

## Manasi Parekh Says 'Big Producers' Cautioned Her Against Marriage: 'They Said I'd Get Fat' | Exclusive



have come to me and told me that I would get fat after marriage and that main apne khud ke pair pe kulhaadi maar rahi hoon. I'm sure they said these things out of goodwill but I don't know how fatness and marriage are related. Maybe they meant that I would become complacent after marriage," she recalls.

Manasi further adds, "They went on to tell me that I won't be able to do any work because nobody would cast me. I never wanted to follow the route and even then, I knew that this is the path that I want to choose for myself. I wanted to be with Parthiv and see where it takes me. I'm glad I followed my gut. No one can make life rules for you. If you've conviction and if you're working well and working hard, kaam aata hi rahega. All these perceptions that a woman won't get work post marriage didn't happen to me."

However, she's happy with the way things are changing for women in cinema today. Citing a few examples, she states, "I'm very vocal about the fact that women should be accepted for the age that they're in. People used to say earlier that once you hit 40, your career and shelf life is over. But look at all these incredible actresses like

Konkona Sensharma, Shefali Shah and Tabu! They're iconic women and are still working. In fact, I think that they're getting better with age. Ratna (Pathak Shah) ben is a true icon, according to me. She told me that this is the most work that she has ever done." Getting older, according to Manasi, should rather be an upside rather than a deal-breaker. Recalling her conversation with Shruti Seth, she remarks, "She's a stunning actor. She was telling me that the age that she's in should be the end of an actress' career but that she looks at it as the best phase of her career and she's looking forward to where her journey takes her. I think age should be appreciated and rejoiced rather than be shamed or embarrassed about. If you're a good actor, you'll be ageless and people will keep writing good roles for you."

2024 has been rather special for Manasi Parekh. Not only did she mark two decades as an actor but also won the National Film Award for Best Actress for her performance in Kutch Express. However, her initial days in the entertainment industry was no cakewalk. In an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, Manasi opens up on how she was dissuaded from getting married to her then boyfriend, musician Parthiv Gohil. "I was married in the middle of India Calling shoot. So, my career started and I got married. A lot of people told me, 'What are you doing? You just started out!'" she says.

She goes on to reveal that she was cautioned against tying the knot as she would gain weight that would lead her to lose out on work. "Big producers

## Madhuri Dixit On Being Pitted Against Sridevi In The 90s: 'Our Paths Never Really...'



were constantly pitted against each other and told us, "We never worked together. There was one movie that we did long back but even then, we didn't have any scenes together. We had different scenarios going for us in terms of our careers. Our paths never really crossed in that sense. But, of course, we both had a lot of respect and admiration for each other. I had respect for her as an actor as she worked in different languages – which was amazing – and she was successful across them. She was also very sweet to me."

Years later, Madhuri worked on Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's Pukaar (2000). But even then, there was barely any exchange between them. Talking about it, Madhuri said,

"Pukaar was Boney ji's production. So, she was the producer of that film. There was not much interaction between us because she was doing her own thing and I was doing mine. We didn't really get to talk much."

But what did Sridevi have to tell her after Pukaar? "After we completed Pukaar and it released, I was married and went to the US. That's why there wasn't so much interaction. She entered the industry before I did and she had been working since she was a little kid. She worked really hard to be where she was and I really respected that," recalled Madhuri.

In a recent interview, Javed Akhtar spoke about how women actors like Madhuri and Sridevi didn't get big roles as society wasn't clear about who a contemporary woman was. Reacting to his words, Madhuri stated, "Commercial cinema of that time had many constraints in terms of what will work, what won't, what's good, what's not and if family audiences can watch them. But we still tried to play different characters within those constraints and we did break the glass ceiling and find different kinds of roles, and that's what makes us women."

Back in the nineties, several reports hinted at a possible rivalry between Madhuri Dixit Nene and Sridevi. Gossip magazines were abuzz with stories of how the divas were arch-nemesis, especially after the Dhak Dhak girl replaced the late actor as the top female star in Bollywood. In 1994, in an interview to Stardust, Sridevi subtly pointed how Madhuri had imitated her style of acting in Khalnayak. "A lot of other stars also imitate the distinct styles of prominent stars. What's the big deal if she did a take-off on me? It is their profession. But frankly speaking, I'd never do it," she had said.

So, when Sridevi attended Madhuri and Dr Shriram Nene's wedding reception in 1999, it raised many eyebrows. And interestingly, the only film they appeared together in was Ramesh Sippy's Zameen (1987). The duo, however, didn't get to share screen space in it and the film never saw the light of the day. Now, years later, in an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Madhuri spilled the beans on her equation with Sridevi.

The Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 actor addressed how they

## Nayanthara Thanks Shah Rukh Khan, Chiranjeevi For Granting NOC 'Without Delay' Amid Feud With Dhanush

Lady Superstar Nayanthara has been hitting the headlines after she shared a scathing letter addressed to actor-filmmaker Dhanush, over the usage of behind-the-scenes (BTS) footage from the 2015 film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan. She slammed him for refusing an NOC to use elements from the film for her documentary 'Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale'. Now, amid the feud, Nayanthara has shared a letter, especially thanking Shah Rukh Khan, Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan and other producers for promptly granting her NOCs without any hesitation.

In her letter, Nayanthara wrote, "Our documentary, 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale', has now been released. Every film I have worked on, holds immense significance in my life, as my journey in cinema is filled with countless joyful moments. Among these, many films are especially close to my heart, and I wished to include those memories and scenes in our documentary. When I approached the following producers to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOCs), they granted them without hesitation or delay. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of them." She then thanked Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan and many others from the Telugu, Malayalam and Tamil industry.

She further added, "Thank you for sharing a slice of my most treasured professional moments. Your unwavering support during moments like these deeply moves me. I will always cherish this kindness with immense gratitude. May our journey together continue, always, finding happiness in other people's happiness."

Meanwhile, in her letter to Dhanush, Nayanthara alleged that he sent her a legal notice demanding Rs 10 crore for a behind-the-scenes clip filmed on personal devices during the Naanum Rowdy Dhaan's production. "We were startled to read those lines wherein you questioned the usage of some videos



(just 3 seconds) which were shot in our personal devices and that too BTS visuals that are already very much publicly present on social media and claimed a sum of Rs. 10 crores as damages for the mere 3 seconds. This is an all time low from you and speaks so much about your character," wrote Nayanthara.

'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale' is now streaming on Netflix. It released on 18th November, 2024, coinciding with the actress' birthday.

## Arun Vijay: 'It Wasn't Difficult To Act In Bala's Vanangaan'

South actor Arun Vijay is gearing up for the release of his upcoming project with director Bala, which is titled Vanangaan. As per the latest update on the project, the filming has been completed and is in the last stages of production. In a recent media interaction, the lead detailed his experience of working on the project. Let us take a look.

On the occasion of his birthday on November 19, Arun Vijay, along with his fans, conducted a blood donation drive to celebrate the day. The event took place at a government hospital in the Royapettah region of Chennai. After the meet, the actor interacted with the media gathered at the place, expressing happiness at being involved in the donation drive each year with his fans, while also detailing his upcoming project, Vanangaan.

He said, "I can't say it was difficult to act in Bala's Vanangaan." The actor later visited the hospital and greeted the fans and sanitation workers, engaging in a selfie session afterwards, as per the reports.

Responding to a question about Ajith, he said, "Ajith sir is the pinnacle and no one is competing with him. Besides, his fans love me so much. There is no competition."

Vanangaan is being dubbed as an action-drama, directed as well as written by Bala. The cast includes names like Arun Vijay, Roshni Prakash, Samuthirakani, John Vijay, Mysskin, Radha Ravi and many others. It is being produced by Bala with Suresh Kamatchi, under the banners of B Studios and V House Productions. The music in the film is composed by G V Prakash Kumar and Sam C S, while the cinematography is done by R B Gurudev and Sathish Suriya is the editor.

Initially, actor Suriya was cast as the lead, while his 2D Entertainment was set to produce it. Due to storyline changes, the actor and his production had to opt out of the project, added the reports.



Cannes 2024 has finally kick-started and celebs from all around the globe will be seen gracing the red carpet with their stunning looks. Amid the glitz and glamour of the ongoing 2024 Cannes Film Festival, a look at the unforgettable presence of Sunny Leone at last year's edition.