



Iqbal Khan

# Breaking out of the mould

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As Angad Bedi in *Kaisa Yeh Pyar Hai*, Iqbal Khan had taken the world of television soaps by storm. The popularity he earned was beyond his dreams and soon he was seen in several successful serials like *Kavyanjali*, *Kahin Toh Hoga*, *Karam Aapna Aapna* and *Choona Hai Asmaan*. Then came his sudden and long disappearance from the small screen, which left his fans wondering. Finally, Iqbal has returned to television in Zee TV's *Sanjog Je Bani Sangini* as angry young man Rudra. *HT City* catches up with the actor:

**Why were you on a self-imposed sabbatical?**

(Laughs) Basically I wanted to take a break for a few months... but it lasted a little longer. In television, we work under a lot of pressure and stress, which leaves us with no time for anything else. So, it's important to take a break.

Now I'm full of energy and raring to go.

**And what did you do in this break?**

Oh! I travelled a lot... abroad and in my own country. Then I made a short film. It's based on my personal experiences. I have both directed and produced it.

**What was it about *Sanjog Se Bani ... Sangini* that excited you?**

*Sangini* has a brilliant script. My character, Rudra, has a powerful graph. *Sangini* is a simple love story and the situations portrayed in the show are very interesting.

**Is it true that television shows have no strong male characters anymore?**

God has been kind to me because all my roles have been strong — be it in *Kaisa Yeh Pyar Hai*, *Karam*

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*Apna Apna* or *Choona Hai Asmaan*. So I can't complain.

**What changes do you notice in the television industry today?**

Channels spend lavishly nowadays — on sets and costumes. Even the serials are shot in outdoor and expensive locales. For *Sangini*, we went to shoot in Haridwar and Mussoorie:

**You made your debut in the film industry with *Funtoosh*.**

Producers and directors need sellable actors. They need superstars who can assure a bumper first-day collection. Yes, TV actors are doing films too, but for that some director has to take the risk.

**But there were rumours that you are doing a film with Koel Mullick...**

Yes, Vickram Bhatt's *Aapna Sa*. But the film got shelved after eight days of shooting. Anyway, I became very good friends with Koel. She is a great human being, full of family values. We still keep in touch.