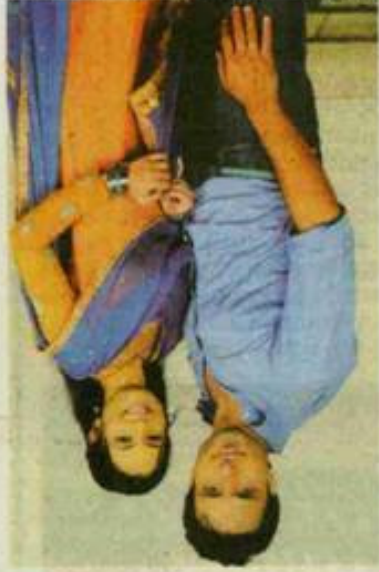


GREAT COMEBACK

IQBAL KHAN is a popular name in tellyland with iconic shows like *Waris, Kahinn To Hoga* and *Karam Apna* to his credit. Post a two year break from TV shows, he is back on the telly circuit with a prime time Zee TV show called *Sanjog Se Bani Sangini*, starting Aug. 16 at 10.30 pm. **SANDEEP HATTANGADI** spoke to the gravel voiced Iqbal Khan about his new show. Excerpts...

What is the show all about? The show revolves around my character, called Rudra, who has been deprived of love and affection right from his childhood and becomes a complex and disturbed person as he grows up. He is constantly searching for true love which he never finds. Fortunately, he meets Gauri who is full of love and affection and she becomes his *Sangini*. Gauri is played by Binny Sharma.

Why this two year break? And what is the reason for staging a comeback with this specific show? I was working heavy schedules and the way television work is structured, it takes a heavy toll on one's mind and health. So I opted for a two year sabbatical to rejuvenate myself and recharge my batteries. Once I felt I was ready to be back on the circuit I looked



A still from *Sanjog Se Bani Sangini*

around for good scripts with premier production houses and channels. The *Sangini* script

appeared to me and the character of Rudra fascinated me.

How was it like working on this show?

It's great to interact with senior artistes like Aruna Irani and Sudha Chandranji. One gets to learn a great deal from them.

Which of your past shows are you proud of?

I am happy with whatever work I have done in the past and I don't regret having been part of any of them. All shows have been satisfying for me.

Are you game for anchoring shows or participating in reality shows?

I am open for anchoring shows, but participating in a reality show is not my cup of tea since I can't see myself dancing or cracking jokes on

national television.

And films?

I take it as it comes. I have never planned or hankered for anything. When it will come to me I

will accept it gracefully. But right now *Sangini* is my sole priority and all my energies are focused on this show. I hope the viewers appreciate my performance as they have done in the past. ■

