

## Does Priyanka Believe Marriages Are Made In Heaven?

**BY PREETI THANDI**

Toronto: She has the style, personality and presence for international possibilities, yet Priyanka Chopra is not quite pursuing them. She never really aimed for Indian cinema either, it just happened to her. This wannabe engineer hit her all time high with a stellar performance in Fashion. The stars seem to be shining brightly on this actress so much so that she is playing not one but twelve roles in a movie about planetary alignments. Chopra was in Toronto for the gala world premiere of Ashutosh Gowariker's *What's Your Raashee?* at the Toronto International Film Festival 2009. She plays the potential love interest of Harman Baweja in the film.

Thrilled and honored to be in the city after five years, Chopra was gra-



Photo credit: Tomek Strezelecki/Wireimage.com/TIFF

acious and eager to please. You can't help but marvel at her slim waist and tall physique. Her wardrobe was at display from a strapless black dress at the press conference to a navel revealing cream fusion saree by Manish Malhotra on the red carpet to another knee length gold dress for the interviews. Her most attractive features, besides her figure, are her hair, her eyes and an easily beaming smile. With a career span of just over five years, the number of roles and success she's achieved, Chopra has every reason to be smiling.

In *What's Your Raashee?*, Yogesh Patel (Baweja) has the daunting task of finding and marrying the right girl in a time span of just ten days. Over simplifying his problem by meeting a girl from each sun sign (raashee), Baweja is met by Chopra who represents each sun sign in different ways. Talking to Preeti Thandi for the Weekly Voice about her twelve roles in the film and the one she connects with most, Chopra says, "Sanjana, the Aquarius girl is a lot like me. I am very much like Hansa as well who is the Cancerian girl - emotional, honest and if I was in that situation I would probably do the same thing. I have a little bit of me in each girl for sure because I had to somewhere relate with all of them to make them so different. I didn't have the help of prosthetics or special effects in this movie. Like if you watch *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* they make Brad Pitt look 15 and special effects were used in a big way but for me to look 15 I didn't have all of that. It was only body language and



voice modulation so that was hugely challenging."

Chopra who has skillfully portrayed women in power in films like *Aitraaz* for which she won the Filmfare Award for Best Villain in 2004 said that she enjoys doing roles which empower her. "For me a role is not a defining factor of how I would like women to be. I do different parts. I can do a part where I am a clingy damsel in distress or I could play a part where I am just a dominating woman who wants her own way. I like doing parts which make me think, Oh my God! How I am gonna do this? I always question that when I know I am doing a film. I always do that to myself."

Talking about the place of women in the Indian cinema and in Indian culture, Chopra

thinks that women in India are taking leaps and steps forward every year. "We are becoming a lot more empowered with education coming in a big way. We are standing up on our own a lot more. India was predominantly male dominated but we have had some fantastic female centric movies over the last few years. Somewhere it does reflect society. Women are getting a lot more empowered. We have a female president right now. We have a lot of female producers and directors so it is fantastic to see a new age India. In fact, the producer of this film is female, Ashutosh's wife Sunita," reveals Chopra.

A believer of the power of the box office in a big way, Chopra also believes in intelligent cinema.



She admits that she likes films which don't take the intelligence of the audience for granted. But she also loves watching movies with songs, emotion and dancing. "I want to be entertained when I watch a movie so I like doing films like that. I think a little bit of both commercial and critical success matters to me," says Chopra.

*What's Your Raashee* leans on astrology to solve the problem for the hero and as far as Chopra is concerned this is what she has to say about the relevance of astrology in her own life, "OK call me romantic. I do believe that somebody is made for somebody up there for sure. But yeah it does not totally depend on zodiac and astrology. I mean you just got to fall in love, it's pretty simple." Despite unconfirmed rumors and link ups from Harman Baweja to Shahid Kapoor, let's hope that Lady Venus shines on this Bollywood beauty soon enough!

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