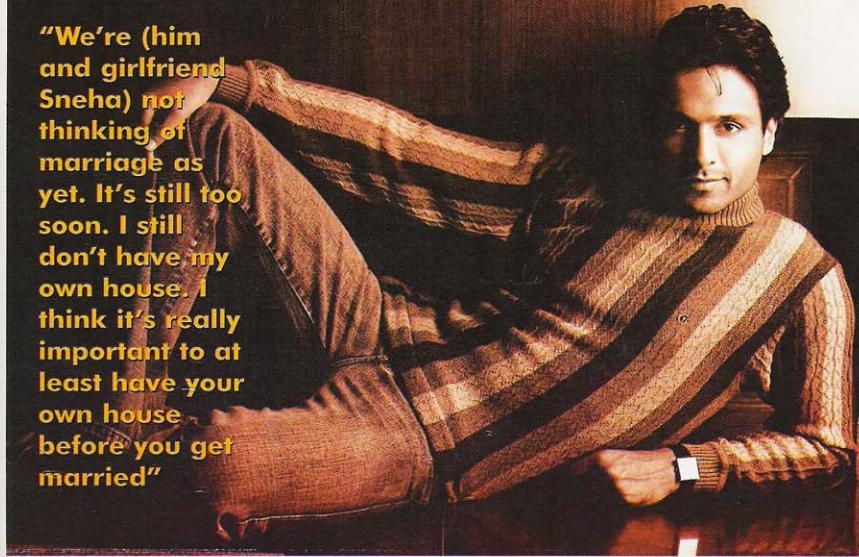


**"We're (him and girlfriend Sneha) not thinking of marriage as yet. It's still too soon. I still don't have my own house. I think it's really important to at least have your own house before you get married"**



Which brings us to our next question. Is he still going strong with his girlfriend Sneha? "Oh yes, I am," he admits. "But we're not thinking of marriage as yet. It's still too soon. I'll take some time. I'm still so new in this industry. I need to do more work, need to make more money. I still don't have my own house. I think it's really important to at least have your own house before you get married."

Iqbal sounds like a responsible guy who has all his priorities in order. But doesn't the fact that he's in this profession, where he's always around pretty, hot girls make his fiancée feel awkward or insecure at all? "Initially, she did feel pretty insecure. But gradually she's understood. Anyways, I strongly believe that when the other person loves you so much, such trivial things shouldn't matter."

He then talks about his love story. "I remember I first met her around five years ago when I was a model in Delhi. After that I met her again after around two-and-a-half years. We spoke and exchanged numbers. New Year's Eve was coming up around that time and considering I'm such a boring person, I wasn't doing anything at all. She wasn't either. So we met at a common friend's terrace to bring in the New Year together and that's all it took to make things happen. So basically, it all started one New Year's Eve."

Now that's quite a romantic story. But with all the work that he has with *Kaisa Ye...* how does he spend any time with Sneha? Does he manage to have any life

beyond work at all? "See, it's definitely not like before anymore. We don't meet like we used to. But I don't mind the grueling schedules. I came to Bombay to work, so when I'm getting good work, I must give my best to it. And I need to make good money now; I'm quite a *gareeb*." Yeah right, we believe that!

Coming back to his professional life, any chance of a comeback in movies? Iqbal says, "I just want to act. And *na shaallah* things are going strong right now. Frankly, I haven't got any good film offers. At least, they haven't been good enough to leave the role of Angad. In fact, I wouldn't even give seven days a month to the kind of roles that I've been offered. The best role that's come to me in recent times was in Sohail Khan's *Fight Club*. But I've been so busy with *Kaisa Ye...* that I couldn't even meet the director."

Is there any chance of making a cameo in any of the other Balaji soaps like most of the other stars are doing? Iqbal asks with a straight face, "Where's the time? If you're the main lead, it's just not possible. An Anurag or a Sujal can't do anything else. Main leads can never do anything except the character that they portray."

We kinda agree. Forget difficult, it's quite impossible to imagine Iqbal as anything but Angad. So this guy has the looks, he has the talent; he does not indulge in any affairs and loves his girlfriend to death. Sounds good to be true, doesn't it? What's the catch then? We're still wondering!

— Sneha Kamat