and up-beat. When did you get this back? Was it through song writing?

JB: A lot of it came in truth. I'll give you a great

example. In 'New Years Day', certainly it's not about the calendar date, it's about a rebirth. The writing took place with an acoustic guitar on my lap, much like this on a couch and it was inspired by me seeing a play on Broadway, but it was written in almost a waltz kind of a feel and when we came here, in this studio to record it, Tico [Torres] and Dave [Bryan] really locked into the lyrics and it took a whole new life, as this kind of coming together as a band. We all had to come together

“I don't have any fear that it won't come back again. The writing or the ability, if it's not, I don't force it. If I don't feel like writing, if it's not there, it's not there. It'll come back.”

on the tour, but we never had a chance to think about it or talk about because that night on, we had to just do it. When we came together to make the record after having to turn in *Burning Bridges* a couple of months prior, you're still reeling from all the stuff you're going through, now, it's just gone. It's off your back. What I also could notice was how loyal and caring and good the relationship

was with Dave, Tico, and Hugh [McDonald], and John Shanks, the producer. You couldn't help but make it into a positive, so the energy turned into "let's do this with a sense of pride." New Years Day was so much, not a calendar date. No, it's today, it's the first day.

Have you been sure, all the way through, that your positivity would return?

JB: No, no, there wasn't a lot to be positive about in those few years. Believe me when I say I'm not even looking for my own self-pity. That's so trite. From the bliss lead singer in a rock band, but it was in fact a part of life and part of living. You had to change your course that you were on and deal with it. It wasn't going to have you exude optimism. [Laughs] No, I wasn't confident that it could or would, it was just a result of all of the elements that lead you to this place. Anytime you run into an obstacle in life – no matter whose life it is – it's almost God's way of saying, "I'm just steering you this way. You're going to hit another obstacle? It's okay, I'm steering you this way. I just didn't want you to keep going that way. I put an obstacle in your way so you'd come this way." That's part of the journey.

Are you happy that they finally get what you do? That you don't have to explain it anymore?

JB: I don't care, it's just fun to see. Jake would hear a story, something, "you went to the Berlin Wall." "That piece of rock that sits in your office in a plexus glass box, what is that?" For years, and then he sees a documentary on TV, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, I was there. I took a hammer, rented it from a guy and broke it down, that's it." And he's like, "You were really there?" It's like, I might as well tell him I was on the moon, because they're seeing history on television and they look around and yeah, stuff like that.

I thought in *Reunion*, it felt to me like you were addressing your children on that one?

JB: Well, in that case, I was given an honorary doctorate at a college, so it's Dr. Bon Jovi speaking to these grads.

Do people call you Dr. Bon Jovi?

JB: No, but funny enough, I'm asked to speak in a university in New Jersey. I prepare this speech, what can you really say? Go and do things in your life, try things. But to add to it, I wrote them a song and I played it for them that day and it really resonated, it got a lot of reaction, because the lyrics made sense and people related to it. So I said, "Well, I think this is a part of the three years. Not every thing was just dark and miserable. This day happened," and so I wrote that song for it.

I think it's your second doctorate...

JB: It is, please, it's not worth the paper it's printed on, if you consider who you gave it to, but I'm humbled by it. It's nice. Two universities in the great state of New Jersey have bestowed this honour. It's nice.

Being inspiration to college students, does that mean a lot to you?

JB: I'm grateful. I'm humbled by it. I put in a lot of work into my career. I did a lot of living in these last three decades. I'm glad somebody is paying attention to the lyrics, because I obviously put in the effort. But that's where it ends. I don't profess to be a professor. I'm just a student of life, just like everyone else, trying to figure it out.

Your children are around the age where they're graduating...

JB: I have two that will graduate college this year. My daughter stuck around for more film school. She's get out in June and Jessie will graduate ahead of his class in December, so they'll both graduate the university this year and then I have a 14 and 12-year-old, so they have a few years to go.

Nobody wants to follow in your footsteps?

JB: No, that's just fine by me too, but no.


Do you hope they will change their minds?

JB: No, I don't care. It's interesting, none of my brothers were in the music business, my parents were not musical, nor were my children. It was just my calling, so I don't push it on them.

In 54 years, so far, you've always been a man of integrity?

JB: I hope so. That's an aspiration. Wouldn't that be the greatest thing to say about any person? That their integrity was intact? That they didn't sell their soul? That is something I consider to be very important, regardless of what you are or what you do.

You still have a lot of old friends from 40 years that you used to hang out with?

JB: Not that many, to be honest. I don't think I know that many people who are from my youth. Not really. Maybe one or two here or there. I mean, I've known the band my whole adult life. Our engineer Obie [O'Brien], I met here, 36 years ago. I didn't know him before then, you know what I mean? Except for Dave who I knew when I was sixteen or seventeen. These are guys I've met along the way. 

INTERVIEW: KEN SUMMIT/THE INTERVIEW FEED
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY



JON BON JOVI & DOROTHEA HURLEY ATTEND THE JON BON JOVI SOUL FOUNDATION'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT THE GARAGE IN NEW YORK



KHADIJA Shah

“ I’m a perfectionist and nothing escapes my eye ”

The award-winning designer talks to *OK!* Pakistan exclusively about her label, working round the clock plus lots more...





“I don’t get scared coming up with new collections. I used to initially. I didn’t realise the power a brand has and how much people follow it blindly,” shares 34-year-old Khadijah Shah, the Creative Head of both Elan and Sapphire. “I know now if we do something, it will be a trend. If no one has seen a *shalwar* for 10 years and I put it in a shoot, it will be followed and other brands will follow that

trend. But obviously, I have to think that through as it comes with responsibility. Today, I think, ‘Do I want this to be a trend’, rather than whether or not this will work, because our ideas mostly do.”

Khadijah Shah is a quintessential workaholic. She generally turns down most social invitations to focus on work and her family and on a daily basis, she is usually dressed in “comfort clothing,” such as loose knits, airy silhouettes and

loungewear during the day. She works so hard, her two children regularly come to the office to see her and to eat dinner together.

“People who know me would say I’m a workaholic,” admits the award-winning designer. “I am very involved and dedicated to Elan. I’m also a perfectionist and nothing escapes my eye. Even when I delegate, I can never fully let go; it’s a never-ending journey, constantly changing and evolving and I think that keeps people interested. I’ve also got amazing teams of people working with me. My husband Jehanzeb runs the business side and has made it grow by leaps and bounds.”

Her couture label Elan – originally the brainchild of her mother – has built a name for itself as one of the most cutting edge and coveted Pakistani formal wear brands. A French word that means energy or flair, Elan is a high-end luxury brand that consists of evening wear, bridal and luxury pret. If that was not enough, she is also the designer behind Sapphire – the nation’s top high street brand.

“With Sapphire, every single day you have to look at designs and overlook productions. 100 designs per month with price points starting at 1,200 rupees!,” explains the brown-eyed brunette.

“ I’M AN ARTIST AT HEART AND I PAINSTAKINGLY DEVELOP PATTERNS FOR ALL MY COLLECTIONS, THERE IS DETAIL AND PRECISION INVOLVED AT EVERY STAGE OF THE GARMENTS’ DEVELOPMENT AND I THINK THAT’S WHAT SETS MY BRAND APART AND HAS MADE IT SO COVETABLE. ”

“So, now, with Elan and Sapphire, I’m pretty stretched at all times.”

“Both brands have my design aesthetic and sometimes you see something similar, but it would be a diffused trend,” explains the Creative Director. “It would not be possible for the products to be the same because of price limitation per piece at Sapphire.”

Just a year old, Sapphire’s unquestionable success and the way women fight – literally, for *joras* at its sales – is without a doubt due to Khadijah’s Midas touch for fashion. “My design philosophy is largely underpinned on my personal style. I love elegant, clean-cut, impeccably stitched clothes. I have a definite predilection for softer tones and colours and for order and symmetry in my designs,” shares Khadijah. “I’m an artist at heart and I painstakingly develop patterns for all my collections, there is detail and precision involved at every stage of the garments’ development and I think that’s what sets my brand apart and has made it so covetable.”

“Being a design house based in Pakistan naturally defines the Pakistani market as my core clientele,” shares Khadijah. “Collections are ►



“ I KNOW NOW IF WE DO SOMETHING, IT WILL BE A TREND...BUT OBVIOUSLY, I HAVE TO THINK THAT THROUGH AS IT COMES WITH RESPONSIBILITY. TODAY, I THINK, ‘DO I WANT THIS TO BE A TREND’, RATHER THAN WHETHER OR NOT THIS WILL WORK, BECAUSE OUR IDEAS MOSTLY DO. ”



“PEOPLE EXCITED TO BUY THE CLOTHES AND SO MANY WOMEN WEARING THEM – I ENJOY THAT ASPECT. HOWEVER, WE DON’T LEAK VIDEOS OR ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HAVE FIGHTS.”

created with that in mind. However, there is no limit to inspiration or innovation in design. I explore all international trends and can use anything from anywhere as my source of inspiration. My patterns, motif development, cut and silhouette are not ethnic or traditional but lean towards western design philosophy.”

“I love fashion,” the Sagittarian adds, “because it’s an instant way of self-expression. It has us salivating, our hearts racing and our pulse beating, it makes women feel good! You can choose fashion and anyone can have it, you don’t have to be beautiful or fair or dark or tall or short – everyone can have their own fashion story and be the star of it.”

Although there is a lot of work involved in running two top brands, Khadijah loves what she does. “I sit in the middle of an office with more or less 60 very creative people and we are constantly bouncing ideas, we’re up to date with everything going on with fashion and we are developing trends. I love being part of producing something creative.”

So, how did this trendsetter reach this pinnacle of success. Was she a born fashionista? “I started off doing something different. I studied International Relations and Politics at London School of Economics. I am very keen on politics and it’s one of my passions still,” she states, “but by chance, I discovered I had this penchant for fashion.”

“My mother had founded Elan and initially I was just helping her. I had returned from college. Starting off as her apprentice, I quickly learnt the trade and started experimenting on my own. I got a great response from her clients and that’s when I decided that I could make something out of it,” she continues. Her mother still has her own fashion label that she runs but now Khadijah runs Elan independently.

“The first ever comprehensive collection I did was for the first fashion week in Pakistan, the PFDC show,” recalls the designer. “It was a wedding wear collection and I used digital printing extensively which was the first time it was done by any Pakistani design house. I took inspiration from celebrated artist Saeed Akhtar’s work and was thrilled when he gave me access to all his artwork.”

“I did my first lawn with Kamal textiles and I started with them and it ended up doing fantastically well,” continues Khadijah. “The next year, Hussain Textiles. Then, Sapphire approached a year later in 2014. They wanted to do something similar and I really like the group and the people. I met with them and then we discussed the idea of this fashion brand and we were on the same



page - Nadeem Abdullah (of Sapphire Group) and myself. He handles business and I look at the creative side of it.”

Sapphire turned one in December 2015. “We started working in 2014 on the concept. Nadeem had the idea of a mass retail brand and I had been doing lawn and liked this idea of giving affordable fashion to the masses.” The one year store celebratory sale inspired women to duke it out to get hold of outfits to buy and the pictures went viral. “People excited to buy the clothes

and so many women wearing them – I enjoy that aspect. However, we don’t leak videos or encourage people to have fights,” clarifies Khadijah. “I don’t want to invade customers’ privacy. My first instinct was ‘Let’s get this video off.’ I don’t want people to think management is making videos in our store.”

The videos went viral so quickly – it was too late. So why does the Creative Director think there was such intense demand for Sapphire? “Probably the product,” she states. ►

“ I ALWAYS DESIGN COLLECTIONS BASED ON MY PERSONAL PREDILECTION. THERE IS PRETTY MUCH NOTHING THAT I MAKE THAT I COULD NEVER IMAGINE MYSELF WEARING. ”

“Elan is aspirational and that makes Sapphire aspirational – anyone can walk into a Sapphire store and buy it. It's got a good design aesthetic. Our high-end customers go to Sapphire too. When they see a sale, people go crazy because they want more of it.”

“We are setting trends and not following them. We have raised the standard for quality and innovation in design. People have come to expect international standards from local design houses because we set that bar,” states the entrepreneur proudly. “Our marketing campaigns and fashion shows similarly have set us apart from other design houses and have created a stir. I think in any industry there are a few trendsetters and



GORGEOUS PIECES FROM THE DESIGNER'S COLLECTION AT PFDC BRIDAL WEEK

many followers, Elan enjoys the reputation of being a trendsetting Pakistani fashion design house and that naturally sets us apart.”

The designer's personal touch is in every detail of her work. “I am quite particular about models and photography. I feel really strongly about who can represent the brand,” states the 5' 9.5 slim designer who herself looks fabulous in the clothes she designs. “I've worked with all the best photographers and models in Pakistan and continue to work with them according to what I think I need from a certain campaign. I have photographers slotted in my mind for the kind of work technique they have.”

“I always design collections based on



my personal predilection,” she adds. “There is pretty much nothing that I make that I could never imagine myself wearing.”

When she goes out, she likes to wear sharp, structured looks mostly in black and neutral colours, accessorised with “statement pieces” to add a little oomph to her look.

So who is Khadijah's favourite designer? “I think Raff Simons as head of Dior was exceptional. I also admire Giorgio Armani, Alber Elbaz and Elie Saab and labels like Rodarte and Marchesa,” she reveals. “Out of the contemporary brands, The Row, Victoria Beckham, Chalayan, Roksanda Ilincic, Kaufman Franco, Haider Ackermann, Acne, Rag and Bone, Carven are some I really like wearing.”

Ambitious, hard-working and on a roll, the designer, who is affectionately known as Diya or Dee, is determined to leave a legacy. “Last year, I got two awards – one from the Chamber and one from the Women's Entrepreneurship Council. I felt really proud to have been in the company of such accomplished women, some of them decades older than myself,” she states. “I want to

be remembered for changing the way design was conceptualised and perceived in Pakistan,” she adds. “I was recently approached by a girl who told me she loved what I had done, I looked at her wondering what she was referring to. Then, she said you’re the one who ‘invented’ silver worked bridals. I laughed, but I was happy to hear that.”

However, first, she wants to step back before going full throttle forward. “My daily career is really fast paced and ever changing. It has never plateaued since I started around nine years back,” she explains. “I manage different teams of people so there is a huge sense of responsibility. At work, I’m usually seen zipping around from one space to another having sometimes three to four different meetings simultaneously. My office is an


“WE HAVE THE SAME DESIGN TEAM FOR BOTH SAPPHIRE AND ELAN. THERE ARE SET TIMETABLES FOR BOTH BRANDS AND EVERYTHING IS PLANNED ACCORDINGLY.”

open space. It’s a big desk in the middle of the design studio and I’m constantly surrounded by my team.”

“We have the same design team for both Sapphire and Elan. There are set timetables for both brands and everything is planned accordingly.” Timing and discipline are key to heading two high demand brands and those characteristics were instilled in this designer from a young age. “My maternal grandparents Nuzhat and Asif Nawaz raised me. I was excessively loved and pampered growing up but given my grandfather’s army background I was also extremely disciplined,” she recalls her youth. “My grandfather was a role model for me and that made me quite driven and authoritative.”

“My New Year’s resolution was to be more organised and to have time for myself in 2016. The last year was an aggressive year for me as far as work was concerned. I had a brand and started a second one and did a lot of work. I had no time for myself. I did nothing for myself. Out of 12 hours, I work 8-9 hours. My life has been frustrating. Every five seconds someone reaches out to me and wants something. I’m working on changing that.”

So what does “me” time look like to Khadijah? “I like to spend my Sundays in the winter lying curled up in front of a log fire with a good book and some chocolate.” Her favourite foods include crispy duck and pancakes, *nihari* and “good” Khao Suey anytime anywhere. Her favourite song is One by U2 and she is an avid volleyball player.

As a trendsetter renowned for leading change, it will be inspiring to see her transform her life to one where she works less and spends more time enjoying her other interests. Although, more likely, the talented multi-tasking designer might end up heading three brands at the same time! Either way, we can’t wait to see what she comes up with next! 

INTERVIEW: T.U. DAWOOD
PHOTOGRAPHS: IRFAN YOUNAS



Eddie REDMAYNE

“*You try and then fail, and then try again!*”

The British actor talks about his movie *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, being more confident in front of the camera plus more







A SCENE FROM *FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM*

Eddie Redmayne's portrayal of theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* earned him colossal acclaim. It not only earned him an Academy award for Best Actor but also a BAFTA, Golden Globe and SAG award in the same category. So if that isn't success, we don't know what is! For his role in *The Danish Girl*, he was also nominated for an Oscar, and last year, he was also appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his services to drama.

And now, the Oscar-winning actor will be seen in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* – a movie based on JK Rowling's novel. Here, he talks to us about his role in the movie, winning an Oscar plus taking part in fashion campaigns.

Where is the Oscar displayed at home?

Eddie Redmayne: The Oscar sits on a little side table in my flat in London and looks a bit unreal. It's very shiny and surreal, and definitely doesn't feel real.

A lot of actors start with effects movies surrounded by CGI creatures and then aim for awards-heavy dramatic fare when they stretch their wings. You've done it the other way around...

ER: Do I have a plan? I love the idea that actors have any choice whatsoever. We're all screwed; we're literally lucky to get employment. I remember Alfred Molina once saying the notion of a career is something you look back on – how did all that happen? But no, the reality is for *The Theory of Everything*, there were six or seven other actors who were offered the part. I was lucky enough that they turned it down. I fought for it and got it and it just happens that that worked. Then suddenly you're on a list and you're slightly



higher on that list for a moment, and that'll all shift and change in a year's time. What it does for that moment, it gives you momentarily a bit more choice. What's been interesting for me is in theatre, I've always been lucky to have a bit of choice but not so much in film. It's wonderful to be able to have access to scripts that you wouldn't have otherwise for a moment.

But surely Eddie Redmayne doesn't have to audition or fight for parts any more?

ER: You know, for all the things that you want that are outside people's expectation of who you are, you have to fight for it. Otherwise you end up being cast in the same things again and again. You know, you're always trying to prove those people wrong who have preconceptions of who you are.

Was that the case with *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*?

ER: *Fantastic Beasts* was an interesting one

because I met David Yates [director] about year before film started and it was quite a clandestine meeting. I didn't know anything about it; it was in a club in Soho. It was by a fire and he just started telling me these stories. And the stories were deeply intoxicating. Basically he was like, "JK Rowling is writing this script. At some point I would like you to read the script and there's a list of actors we're meeting." Eventually I read the script and what was astounding of course completely superseded all our expectations. Then I was just lucky enough that they made the choice. But then what comes of that is, I was cast in this without an audition. And if you're neurotic, the great thing about being cast without an audition is, you're cast without an audition and I had this problem in real life when you turn up on set and you open your mouth on day one of filming and you watch the director go "Whoa, whoa, really?" and then you feel that insecurity and it can cripple you. So what happened here was that, we were then auditioning the other actors but I felt like it I ►



“The thing about acting is I spent so many years being scared of making mistakes, and within that period, I did some really boring work. So I try to sort of free myself up and sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn’t.”

EDDIE REDMAYNE ATTENDS THE 87TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS AT HOLLYWOOD & HIGHLAND CENTER IN CALIFORNIA



STEPHEN HAWKING & EDDIE REDMAYNE ATTEND THE UK PREMIERE OF *THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING* AT ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE IN LONDON

was being auditioned too, and I was. I knew that David and David Heyman [producer] were going “Oh you’re going to do it like that?” What was fortunate was to get rid of all that anxiety early, not get fired and keep playing with it.

So you have a lot more confidence on the way when the cameras are rolling?

ER: Well, I think the interesting thing about being offered a part early, and with this sort of experience, I said to David, “Look I don’t have a great imagination, I’ve struggled in the past with big CGI things. Will you allow me to be a part of the process from the word go?” So I started working four months before we started filming. I went to the studio every day, met with visual effects department, met with the animator. So much of the film was about my relationship with the animals and each of the creatures will have an animator, and they’re not just like designers, they’re kind of actors themselves. So I could then discuss it with them, how I’d been to this wildlife

park I was looking at the way some animal did something. They thought it was great, so I was really included. And similarly with JK Rowling, if I had an idea you were never made to feel kept at a distance, and often with big studio films you can. You know, your job is to turn up and just say the lines and not screw it up. Whereas actually from *Danish Girl* and *The Theory of Everything* I’m used to having much more of a get your hands dirty thing. And what was lovely about being attached to this from early was basically saying up front to David “This is how I work best, can I be included?” So it meant that by the time we started shooting that you were part of it and it was an indie film rather than some massive juggernaut.

The *Danish Girl* and *The Theory of Everything* were much more about performance, you were very much front and centre. How different an experience is it to share the screen with all the creatures and effects?

ER: It’s not even that. It’s an ensemble piece.

It’s about four people, this quartet of people and these extraordinary animals and that’s a really wonderful thing because it was such a varied experience, you would; and what JK’s done tonally with all these different genres she somehow weaves together it means your day at work is never the same. You know, one day I’m on a gigantic green bucking bronco been thrown around a room, shouting down at Dan and Alison and Katherine to put an insect in a teapot or something. Like I’m totally going “What is my job? This is absolutely hilarious.” Then the next day there’d be a really intimate and gently romantic scene with Katherine Waterston. There was such variety in it and I found it such fun.

Does it feel different then when the spotlight isn’t so solidly on you?

ER: Yeah, I think so. But what one does feel is with *Danish Girl*; it was a responsibility to that story and to Lili’s memory, also in *The Theory of Everything* with Stephen [Hawking]. Here, it’s about the fans, it’s about having had all these *Harry Potter* books, we’ve had the films, we love them. Don’t screw it up.

You haven’t worked a real lot in Hollywood; most of your recent success has been in European films. Do you have any sense that Hollywood doesn’t really know what to do with your look or acting skillset?

ER: It’s interesting because does this count as a Hollywood film? It was shot in England with a load of English crew. It feels the same. I mean, I don’t sort of sit there thinking about a strategy, how am I perceived? I think if you spent too much time thinking about that you end up being

“I just did a campaign for Prada and hearing artists talk about the big influence of their whole collection, it’s the same thing that actors do, get into that stuff.”

inauthentic. What I do is read stories, scripts and try and go, “My God, that’s an extraordinary character, can I try and play that?” I don’t think it would be particularly useful to try and step outside of it and see how the world observes you too much. Genuinely it’s the stupidest instinct. It’s like what made this script like that was at the end I was literally like “Am I actually crying?” It was really moving. I was going “Wow, that’s done it”. It was similar with *Theory of Everything*, when I read that script. I couldn’t believe I didn’t know about this relationship, yet at the end when Stephen Hawking says to his wife, looking at their children despite all they’ve been through “Look what we made.” You know, I was deeply moved by it and it’s a purely instinctive thing and then you just hope that you don’t get in the way of what’s on the page, you know.

You look great in some of the fashion campaigns you've done. Is fashion a particular interest or an important part of life?

ER: I mean, in our lives we don't have uniforms, you know, we can wear all day everyday clothes. Costume becomes a massive element of my process as far as finding who a character is. But when it comes to like premieres and stuff like that, they're slightly silly things so why not use it as an excuse to get dressed up from all these amazing designers who have ideas and they go "What about this?" It's playful I suppose. Also my dad is quite a slick dresser so perhaps I sort of aspire to be him.

Are you a fashion watcher to the extent of having influences or favourite designers?

ER: I do find it riveting. I just did a campaign for Prada and hearing artists talk about the big influence of their whole collection, it's the same thing that actors do, get into that stuff.

When it comes to the fashion and advertising and other stuff you've done, is that stuff necessary for an actor today to have a personal brand in order to maintain interest in their career?

ER: That's a good question and I know actors who are like "You shouldn't do any of that because it removes from that anonymity or the idea of people being able to project onto what a character is." I totally understand that. But I was just lucky enough that when I was doing plays when I was a kid being paid 300 quid a week and Christopher Bailey who runs Burberry wanted to work with me. I found the process of doing those with him and now doing them with Prada, they're interesting artistic people; photography I find interesting as well, so I found the process kind of enjoyable, I don't think of it as brand building.

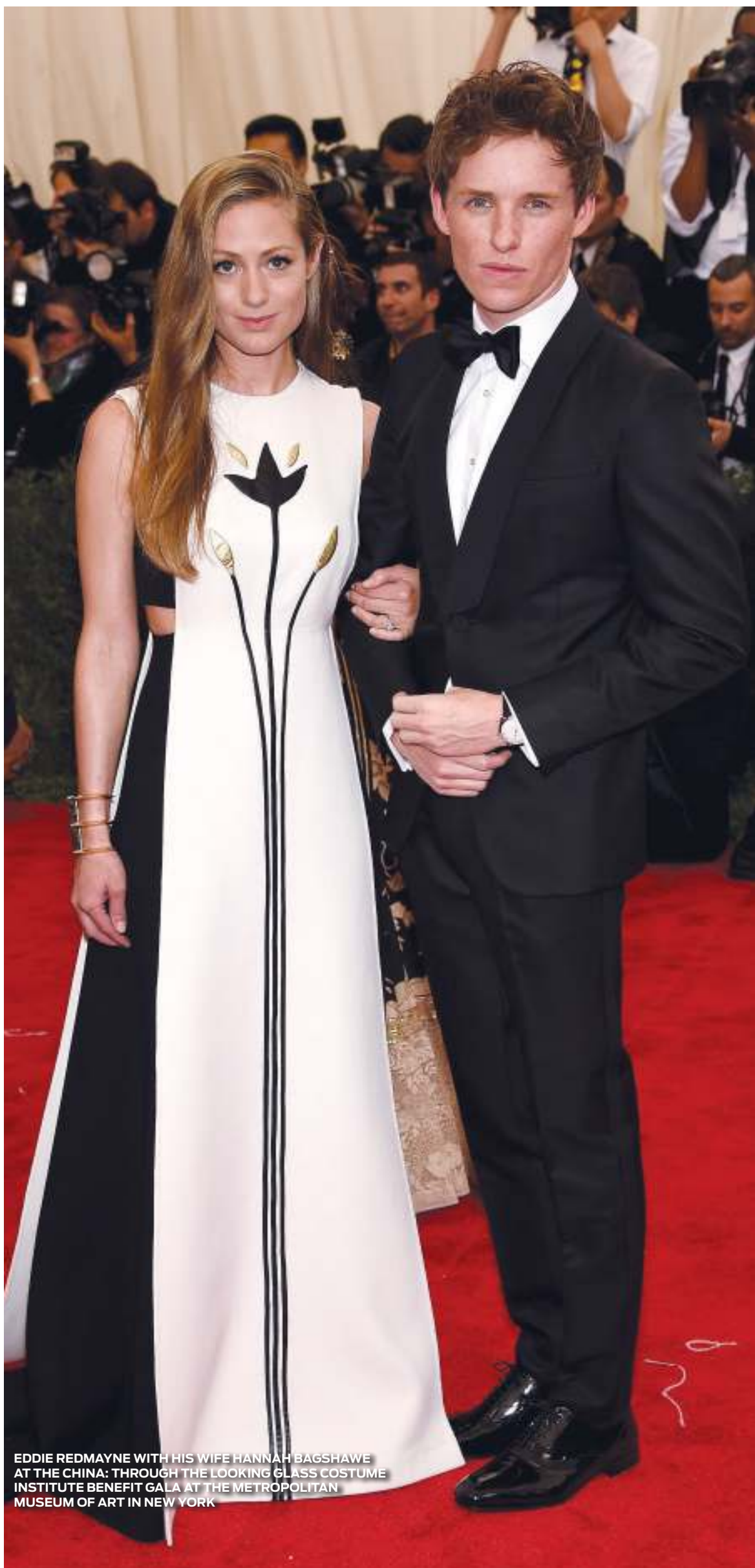
Is it hard to look back on work that hasn't been as well received like *Jupiter Ascending* and be proud of what you did?

ER: No, the thing about acting is I spent so many years being scared of making mistakes, and within that period, I did some really boring work. So I try to sort of free myself up and sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't. With *Jupiter*, I love the Wachowski's and I think they're extraordinary and I tried to sort of get into their world and their imagination. And clearly somewhere along the way I didn't make it work. But I enjoyed the process hugely and I was trying to do something interesting. I suppose if I let the criticism affect me too much, then I'll feel the restriction and only go back to the same tropes. But you definitely try and then fail, and try again. It's complicated. You never go into something not giving it 100 percent. Sometimes that 100 percent can be channeled in totally the wrong direction but you still give it your all.

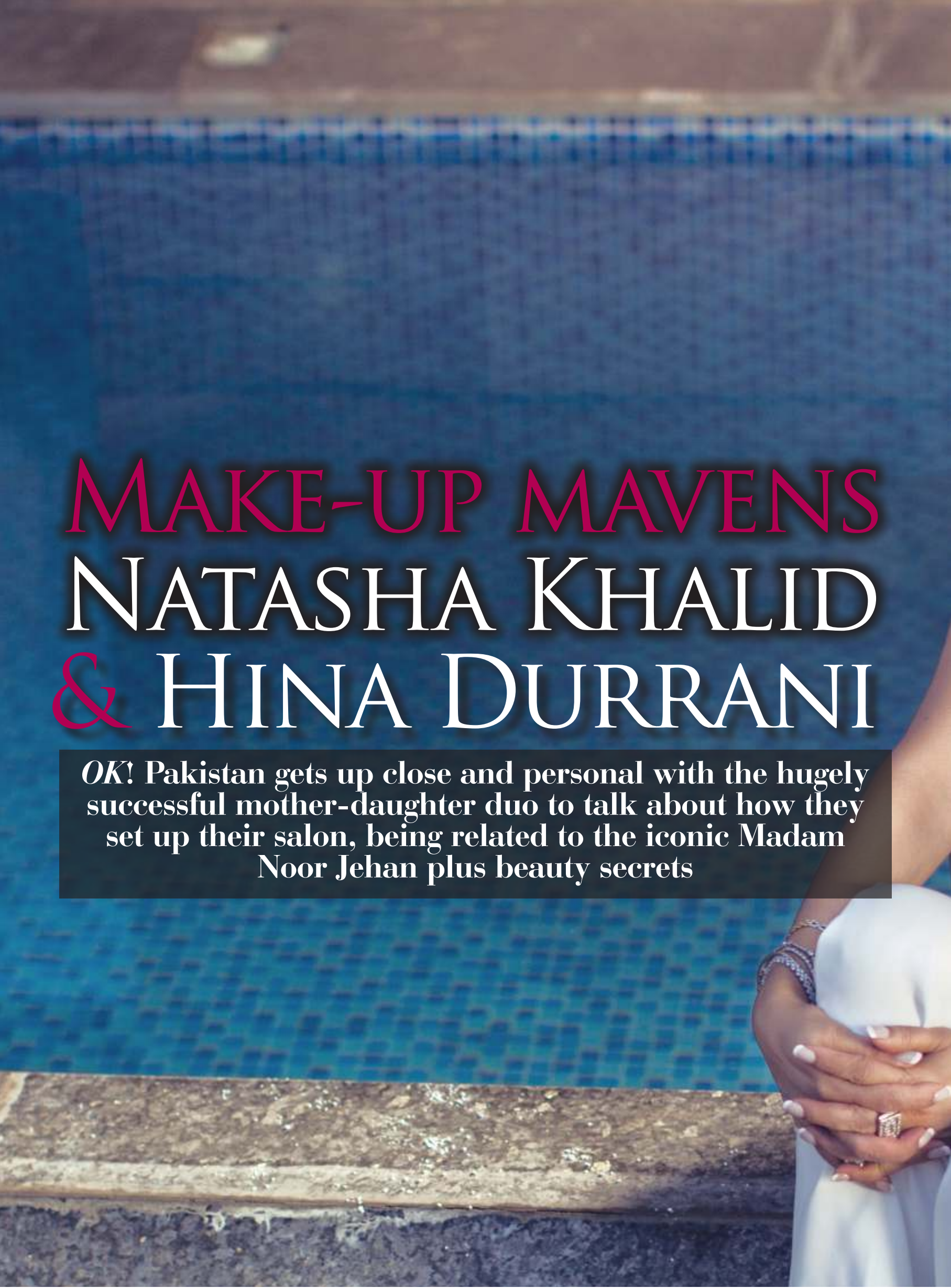
Are you freaking out a bit about the fan response to *Fantastic Beasts*? *Harry Potter* universe fans are a bit rabid.

ER: I've never done Comic-Con, we're doing it this year and I don't really know what to expect. But you can't freak out, in the past people have gone "Oh my God, you've won an Oscar, your life's changed," and it really hasn't. I'm still on the Tube [London]. The answer is, you just put one foot in front of the other and you hope it goes alright. **OK!**

INTERVIEW: SIMON BELL/FAMOUS
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY



EDDIE REDMAYNE WITH HIS WIFE HANNAH BAGSHAWE
AT THE CHINA: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS COSTUME
INSTITUTE BENEFIT GALA AT THE METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM OF ART IN NEW YORK

A woman in a white dress is standing by a pool, her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a blue mosaic tile wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

MAKE-UP MAVENS NATASHA KHALID & HINA DURRANI

OK! Pakistan gets up close and personal with the hugely successful mother-daughter duo to talk about how they set up their salon, being related to the iconic Madam Noor Jehan plus beauty secrets





Natasha and Hina Khalid, the make-up and hair maestros behind Natasha's Salon, have taken the industry by storm in a very short span of time. Being Madam Noor Jehan's granddaughter and daughter, respectively, it comes as no surprise that they have excelled in their field. Natasha, her mother and sister Sabrina have produced millions of beautiful brides over the years as well as made a mark in the world of fashion with their much-acclaimed editorials.

How did you begin your career as a make-up artist?

Natasha Khalid: I went to high school here for five years but have predominately been in Dubai and London. I did my make-up course in London from Gemma Kerr who is a huge celebrity and make-up artist (Jodie Kerr's sister). She herself was good, not the best but she had employed some of the best in the business like David Horne who was my teacher; he was the head of MAC UK in Germany as well and one of the most talented make-up artists I have ever come across. I was with them for 8 weeks and then I went to Dubai and joined MAC initially as a make-up artist and carried on to be a trainer for them. After that, I worked for Bobbi Brown but then chose to go freelance and do my own thing. I used to say that I would always stay away from typical *desi* make-up and never do any of that since it wasn't my style so I was kind of never on the radar when it came to the bridal make-up industry but my sister's persistence kicked in and then my mum had done

her course in hair so it all kind of just came together. Now I sometimes sit and think that we were so quick to act and like what if it backfired or didn't do that well? [Laughs] I think sometimes just burning your bridges and starting fresh is key, and also my mother put that responsibility on us that we had started something and now it was down to us to make it something. It was interesting to be young and doing something spontaneous so it would hit us that oh wait, this has to work.

What is Sabrina's role to play?

NK: Sabrina is the brainchild behind the salon. She's actually a barrister but when mum was doing her hair course and I was doing a make-up course - not to start up a salon but just to brush up my skills - it was Sabrina who really insisted that we come back and start a salon. From opening the salon to all the business planning to setting it up, Sabrina literally put the whole thing together. She has recently gone to advance her hair course. Our staff is very different to other salon staff because Sabrina and my mother have properly trained them. She now does on-going consulting and we've just started master's classes in Lahore and Karachi and an online blog too. Sabrina's the planner and the consultant behind everything. She's an integral part but since she's moved to Dubai now, she's between Karachi and Dubai.

Is this what you always wanted to do since you were a child? Has your mother proven to be an inspiration for you in terms of what you do?

NK: Always! As a child or a teen I was very unlike

what my mother used to represent. She was very disciplined, ambitious and she likes to do things a certain way. I, on the other hand, was the laziest child you'd ever meet - not disciplined at all. But it's surprising how you watch your parents growing up and one day you realise that you're becoming just like them. You watch and follow. From the way she always looked to seeing her do her make-up, I was always grasping something or the other from my mother. Now all those traits, like ethics and discipline, that I was so far from at one point are what make me who I am today. I'm exactly like her now and not only have I embodied her traits but also learnt to admire them. You inculcate it.

What does a day in the life of Natasha Khalid look like?

NK: Usually it's waking up and with my recent turn to the health and nutritional lifestyle, I work out my meal plan for the day - juicing and exercising or attending any classes I've signed up for. There's a lot of online social media work that happens in the day since I handle my account myself. I'm off to the salon by 10:30 AM and done by 7 PM. The whole day is filled with appointments. In the first two years when I moved back, I used to be working till 2-3 am every single night. I worked seven days a week non-stop till Natasha Salon took off after six months of hard work. I single handedly did everything. Now everyone is doing social media but when I started off, I was the only one posting on Facebook and Instagram. Also, now that I'm engaged I have a bit of a life other ►

HUMA DURRANI

Words to live by?

Hard work, sincerity and family.

Your way to relax?

I read, exercise regularly, and read some more.

Three things you don't leave the house without?

My diary, phone charger and spectacles.

Your personal style statement...

Casual and classic! Sneakers all the way!

A good day spent with your daughters would be...

Sitting on the sofa, eating and giggling away.

Your cutest childhood memory of Natasha?

When Natasha was a child, she would never cry for milk, she would just kiss me repeatedly and roll over to the other side and then kiss me again and keep kissing me till she would wake me up.

Your biggest fear?

I don't think I have any.

What differentiates you from your siblings?

I'm quite methodical, routine oriented and regimental.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be?

I'd be less self critical – sometimes I'm very hard on myself.

If you could change one thing about Natasha, what would it be?

I wish she'd be less impulsive and think/breathe before she reacts.

If you could give your daughters one piece of advice, it would be?

Actions speak louder than words.

Your least favourite make-up trend?

When people do their nails funky but it doesn't suit them or the way they've done it isn't correct.

The one thing you can't stand?

Disloyalty and lies.

Are you a foodie? Favourite dish?

Not a foodie but I love crispy aromatic duck.

One make-up product you swear by?

MAC Spike (for eye brows).

Sabrina or Natasha, who is the obedient child?

Sabrina.

Sabrina or Natasha, the naughty one?

Sabrina.

Sabrina or Natasha, who is the go-getter?

Natasha.

Your fondest memory shared with your parents?

I remember my mother had just been taken off the ventilator and my father had flown to be with us and while he stood inside the ICU, he was so sensitive that he didn't speak to her out loud, instead he spoke to her in sign language. She started crying and he walked up to her and it was beautiful to see them relate to each other without even talking.

Which sibling are you closest to?

Huma ji – she was like my mother.





than work and commitments to cater to so I try to balance my day and give my fiancé time as well. Either Ali will come over or we'll head out for a meal or sometimes I'll go to a friends but most nights, I'm a home body – don't really care much about being out and about. I've realised over time, the more still you are, the more you're in your own space, the more balanced you end up being.

You shot to fame very early in your career, do you reckon your family name had anything to do with your early success or was it all you?

NK: I think I'm very lucky to be Noor Jehan's granddaughter and I'm glad that people associate me with her. Initially when we came there was a lot of curiosity in the masses regarding my roots. Often people try to find her in us in some way or the other. Initially, people even thought that being Noor Jehan's granddaughter, I would have lines outside the salon but for the first six months nothing of that sort happened. So, as much as people love you for being Noor Jehan's offspring, if you're not doing a good job at what you do, no one cares about you. While some supported us, others would say, we'll see how long they'll last, they'll probably go back in no time. I think if I was in a similar field to that of my grandmother's, I would've understood her influence on my career but since I chose to be in a field so different to hers, I had to garner my own clientele based on my work. But having said that of course having a legend like her as my grandmother definitely helped us come back into a new city back then, settle in and be recognised. By default, we have so many cousins and family members in the limelight that it cannot not help. I'm sure it opens ten doors for me daily and helps me get a lot respect from her name but to be successful, your work needs to speak for itself.

Being Noor Jehan's granddaughter, would you say you have inherited certain qualities or skills?

NK: Absolutely. The whole family has. A lot of talents are just inborn. I see girls who are so pretty but there's no understanding of how to put things together like we do. I feel like we're all born with a certain sense of style, which is even inculcated in my six-year-old cousins. I can't think of anyone in my family who doesn't have an eye for style and fashion. You give my six-year-old niece Mahe red lipstick and watch her put it on – it's perfect! So you see, in my family I'm not a big deal – everyone does impeccable make-up and styling. You'd think they've all been to Natasha's Salon because they're so immaculately dressed but they've done it themselves.

Is there a certain market you target?

NK: We target a lot of markets. One thing I noticed when I came was that there is a big difference between a bridal make-up artist and fashion related make-up artist. What we wanted to come in and do was to combine the two and that's what we did. I think I'm the only professional bridal make-up artist who has also been nominated for the best make-up award at the LUX style awards in the fashion category. That was an achievement for me because I really wanted to make that breakthrough and show the industry that I wasn't just a bridal make-up artist. In bridals, we target everyone and the glittery eye with the red lipstick seems to a favourite amongst most of our clients. It really kills my soul to be honest because now I do twenty of them a day. [Laughs] There's actually a very limited scope for experimenting

with bridals because if a bride is coming to me on her special day, she's not going to want to experiment, she just wants to look beautiful. The shoots however, I target a completely different market. You'll never see me do a standard pretty shoot; I always try to do something creative and crazy. Just for my own satisfaction as a creative individual I like to commission a few shoots a year which we like to do in our own creative style – go over the top and do something different according to the theme. I don't want anyone to look down at me from the fashion market and think that 'oh she's just a bridal make-up artist'. Hence, after building my fashion make-up portfolio, no one can disregard my work as just that of a bridal make-up artist. The respect I got from the fashion arena is great and I really appreciate it because usually they don't care about a bridal make-up artist no matter how good you are. That respect came later as my covers came later.

What are the do's and don'ts in your particular field?

NK: We have made our own rules. Initially when we came to Karachi, people would tell me 'You must meet this one and that one does this so build a good rapport with them and you must show your face at this event', but surprisingly I've done none of that and still gotten where I have today. I chose to do nothing by the book; we came in, we worked hard, put in the hours, put good work out there and

“MY MOTHER SET SUCH HIGH STANDARDS FOR ALL OF US THAT I THINK TILL TODAY WE ALL ARE TRYING TO EXCEL AT EVERYTHING. TILL SHE DIED SHE MADE SURE SHE WAS PERFECTLY GROOMED; EVEN WHEN SHE WENT FOR DIALYSIS SHE LOOKED BEAUTIFUL.”

- HINA DURRANI

that's pretty much all you need to get noticed. I don't really socialise much, nor am I seen at all the social events or in magazines too often. Anytime I have been applauded or talked about even I'm surprised because I've never really tried to be the social butterfly. I've always believed that you need to focus on your own work, applaud other people's hard work as well and have a sense of well being all around which we as a society really lack. That's one of the reasons I interact very little with people here because there's way too much animosity in the equation, too many camps and we never joined a camp, rather made one of our own and remained within that. Social media is what I'm big on. I think it's the most effective form of putting your work out there and like I said when we initially came no one was really that aggressively working or present on social media while we were.

Who do you consider competition? How do you feel you have an edge over other make-up artists?

NK: Firstly, I never look at anyone and aspire to



be like him or her. I am always and forever re-evaluating my own work and trying to improve it rather than comparing myself to others. If ever I like someone's work I appreciate it instead of considering him or her competition. Everyone has their own forte so if anything, I compete with myself and my own portfolio. I believe that as soon as you think someone is competition, animosity is bred and that's what I'm against.

You, Sabrina and your mother work in a trio; tell us a little about what their areas of interest entail.

NK: Sabrina is the planner. She's a lot into yoga and into living a healthy life and that's something we as a salon are starting to get into as well. My mother is actually the backbone of the salon and primarily runs it. She oversees the daily affairs, from the rates of services to the product stocking; I have no idea whatsoever about any of that – I'm

completely creative. My mother is the owner who manages the salon and even my life to a great extent. [Laughs] Honestly, when people call it Natasha's Salon I want to laugh because it should be called Hina's Salon. All the make-up is done by me and mum together. She used to do hair as well but she chooses to do make-up more now. My mother is a better make-up artist than I am and I don't think I say that enough.

Coming from a family of achievers, do you feel or have you ever felt an extra burden on your shoulders to prove yourself?

NK: Never! Since I have been young I live in my own head, which now I realise is so precious because when I was young I would often wonder why I am like this. Even when people tell me that I am successful, I never consider myself successful or unsuccessful because I just live in my own space and ►



NASTASHA KHALID

Three words to describe yourself?

Strong-willed, ambitious and creative.

Which actress would you compare yourself to?

Monica Bellucci.

Your idea of beauty?

I'm more of a dark features, dark hair kind of looks person; never been a fan of blonde hair, blue eyes, fair skin and all.

Your worst nightmare would be...

I'm petrified of flying and my worst nightmare would be a plane crash. One of my plane's engines caught on fire and although this was eight years ago, I'm still petrified.

If there was one thing you could re-do in life, what would it be and why?

Nothing! Everything in my life has led up to where I am today. There have been some massive mistakes but it's all part of the learning process.

The last lie you told someone?

I lie all the time [Laughs] but my lies are usually to make people feel better about themselves. The last lie I told someone was that they asked to send them a job description for something which I said I have sent but still haven't.

Favourite holiday destination?

I've been to a lot of places but I am in love with the Amafi Coast. It's like being inside a dream.

Your definition of a perfect Sunday?

Nice brunch with family and friends, in my pajamas watching some TV series I am hooked on to at that given point in time.

The most romantic thing your partner has ever done for you?

He randomly writes letters to me, which is a lost art now but I love it because he writes very well. He does romantic things all the time.

What annoys you most?

When people become vicious towards one another. Even in the salon I see women being that way and it really upsets me because I feel like we women don't stand up for each other and rather pull each other down and I want to see less of that.

One make-up technique you have mastered?

I think the skin. Honestly if I was to put up before and after's of the people that walk into the salon, I would be legendary. [Laughs]

Your greatest strength?

In people, my mum and my sister. I think I can't even breathe without my mother; I'm such a toddler like that but in life, my ability to learn from my mistakes.

Who do you look up to?

My mother.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why would you choose that?

The ability to make people empathise a lot more with each other. I would myself like to empathise more.

The worst experience you've ever had preparing a

bride for her big day?

The worst nightmare is when women come in with lice and then they fight with you to still prepare them and as a salon owner, I can't cater to anyone that has a contagious condition but brides will stand there and cry, cuss and threaten to shut down the salon and what not. People don't realise it's not a personal decision but yes, over lice I've had some difficulties.

Three make-up must-haves?

I'm obsessed with the Giorgio Armani Illuminous Silk foundation right now, the L'Oreal Telescopic mascara and Rose lip pencil from Bobbi Brown along with my Ample Pink lip-gloss on top. Everyone loves that when I wear it.

The biggest mistake women make when it comes to make-up is ...

Not using the right shade of foundation. So making yourself look fairer when the rest of you isn't the same fair skin tone looks awful.

Words to live by?

Work hard, have faith, mind your own business and have goals in life.

Your personal favourite cosmetic brand would be?

Mac and Urban Decay for lipsticks, Giorgio Armani, Chanel and Estee Lauder for skin products. Since I've worked with MAC for so long, I'm quite familiar with their whole range of products so naturally there is a love for MAC.

One fashion trend you refuse to follow?

I don't like Ombre. Especially here, since they don't do it the right way, it looks horrible. Women need to understand that blonde hair doesn't compliment our skins tones so if you have blonde hair with dark roots you need to do something about it – its not Ombre!

The one line a customer said to you, which you will never forget...

I've had some very sweet clients who send me cards, chocolate boxes and posts thanking me, which I really appreciate. I have box where I collect all these little words of appreciation from these girls 'Like you make everything sparkle, thank you for making me look like a princess'.

Any hidden talents you would like readers to know about?

Anything creative to be honest. Interiors and photography is on the high right now. Singing, dancing, sketching, painting and even combining healthy foods.

The most interesting glam-formation you have worked on till now?

There was this Ethiopian governess maid Mussi who used to come live with us here. I glam-formed her and she would always look beautiful whenever we did make-up on her and shot her. She also did a shoot with Ayyan and I loved that she defied the norms here because I love African skin. People found that shoot to be very interesting and I loved that glam-formation.

Your definition of success?

I have goals and I like to achieve them. When I came to Karachi I had a list and in the time I've been here, I've managed to tick them all off. You make things happen when you aim for them, so having the will and setting goals is key.

“MOST NIGHTS, I’M A HOME BODY – DON’T REALLY CARE MUCH ABOUT BEING OUT AND ABOUT. I’VE REALISED OVER TIME, THE MORE STILL YOU ARE, THE MORE YOU’RE IN YOUR OWN SPACE, THE MORE BALANCED YOU END UP BEING.”

– NATASHA KHALID

do my thing regardless of people’s opinions. My mother or family never exerted that kind of pressure on me either – to be something. Naturally in my family everyone wants to do something; especially the females in the family I think are very ambitious/hardworking and go-getters by default. Success comes and goes and it shouldn’t really matter as long as you’re doing what you’re passionate about.

How demanding is your job?

NK: Very demanding! More than the make-up, it’s the constant client dealing which is very tough. It’s a lot of energy being exchanged on a daily basis. Someone’s necklace breaks, someone’s duppatta is not there on time, someone’s lehenga came late etc. In a busy season, we all stand from 10 AM till 10 PM which is not easy. We’ve had to train our clients over time because initially when we came, women would be extremely difficult so we had to make our own rules even though people in Pakistan don’t like rules. We were far too flexible in our payment process and then we realised we’d be chasing them for months and still not receive the payments. Now it’s running smoothly because people have understood our rules unlike before when they would come five hours late and we couldn’t cater to that since all we get between our appointments is 15 minutes. We actually have a contract or terms and conditions for them to sign now.

If you were to compare your work or yourself as a make-up professional to any international artist, who would it be and why?

NK: The international make-up artists I look up to are like gods to me, like Val Garland, Pat McGrath, David Horne, Gucci Westman, Lisa Elbridge, so I wouldn’t compare myself to them. What you see in my make-up, especially a lot of my fashion portfolio, is what it is because I’m such a huge fan of such great make-up artists. I have always looked up to the greatest and thought to myself, ‘Wow I want to do work like that!’ Recently Val Garland came to my page and liked something and I thought that was a great achievement for me.

How did you meet your fiancé and at what point did you feel like he was the one?

NK: I met him at the Sindh Club Ball. I know, how common, right? [Laughs] We looked at each other and looked away and when I came home, without even talking to me, my sister said she knew I liked him. I did immediately like him but nothing happened after that for a year. He was a friend’s friend and I met him again at the



same friend's anniversary and things just took off. From the minute I saw him, I honestly knew that something would happen between us. I think it was just meant to be because at the time I met him, I wasn't planning on getting married or settling down but it just hit like boom – like we were magnets. Everything rolled very quickly and he's amazing! I'm quite lucky!

What is your own personal style statement?

NK: It's glamorous but I have my own way of dressing – I like what I like. You'll never see me in a bad condition even if I'm stepping out to get groceries. It runs in the family actually because even my *nani* applied lipstick right before going for dialysis which was hilarious. I love jewellery and shopping. I would like to define my style as more classic glamorous than anything. I prefer to buy things I can wear even ten years down the line instead of investing in what's trending or the 'it' bag or shoe of the season. Recently black and white have been my thing and much to my mother's horror, even my wedding outfits aren't red or in standard bridal colours, they're pretty subtle and neutral.

What advice would you give to aspiring make-up artists?

NK: Be yourself, put your work out there and do something to shake it up! Do something different. Without sounding arrogant, I believe when we came in we really shook up the scene here. People had all sorts of opinions and things to say about what we were doing. They'd tell us 'Her face is too shiny, make it matte' because that's what was popular at that time and now everyone comes and asks for our 100-watt dewy-skin look which we've become famous for. Also using quality products really matters. All of our stock is from Dubai. My mother travels every two to three weeks and we use the best products – we refuse to compromise on that even if we are preparing a model for a shoot. We spend way more on

“MY FIRST AND FOREMOST GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BE A MOTHER AND I PLACED MYSELF SECOND. I AM AMBITIOUS BUT NOW THAT SABRINA IS SETTLED AND NATASHA IS GETTING MARRIED SOON, I FEEL NOW IT'S MY TIME TO EXPLORE MYSELF AND SEE WHAT I WANT TO DO NEXT.”

– HINA DURRANI

make-up than most others who use a lot of local products.

Have you had any association with make-up artists internationally?

NK: Yes, when I was working for MAC there was Tony Roberio and Vimmy Joshi who was one of the head make-up artists. David Horne is huge now and I have worked with him very closely. My dream is that I can work under one of the



make-up artists I look up to because there was a point when I had the opportunity to do that or open my own salon and chose to do the latter so I hope to be able to fulfill my dream as well. Working in India is on the cards too since I have assisted with Bollywood actors getting ready for the Aifa Awards happening in Dubai. That was fun!

You're a true representative of what you specialise in – beauty. Tell us the secret to your beauty and youthful look.

NK: Now it's become a lot about health and nutrition. You can use the best make-up but beauty has to come from within. If you don't take care of yourself I'm sorry, nothing can help you. There was a certain point in my life when I had gained a lot of weight, 45 kilograms more than what I am today and I can proudly say that I have lost all that today. Slowly I came towards

the healthy side and now I'm big on vegetable juicing. Like my sister, I'm pretty much vegan now; still seem to keep going back to eggs and fish though. I don't take gluten, sugar or rice in my diet either, and dairy very rarely. This is a part of my lifestyle now, not so much my diet so it's not temporary at all. When skin and hair is concerned the first thing to consider to look youthful or beautiful is to watch your diet and lifestyle. The biggest problem I face with many brides is that they come with horrible skin conditions, dry lips, pimples and ask for 100-watt-skin, and that's impossible. They need to understand the outer beauty, make-up and all comes much later, first it's about inner beauty. Make-up can only enhance your existing features and face. Clients bring pictures of gorgeous celebrities and want me to make them look like that but I'm a make-up artist, I don't have a magic wand. ►



What do you consider your area of expertise – fashion/creative make-up or bridal/traditional make-up?

NK: Both. I think I've proven myself in both sectors. My aim was to make my mark in all areas of make-up, I've been distinctive and no one can ignore my fashion portfolio because I did it for the love of fashion and then I have my bridal portfolio which is different so I think I've done well in both arenas.

What tips would you give girls who want to improve their daily make-up skills?

NK: Less is more. Firstly people use a lighter shade of foundation than what they should be using because of the mindset here that a fair girl is pretty. Secondly, basic hygiene needs to be taken care of. There are girls with dirt on their necks when they come in, dry skin, chapped lips and lice in their hair. So girls please, before even getting to make-up, think about general grooming like washing your face, moisturising your skin and using Vaseline. Even in my classes, first day I tell them to wake up and wash their face! Once you take care of your hair and skin there's not much left for you to do to look good.

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Hina, what was it like growing up as Madam Noor Jehan's daughter?

Hina Durrani: A lot of pressure. I remember even going to kindergarten I always stood out because everyone in class knew it and my teachers would often point it out throughout my school life as well so you always feel like people are watching you.

Did you feel an added responsibility to fill her shoes?

HD: Always, because she set such high standards for all of us that I think till today we all are trying to excel at everything. Till she died she made sure she was perfectly groomed; even when she went for dialysis she looked beautiful. We didn't realise then but we realise it now that it takes a lot of effort to be like her. She was an extremely strong willed woman and she achieved everything she set out to achieve.

Tell us about Natasha as a child and teenager. What kind of a relationship did you two share?

HD: Natasha was a very well behaved, beautiful and amazing child. I didn't even know I had Natasha around, that's how well behaved she was! And I shared a very strong bond with my kids as I never kept a maid. She was very obedient and

“ IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS WHEN I MOVED BACK, I USED TO BE WORKING TILL 2-3 AM EVERY SINGLE NIGHT. I WORKED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK NON-STOP TILL NATASHA SALON TOOK OFF AFTER SIX MONTHS OF HARD WORK. I SINGLE HANDEDLY DID EVERYTHING. ”

- NATASHA KHALID

never any trouble. Natasha, like my sister Huma, has the kindest and most giving heart towards everyone. Natasha has always been into music as well; it's in her blood after all. Then I had my little one, which was the best thing ever because they are just a year apart and they're very close. She was a rather creative child but never troublesome. When she became a teenager however she flipped; she just wanted to exert herself and her personality started coming out which is when I realised she has a will of her own. I tried pushing her into a box but she wanted to do things differently. We've both always been close to the extent I don't think we have been or ever will be able to cut that umbilical cord. Now that she's about to get married in a few months, every day is full of separation anxiety and crying! [Laughs]

NK: I've always resisted everything she says at first. So in a way by standing up against doing something she also pushes me towards doing that certain something. The resistances actually made me a stronger person and helped me grow a lot.

Both your daughters are into the beauty business, do you ever feel an element of competition between the two sisters?

HD: Not at all! Sabrina is a barrister by profession so they're in different occupations altogether plus they're both like twins; they're so close that sometimes Sabrina is like Natasha's little child who she spoils more than I do. They can sit together and they don't need anybody; they're each other's best friends and company to the extent I feel like an outsider sometimes.

NK: Lock me and my sister in a room together and we can entertain each other for days.

How was it bringing up two daughters? What sacrifices did you have to make as a parent?

NK: The fact that you have to live your life a certain way in order to be a good example for your kids takes effort. Children follow what they see. With my mum, she always had a schedule.

HD: I was a very proper mother since I had my kids at such a young age. I didn't entertain anyone at my house after 8:30pm; my girls were growing up so I made sure they were always secure in every way. I didn't have parties or go out much since I got married at 18 and had Natasha when I was 19. I was also divorced pretty early so there were some sacrifices on my part but I loved every bit of them. The most important role for me in life has been that of a mother, so more than a sacrifice my entire life till date has been based around my kids. When they moved to London to go to

university, I didn't let them go alone, I moved with them. My life has always been entwined with my kids. We're more like best friends, so we literally have no secrets between us. I also always gave them the freedom to do what they want to do, never restricted them, I was very liberal.

Tell us a little about your aspirations and do you feel like you have accomplished your career goals?

HD: My first and foremost goal has always been to be a mother and I placed myself second. I am ambitious but now that Sabrina is settled and Natasha is getting married soon, I feel now it's my time to explore myself and see what I want to do next. One thing I really want to do is work with mothers and children to give back to society. I did my FAC first year since I wanted to be a doctor, but then I got married.

What is your relationship with your siblings like? You have a long line of achievers in your family tree as well so did that add any pressure on you to live up to the family name?

HD: We're super duper closely knit. We're always there to love and support one another. If someone even sneezes, we run to them. We are each other's strength and that's what the next generation has learned from us as well. Our entire family has grown up seeing all the fame and achievements so we're all happy to see each other's accomplishments without any rivalry or pressure.

What is it like when the whole family gets together to relive old memories?

HD: Oh, it's crazy. It's a very colourful family because we all are very expressive, emotional and hilarious as individuals. Everybody has his or her own strong individual personality. Natasha has a brilliant sense of humour, she's a brilliant mimic and she's a lot like my mother and Huma ji – she's gifted. When she is on a roll, she leaves everyone in fits. Even my sister Mina has a great sense of humour.

NK: If there were a Pakistani version of keeping up with the Kardashians, it would be based on our family!

Where do you see Natasha and Sabrina in the next 10 years?

HD: I don't say this because they're my kids, but I see them excelling in anything and everything they ever choose to do because both my girls are so dedicated and really put their heart and soul into whatever they want to do so I have no doubt that they will excel in whatever they choose to do.

As her biggest critic, what do you consider Natasha's flaws/weaknesses and strengths?

HD: Natasha reacts without thinking; she needs to be more calm and think before reacting.

Your mother continues to be an inspiration for many, how do you feel about that?

HD: Even today it's her talent actually that people relate us to. People come and try to find her in us, and you realise how loved she was. I have met so many human beings in my life but have yet to meet anyone like her to date. The traits I saw in her, I don't see in any one human being and now I appreciate all that. Her work was her life and she worshipped it; singing was her oxygen and nothing came above that and that's why she is respected today. Abroad, you have Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor, that's what she was like for us. 📺

INTERVIEW: FIZZA FURQAN
CONCEPT, COORDINATION & STYLING: FIZZA FURQAN
PHOTOGRAPHS: AYAZ ANIS
HAIR & MAKE-UP: NATASHA



MEL Gibson

“I think the most difficult thing in life is to overcome your own fallen nature”

The veteran actor is getting back into film-making with his movie titled, *Hacksaw Ridge*





MICHAEL BASSICK, LUKE BRACEY, HUGO WEAVING, MEL GIBSON, TERESA PALMER, ANDREW GARFIELD & VINCE VAUGHN ATTEND THE PREMIERE OF *HACKSAW RIDGE* DURING THE 73RD VENICE FILM FESTIVAL AT SALA GRANDE IN ITALY

Mel Gibson is one of the oldest names in Hollywood, and definitely a fan favourite. He has given us movies such as *Braveheart* - which was spoken about for years following its release and is still a classic movie which is watched across the world - along with numerous others; *The Patron*, *The Passion of the Christ*, *Mad Max*, *Lethal Weapon* and the list just goes on and on...

And now, the Hollywood actor is set to make a movie with his son Milo titled *Hacksaw Ridge*; it's the story of a soldier who put the life of 75 other men above his own in World War II. Here, Mel Gibson gives us all the details.

Ten years out of the director's seat, how does it feel to get back in there?

Mel Gibson: I fasten the seat belt! [Laughs] It was interesting because it wasn't generated from me. It came from somewhere else and I responded to the material, and then of course there wasn't enough time and it was way under budget.

***Hacksaw Ridge* doesn't look like an under budget movie?**

MG: No, it looks good. We got away with murder! [Laughs]

Where did you shoot the battle scenes?

MG: All in Australia. This is totally an Aussie film - every aspect of it.

Oh right, all the actors are...

MG: Not everyone, we had to have a few ringers

though. [Laughs]

The battle scenes are amongst the most ferocious and violent I've ever seen. Of the difference, if you think of *Saving Private Ryan*, some are torture, there are people blown to bits - how did you do that? It looked so realistic.

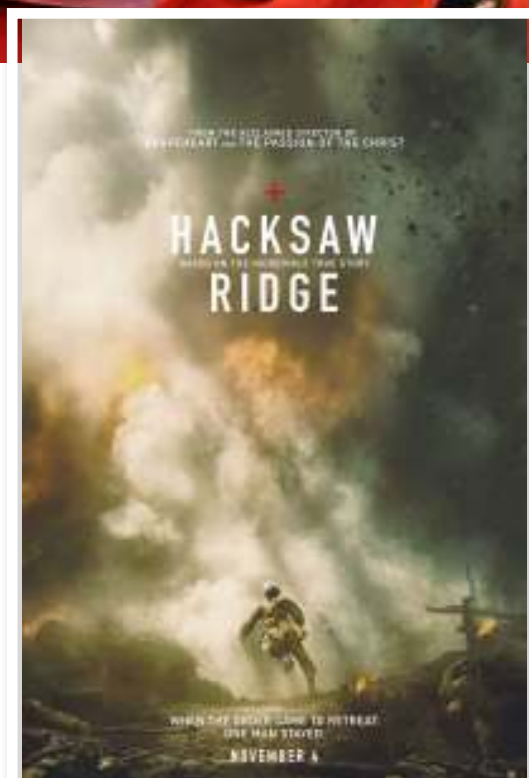
MG: Well, in Okinawa there was a lot of napalm. They used napalm for the first time and of course there were hand grenades, explosions, and mortars everywhere. There was a lot of death. I mean, we were just trying to emulate what was. Now, they have devices and things that are pretty amazing. I mean, you even got close to a couple of them - these box bombs. They're right there, six feet away. I mean, you burn some nose hairs, but...

Desmond is sort-of powered by God, really, on some level. How did feel when you read the story?

MG: He's inspired. He's operating on something greater than himself, so yeah, inspired or tapping into something supernatural to do something superhuman, which nobody could understand how he did. How do you get 75 guys off a hill in ten hours. It wasn't even ten - it was eight hours. I mean, you're dragging a dude every ten minutes and lowering him down. How do you even start with that? But he did it and he was only 150 pounds.

This movie is also very much about values. Could you name your core value in a nutshell and can you tell us who informed you about those values? Who was the person or the factors?

MG: I think the most difficult thing in life, and



I struggle with this all the time, is to overcome your own fallen nature and work at that, because we're a bunch of people full of flaws. To try and overcome those negative things in ourselves, which is born, it's innate in us and I think a good way to do that is to choose love. This is what impressed me about Desmond, is that "greater love hath no man than he give his life for another," and this guy, that's what he was about. He was putting his life on the line, without a weapon, and crawling into all kinds of horrible situations for his brothers, or for anybody. It didn't matter what it ►



“He’s inspired. He’s operating on something greater than himself, so yeah, inspired or tapping into something supernatural to do something superhuman, which nobody could understand how he did.”

MEL GIBSON AT THE 69TH ANNUAL CANNES FILM FESTIVAL AT PALAIS DES FESTIVALS IN FRANCE



TERESA PALMER & MEL GIBSON ARRIVE AHEAD OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRAMATIC ART'S NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL LAUNCH AT NIDA IN SYDNEY

“I might jump into a little part, but not a big one. You can’t do that at the same time, it’ll just kill you. You’d have to be your age to do that – to direct and film something. He could do it, but when you’re sixty you don’t do that, you end up in the hospital.”

looked or smelled like. That’s a pretty high calling and worthy of having a story told about it. And I know Desmond was horrified by that. They tried to get his life rights back in the forties and he was like, “No.” And they sent Audie Murphy to talk him into it, from the studios. How he was trying to twist his arm and he was like, “No, sorry.” He eventually gave his rights to his church – they talked him into it. They said, “This story might be inspirational to other people.” I think he realised that later, because his actions encouraged other people after him to actually go into battle without a weapon and to save lives. They performed superhuman feats like he did, and it’s about a disregard of self, total humility, and complete love. What a great story to tell, in the worst place on Earth.

Did it give you flashback to *Braveheart*, like the technical staging of things?

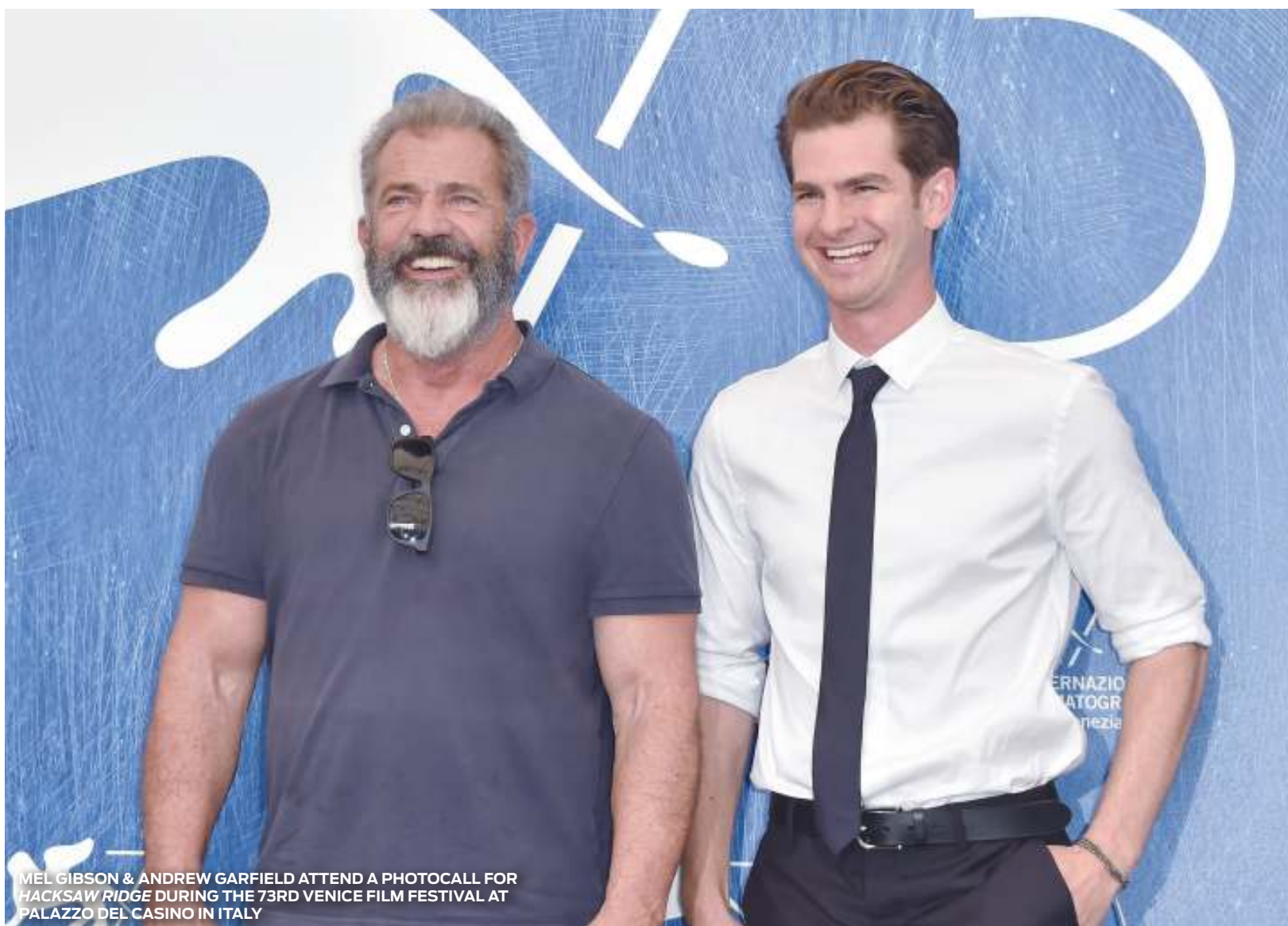
MG: It was more difficult. There’s bullets, explosions, and stuff. It’s tough, man.

So it was harder than *Braveheart*?

MG: Yeah, it kind of was. Well, they all have their own peculiar side of difficulty. I mean, logistically, it’s the same kind of stuff, except I had half as much time to do it, which is kind of interesting.

This is obviously a very beautiful story for the world, but it’s also a very American story and Australian; and it sort of now seems to fall into place because it’s a done deal, but there must have been points at which you thought, “This is crazy, we can’t tell the story in Australia, using Australian actors”?

MG: I did think that, but then I thought, “Let’s have a stab at it.” It came to the party, even the production designer, Barry Robison, he’s an Aussie, but he grew up in the States and a lot of his years were spent there, so he’s kind of like a hybrid creature. I think his mom was from Sydney. I took this film to Lynchburg Virginia, where Desmond came from and I showed them, and they’re like, “How did you get in here and shoot on the Peaks of Otter without us knowing about it,” and I’m like, “Wow, really?” This guy saw the film, he was a Lynchburg guy and he said, “I was born in that hospital. How did you get it to look like how it used to look like back then?” We found it...it looks like Lynchburg Hospital, same kind of bricks. I mean it’s crazy, right? You get actors in the caliber of Hugo [Weaving], Teresa [Palmer], and Luke [Bracey], these people are, you know, they’re actors for the world. They’re not confined to a region or a territory. I mean, they’re out there and they observe. They’re able to easily slip into



MEL GIBSON & ANDREW GARFIELD ATTEND A PHOTOCALL FOR HACKSAW RIDGE DURING THE 73RD VENICE FILM FESTIVAL AT PALAZZO DEL CASINO IN ITALY

a character, that's beyond nationality, or anything else. The thing that impressed me about Andrew [Garfield] was that he turned up on set and he was just talking like Desmond, but even over dinner, when you talk about abstract things, he stayed in the voice. I don't know, I've never done that myself, but it worked incredibly well, so now, when I finish this, I'm going to go back and do that now. I'm going to try and stay in that voice.

Did you ever think about doing that for any of your roles?

MG: I thought about it, but then I thought, "Naa, I don't want to do that." But I'm going to try it soon... soon. I've been listening to this guy all morning on tape, sounds amazing.

Have you ever felt like moving back to Australia? Do you have a place there?

MG: Yeah, I did have a place. I just sold it.

You never thought about moving back there?

MG: Yeah, well I was there for the whole year – amazing. It was very familiar. It was like putting on a comfortable pair of shoes, just felt right in and re-acquainted myself with friends I knew in high school, friends from school, boys, girls, people I used to know. Now we're all wrinkled. [Laughs]

But apart from that, it didn't feel the same?

MG: Yeah, it was fantastic. It was such a nice thing to go back and catch up.

What did you think of *Mad Max: Fury Road*, since it's basically a remake of yours.

MG: It was amazing. I loved George, and I think as

a film-maker, he's able to make something that smacks you across the face. It was just visually stunning. The editing, it was amazing. It was something else. I dug it. I sat next to him when they screened it in Los Angeles. I laugh at all the right places. He was like, "What's funny?" "That is because you're a sick guy," and he appreciated that.

Did you ever have a wish list?

MG: Oh my God – I don't have a wish list. I find things, I mean, I want to work with Scorsese too. In fact, I almost did, and then I was doing something else and I couldn't do it. I regretted that, I thought it would have been fun.

What was that?

MG: He wanted me to be Jack Nicholson in that...

***The Departed*?**

MG: Yeah, but I was directing *Apocalypto* at the time and I couldn't. He came to see me when I was quite young and I was at the Savoy Hotel and I had eaten a bad oyster and I was in the Savoy Hotel dying. Scorsese was in the room down the hallway and he got me in there and he was watching five TVs at the same time and he wanted me to be Jesus in *The Last Temptation of Christ*. For one reason or another that couldn't happen, but you know, maybe next time.

When are you starting the sequel of *Passion of the Christ*? You're doing the sequel, right?

MG: It's being written. It's not a sequel... well, I guess it is, it's the resurrection. Oh, boy, a lot of stuff happens, but Ramble and I are just toying. That's a

couple years away.


Are you going to direct anything before that?

MG: Yeah, I think so.

With yourself acting; are you going to separate those two?

MG: I might jump into a little part, but not a big one. You can't do that at the same time, it'll just kill you. You'd have to be your age to do that – to direct and film something. He could do it, but when you're sixty you don't do that, you end up in the hospital.

Desmond has to decide whether to go into a war and kill someone, or whether to say no. There are white feathers in the mail and those kind of things sent to people. Would you turn the other cheek or pull out the gun and shoot the guy?

MG: I don't ever want to find out. I don't ever want to be in that situation. Fortunately, I don't have to go, but I admire those who do and I feel for the people that go and maybe others don't understand. I have to grapple with being able to understand PTSD and what these guys went through. I've talked to a lot of veterans lately and these people are underserved. The official figures, there are 22 guys a day in the United States, dropping the hammer on themselves after the war experience. That's unacceptable. They're underserved. And it's better than it used to be. They didn't use to have a name for it, but that needs to be looked at. Other cultures, older cultures, warrior cultures had ways to deal with it, but we don't somehow. We're expected to fit back in. 

INTERVIEW: PETE CARROLL/THE INTERVIEW FEED
PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, SHUTTERSTOCK

HOTTEST DESTINATION *Wedding Spots*

This wedding season, *OK!* Pakistan lists down the most magical destination wedding spots picked by A-listers which are perfect for big fat South Asian celebrations!



Budapest

A picturesque medieval city with a beauty that is almost dreamlike, Budapest could be an unexpected backdrop for a desi wedding with its palatial and historic locations and expansive magnificence that seem ripped out of the pages of a fairytale. The choice spot for Lord Swaraj Paul's grandson, Akhil Paul and Bisma Mowjee's incredible nuptials set to the theme of the film *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, the Lions Court, a stunning venue within the grounds of the 14th century Buda Castle is best for a grand wedding. For a more intimate gathering, there is the Savoy Terrace at the Castle with its breathtaking panoramic views and swanky luxury coupled with old-world mystique.





ANUSH AMMAR & MUNIB ALTAF

Istanbul

Istanbul is a transcontinental city divided in two by the great Bosphorus waterway. While it is valued for its Old City and Grand Bazaar, its new status as one of the coolest and trendiest cities of Europe is what makes Istanbul a great location for an 'east meets west' wedding. One of the destinations of Anush Ammar and Munib Altaf's grand wedding festivities, a luxury yacht party on the Bosphorus like the one organised by Bella Bosphorus Cruise, gives the celebration an uber sophisticated yet fun vibe with a view of Istanbul's spectacular skyline.



KANYE WEST & KIM KARDASHIAN

Tuscany

There are a few places in the world as romantic as Tuscany, the birthplace of European Renaissance. Surrounded by iconic art and architecture, a destination wedding in Tuscany could be an extraordinarily cherished escapade. A favoured location for many A-listers including Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, Tuscany boasts outstanding venues for both, small and grand celebrations. Mariya and Sebastian, a couple whose interracial fusion wedding took Instagram and Pinterest by storm, picked Villa Catignano, a glorious 17th century villa encircled by the sublime Siena landscape for their reception.



FARHAN HASAN & SANAM SAEED

Thailand

A holiday hotspot - Thailand, with its tropical beaches and ancient temples, makes for a brilliant location for a destination wedding. With no shortage of high-end resorts, Thailand boasts some of the world's most posh and plush venues for festivities and merrymaking. Sanam Saeed celebrated her post-wedding party at Phuket, an island of mountains and rainforests, and its Centara Grand Beach Hotel not only allows for a memorable event for the couple but also top-notch entertainment for the wedding guests. In the island of Koh Samui, the Four Seasons Resort offers the best of luxury in the midst of coconut groves, palm trees, and pristine white sand beaches.



SHRISTI & GULRAJ BEHL

Barcelona

Barcelona, the land of Flamenco dancers and colourful buildings, is a cultural treasure full of iconic architecture and breathtaking nature, while the Spanish sensibilities and love of good food make it an ultimate destination for a South Asian wedding. Lakshmi Mittal's niece Shristi's nuptials with Gulraj Behl brought the jaw-dropping extravagance to Barcelona in a 'Chariots of Fire' themed reception with Michelin-starred catering and entertainment from Shahrugh Khan, in the Oval Hall, a marvelous event space in the National Art Museum of Catalonia - an impressive building showcasing the best of European art.



TEDDY SHERINGHAM
& KRISTINA ANDRIOTIS

Portugal

Home of cobblestoned pathways, idyllic cities and villages, and scenic beaches – Portugal, rich with cultural heritage and tradition, is one of the most charming destinations for celebrating nuptials. Vila Vita Parc Resort & Spa, Algarve, is an elusive spot for a wedding whether it is on its manicured lawns or on vistas overlooking the azure Atlantic Ocean coastline. The Senhora da Guia is a boutique hotel in Cascais that seamlessly incorporates chic for an understated, elegant wedding and a delightful accommodation for the wedding guests; the hotel is a short distance from the big city of Lisbon and many tranquil villages. Former footballer Teddy Sheringham married Kristina Andriotis in Portugal.



DAVID MABILU &
JUJU

Mauritius

Mauritius is a tropical paradise with seemingly untouched beauty despite its status as an immensely popular honeymoon destination. From cosy beach weddings to exuberant ballroom affairs, Mauritius's 5-star resorts cater to all fancies to make celebrations unforgettable. The Sugar Beach Golf & Spa Resort, an upscale establishment overlooking the coral reef, is a gorgeous venue for a wedding party of any size with world-class invitee lodging and amenities. Lux Le Morne hotel with views of the sunset on the Le Morne mountain, is another sensational resort that is also a World Heritage site. Property magnate David Mabilu and Juju got married in Mauritius.



ASHER SCHON & SHAHBANO MUNIR

Dubai

The cosmopolitan metropolis of the Arabian Gulf with a multiethnic appeal and high-tech facilities, Dubai hosts some of the most high-end destination celebrations such as Maha Hashmi and Adnan Sheikh's wedding and Asher Schon and Shahbano Munir's impressive reception. Atlantis, the Palm is an ocean-themed luxury resort with awe-inspiring views of Dubai's impressive skyline and the underwater marine environment; the resort offers luxury and inimitability for a stately wedding soiree. For an arabesque adventure, One and Only Royal Mirage is an authentic Arab-themed elite hotel with an amphitheater, fortress, and landscaped lawns as ceremony venue options.



SARA & SAALIM JUMANI

London

The closest thing to a multicultural utopia - London, with its iconic landmarks and renowned heritage might not appear an obvious destination wedding spot but it boasts some of the most top-class venues for weddings and an abundance of art, music, and fine food for guests to appreciate. Home of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton, Kensington Palace is 'the' place to be married for those who wish to feel like royalty. The chosen location for socialite and heiress, Nicki Hilton's marriage with the scion of the illustrious banking dynasty, James Rothschild, the Palace grounds housed an affluent and glamorous affair attended by numerous A-listers. Sara and Saalim also tied the knot in London.



POPPY DELEVINGNE & JAMES COOK

Marrakech

Marrakech is beautiful blend of Arab and French ethos in the continent of Africa with its labyrinth of alleyways, dynamic souks, and Moorish design and constructions. An underrated exotic choice for destination celebrations, Marrakech hosted supermodel Poppy Delevingne and James Cook's post-ceremony wedding party, celebrated in full bohemian-chic swing, attended by the who's who of England's hip society. The party was held at the city's finest palace-hotels: La Mamounia, a noble and refined venue with a minimalist sense of affluence and allure and a striking Arabic-Andalusian setting.



AMIR KHAN
& FARYAL
MAKHDoom

New York City

Epicentre of modernity and the arts - the cultural melting pot, NYC gets a bad rap amongst vacationers for being too crowded but the spirited city that marches to its own drumbeat could be a special spot for a destination wedding with a delicious edge. One of the locations for boxer Amir Khan and Faryal Makhdoom's gilded wedding celebrations and feasts was the legendary Waldorf Astoria Hotel with its famed art deco design. The colossal two-tiered Grand Ballroom of the hotel can house a huge banquet and the space has virtually boundless space to accommodate a large number of invitees.





Rome

Hub of the world's most revered art and haunting architectural sights, Rome is an astoundingly artistic paragon with history that dates back more than 2000 years. Celebrating a union amongst the mind-whirling sights make Rome the ultimate destination wedding spot for those placing art and culture above all else. The former celebrity power-couple, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes married in the 15th century Castello Orsini-Odescalchi, a well-preserved medieval castle on the shores of Lake Bracciano. Rani Mukerji and Aditya Chopra also got married here.



Sri Lanka

Untouched natural splendour and invaluable ancient sites with rich heritage make Sri Lanka one of the newest fashionable hotspots for globetrotters, and as a destination wedding spot, it offers a serene and breathtaking backdrop to make unions even more exceptional. The city was picked for Maha Burney's brother Nadir's cross-cultural nuptials with Srila Rao, celebrations of which were attended by Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh along with a multitude of up-class guests. With many remarkable venues, Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo is a 19th century colonial heritage hotel overlooking the ocean, and caters to couples from different cultures while providing the flavour of Sri Lankan tradition for marriage ceremonies. Vir Das and Shivani Mathur also tied the knot in Sri Lanka.

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TIMELESS LUXURY AND EXQUISITE DETAILING TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN 'THE KINGDOM', A CAPSULED COLLECTION DEPICTING FOUR STAGES OF LIFE, LOVE AND PASSION; AND WITHIN THEM BEAUTIFUL HEIRLOOM PIECES COMBINING CUSTOM ITALIAN FABRICS WITH TRADITIONAL EASTERN CRAFT. THE RESULT, AN ARRAY OF UNIQUE BRIDAL AND TROUSSEAU ATTIRE PERFECT FOR THOSE WHO APPRECIATE TRUE LUXURY AND ELEGANCE.



THE KINGDOM
SHERASTAN



THE KINGDOM
KALAJAR



THE KINGDOM
MEHKAR



THE KINGDOM
MEHKAR



THE KINGDOM
KHAT-E-SAHIL



TAGHeuer

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FALL/WINTER COLLECTION 2016

STRIPES

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9-5 NEUTRALS

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your office wardrobe!

Take yourself back to those fun filled
refreshing yellow sands and blue beaches



TROPICAL TREAT

Give your mood and
outfit a tropical boost!



QUIRKY KALASH

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with a contemporary twist!

Introducing
HD PAINT STICK
by
stage
LINE
P R O F E S S I O N A L



Foundation in stick form with very high covering power.
Total matt finish and dry touch.

OK! *Best* DRESSED



Ayesha Omer looks va va voom in a stellar Shehla Chatoor ensemble at the Qmobile Hum Style Awards in Karachi.



Aamina Sheikh looks glamorous as ever in a Nilofer Shahid floor sweeping gown paired with a Vesimi necklace at the Qmobile Hum Style Awards in Karachi.



Rema Taseer wows us in a figure skimming bodycon dress and Rema Luxe earrings at the Élan Palais Indochine bridal show in Lahore.

OK! *Red* CARPET



Amil Mansha pairs her Pucci dress with a Roger Vivier clutch and a sleek high ponytail at the Élan Palais Indochine bridal show in Lahore.



Iqraa Mansha looks on-trend in a flirty white Johanna Ortiz top, Roger Vivier houndstooth clutch and Dolce & Gabbana embellished heels at the Élan Palais Indochine bridal show in Lahore.



Natasha Hussain looks radiant in a bright teal top paired with a Roger Vivier clutch at the Élan Palais Indochine bridal show in Lahore.

ROCKSTARS



Anoushey Ashraf stuns in a beautiful Shehla Chatoor ensemble at the Qmobile Hum Style Awards in Karachi.



Fashionista-at-large, Faiza Rangoonwala exudes glamour in a Faraz Manan top, Oscar De La Renta skirt and bold earrings at the Élan Palais Indochine bridal show in Lahore.



Syra Shahroz dons a Temperley London ensemble to the Qmobile Hum Style Awards in Karachi.

OK! *Red* CARPET



Sunita Marshall stuns in a Nomi Ansari gown at the Qmobile Hum Style Awards in Karachi.



Frieha Altaf makes a statement in a black tassel dress worn with metallic accessories at Fashion Pakistan Week in Karachi.



Shazah Ayub wears a spanking new, bright Élan bridal suit to Fashion Pakistan Week in Karachi.



DIVANI

DIVANI is a business of love and craft between Yash Raj Films- Arguably Indian cinema's biggest and most loved name when it comes to regaling romance and women and KBSH Pvt. Ltd. - One of the largest and independent heritage fashion brands based out of New Delhi. DIVANI is possibly the world's first clothing brand scripted by cinema and directed by fashion. It's a brand of beauty that combines cinema, fashion, art, heritage, and freedom.

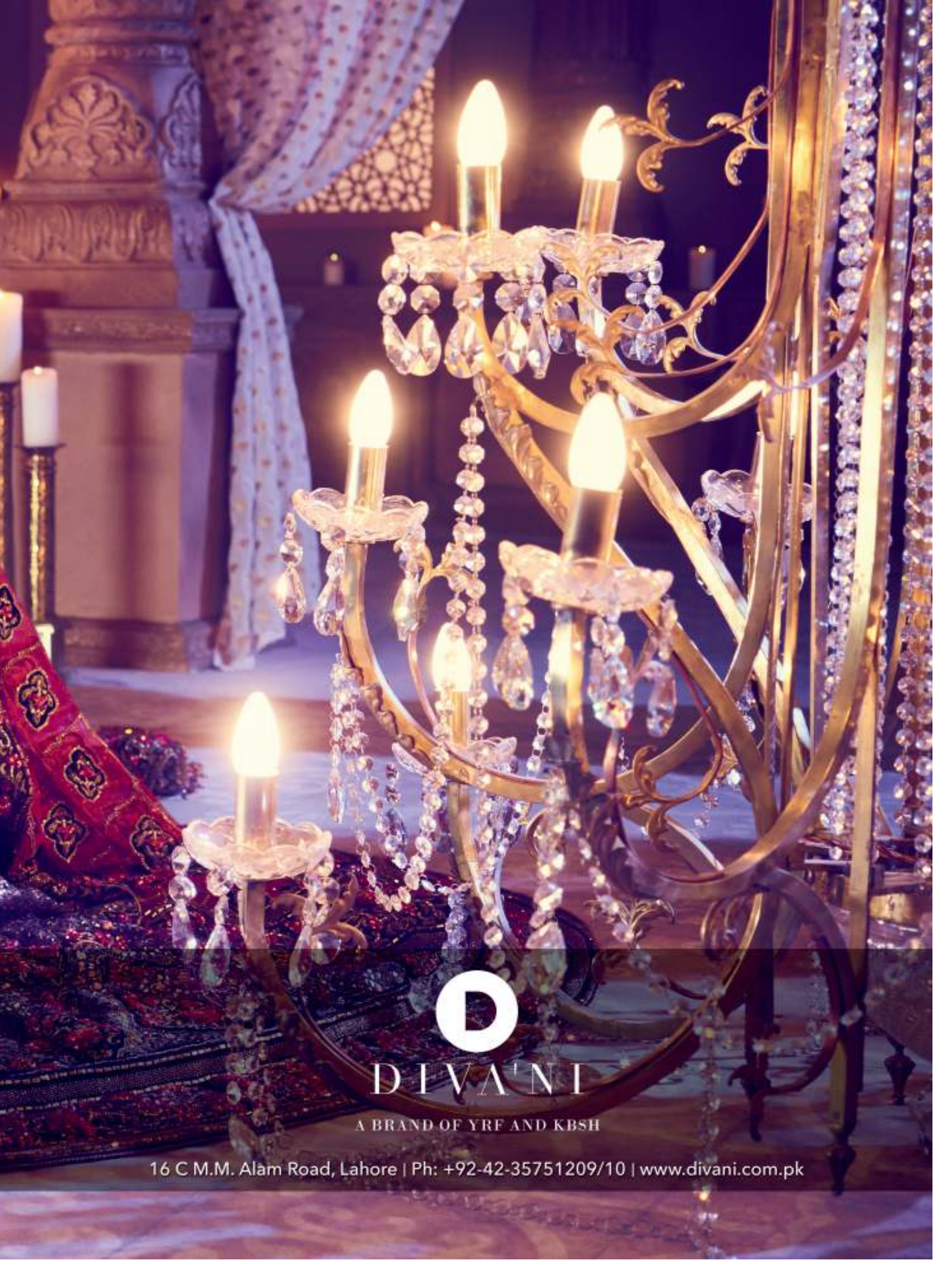
The brand is led by its powerhouse creative director Ms. Sanya Dhur, who joined the 65-year-old family business, KBSH in 2009. Her calling was the need to break the age-old stereotype attached to ethnic wear and make it more accessible and relevant to the "Global" woman. Hence, DIVANI was born; inspired by fashion, film and femininity, with a passion for heritage, a mastery of exclusive and extensive handcrafted techniques and a fundamental appreciation for traditional craft.

As a custodian & connoisseur of Indian craft & textiles, DIVANI found a social role and responsibility in empathising with the plight of struggling artisans. It took upon itself to conserve and promote these crafts by closely working with weavers and craftsmen from the remotest regions of the nation. With over 500 zardozikars and master craftsmen spread over Lucknow & Delhi and more than 100 Banarasi looms with approximately 400 weavers base and hand-

paint women artisans, DIVANI brings forth the rare artistry to create exclusive and bespoke couture & luxury pret. All to bring back the glory of our lost crafts with a contemporary relevance to complement the noblest of women. Diva'ni products are known for being handcrafted and its niche lies in traditional Indian craftsmanship & use of zari (wires) plated in real gold, silver and platinum. Diva'ni has swiftly become the most loved label by Bollywood actors such as Parineeti Chopra, Anushka Sharma, Richa Chadda, Vaani Kapoor, Mahira Khan and many muses of Indian & International cinema. Now the brand boasts of its flagship boutiques in Mumbai and Delhi and has big plans for future, including the recent launch of its first international luxury couture store in Lahore, Pakistan.

With three years in operations, Diva'ni is progressing for a two-fold expansion strategy - In-film styling & couture vertical expansion respectively. The brand is now all set to launch its flagship boutiques in 2017-18 & expand internationally in markets such as London, Canada and Dubai. You will also see designed elements and styling by Diva'ni in films such as Fan, Sultan, Band Baaja Baraat (Y-Films) and as we read they are ready to launch their next project (Befikre) directed by Mr. Aditya Chopra (Chairman, YRF) scheduled for release in December 2016.





DIVANI

A BRAND OF YRF AND KBSH

16 C M.M. Alam Road, Lahore | Ph: +92-42-35751209/10 | www.divani.com.pk



WASEEM &
SHANIERA
AKRAM

TEHMINA
KHALED

NAZ
MANSHA

HSY &
ESHAL
FAYYAZ

ZHALAY
SARHADI

QMobile HUM STYLE AWARDS

The QMobile Hum Style Awards are one of the grandest, most highly anticipated events of the year, orchestrated by the Hum Network and sponsored by QMobile. A-list celebs, models, designers and journalists were present to witness the grandeur and splendor of the night. The performances were exhilarating and the fashion top-notch. Here are some of the industry's leaders and game-changers in their finest!

AMINA
SHAIKH

SABA
QAMAR

IMRAN
ABBAS

NADIA
HUSSAIN

AYESHA
OMAR

SYRA
SHEHROZ

MOOMAL
SHAIKH

VANEEZA
AHMED

SANA
BUCHA







MANSHA
PASHA

TABBASUM
MUGHAL

MANTAHAA
MAQSOOD

NATASHA
SALEEM

SAMIYA
ANSARI

FAYEZA
ANSARI

URWA
HOCANE

SONIA
HUSSAIN

SANAM
AGHA

SAHER H
PARACHA



RAHAT
FATEH ALI

ZAHEER
ABBAS &
MEHVISH

ZARA ABID

NAUSHEEN
SHAH

SAMINA
PEERZADA

QMOBILE HUM STYLE AWARDS WINNERS

Best male model: Shahzad noor

Best female model: Amna Baber

Hair & Make-up artist of the year: Hannan siddique

Fashion photographer of the year: Shahbaz shazi

Fashion Publication of the year: Diva

QMobile rising star: Ashna khan

Most stylist male performer male: Ali Zafar

Most stylish male performer female: Meesha shafi

Most stylish sports personality: Shahid Afridi

Designer of the year lawn: Élan

Designer of the year Demi couture: Shehla Chatoor

Retail brand of the year (Apparel): Sapphire

Designer of the year fashion jewellery: Amber Sami

Designer of the year menswear: Republic by Omar Farooq

Designer of the year Bridal: Faraz Manan

Style Icon of 2016: Waseem Akram

Most stylish actor television: Hamza Ali Abbasi

Most stylish actress Television: Syra Shehroz

Most stylish actor (film): Humayun Saeed

Most stylish actress (film): Mahirah Khan

Excellence in the field of designing: Bunto Kazmi

Excellence in the field of styling: Nabila

Recognition award: Naz Mansha





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FORMAL COLLECTION

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PFDC L'Oréal Paris BRIDAL WEEK

The Pakistan Fashion Design Council (PFDC) in collaboration with L'Oréal Paris presented the sixth year of Bridal Couture Week in Lahore. Also known as PLBW, the three-day event is the country's best platform to showcase contemporary and traditional Pakistani bridal fashion.



ALI XEESHAN THEATER STUDIO

The most theatrical and cohesive collection highlighting an important women's rights issue in Pakistan was most definitely Ali Xeesan's *Khamoshi*. His use of colour included frosted pastels, his embroidery techniques revived old school crafts and his variety of fabrics gave him an edge over the others. Merging traditional bridal silhouettes with contemporary designs paired with exquisite jewellery and a brilliant colour palette made *Khamoshi* one of PLBW 2016's most talked about collections.



FARAH & FATIMA

Farah & Fatima made their PLBW debut with their collection titled *Shahnoor*. The collection was based on Kashmiri shawls and Kashmiri art. Using a variety of pure fabrics such as net, organza, velvet and brocade, the brand infused intricate embellishments like *gota* work, French knots, pitta and *mukesh* work with modern cuts and traditional *lehengas* and *ghararas*.



MAHGUL

The Trunks of Sabine is based on a journey of a woman travelling through the subcontinent adding different aesthetics to her trunk to bring you an eclectic variety of clothes...And Mahgul's PLBW collection does just that! Using a variety of embroidery techniques, especially 3D sculptural embellishments, Mahgul merges linear and layered silhouettes brilliantly to incorporate the arts from the sub-continent into modern day bridal wear.



SAIRA RIZWAN

Another brand to debut this season was Saira Rizwan with her collection titled *Mademoiselle*. Inspired by a mix of vintage and modern, the collection uses sheer fabrics with beautiful embellishments such as intricate cutwork and hand embroidery along with crystals and modern stones to deliver a stunning collection for brides world over.



SHIZA HASSAN

Taking inspiration from the Persian craft of carpet weaving, Shiza Hassan's debut collection uses traditional Persian carpet motifs on outfits to bring an aesthetically sound collection. The rich colour palette complements the embroideries found on the currently trending silhouettes the designer chose to debut.

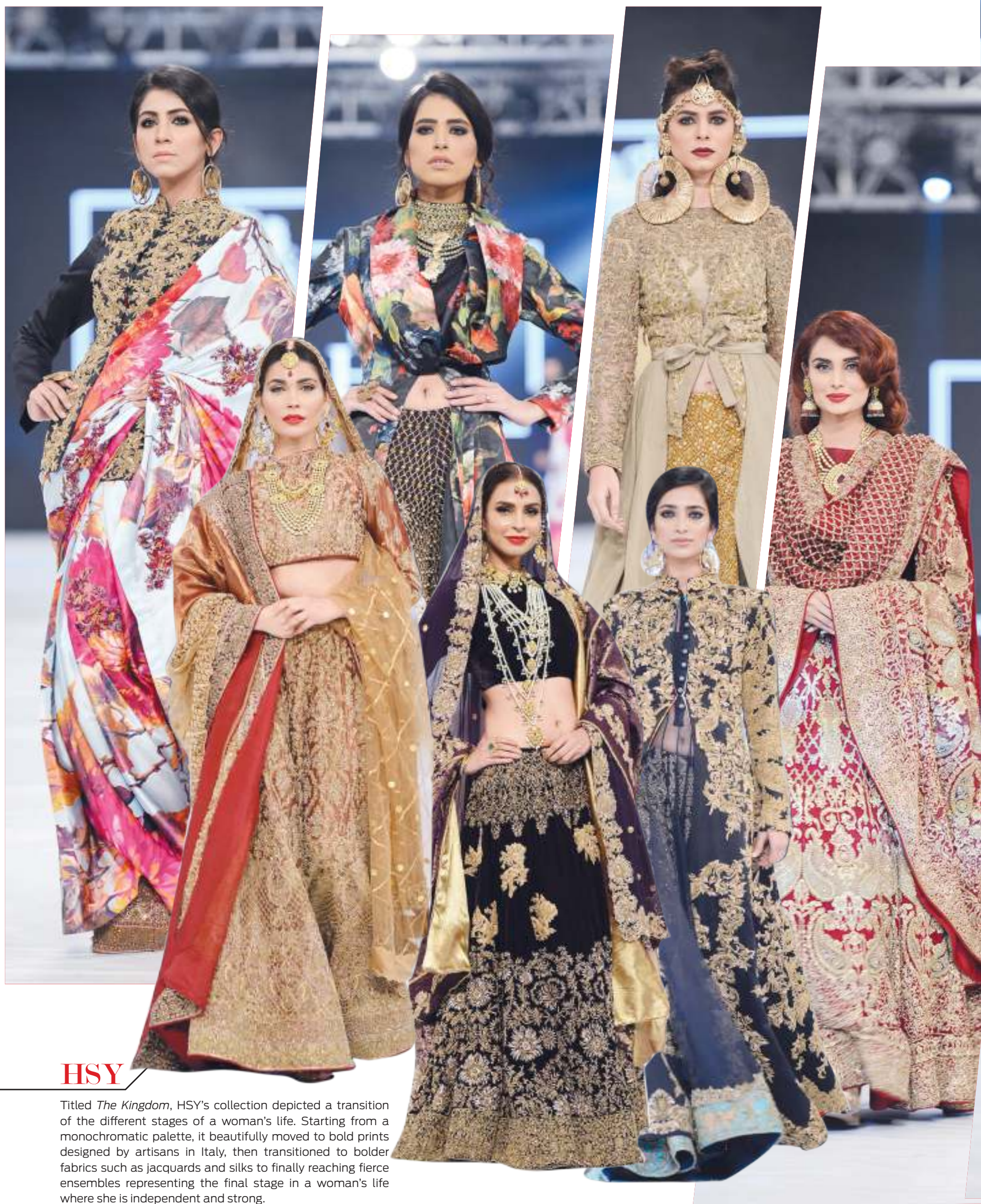
SARA NAQVI

Sara Naqvi made her ramp debut as part of the Bank Alfalah Rising Talent Segment with her collection titled *Sarkash Rajkumari*. Inspired by Mughal hunting scenes known as *Shikargah* (seen mostly on shawls), Sara's collection used rich fabrics and colours to depict a regal collection suitable for all body types across the nation.



SONIA AZHAR

Using atypical bridal silhouettes with beautifully crafted pieces, Sonia Azhar's collection made a statement on the ramp. Comprising silks, nets and organzas with voluminous cuts presented in nudes and lilac hues – the collection was hypnotic coinciding with its title *Hypnotism*.



HSY

Titled *The Kingdom*, HSY's collection depicted a transition of the different stages of a woman's life. Starting from a monochromatic palette, it beautifully moved to bold prints designed by artisans in Italy, then transitioned to bolder fabrics such as jacquards and silks to finally reaching fierce ensembles representing the final stage in a woman's life where she is independent and strong.



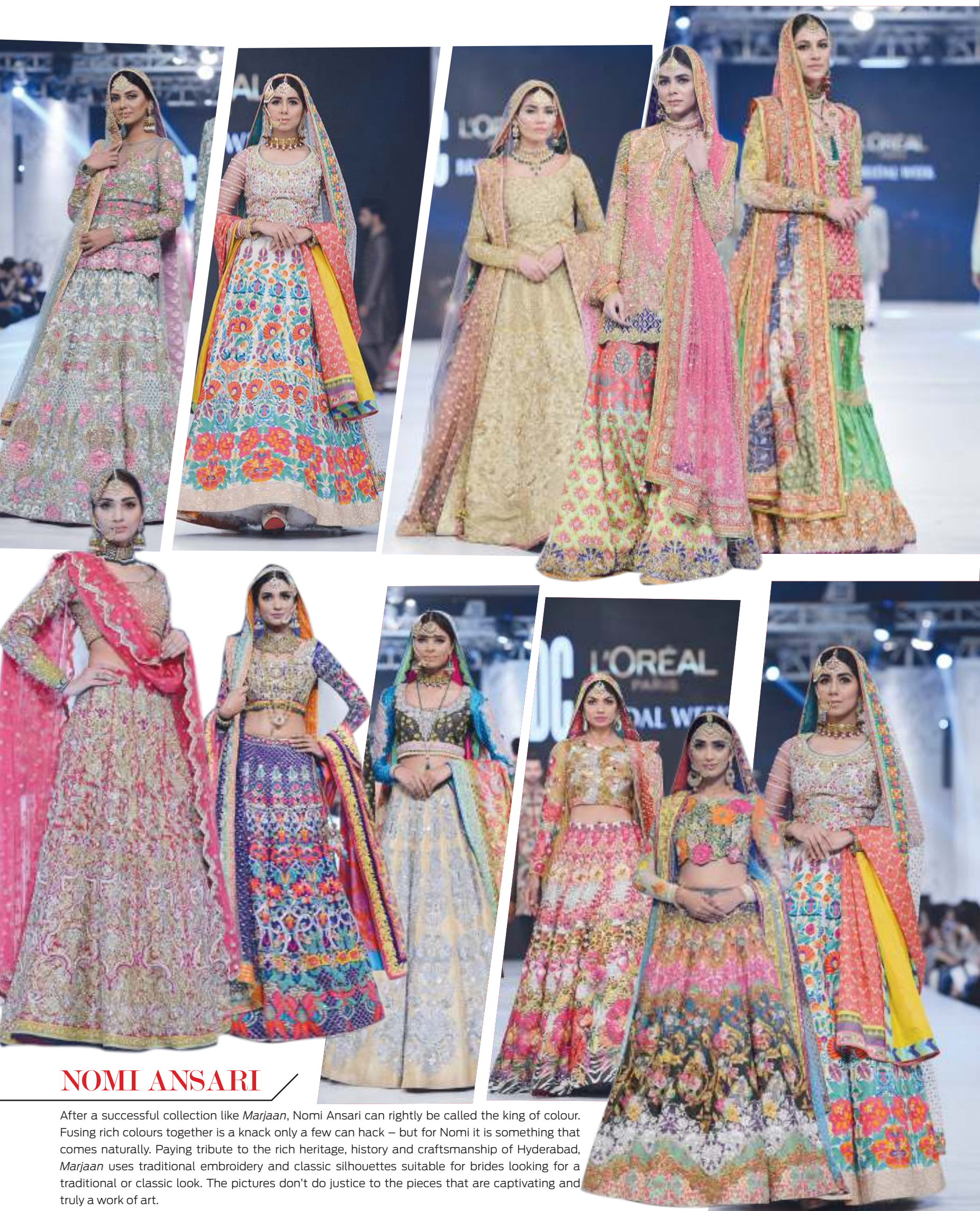
SAIRA SHAKIRA

Saira Shakira presented a stunning colour palette using luxe fabrics such as tissue, organza and tulle with intricate yet breathtakingly beautiful embroideries for their collection titled *Zohra*. The exquisite embroidery set against the elegant colour palette is possibly their most beautiful collection to date. The collection was so stunning that it most definitely catapulted the duo into Pakistan's premier league of bridal designers.



MUSE

MUSE made their bridal ramp debut in Pakistan with *A Love Like Ours* at PLBW. This collection focused on three elemental colours: red, navy and nude. Inspired by *The Princess Bride*, the collection featured fabrics such as organza and dupion with detailed, meticulous embellishments such as metallic threads, sequins and pearls.



NOMI ANSARI

After a successful collection like *Marjaan*, Nomi Ansari can rightly be called the king of colour. Fusing rich colours together is a knack only a few can hack – but for Nomi it is something that comes naturally. Paying tribute to the rich heritage, history and craftsmanship of Hyderabad, *Marjaan* uses traditional embroidery and classic silhouettes suitable for brides looking for a traditional or classic look. The pictures don't do justice to the pieces that are captivating and truly a work of art.



SHAMSHA HASHWANI

A Mughal Mirage narrates a childhood memory of the designer: a beautifully designed, Indian carpet in her parents' house with depictions of the Mughal Dynasty intricately designed on the border. The designer used this mirage to her advantage and presented a stunning debut collection. Using various techniques and elements, Shamsha's collection was pretty with soft tones catering to a wide clientele. However, her strength was truly in her *chaddars*, which depicted Mughals in the finest embroidered knots to date.



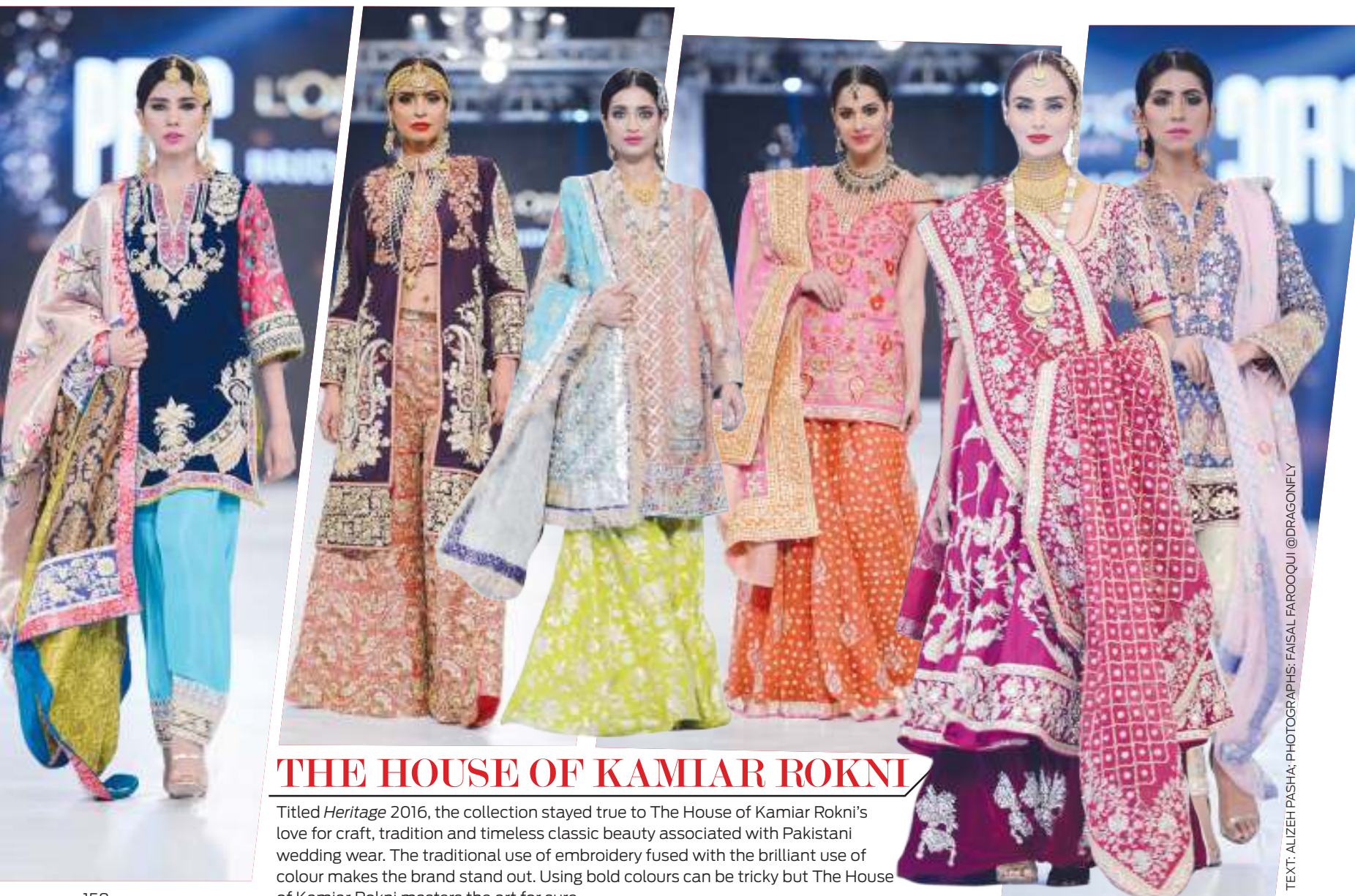
SANIA MASKATIYA

August Dream draws inspiration from traditional design elements for the modern day bride. It is opulent and breathtakingly beautiful – featuring sumptuous textures, regal motifs and eye-catching silhouettes. The collection is luxurious and its gold embroidered ensembles are a definite must-have.



ZARA SHAHJAHAN

Titled *Mehrunisa*, Zara Shahjahan's collection was sophisticated and beautiful. Her colour palette was subtle and elegant, her embroidery techniques traditional and her silhouettes classic. Even an unassuming eye would notice her fine level of craftsmanship and laud her techniques. Blending these techniques with luxe fabrics and a soft palette made Zara Shahjahan's collection a memorable one.



THE HOUSE OF KAMMAR ROKNI

Titled *Heritage 2016*, the collection stayed true to The House of Kammar Rokni's love for craft, tradition and timeless classic beauty associated with Pakistani wedding wear. The traditional use of embroidery fused with the brilliant use of colour makes the brand stand out. Using bold colours can be tricky but The House of Kammar Rokni masters the art for sure.





SHIZA HASSAN

Anoos-e-Abrashami



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Pumps,
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Asos
Straw Fedora
Hat,
PKR 2,400



**Cutler And
Cross**
Love Bite Sunglasses,
PKR 40,000



H&M
Off-The-Shoulder Blouse,
PKR 2,400



Emilio Pucci
Printed Cotton Kaftan,
PKR 88,000



**Oscar De
La Renta**
Sea Star
Necklace,
PKR 89,000



Johanna Ortiz
Anastasia One
Shoulder Top,
PKR 79,000

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS



Generation
Front Buttoned Flare Tunic,
PKR 3,998

Rema Luxe
Glimmering Sun
of May,
PKR 13,650



Zohra Rahman
Gold-Plated Sterling
Silver Torn Cuff,
PKR 57,000

Mango
Flowy Long Dress,
PKR 17,990



Zara
Floral Mini Devoré Dress,
PKR 16,900



**Lisa
Marie
Fernandez**
Arden Bonded
Bikini,
PKR 39,000



Jimmy Choo
Vivy Acetate Sunglasses,
PKR 65,000



Soma
Aqua Sandals,
PKR 2,000



Johanna Ortiz
Justina Maxi Skirt,
PKR 123,000



**Mabu By
Maria Bk**
Embellished
Leather Sandals,
PKR 20,000



**Mara
Hoffman**
Floral-Print
Swimsuit,
PKR 21,000



Missoni
Mare Kaftan,
PKR 91,000



MSGM
Ruffle Peplum
Tunic,
PKR 37,000



Whether you're planning to spend your honeymoon skiing on the Swiss Alps in Gstaad or beaching it on a pristine, white sand beach in the French Polynesian islands – we've got all the essentials you need in one single edit. Come Winter, come Summer, here are some of the most covetable items to pack in your suitcase.



STOCKISTS: ASOS www.asos.com; CUTLER AND GROSS, JIMMY CHOO, LISA MARIA FERNANDEZ, MABU BY MARIA BK, MARA HOFFMAN, MISSONI, OSCAR DE LA RENTA, ACNE STUDIOS, CANADA GOOSE, CHINTI AND PARKER, CHLOE, EUGENIA KIM, FENDI, ISABEL MARANT, LOEWE, MARNI, MIU MIU., MONCLER, MOON BOOT, SAINT LAURENT, SOPHIE HULME, STELLA MCCARTNEY www.netaporter.com; ALEXANDER WANG www.ssense.com; EMILIO PUCCI, MSGM, JOHANNA ORTIZ www.modaoperandi.com; MANGO www.mango.com; GENERATION www.generation.com.pk; H&M www.hm.com; ZARA www.zara.com; LOËIL www.theloil.com; REMA LUXE www.remaluxe.com; ZOHRRA RAHMAN www.polyandotherstories.com; SOMA 0332-823 8434; prices are approximate



ZARA
Jeans,
PKR 7,900



H&M
Collarless Shirt,
PKR 1,900



OFF-WHITE
Ripped Jeans,
PKR 47,000



DEV R NIL
Ikat Button Down
Waistcoat,
PKR 19,600



JUNAID JAMSHED
Khussa,
PKR 4,500



SANIA MASKATIYA
Waistcoat,
PKR 27,500



EAST MEETS WEST

King of cool, architect and design guru Yousaf Shahbaz mixes Eastern and Western pieces effortlessly, case in point – his embroidered waistcoat and *khussas* paired with ripped jeans. His eclectic choices prove that mixing and matching from different regions can be aesthetically pleasing, if done right!



REPUBLIC BY OMAR FAROOQ
Rip and Repaired Jeans,
PKR 5,950



SAPPHIRE
Sky Dive Waistcoat,
PKR 4,500



MOCHIKA
Patent
Leather Nagra
Khussa,
PKR 2,500



ZARA
Slim Fit Jeans,
PKR 7,900



SHUBINAK
Band Collar Waistcoat,
PKR 3,600



HENRIK VIBSKOV
Beluga Shirt,
PKR 27,000



MOCHIKA
Leather Kanioli Khussa,
PKR 2,200

STOCKISTS: DEV R NIL www.perniaspopupshop.com; H&M www.hm.com; HENRIK VIBSKOV, OFF-WHITE www.farfetech.com; JUNAID JAMSHED www.junaidjamshed.com; MOCHIKA, SHUBINAK www.daraz.pk; REPUBLIC BY OMAR FAROOQ www.republicbespoke.com; SANIA MASKATIYA www.saniamaskatiya.com; SAPPHIRE www.sapphireonline.pk; ZARA www.zara.com; prices are approximate

WINTER

2016-17

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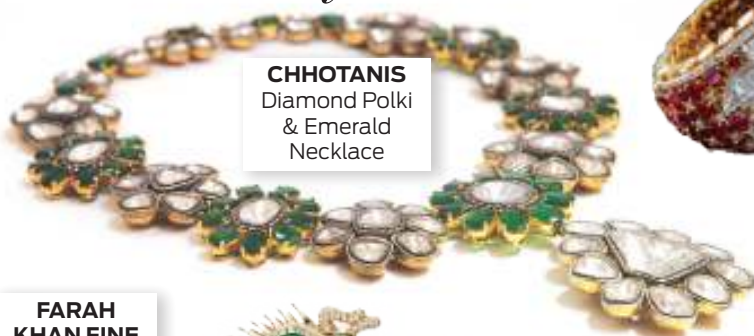
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Sea Pearls
Gold Cuff



**GEHNA
JEWELLERS**
Rose Cut
Diamonds &
Enamel Gold
Earrings



**ANMOL
JEWELLERS**
Polki Necklace

**FARAH
KHAN FINE
JEWELLERY**
Ruby Cuff
In Yellow
Gold With
Emeralds &
Diamonds,
From The
New Le Jardin
Exotique
Collection



**THE HOUSE OF
ROSE**
Polki Necklace



**VAN CLEEF &
ARPELS**
Diamond Bracelet

The Traditional TROUSSEAU

No trousseau is complete without heritage pieces taken from the rich culture of the sub-continent so invest in these head-turning jewels that will surely last through generations to come.



ZOYA
Polki Diamond &
Enamel Earrings



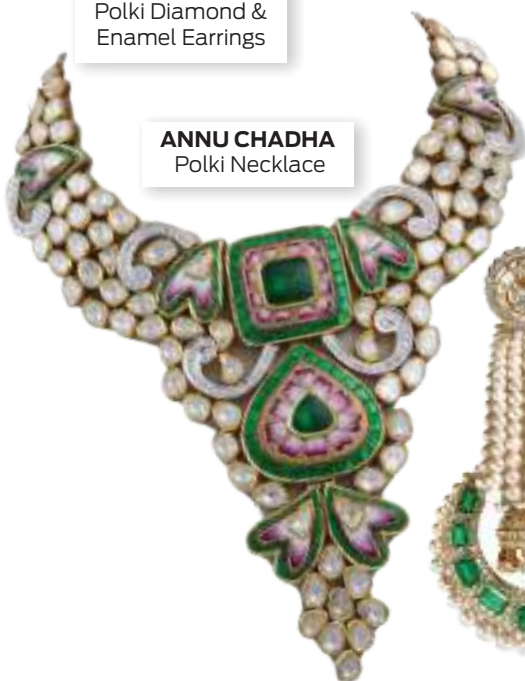
AMRAPALI
Large
Diamond,
Ruby &
Emerald
Earrings

**BIKANERI
JEWELS**
Polki
Earrings



AMRAPALI
Heritage Necklace
Set With Rubies,
Emeralds &
Diamonds

ANNU CHADHA
Polki Necklace



GOLECHA
Bangle Studded
With Diamonds,
Rubies &
Emeralds



ANMOL JEWELLERS
Freshwater Pearls,
Diamonds & Emerald
Gold Earrings



**JAIPUR
JEWELS**
Polki
Necklace



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Email: info@chhotani.com  /chhotanis



Victoria Beckham X Target

Save the date, ladies! Because this collaboration is definitely going to surpass all others. Everyone's favourite IT fashion queen is going to be available to all at very affordable prices thanks to Target. The collaboration will have a fun and girly touch to it with the super aesthetic sense of former Spice Girl. It will be a 200-piece capsule collection that includes apparel as well as accessories. The best part of this collaboration is that it is super affordable, falling between the price range of PKR 640 to PKR 7,300 only. Truly a dream come true, isn't it? The collection will hit stores on April 9, 2017, so mark your calendars!



Guitar Straps

Give your bags a 'rockstar' treatment this season! Embellished guitar straps are the new IT trend that you need to follow to rock your everyday look. Add a new accessory to your arsenal and you have a lot of options to do that. Get the pieces that rocked the runway this season with some gorgeous options from Anya Hindmarch, Burberry, Fendi and Lanvin or if you want to keep it easy on the pocket, get some interchangeable bag straps and decorate them with your desired jewels, studs, embroidery or anything else that you want to experiment with. Another option is taking out your old bags and combining some add-ons to the bag strap to give it a quick chic look!

Arm Candy

Bring some genuine leather goodness in your life that is classy and super chic. A new British unisex watch brand, CIRCULR is all set to launch quality watches in an array of styles and colours every couple of months. The watches are everything you would have wished for. With special Japanese Miyota Movement, sterling silver plated combined with rose gold and a 42.33mm face size, the classic minimal design can easily be your fashion accessory for many years to come. Another reason why this piece made it to our 'must-have' list is because of the affordable price tag. All the watches will be available for PKR 6,400.



Work-Out in Style!

Time to work-out in style! J.Crew, America's multi-brand retailer is taking a leap into the world of activewear through a collaboration with New Balance; a footwear brand who have been in partnership with J.Crew for over a decade now. However, this will be the first time the brand is taking out a full-fledged activewear collection and we couldn't be happier! The collection comprises 20 different pieces including sneakers, sports bras, tank tops, pullovers, jackets and shorts with a variety of headband accessories. It ranges only between PKR 1,600 to PKR 20,100, so make sure you have your work-out essentials all ready in mind to purchase. The collection is now available at J.Crew and New Balance stores as well as online at J.Crew.com and NewBalance.com.





Bridal Expo Madness

The wedding season is finally here and Pakistan just witnessed its biggest Bridal Exhibition till date with 'The Bridal Expo' organised by The Exhibit team in Lahore. The event was on Saturday, 5th November, 2016. It was the first ever one-stop shop for all your bridal needs under one big roof. Isn't this everything a girl would dream of? Absolutely! This expo is definitely a dream come true for every girl out there. The event included bridal and prêt designers, event planners, make-up artists, bakers and caterers, jewellers, furniture and lots more. Designers that were showcasing included Kamiar Rokni, HSY, Sania Maskatiya, Tena Durrani, Ali Xeeshan and Amrapali, along with 50 other big brands that participated. Whether or not you're getting married anytime soon, this event should not be missed and we already cannot wait for the next one to happen - hopefully in Karachi?



Stay Cozy in Capelets

One look that will definitely be making it big in the fashion world this Fall/Winter is the capelet! This cover-up would be your best companion during those cold days while staying on trend. It's super easy to style which makes it a must-have for your Fall/Winter wardrobe; pair it up with long sleeves or short, on tops, dresses or even bodysuits for an effortless chic look. Some of our favourite pieces from the runway come from Detacher, Brandon Maxwell, Philosophy di Lorenzo Serafini, Christian Dior, Burberry and MSGM. Make sure you add these cozy but trendy pieces to your wardrobe!



Vivacious Velvets

Did you ever wish for fashion trends that can easily be followed and are oh-so-comfortable? Your wish is granted with this season's hot new trend! Velvets stood out the most on the runways and we're in absolute awe over all the impressive designs we got to see. Dig out all your old velvet pieces and style them to perfection this season or get your hands on some of the most beautiful pieces by Alberta Ferretti, Monse, Rochas, H&M, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren and Fendi. The options are endless; with Fendi's embroidered dress to Ralph Lauren's minimalistic evening dress to Giorgio Armani's impressive cuts, these would make a perfect evening look!

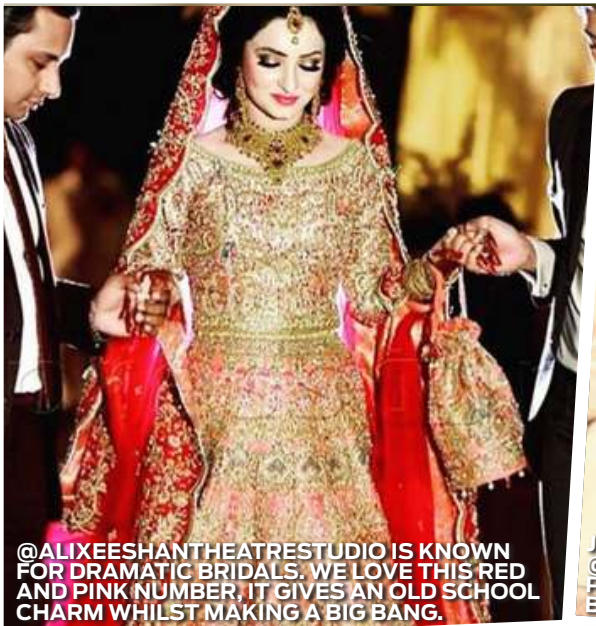


Kohar Collection

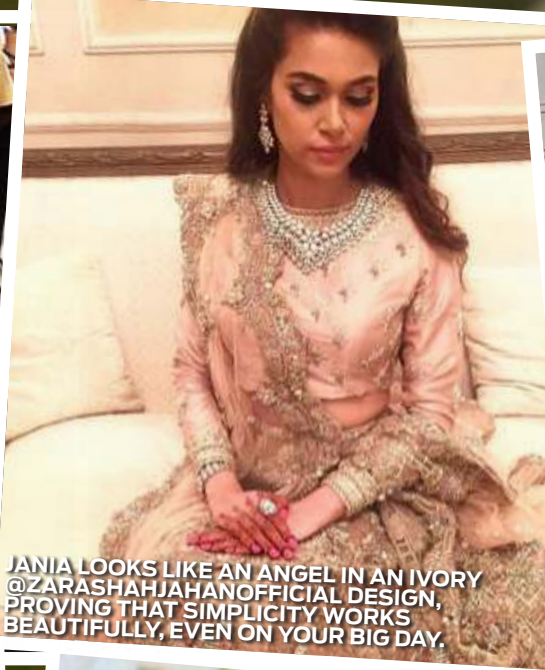
This is definitely going to satisfy all your wedding jewellery needs. Sherezad Rahimtoola's jewellery pieces are an epitome of class and elegance. We bet you'll have a tough time deciding which one to pick because each one has its own level of perfection combined with Mughal-inspired designs that will take you back in the golden era. Sherezad uses different kinds of jewels and pearls with fine gold topped with her aesthetics to make every piece look statement-worthy. Make sure you check out the *Kohar* collection and treat yourself with these jaw-dropping pieces for your next big event. Studio located in Labels, Karachi.

#OKStreetstyle

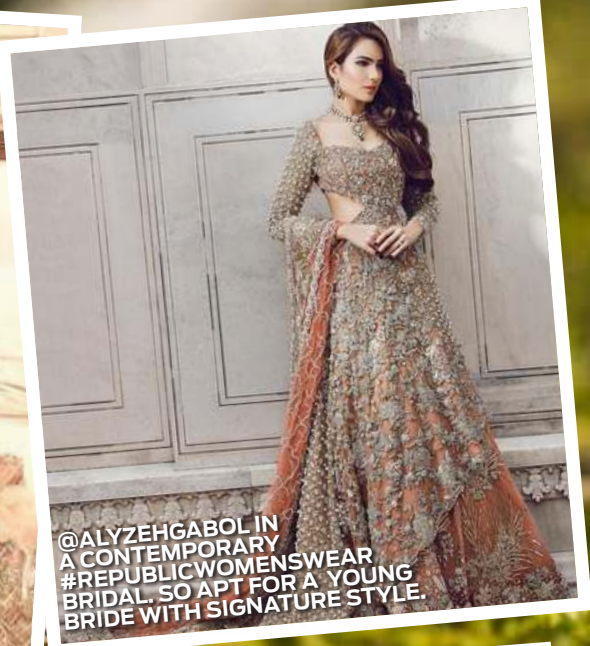
This month, we celebrate the love of elaborate bridals that are made by our very own talented designers! There is nothing more beautiful than a bride in a dazzling outfit with a nice big smile on her face. Here are some of our favourites...



@ALIXEESHANTHEATRESTUDIO IS KNOWN FOR DRAMATIC BRIDALS. WE LOVE THIS RED AND PINK NUMBER, IT GIVES AN OLD SCHOOL CHARM WHILST MAKING A BIG BANG.



JANIA LOOKS LIKE AN ANGEL IN AN IVORY @ZARASHAHJAHANOFFICIAL DESIGN, PROVING THAT SIMPLICITY WORKS BEAUTIFULLY, EVEN ON YOUR BIG DAY.



@ALYZEHGABOL IN A CONTEMPORARY #REPUBLICWOMENWEAR BRIDAL, SO APT FOR A YOUNG BRIDE WITH SIGNATURE STYLE.



THIS BEAUTY IS GLOWING IN A CREAM @AMMARAKHANATELIER ENSEMBLE ON HER BIG DAY. ADORE THE BOLD RED LIPS.



@ANUSHAMMAR IS SPLENDID IN #FARAZMANAN, THE NEW TREND OF LILAC BRIDALS IS RATHER FEMININE AND PRETTY, DON'T YOU THINK?



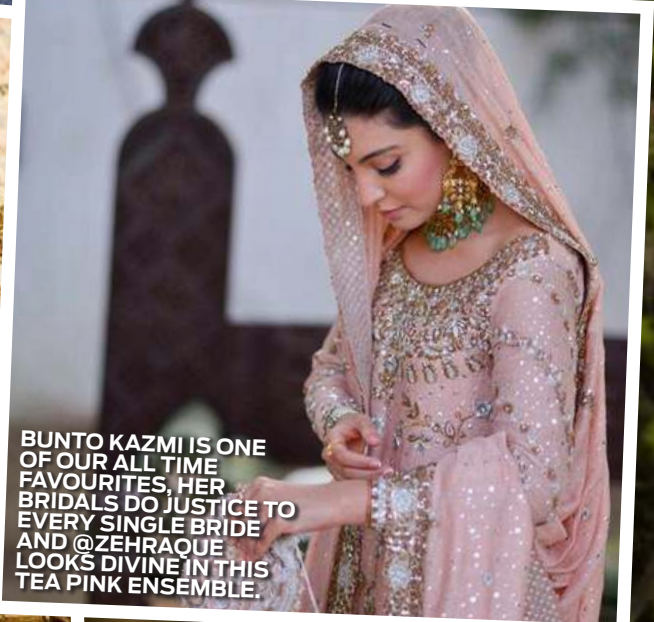
THIS @DEENARAHMANOFFICIAL BRIDE IS AN ABSOLUTE VISION, CANNOT GET OUR EYES OFF OF HER.



@MARIUM_SIDDIQI OPTED FOR A TRADITIONAL LOOK WITH A HINT OF CONTEMPORARY AND #TENADURRANI KNOWS HOW TO DO JUST THAT.



@SADAFRGODIL IS ROCKING THIS TRADITIONAL #FARAHTALIBAZIZ OUTFIT, PERFECT FOR A MEHENDI LOOK.



BUNTO KAZMI IS ONE OF OUR ALL TIME FAVOURITES, HER BRIDALS DO JUSTICE TO EVERY SINGLE BRIDE AND @ZEHRAQUE LOOKS DIVINE IN THIS TEA PINK ENSEMBLE.



AFZAL JEWELERS

34 Commercial Zone, Liberty Market, Lahore. Tel: +92 42 35752933-35716333-35789667,
Fax: +92 42 35875553 info@afzaljewellers.com.pk / www.afzaljewellers.com.pk

facebook.com/afzaljewelers



MINAHIL QASIM

Beauty and brains Minahil Qasim sure knows how to rock the red carpet! This writer and sub-editor always looks trendy and effortlessly chic, and makes it to our style crush this month.

GET THE LOOK



J. CREW
Printed Silk-Twill
Pants,
PKR 29,000

ARSAZI
Hearts on Fuschia
Bow Tie,
PKR 3,500



MOSCHINO
Oversized Printed
T-Shirt,
PKR 22,000



MANOLO BLAHNIK
Hangisi Satin Pump,
PKR 95,000



KATE SPADE
Go Taxi Flats,
PKR 27,000



SKINNY DIP
Hangover Club Clutch,
PKR 3,500




WJW
WASEEM
JEWELLERS



LUKE EVANS

Star of *Dracula Untold*, *Fast & Furious 6* and *The Girl On The Train*, Luke Evans is a force to be reckoned with. His smoldering hot looks, chiseled jawline and gorgeous physique paired with a killer dress sense land him on our fashion radar this month.

GETTHELOOK

RAY-BAN
Original Wayfarer Acetate
Sunglasses,
PKR 15,000

MICHAEL KORS
Slim-Fit Denim Jeans,
PKR 17,000

TOD'S
Studded Leather
Bracelet,
PKR 27,000

H&M
Backpack,
PKR 2,400

RIVER ISLAND
Blue Franklin &
Marshal Checked
Shirt,
PKR 11,000

HUNTER ORIGINALS
Tall Wellington
Boots,
PKR 14,000

TOM FORD
Leather and Palladium-
Plated Bracelet,
PKR 39,000

STOCKISTS: H&M WWW.HM.COM; HUNTER ORIGINALS, MICHAEL KORS, RAY-BAN, TOD'S, TOM FORD WWW.MRPORTER.COM; RIVER ISLAND WWW.RIVERISLAND.COM; prices are approximate



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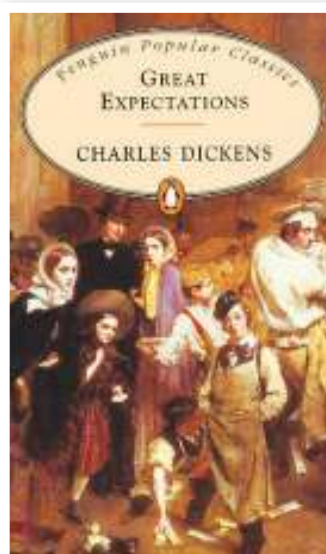
MY WONDERFUL LIFE

OK! Pakistan sat down with fashion icon Hassan Sheheryar Yasin to discuss his fabulous life



What is your ideal vacation destination?
Mykonos.

What's your signature scent?
Creed by Santal.



What is your favourite book?
Great Expectations – I always find myself revisiting the book.

What is your favourite cuisine?
I am very fond of Italian and Japanese cuisine.



What are your everyday style essentials?
I love a crisp white collared shirt that is smartly tailored worn with dark indigo jeans. The jeans should be a straight cut and I usually pair them with a brown belt and loafers.



Latest gadget you are obsessed with?
I am particularly interested in Samsung's VR glasses.



Which celebrity do you most admire?
Madonna for her genius and longevity (has to have longevity).



What did it feel like when the iconic Brooke Shields wore your design to the American Ballet Gala?

I am honoured that Brooke Shields chose to wear HSY to such a prestigious gala. When her team first reached out, I was floored, having always admired her for the multi-faceted force that she is. Brooke Shields hand-picked the gown from images she saw of my collection at PFDC L'Oréal Paris Bridal Week and that is a testament to the impact and resonance our fashion weeks have worldwide.



What is your favourite restaurant?
I love Mr Chow in New York and Okra in Karachi.

How do you unwind?
I listen to music anywhere and everywhere. I love all genres of music.



What is your ideal weekend?
My ideal weekend is in Dubai with my family in a resort hotel.



IBRAHIM'S

DESIGN'S GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY



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www.ibrahimjewellers.com

OK! CONFIDENTIAL

MISHA LAKHANI

OK! Pakistan talks to Misha Lakhani about her debut in India, exhibiting at the Vogue Wedding Show, her love for travel, tradition, and the bridal couture industry in Pakistan and across the world



Coco Chanel has famously said “A girl should be two things: classy and fabulous”. The ability to be classy and fabulous These are considered as innate qualities but it is easy to forget that the clothes we wear help us shape that impression. There are very few fashion houses in Pakistan that meet both of those criteria and Misha Lakhani is one of them. Since its establishment the fashion house has constantly delivered timeless pieces and has created signature styles that are modern yet hint at old world glamour. The brand has managed to achieve tailored perfection every season through its classic cuts and sensibility. The fashion house is also a reflection of Misha Lakhani herself. The gamine designer is private, sophisticated and a globetrotter who has recently visited India and Capri. Her designs are reflective of a multicultural lifestyle and cater to people who seek to live one as well. The Misha Lakhani woman is one who lives a jetset lifestyle. She finds herself in need of a kurta but also wanting a mini dress to lounge by the pool or a *kaftan* to wear to a *shaadi* or a gala. The reason fashionistas, executives and socialites covet a Misha Lakhani piece is because it can easily be translated into any situation and at any point.

Upon entering a Misha Lakhani boutique in Lahore or Karachi, it is apparent that the brand aims to cater to women who visually enjoy clothes with a classic sensibility. The boutiques are elegant and minimalistically curated, and it is evident that great thought has been

put into creating a luxurious experience for shoppers. A similar feeling is translated to the newly launched online boutique. With an international clientele, the website highlights the brand's elegant minimalism. The website through its well



MISHA WITH GAURAV GUPTA

thought out design allows for the intricate, elegant embroidery that is incorporated into the brand's designs to be viewed clearly online. ►





“ The [latest] collection draws inspiration from Hyderabad’s royalty, Nizami culture, art deco jewellery and Mughal miniatures. ”

Recently, Misha Lakhani recently showcased at the Vogue Wedding Show and has shot a stunning campaign in Kerala. The fashion house stands in a class of its own and is stamped with a unique touch of luxury for people of taste.

How did you get involved with the Vogue Wedding Show?

Misha Lakhani: I was invited to participate in the Vogue Wedding Show in 2016. Although we have Indian clientele in the UK and US, this was my debut in India. It was a good experience. While our markets are very similar, they're also very different.

What were the influences for this collection?

ML: *Bejewelled*, the 2016 bridal collection, explores an eclectic range of old crafts and modern ideas. The collection draws inspiration from Hyderabad's royalty, Nizami culture, art deco jewellery and Mughal miniatures. Driven by a celebration of craftsmanship and heritage, expect the finest of *zardozi*, the magic of *mukaish* and the playfulness of thread work across a jewelled colour palette and mix of textiles.

What was the reception for you as a Pakistani designer and your designs at the wedding show?

ML: The logistical issues between the countries pose challenges. It's impossible to send items directly as they get held up by Customs. In some cases, being Pakistani was advantageous, in other cases it wasn't. However, I met some fantastic people and connected with friends after a long time.

What did you get up to after the Vogue Wedding Show whilst you were



still in India?

ML: After the show we took a trip to Kerala where I did a bridal shoot for the new collection in the backwaters of Alleppey. I love visiting India. The food, subcultures, heritage and crafts are very inspiring.

How does travel influence you as a designer?

ML: Travel is my biggest inspiration, but I can also find it in vintage books, film and art.

What was it like working at Condé Nast Traveller?

ML: It was an incredible experience. During my time there we were working primarily towards the September power issue featuring Queen Rania, and then I met her randomly at Bergdorf's so that was nice! The magazine is not just about traveling and hotels as many people assume, but also about food, culture, unusual experiences and people impacting changes. One thing I'll never forget is the amazing cafeteria. It's



truly better than any hotel.

Why did you decide to shift from publishing to fashion?

ML: Fashion was always my first love. It just took a little time to muster the courage to go for it.

How important do you think it is for the bridal couture industry to preserve tradition?

ML: I'm motivated and empowered by reviving ancient traditions of craftsmanship, however I also think evolving with the times is necessary. Even during the Mughal times there was a lot of trade and exchange from near and far, so what we perceive to be old school or traditional is in fact a confluence of styles and cultures, a remix of sorts.

How important do you think e-commerce is to the bridal couture industry?

ML: E-commerce makes the world a smaller place – it can only help to serve the bridal couture industry.


Where and what did you study?

ML: I studied fashion design at Central St. Martins and I also have an MS in Journalism from Columbia University.

Did you design your own wedding joras?

ML: I designed some of my looks.

Why do you think desis who live abroad aspire to be traditional in their choice of bridal clothing?

ML: I think most *desis* everywhere aspire to be traditional on their wedding day. It's a celebration of your heritage and family background - whether you're Parsi or Ismaili or Punjabi or whatever - there are so many subcultures to celebrate. What's beautiful is when you pay respect to that. 

INTERVIEW: MASHALL KHATTAK

Sha




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LHR - MM Alam Road



A portrait of Samia Akram, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a dark, textured sweater. The background is a blurred indoor setting with horizontal lines.

UP CLOSE WITH

Samia Akram

OK! Pakistan has a rendezvous with Samia Akram, the woman behind SOMA



Every Pakistani fashionista fond of Instagram has stumbled upon SOMA's profile and, consequently, has spent a considerable amount of time scrolling through their feed, drooling over their stunning collection of traditional footwear (with a modern twist!). With beautiful *khussas* that you will almost immediately want in your wardrobe, it is safe to say that the footwear brand has taken the Pakistani fashion world by storm. We sat down with the director of the sensational brand, Samia Akram, to chat about her design processes and future plans. Read on to find out what the talented designer had to say!



Where did you study?

Samia Akram: I studied at Karachi Grammar School till my A-Levels and for higher education I went to the University of Windsor, Canada and did a double major in Fine Arts and Communication Studies.

What made you want to become a footwear designer?

SA: I always wanted to use our talented and hard working labour. Plus, my craze for shoes and the shortage of affordable, good quality and trendy footwear here in Pakistan was the perfect push for me to start my own footwear business.

How would you describe your design aesthetic?

SA: Comfortable. Fashionable. Durable.

What is your favourite piece from your collection so far?

SA: My new collection is inspired by different places, experiences and food in Italy. It includes sandals called Roma, Granita, Focaccia and JOJO. They remind me of everything stylish, comfortable and upbeat in fashion.



Which celebrities have been spotted in your footwear so far?

SA: Pakistani celebrities Sanam Saeed, Syra Shahroz, Palwasha Yousuf, Ayesha Khan, Mawra Hocane and Alishba Yousuf.

Who would you love to see wearing your shoes?

SA: Oprah Winfrey or Kate Middleton.

What does your creative process look like?

SA: It starts from basic sketches and lots of brain juice, which then go into some sampling. My team and I physically sample the sandals day and night before they go into production and are launched

into the market.

How did you come up with the name 'SOMA'?

SA: SOMA spelt backwards is my nickname and it also means moon in Sanskrit. My spiritual yogi self likes to keep the connection with the divine strong at all times.

Future plans?

SA: To use further technology and to provide our customers worldwide with the best of everything Pakistani. **OK!**



INTERVIEW: RAJAA MOINI

LINER WORKS!

Winged liner is next in line to lipstick when it comes to making an impact! It's cheap - the most basic drugstore brand can do the job, it's time efficient - you pretty much require one single sweep to get the look, and it's versatile - you need only one liner to get a variety of looks.

Try L'ORÉAL's Superliner Blackbuster Eyeliner in Intense Black to get Jessica Alba and Kylie Jenner's look.

PKR 1,600; www.daraz.pk



GLITTER PARADE

Blame it on the 90's or blame it on FENDI, DKNY, MARC JACOBS and other cult labels to bring glitter back in vogue. Dramatic glitter lips, glitter cuticles and glitter eye shadows are a major Spring trend but who's to say you can't hack the trend before the rest of the fash pack. If you're someone who likes to play it safe, perhaps start with some glitter eye shadow before venturing out and about town in dramatic glitter lips a la Gigi Hadid...but do give this trend a try - after all, you only live once!



COCOGROW

Weather change almost always makes hair fall even if you remember to take your vitamins, drink plenty of water and use a shampoo that works. What helps is stimulating your scalp to boost hair growth and improve texture! And we've found a new organic hair treatment, COCOGROW, which does just that. It contains essential oils, shea butter and beeswax to nourish the scalp and hair follicle and improves growth and texture. Once applied, COCOGROW's minty formula tingles the scalp and works its magic. Post wash, hair feels soft and has a gorgeous sheen without weighing it down. What's best is that it's locally available and doesn't break the bank.

PKR 950; www.salinacosmetics.com

BEAUTY Essentials



FRINGE BENEFITS

The coolest IT girls including Karlie Kloss, Kendall Jenner and Selena Gomez are all currently rocking the fringe. It's Fall's latest and most covetable hair trend! Fringes can be either blunt or shaggy and easily swept to the side so make sure you get a fringe according to your own comfort zone. Just remember to stock up on some CONATURAL Argan Oil to tame your mane.

PKR 1,800; www.conaturalintl.com



THE DARK EFFECT

Embrace the dark side with berry hued nails to make a statement this season. They're fun, rebellious and definitely more buzz worthy than your average pinks and nudes.

The runways were packed with them and celebs have been sporting them for what seems like ages. With Winter around the corner they are the perfect beauty update...Jennifer Lopez, Taylor Swift and Rachel Zoe sport dark nails effortlessly and we suggest you do too! Our favourites include DIOR Skyline Varnish and YSL Plum Vintage.

PKR 2,700 for Dior; www.dior.com

PKR 2,800 for YSL; Available at Scentstation



TEXT: ALIZEH PASHA; PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY

prices are approximate



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Gulshan Factory Outlet

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Satellite Town

Quetta

Jinnah Road

Islamabad

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Centaurus Mall

Sialkot

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Shopping Complex,
Cantt.

Peshawar

Custom House,
University Road.

Faisalabad

Chen One Road

Lahore

Fortress Square Mall
M.M. Alam Road
Z - Block, DHA
Link Road 2
Wapda Town
Johar Town
Emporium Mall

BEAUTY GEEK'S PICK



1.

REVITALASH VOLUMIZING MASCARA

Add volume and smudge-free drama to your lashes with this volumizing and defining mascara. Revitalash Volumizing Mascara has a unique hour glass shaped brush which responds to the curvature of your natural lash line to separate and define your lashes reaching both short & long lashes. The water-resistant formula comes off easy with soap and water. Will make your lashes look longer, thicker, fuller and more luscious maximizing your lashes fullest potential. Available at Amethyst Spa and for trade inquiries contact: 0321-35309740, 0322-2050313



2.

O.P.I WASHINGTON D.C COLLECTION

In collaboration with new Creative Ambassador Kerry Washington, OPI launched 15 new colors under the Washington DC umbrella. Every color applied consists of just two coats. The go-to ones are Freedom of Peach, which is a muted fall orange shade, Inside the Isabelletway for all the lovers of medium caramel, and Kerry Blossom, which is a deep reddish/plum creme. Available at leading stores, spas and salons.



3.

SKINMEDICA TNS ESSENTIAL SYSTEM

Appropriate for all skin types, the SkinMedica TNS Essential System cleanses, rejuvenates and renews your skin in 3 simple steps as it comprises the TNS Essential Serum, the Tri-Retinal Complex and the Facial Cleanser. There is marked improvement in terms of fine lines, wrinkles, skin tone, resiliency & texture. Skin radiance is enhanced which is a definite plus. Available at Amethyst Spa.



4.

KERATIN COMPLEX VITALSHOT

"I honestly can't live without it. It smoothes my hair wonderfully when other products couldn't."

~a happy VitalShot client

VitalShot by Keratin Complex is a unique one-shot hair repair treatment that rebuilds and repairs the bonds of the hair to deliver your best hair yet. This in-salon service features a revolutionary, multi-patented triple layer repair technology that strengthens damaged hair from the inside out. Whether added to a color service or used on its own, the more you use VitalShot, the healthier hair becomes. Available at Amethyst Spa, Sab's, Blush & other leading salons.

Beauty **BUZZ**

TRIED & TESTED

Hair Cut & Gloss, Nabila

As I made my way to Nabila Salon, I grew a little nervous. It was time for my haircut appointment and I'd agreed to let the superb team at the salon do as they pleased with my hair. Praying they wouldn't convert my long hair into a bob, I entered the bright, airy and incredibly spacious salon. With an array of small, dimly lit salons that have sprawled over Karachi, entering Nabila Salon was a delight. I was greeted by the cheery Image Consultant Tabish, who looked at my hair and told me I was in dire need of not only a haircut but also a gloss and colour, and hence I was handed over to Nazia, who led me to the colour department. She expertly did my roots, while I enjoyed a delicious



ice-coffee, followed by glossing. My hair was then blowdried, and as I admired my new darker hair, which was closer to my natural colour, I made my way to the haircut station. There I was greeted by Naqash who got to work right away. It was the first time someone had cut my hair while it was dry, which was great because it gave Naqash a good idea of my natural hair texture and thus a more accurate haircut. He added lots of layers, which gave me a lot of body and got rid of inches and inches of split ends, commenting on how it seemed like I hadn't got my hair cut in a year (not true!). I absolutely loved what he had done with my

hair and was taken aback when he said he wasn't yet done! That's when he gave me a blunt fringe, making me feel like an entirely new person. It was a massive change, but it felt amazing, almost like an instant makeover! I felt confident and spunky, and with such a statement fringe, even bring dressed down made me feel glam. Not to mention, Karlie Kloss has recently been spotted with a super cool fringe, which is of course the perfect icing on the cake!

Haircut starting at PKR 3,000; gloss starting at PKR 4,000. Contact +9221 35862201 for an appointment. **OK!**

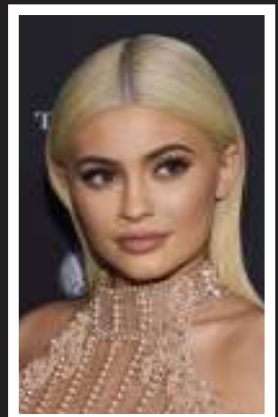


DIY How To... Apply False Eye- lashes

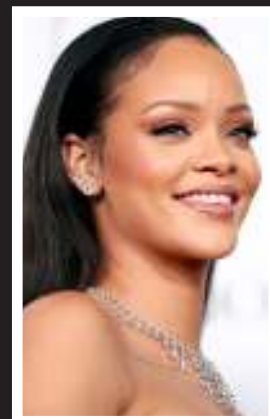
Step 1: Give your eyelashes some natural lift with your eyelash curler and apply a coat of mascara in order to comb through and add some weight to your lashes. Your natural lashes will form the base for the falsies so they need to be sturdy enough to support the extra weight.

Step 2: False eyelashes are not one size fits all. So, in order to make the application smooth and ensure that they don't look out of place at the end, cut up your lash band into two or three pieces. These will be easier to apply and will help in blending the falsies in with your natural eyelashes.

Step 3: Apply a razor thin line of glue at the base of each individual lash segment. Make sure you don't apply too much otherwise the glue will get everywhere and you'll be left with quite a mess! Wait for the glue to dry a little



before applying.



Step 4: Use a pair of your favourite tweezers to place each segment on your lash line, starting with the outer corner. Adjust the falsies so that they blend in seamlessly with your natural lashes and you're good to go.



Perfect your contour with the **TOO FACED** Soleil Matte Bronzer to achieve the golden goddess look that Momal is channeling. This product, infused with real cocoa powder, will leave your complexion with a flawless finish. PKR 3,000



Get flawless, even-toned skin like Momal's with the **ELEMIS** White Brightening Even Tone Lotion. This magic elixir will brighten your skin, reducing dark spots and signs of aging in no time. Oil-free, hydrated skin is just a few dabs away! PKR 5,000

For seamlessly sculpted eyebrows like Momal's, we recommend using the **DIOR** Diorshow Brow Styler Ultra-Fine Precision Brow Pencil. Define your brows while maintaining that soft, natural look with this backstage-inspired product. PKR 3,000



Want to achieve the perfect luminous glow, just like Momal's? We suggest the **BECCA X JACLYN HILL** Champagne Splits Shimmering Skin Perfector™ Mineral Blush Duo! Get the perfect highlight and add a pop of colour to your cheeks to complete your makeup look with this gorgeous product. PKR 4,000



Get the Look MOMAL SHEIKH

Actress Momal Sheikh is no stranger to celebrity style. Slaying the fashion game in a monochrome look with her hair tied back, Momal proves that she truly is the glamazon we all believe her to be. Read on to find out how you can recreate her gorgeous look for your next night out!



Get your eyes to look as gorgeous as Momal's with the **KAT VON D** Shade + Light Eye Contour Palette. This unique collection of shades will help you define and enhance your eyes for a bold and edgy look that will have heads turning wherever you go! PKR 5,000



Use the **TOO FACED** Born This Way Foundation to achieve the perfect base for all your makeup. The formula is infused with coconut water and alpine rose to hydrate and brighten the skin, giving you full coverage without damaging your skin. PKR 4,000



For a gorgeous pink pout like Momal's, use the **URBAN DECAY** Vice Lipstick in Electric Pink. The super-buildable and ultra-hydrating formula is infused with aloe vera, jojoba and avocado, along with vitamin C and E extracts for a gloriously creamy formula that leaves your lips feeling supple and soft. PKR 2,000

Get thick, voluminous and fanned-out lashes with the **TARTE** Lights, Camera, Lashes™ 4-in-1 Mascara. With a formula that does not weigh down the lashes, this product is perfect for a long night out. PKR 2,000



For a look that will last all through the night, we recommend priming your face with the **SMASHBOX** Photo Finish Oil Free Foundation Primer. With pore-minimizing power, this non-drying formula will keep your skin feeling hydrated and shine-free for up to eight hours. PKR 4,000



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HYPE

{BEAUTY

Ear Make-Up

Fashionistas are always finding new and creative ways to use make-up. The newest trend taking the fashion world by surprise is ear make-up. The trend debuted on the Louis Vuitton Spring/Summer 2016 runway show in October 2015 and now, a year later has taken the world of beauty blogging by storm. The trend ranges from using fairy-like coloured eye shadow such as gold and shimmery pink with dainty rhinestones and gold to a much more goth look which involves the use of black eyeliner and studs to highlight the beauty of your lobes.



{FOOD

Baked Bouquets

There are very few people who don't enjoy receiving flowers and cupcakes. Baked bouquets are the latest trend we want to indulge in. Delicious cupcakes are designed and arranged in the form of beautiful flower bouquets. The trend began in the United States and several bakeries have since specialised in solely making baked bouquets due to the trend's popularity. If you're in Karachi you can always order a baked bouquet from Sugaries Bakery.



Beauty Blender

The wait is finally over, the Beauty Blender can finally be bought in Pakistan. Thanks to Cosmo Group Pakistan, the world's best make-up applicator tool is now available in all leading retail stores and salons in the country. The Beauty Blender was developed by famous professional make-up artist Rea Ann Silva and helps fashionistas and beauty bloggers across the world to attain flawless make-up application every single time. The Beauty Blender can be used with moisturiser, CC cream, BB cream, foundation, as well as highlighting and contouring. The Beauty Blender cleansers (liquid and solid) are also available to ensure excess residue and germs can be removed for cleaner make-up application.



Kérastase Pakistan launches the Biggest Salon Beauty Advisor Program in Pakistan

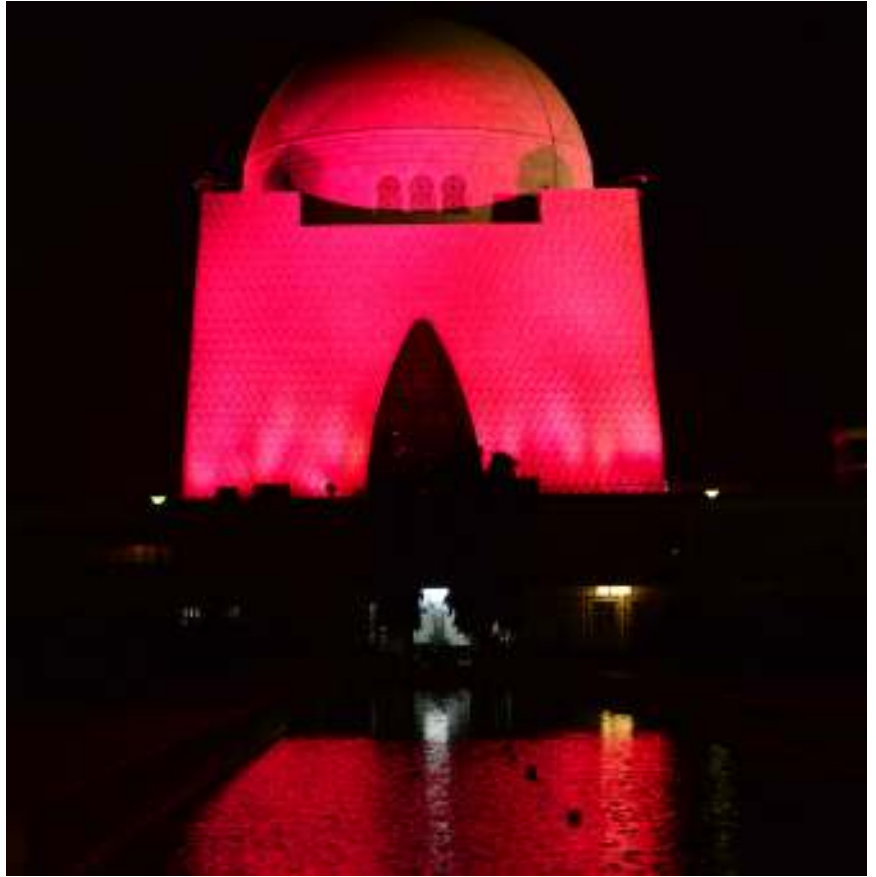
Kerastase is one of Pakistan's most luxurious hair care brands that is committed to providing quality hair care for their customers. In keeping with that aim, Kérastase has launched a brand new concept by initiating the "Beauty advisor" i.e. the beauticians training program. The newly launched training program is the biggest ever beauty advisory program in the country with 94 Ambassadors nationwide in 25 salons.



{LIFESTYLE

Quaid Mazar Illuminated Pink For Breast Cancer Awareness

Pakistan has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. Every ninth woman in Pakistan is at risk of the disease. Early detection is key to fighting the cancer, which is why awareness on the issue is of paramount importance. In order to raise awareness and to further the fighting against breast cancer, The Pink Ribbon Foundation joined hands with Gul Ahmed to illuminate several Pakistani landmarks in pink during the month of October. Quaid-e-Azam's Mazar in Karachi was the most prominent monument that was illuminated during this initiative. Chief Executive Pink Ribbon Pakistan, Omer Aftab, thanked all the campaign partners and said "We aim to create widespread awareness for breast cancer and urge policy makers to prioritise the issue. Breast cancer claims over 40,000 lives every year, yet the disease is considered a taboo. For the provision of proper medical facilities for this disease, Pink Ribbon is building Pakistan's first breast cancer hospital, so that none of us will have to bear the horror of losing a mother, sister, wife or daughter."



{FASHION



Anam Falak Set To Launch Sunglasses Collection

Anam Falak is a renown make-up artist, however, what is less known about the beauty industry star is that she has an affinity for sunglasses. Anam is very passionate about sunglasses and is set to launch her first sunglasses line in January 2017. Her love affair with oversized, retro and vintage sunglasses started when she discovered her mother's stash that was kept away in one of her vanity boxes. Anam finds that oversized sunglasses are a convenient way to mostly cover her face when she is not in the mood to do full make-up. Her personal collection extends beyond 300 pairs of sunglasses ranging from Tom Ford, Linda Farrow, Karen Walker, Prada, Marc Jacobs, runway editions of Dolce and Gabbana, and vintage Diors.

Faraz Manan's Viceroy Collection Launches In London

In collaboration with GLT's Annual Gala, Faraz Manan showcased his Autumn/Winter 2016 collection at the Four Seasons Park Lane Hotel in London. The GLT's LRBT is a charitable organisation that gives access to high quality, free medical eye treatment across Pakistan. Faraz Manan took inspiration from the Sub-Continent of the late 1860's for his new collection *Viceroy*. Manan also launched a limited collection of exquisite jewels. The jewellery collection is called *The Royal Romance* and stays true to its philosophy while depicting a versatile form of traditionalism.



OK! SPOTLIGHT

NINA AKBAR

The inspiring lady behind Sukh Chan and The Good Life talks to **OK! Pakistan** exclusively about being an entrepreneur and keeping a positive outlook in life...



Nina Akbar is one half of the dynamic couple who were pioneers in the Lahore restaurant business, turning everything they touched to gold with a string of successful restaurants under their belt. She is also a visionary and successful entrepreneur in her own right, launching a first of its kind wellness centre, Sukh Chan, meaning peace and comfort, in 2005 with an additional branch “The Good Life” which opened recently. In an industry where fitness meant crash diets and forty day challenges, Nina Akbar envisioned a holistic wellness centre and a decade later has helped revamp the landscape of health and fitness in Pakistan, bust stereotypes and fitness myths and educate people about the importance of physical, mental and spiritual well being.

OK! Pakistan interviews the innovative, energetic and multi-talented businesswoman, philanthropist, socialite and health and fitness mentor on her journey, trials, achievements, future plans and how she manages to have – and keep – it all.

How did you venture into the restaurant business?

Nina Akbar: Salt n Pepper was the brainchild of my husband Mahmood Akbar who grew up in a household where cooking was more an art than a chore and acquired a treasure trove of recipes which he turned into a cookbook “Curry” and later featured on the restaurant menu. As my daughter grew up and I had more time on my hands, I started to help him out and there has been no looking back since.

Describe the journey; the recipes, menu planning, finding and training the right chefs,



managers and the interiors.

NA: It has been a journey as much about teaching as learning for us. The recipes have been carefully collected and perfected over the years and great effort has been made to retain the authenticity by not tampering with the ingredients and making everything from scratch instead of resorting to packed *masalas* or bottled sauces, a pet peeve of ours. Finding and training the right staff has been done personally by us, which reflects in the consistent quality and taste of our food. The interior of each restaurant has been carefully done in line with the theme and cuisine offered like the festive, rural ambiance specially designed and

created for the Village.

There is massive food wastage in the restaurant industry. How do you manage that?

NA: While our supply is carefully managed to ensure that fresh ingredients are used in all our restaurants, years of being in the business has made us attuned to the estimates of daily footfall and pattern of orders to minimise wastage.

Were the menus and recipes for the Salt n Pepper in London tweaked to accommodate local tastes and preferences? How has the response been?

NA: The response has been phenomenal despite ►



Rapid Fire with Nina Akbar

Chicken Burger or Stuffed Chicken, the one dish which epitomises Salt n Pepper?
Stuffed chicken.

Salt n Pepper or Village?
Village.

An hour at the pool, yoga or gym?
Gym.

Favourite class at the fitness room?
Yoga.

Best massage therapy at Sukh Chan?
Aromatherapy massage.

Day at the salon or day at the spa?
Day at the spa.

One woman show or delegation?
One woman show.

Your work philosophy?
Talk straight with an honest heart.

Your inspiration.
My father.

What you wish you had done personally.
Joined a team to climb mountains.

What you wish you had done professionally.
Pursued a career in singing.

What you wish you hadn't done.
Started being assertive so late in life.

our insistence on remaining true to our identity as a Pakistani restaurant instead of a South Asian fusion cuisine. Apart from a few minor alterations such as the addition of Chicken Tikka *Masala* to the menu and toning down some strong spices, everything has remained the same.

How do you juggle so many different hats? Which roles do you have to delegate and what do you only manage yourself?

NA: It is, and has to be, a combination of both but maintaining and adhering to a schedule and planning ahead is what has always worked best for me in organising my days, managing my workload and maintaining my personal and professional lives. Whether it was looking after my daughter and attending to her needs while she was young or spending quality time with my father like accompanying him on his evening walks, I think the

“We have fostered a strong work ethic with discipline and high standards being followed and enforced by all of us.”

only way to do justice to your relationships and your work is to stick to a basic routine. Even health wise, having too many late nights, not getting enough sleep or not taking time out to relax is detrimental to your well being so scheduling your days and pacing yourself is essential.

You can set up a great place but the staff dealing with customers day to day must stay on top of their game to ensure a happy experience for clients. How do you recruit, train and manage your employees?

NA: We have been lucky to find good people who have learnt the ropes along with us and have stayed with us since the start, helping us find, train and oversee new people over the years. We have fostered a strong work ethic with discipline and high standards being followed and enforced by all of us.

How do you manage working with your husband? How do you establish boundaries between the personal and professional? Are your children involved in the work with you?

NA: Sukh Chan has been my business from the start and he has focused on Salt n Pepper and its branches. As business partners, it is a tremendous support to have each other for advice and honest input. Our daughter has done Hotel Management from Cornell University and a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona and is currently settled abroad but will succeed us in the family business *inshaAllah*.

Where did the idea of a wellness centre come from? What was the ethos behind Sukh Chan?

NA: This was entirely my idea and creation, modeled on my idea of what I would envision as essentials for a holistic approach to well being encompassing fitness, health, relaxation and a good dose of pampering. It is the first of its kind, offering many facilities under one roof, each contributing towards the health and balance of the body, mind and soul all of which are important in their own way. A ►



“My purpose is to educate people about their health, fitness and nutrition and create awareness regarding the importance of looking after yourself and knowing, understanding and listening to your body.”

good workout to improve fitness, a yoga class to increase suppleness, a relaxing massage to release stress, a haircut to maintain healthy hair and look good, all effectively contribute towards a more positive physical, mental and spiritual state which adds up to a more harmonious person with both internal and external beauty.

What is your fitness mantra? Any diets or exercise regimes you swear by?

NA: The balance between eating right, not adopting a sedentary lifestyle, incorporating some kind of exercise in your daily regimen, sleeping well, taking care of your mental health and minimising the negativity and stress in your life is essential for long term health and fitness goals which are the only kind worth pursuing. Moderation is my fitness mantra as I believe maintaining an overall healthy lifestyle and a positive frame of mind are the most important. Maintaining your own peace of mind not only reflects outside but the positivity helps you shut out or be less affected by external negativity.

The goal of most people here seems to be to lose weight quickly by diets and intense workouts instead of building fitness and remaining healthy and active. How does Sukh Chan hope to change that?

NA: I am a firm believer and adherent of the philosophy of maintaining health and fitness as opposed to gimmicky weight loss programmes or unhealthy, quick weight loss challenges. My purpose is to educate people about their health, fitness and nutrition and create awareness regarding the importance of looking after yourself and knowing, understanding and listening to your body. This is my approach to fitness and this is something I hope to inculcate in people via Sukh Chan. To this end, I have organised many free of cost lectures and seminars by doctors, nutritionists and health experts as well as funding various organisations, which work towards these. We have qualified trainers who teach and guide our members in the best exercises for their age, weight, body type and fitness goals. The importance of exercise, especially for women, cannot be overemphasised. Things are changing slowly but surely and it is heartening to see young girls enrolling in new classes with a view to improving fitness rather than shedding extra pounds.

How has the hospitality industry evolved in the last three decades?

NA: The world of business, marketing and the rules of the game have evolved dramatically over the years and we have had to learn and evolve alongside. While it is important to be modern and



innovative in your approach, building on your strengths and your advantages is also a learning curve as you figure out what works best for you and what changes you need to make in line with your vision; distinguish the passing fads and trends from the long term game changers. Traveling has always afforded me a great opportunity to observe and explore other cultures and business models to decide to incorporate what lacks here or what needs to be translated according to our needs.

Everything you touch seems to turn to gold. What works for you; is it luck, instinct, market research or something else?

NA: All our ventures started after extensive market research coupled with experience and understanding of people's needs and preferences gleaned over decades of being in the business. While we have experimented with ventures such as Golden Lotus, ultimately what works for us is what customers have come to associate our brand with and what they expect from us. All our ventures have come to epitomise what we ourselves believe in and are passionate about. We have had great response to the Sukh Chan café and the banquet hall at Sukh Chan. We are going to be opening up a cigar lounge, the idea being to offer a relaxed atmosphere for pool, billiards and other indoor games. We opened up a day care centre in response to members' feedback but it was later closed. The response to the new wellness branch in Defence, "The Good Life" with its state of the art

“ It is an El Dorado for entrepreneurs but for any business idea, creating awareness and convincing people to try out new ideas or step out of their comfort zones is quite challenging. ”

facilities has been tremendous. We are constantly evolving and aiming to learn from public feedback, observing trends and our own experiences.

What was more difficult, entering the market with your first restaurant or expanding? Which venture has been the closest to your heart?

NA: The maintenance of all the ventures has been the most challenging, time consuming and costly part. It is easy to open up a new restaurant or branch but to consistently maintain the same standards is what ensures long term success. Sukh Chan has been my baby; conceived, developed and nurtured by me as a labor of intense love and learning. It has not always been a smooth ride; it was challenging to create awareness about the importance of a wellness club, introduce new fitness activities and overcome biases such as people's hesitation regarding yoga as a Buddhist meditation ritual, etc but it has been something I believed in and have worked hard to achieve.

The Pakistani market is still in its nascent stage for an entrepreneur. Do you think this makes for an environment encouraging for new entrants



or does it pose problems in terms of bad work ethic, business practices, etc?

NA: There is a serious dearth of skills teaching and training centres which means we have to train and teach staff from scratch. The business environment is also volatile with the procedures of everything like obtaining permissions made increasingly cumbersome. It is an El Dorado for entrepreneurs but for any business idea, creating awareness and convincing people to try out new ideas or step out of their comfort zones is quite challenging.

How has being a woman helped or hindered you as an entrepreneur?

NA: I feel women add a more personal and nurturing touch to the work they undertake which is why 40% of our employees at the club are women. If you believe in yourself, every obstacle

you encounter teaches you a lesson and it is important for women to be willing to learn to stand on their own feet and not let challenges bring them down. On our part, we have tried to create a safe, inclusive and healthy work environment for women here.

Word of advice for all the talented home based chefs or budding entrepreneurs. What is more important, to have a good understanding of food or business in the hospitality industry?

NA: Having a positive attitude is more important than anything as it not only attracts positivity to your endeavours but the passion and good energy also translates into your work being a source of joy and love for you. **OK!**

INTERVIEW: HIRA SALMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY NINA AKBAR

New To KNOW

Truck Designs is a packaging and party favours company that everyone is buzzing about. The company is synonymous with beautiful hand crafted and original designs. Manahyl Khan Shafi is the brain behind Truck Designs, which is set to take this bridal season by storm. Based in Karachi, she spends most of her time creating beautiful packaging for her business, with her toddler and her free-spirited pug named LouLou.

How did you come up your business's name?

Manahyl Khan Shafi: Truck just happened – I was obsessing over the sound of the word during the time I was finding a name for a Facebook page. I've always really liked short words and a good sound is ideal for me.

When did you start your business?

MKS: I started with Truck Designs nearly four years ago but have taken it on full-time recently. Initially it was a way to unwind after a manic day in the newsroom at my previous job.

You've worked in publishing before, why did you decide to shift to your business?

MKS: My heart belongs to writing and journalism, but having an energetic toddler



Truck Designs

OK! Pakistan speaks with Manahyl Khan Shafi, the creative force behind Truck Designs, about the business of packaging, work-life balance and the upcoming bridal season



allows for little routine.

What is a typical workday like for you during bridal season?

MKS: It's my first bridal season since I took Truck into full swing. I'm super excited for it and have been experimenting for all the looks I have planned for wedding-related giveaways. A typical day at work starts with brainstorming the right look, finding the right shade of whatever colour is camping in my head, getting a prototype ready and moving on with it!

Where did you study and what did you study?

MKS: I went to York University in Toronto, Canada to study Business Administration.

What is your favourite city in the world?

MKS: Montreal – it's just the right kind of small.

How would you describe your business?

MKS: A packaging and gift styling house that strongly values originality, quality and fun.

What do you think is unique about your business?

MKS: It's the first of its kind I believe – all designs are original, customised, often give a hint about what's inside and have one handmade/hand

drawn element per package. We are the first wrap service to abolish the goodies-laden basket, usually decorated in net and engulfed in plastic.

What future plans do you have?

MKS: I'm venturing into retail soon and can't wait to stock the shelves with some ready-to-go products for my clients. I also have some fantastic things lined up for those planning to propose to someone – want to take that ring box up a notch?

What inspires you?

MKS: Seeing people do their work in difficult conditions, like our traffic policemen, who probably know the real meaning of a migraine, or the street vendors and construction crew, who actually know what the weather feels like mid-day in the summer heat, and all others who work hard to make a living. **OK!**



TRAVELLER'S TALE

HAVANA DARLINGS!

OK! Pakistan takes a look at the highlights of Frieha Altaf's trip to Cuba





FRIEHA ALTAF & RUKAIYA POSE IN FRONT OF A HOT PINK VINTAGE CAR



HAVANA, CUBA



THE STREETS OF HAVANA



RUKAIYA ADAMJEE POSING WITH STREET ART



PINEAPPLE SELFIES



FRIEHA ALTAF & RUKAIYA ADAMJEE AT OLD FORT HAVANA - THERE ARE FOUR FORTS IN ALL OF HAVANA.



FRIEHA, RUKAIYA & ELSAY FROM MEXICO POSE NEXT TO LIFE SIZE CHESS PIECES



LIVE FOOD STATION



FRIEHA & RUKAIYA ON BEACH COYO BLANCO, AN ISLAND BEACH IN CUBA



FRIEHA & ELSAY TAKING A SELFIE

A trip to Cuba had been on Frieha's bucket list for many years and finally when opportunity struck, the former Pakistani supermodel flew to Cuba with her close friend Rukaiya Adamjee to party in the land of Cohibas. Frieha and Rukaiya spent many hours under the sun at Beach Cayo Blanco – an island beach in Cuba. They also enjoyed the white sandy shores of Varadero Beach, which is widely considered as one of the top ten beaches in the world and is 21 kilometers long. When the inseparable pair were not hanging out at the beach, they wandered the cobble streets of Havana to appreciate the sights and sounds of urban life in Cuba and particularly enjoyed mingling with locals and viewing the revolutionary street art. They visited the Opera House, the museums in Havana Vieja, the Revolution Tower in Plaza de la Revolución, Havana's old forts and parts of the older city, which were once home to Ernest Hemmingway. **OK!**

TEXT: RAJAA MOINI;
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY: FRIEHA ALTAF

THE LAST Exit E11

The Last Exit E11, Dubai – a pit stop that takes you on a journey back to the 1950s

The Last Exit E11 has to be one of the most unique takes on a pit stop I have ever seen. Open 24 hours, offering breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks, Monday through Sunday, every square inch of the place did not fail to impress. The intricate detailing present from the payphones to the vintage cars, the concept and design of Last Exit E11 gives an authentic feel of an American food truck park and service station from the 1950s.

Offering a unique drive-thru experience, there are gourmet food trucks with freshly made food ranging from burgers and tacos to seafood and falafels. Destination to Big Smoke Burger, Burger Pit, Caffè Di Roma, Operation Falafel, Poco Loco, Clinton Street Baking, The Hot Dog Stand, The Brass Coffee and Community, Starbucks and Urban Seafood; each chain has its own individual track that leads to their truck where the order can be placed. You can take your food to-go, park and eat in your car or enjoy your meal in the canteen.

The canteen and outdoor area is decorated with refurbished automotive parts, vintage posters and metal accessories, chairs that have a bicycle-like design, and wooden tables. My favourite feature was the lampshades made of number plates.

Even the restrooms there followed the theme: the sinks did not have knobs or facets; instead they had paddles and nozzles. So, in order to wash your hands you had to step on the paddle and water would come out of the nozzle.

The best part about the place is that it is completely free to visit or drive through in case you don't want to eat at any of the restaurants there. Along with offering a unique grab-and-go rest stop, Last Exit E11 is equipped with ATM machines, a kids play area, a minimart, a pinball machine for adults, prayer rooms, and a phone charging area.

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From the selection of food trucks, I chose to eat from Burger Pit because of

the massive line of cars in the drive-thru. However, it took 15 minutes to place the order and then another 30 minutes to get it.

The burger was delicious but nothing out of the ordinary and definitely not one I would want to wait 45 minutes in line for. However, the overall ambience of Last Exit E11 made up for the average food experience. I have heard great things about

the other restaurants there; I will definitely visit again to try them.

The only recommendation I have for the food trucks is to create a system for people who want to walk to the truck(s) and order instead of having them stand in the drive-thru line. It is odd because people walking to the trucks have to stand alongside the cars in the drive-thru and wait for their turn to order. It would be a lot more convenient if they had a separate window for people on foot.

Last Exit should definitely be included in the list of places to visit in the UAE. It offers a unique drive-thru, dine-in and drop-by experience for commuters, residents and visitors alike. **OK!**

TEXT: HAJRA KOMAL FERDZ



**THE WORLD'S
BEST MATTRESS**

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Wrapped in Blue

Huma Durrani's inspiring memoir of her journey with her autistic son brings attention to the neglected area of special needs and mental illness.

Memories laced with a tinge of nostalgia, joys knotted with the ubiquitous troubles, past and present woven into a crisscross pattern of uneven stitches and bright motifs, *Wrapped in Blue* spins the endearingly candid story of Zoya's journey into motherhood with her autistic son Zaki.

From the somewhat lackadaisical introduction to her two boys as they are at present, the book reverses to Zoya's happy, privileged childhood, convenient love marriage to her cousin Amaar and the birth of their firstborn, Zaki. As the eldest of three sisters, Zoya expects to lead by the example of her perfect life; as the mother of the first grandchild and the first boy in the family, she dreams of Zaki being the son her parents never had and the succor to her husband in his old age. Becoming a mother is so glorified in our culture, perhaps the only role where women are elevated to a revered, almost holy, status that the discovery of your child's disability feels like a personal failure. The crushing weight of disappointment, like a black mark on the maternal resume, wars with the fierce desire to go to any lengths to 'fix' the problem.

Zoya's initial denial, later mirrored by Zaki in his refusal to accept he is on the autistic spectrum, does not stem merely from ingrained taboos regarding abnormalities but also her naturally effervescent disposition which makes her cling to the last shreds of hope as a drowning man would to a raft. It is this positivity that makes her persevere through the struggles of Zaki's treatment, finding joy in his every breakthrough and solace in the close bond her sons forge. The determination to never hide or feel shame in her son's disability and her quest for a greater meaning to the pain she undergoes eventually fortify her own strength just as a forced smile on the lips surreptitiously finds its way to the heart.

As a memoir, it is more real than insightful, more matter of fact than emotional; through the limited prism of Zoya's understanding, we delve into memories unembellished by any trimmings to propel the narrative forward, untainted by any artifice to make the struggles appear less harrowing or more heroic. The conflicts of a mind trapped in its own prison of anxiety and depression, the mother who may wonder if her other children are



THE WRITER WITH HER SON, ZAKI



losing out on a normal childhood but is too consumed by the one who needs her most to face it, the wife who drifts away from her husband as the emotional wringer they have been in saps the strength to reach out even for each other, the loving daughter and sister who turns distant, almost estranged, from those she should have leaned on, are all related in a prosaic manner. The complete focus on Zaki's therapies does not render these losses and costs trivial, they are touched upon briefly like a faint flicker of light which wavers and then dies, lost in the exhausting flood of overwhelming emotions too huge to be expressed, distances too wide to be bridged and ties too faint to be resuscitated.

The lack of a linear narrative punctuates the relentlessly exhausting onslaught of conflicting emotions. Every feeling of helplessness is followed by a renewed resolve to soldier on while every burst of hope is shattered with the cruel frustration of a setback. The 'stimming' of repeating actions to find stability in predictable monotony and the lack of empathy with others which characterise Zaki's autism are gradually simulated in Zoya's own single minded focus on her son's treatment and rigid adherence to his fixed routine.

While it is not meant to be a tale of doom and gloom, subtly woven into the visage of a family having accepted and absorbed their son's differences are the lurking reminders of their inability to accept the differences wrought in each other. The second son Asad is relegated to the

background; his achievements unremarkable in light of his normalcy, his struggles trivial in light of the greater ones, which Zaki faces. As Zoya pensively ruminates on how Amaar feels about having two such different sons, she exposes the yawning chasm that divides them. The feelings of empathy juxtaposed into the narrative all center on Zoya's desire to connect with those sharing the same challenge, the disability of their son. The biggest victory then is her own, not as a mother, but as a woman who finds the courage to seek help for herself.

The shifting of expectations, of dreams and desires is handled deftly not with a skilled pen but with the raw honesty of a heart which has undergone these seismic shifts to make sense of the new way to be traversed. The subliminal message that resonates more strongly than anything described is the sheer power of human nature to adapt to any circumstances and adjust to new definitions of normal. Stumbling along in an endless game of tag with darkness and light compels you to make peace with the reality and discover new vistas as unexpected as they are beautiful.

As Zoya battles her own demons as well as Zaki's, time rushes past - like it always does - and pieces of the unfathomable enigma of life fall into place - like they always do - not how and where she had planned but nevertheless, somewhere. From there and then to here and now, that is quite enough for a happy ending. **OK!**

TEXT: HIRA SALMAN

WHAT'S ON?

ART EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Yang Feng Foundation Micro-Curatorial Project

Ongoing until December 1, 2016, Yang Feng Foundation, SHENGZHENG

The first recipient of the Frank F. Yang Art and Education Foundation 'Micro-Curatorial Project' award was Belgian curator Goedele Bartholomeeusens's exhibition proposal *Reality Bytes*. Today reality is becoming virtual and instead of dwelling on delineating the boundary between the original and the copy in an age of mechanical reproduction, Goedele uses different artistic forms and focuses on the new generation artists' response on identity under the impact of the Internet.



The Figurative Pollock

Ongoing until February 26, 2017, Kunstmuseum Basel, BASEL

The American painter Jackson Pollock is best known for his abstract drip paintings. Fewer people are familiar with Pollock's extensive earlier figurative paintings. This exhibit reframes our perspective on the artist's work and identity. The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel focuses on the figurative aspect of his work, highlighting a new perspective. In order to provide a contrast, the show features only glimpses of the majestic drip paintings the artist produced in the short period between 1947 and 1950.

Icons of Modern Art

Ongoing until February 20, 2017, Fondation Louis Vuitton, PARIS



Sergei Shchukin, a leading industrialist from Moscow, began to integrate himself into the Parisian arts milieu of the era, and forged relationships with modern art dealers Paul Durand-Ruel, Berthe Weill, Ambroise Vollard, Georges Bernheim and Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, and celebrated artists including Monet and Matisse. These friendships

influenced the formation of his collection, which remains one of the most radical art collections of its time. The exhibit has been curated through Shchukin's private collection and lays emphasis on the art of Monet, Cézanne, Gauguin, Rousseau, Derain, Matisse, Picasso, Degas, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec and Van Gogh.

Gustav Klimt and the Women of Vienna's Golden Age, 1900-1918

Ongoing until January 16, 2017, Neue Galerie, NEW YORK

Neue Galerie in New York is the host of *Klimt and the Women of Vienna's Golden Age, 1900-1918*. The exhibition examines the artist's sensual portraits of women as the embodiment of *fin-de-siècle* Vienna. The exhibition draws from private and public collections from across the world and the focal points of the exhibit will be the display of *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I* (1907) and *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer II* (1912), which will be shown side-by-side for the first time since 2006.



Ernst Ludwig Kirchner Hieroglyphics

Ongoing until February 26, 2017, Hamburger Bahnhof, HAMBURG



Kirchner's paintings display the dynamism of the metropolis and this exhibition lays emphasis on Kirchner's technique and craftsmanship. The exhibit also showcases Rosa Barba's film, *The Hidden Conference*, which highlights the collection in a way in which the contours dissolve

and the pieces of the collection become mere schematic outlines in an almost spectral phenomena.

OK! WORLD IN ACTION



A SCULPTURE OF A RELAXING RHINO EMBEDDED IN THE SAND IS PHOTOGRAHED AT THE SCULPTURE BY THE SEA EXHIBIT AT TAMARAMA BEACH



DONALD TRUMP IS ELECTED 45TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS DISPLAYED ON THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING



THE SKY BLUE DIAMOND IS A VERY RARE, VIVID BLUE DIAMOND. AT 8.01 CARAT, IT IS ESTIMATED AT 15-25 MILLION DOLLARS, AND IS UNVEILED AT SOTHEBY'S IN LONDON



MILY FRENCH OF FOXES FARM PRODUCE POSES WITH A PUMPKIN GROWN IN A SPECIAL SPOOKY FACE SHAPED MOULD WHICH TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO GROW INTO A FULL PUMPKIN



AN AFGHAN WOMAN, WHO WAS DISPLACED BY KUNDUZ FIGHTING BETWEEN AFGHAN FORCES AND TALIBAN INSURGENTS, WALKS AT A MAKESHIFT CAMP IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL

PHOTOGRAPHS: WENN, GETTY, AFP

OK! ASTROLOGY & TAROT

Mariam Aftab puts your cards on the table

Aries
Mar 21 – Apr 20

A home matter will require attention early this month. You will receive a favour or a nice social invitation from a friend. Be careful not to overspend on pleasure. A slight disagreement about money may occur at the end of this month. Conflicts and arguments with your partner may be lighting up the home. Try to be patient and understanding since things should be getting back to normal soon.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Lemongrass
Lucky Numbers: Series of 3
Antidote for Evil Eye: Burn sandalwood incense at the entrance of your home

Cancer
Jun 22 – Jul 23

You are on the job; interesting and creative work should be your primary interest. Plenty of creative inspiration should be able to help you get important projects off to a great start. Balance your enthusiasm with a sense of pragmatism and a bit of patience if you want to see positive results in the end. You can make the best impression on partners and loved ones.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Ginger
Lucky Numbers: 1,2,3
Antidote for Evil Eye: Bathe with sea salt

Libra
Sep 24 – Oct 23

You could feel uncomfortable about having to carry around certain secrets. But if you reveal them, things could blow up in your face. Think carefully before you say or do anything, and listen to your intuition. Financial concerns could be taking center stage for you. Partnerships and relationships are bound to be somewhat unsettled this month. Some local problems could arise.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Pine
Lucky Numbers: 2,8
Antidote for Evil Eye: Keep a red wallet for financial gain

Capricorn
Dec 22 – Jan 21

This month is very dynamic for you. You might want to work on a more cerebral approach. You may need to work out inner balance, or weigh one option over another. The grand air trine in the sky asks you to think before you act. This is a wonderful time to begin a romance or launch a creative venture. An intense journey is ahead; prepare yourself for this.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Rose eucalyptus
Lucky Numbers: 7,9
Antidote for Evil Eye: Burn white candles in the office or living area

Taurus
Apr 21 – May 21

Professionals will be busy with their new clients this month. There is an excellent opportunity to get out and socialise with free thinkers. Your work situation has become downright unusual lately, you may want to break some rules and try to start all over again. Your creative genius will allow you to work your way through any problem. This is a perfect time to ask a partner to help you out.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Ylang ylang
Lucky Numbers: Series of 2
Antidote for Evil Eye: Rotate 1 ½ kg of red meat over crown *chakra* and throw to birds of prey every Monday

Leo
Jul 24 – Aug 23

You may feel unhappy about your current living situation and might start thinking about making some changes around the house. Try to bridge the gap between any opposing forces at home. It will be up to you to bring differing sides together. Make sound investments with your money and try to avoid risks. You may be involved in some sort of dispute over money. Positive thinking is key this month.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Garlic
Lucky Numbers: 5,7
Antidote for Evil Eye: Rotate 7 chillies clockwise over crown *chakra* and burn on stove

Scorpio
Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your focus should be primarily on the practical aspects of life. It should be a good time to organise things and to try to put your life in good running order. You will be bound to have a strong sense of duty and you will get a good deal of satisfaction from helping other people. Your hard work and dedication could be bringing you recognition and a boost in self-esteem.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Sweet Grass
Lucky Numbers: 3,5
Antidote for Evil Eye: Keep a money plant in the office area

Aquarius
Jan 21 – Feb 19

Love can be erratic this month as affections can change very quickly. The ups and downs of love are more extreme than they have been in the past few days. Your areas of greatest interest this month are friends, communication and organisations. Your overall health is good, but this is a stressful period. Try to rest and relax more. Being happy at work is important.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Rosemary
Lucky Numbers: Odd numbers
Antidote for Evil Eye: Hold citrine and recite *Ya Akhiro*

Gemini
May 22 – Jun 21

Be careful of jealous colleagues and business associates who might try to harm your interest. A sudden arrival of guests at home lifts your spirits. You will permanently damage your reputation if you take hasty decisions. Financial gains are certain, but you might need to change your place and environment to avail the opportunities. Partnership will be very good if you give full attention to your mate.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Frankincense
Lucky Numbers: 1,5,9
Antidote for Evil Eye: Burn lemongrass incense in the office area

Virgo
Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your rigid attitude could go against your career. It is the right time to change this for the sake of your career otherwise it may mar your future prospects. You need to take your loved ones into confidence before doing anything. An allergic reaction in the form of a skin condition may take place – negligence or a 'take it easy' attitude would only invite future trouble for you.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Vanilla
Lucky Numbers: 3,7,9
Antidote for Evil Eye: Burn rosemary oil in the bedroom area

Sagittarius
Nov 23 – Dec 21

Emotional outburst should be avoided this month. Pending issues and jobs need immediate attention. Contacts that you have developed recently will prove highly beneficial in the long run. Investment is recommended in stocks and real estate. Your children may present you with a situation, which has been blown out of proportion. Concentrate on long-term rewards rather than short-term gains.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Tea tree cedar wood
Lucky Numbers: 1,9
Antidote for Evil Eye: Keep a red wallet for financial gain

Pisces
Feb 20 – Mar 20

This is a good time to make a fresh start. You could be ready to demonstrate that your charm and charisma are as strong as ever right now. No one is likely to get the jump on you when it comes to charming your way into whatever it is you want. You have come to a point where you need to use your mental skills rather than your emotional feelers. It is time to offer help to those who need it the most.

Aroma Therapy Oil: Lavender
Lucky Numbers: Series of 3
Antidote for Evil Eye: Keep blue agate in your bedroom



KENDALL JENNER
NOVEMBER 3, 1995



LEONARDO DICAPRIO
NOVEMBER 11, 1974



HINA RABBANI KHAR
NOVEMBER 19, 1977



FAWAD KHAN
NOVEMBER 29, 1981

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