



A POPULAR FACE ON TELEVISION, IQBAL KHAN CHATS WITH IONA CHATTERJEE ON LIFE AND BEYOND

You may call him a rockstar, a lover boy or even an air force man, but for him, it is his simplicity and principles in life that make him stand apart.

Say 'Iqbal Khan' and the first thing that comes to your mind is his impressive personality. Talented, versatile and charming, this actor created a niche for himself in the television industry. Like most others, Iqbal started his career as a model and then moved on to acting. He believes his journey as an actor has been a smooth one. "This does not mean that I started with a lot of leisure," says Iqbal. "Everything depends on your hard work. There is a lot of healthy competition in the industry and at times I have worked for twenty five hours out of twenty four," he adds.

His first break as an actor that also made him the most desired face of Indian television was the character of 'Angad' in the serial *Kaisa Yeh Pyar Hai*. The role gave him the desired fame and adulation and till date most of Iqbal's fans address him as Angad! For him it has not been very difficult, to come out of this image and play other roles, "I have never looked at things this way. Angad was the first character I played and as television is a very strong medium, the character seemed etched in the viewer's mind for quite sometime. Though Angad

has made him what he is today, his favourite character is Shiv Kapoor from *Karam Apna Apna*.

Iqbal is known in the industry as a complete

workaholic. He has never been to an acting school but believes that the passion for acting has to be intrinsic for those who

wish to excel in this field. Having become much more organised than before, Iqbal has evolved with the industry. He now works for 10-12 hours a day. Will the actor go back to television soap operas? "I don't know what one means by soaps" is the instant reply. "If the show deals with family issues, I would love to do it. There are different pictures of a family that can be depicted on screen, other than kitchen politics." Kitchen politics is something the actor cannot stand. When asked to define Indian Television in one word, Iqbal gives it a thought and calls it 'Total Entertainment'. However the actor is unable to understand the concept of TRP ratings. "How can popularity be assessed by considering merely 5000 households. I don't know who handles TRP's and how fair it is," opines Iqbal.

His character as Abhimanyu in the serial *Choona Hai Aasman* in is very different from his earlier roles. When the show started, people assumed it is based on the Air Force but Iqbal dismisses these views completely. "The show is about people and emotions, with the Air Force as a backdrop. It doesn't

THERE WAS NOTHING IN ANGAD WHICH WAS LIKE ME IN REAL LIFE... HE MADE ME POPULAR BUT I CANNOT IDENTIFY MYSELF WITH HIM

Unlike his screen image as an angry young man, Iqbal is a very down-to-earth person in real life. "I lead a simple life and love wearing jeans and T-shirts."

His biggest critic is he himself, "I am very objective about myself," he believes. When asked about how open he is to accepting roles, the actor puts in on the role itself. He would not mind playing a role that has not been done before and nor does he mind starring in the sequel of *Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai*, if it ever happens but accepting a time leap is a big NO for him.

Talking about the various rumours associated with him, the actor has a good laugh. In his words "I have never been very friendly in the industry and that can be one reason." With not many good friends in the industry, Iqbal accepts each day as it comes and has learnt to handle all kinds of pressure. As he says, "If there is no pressure, there is no Iqbal."

Iqbal believes that every actor has tremendous responsibility on his shoulders. If his producer gave him one minute on air to address his audience, Iqbal would love to thank the viewers for the love and kindness they have showed to him. He owes all his success to his parents. "If you respect your parents, half your work is done." So, are we going to see the actor on the silver screen very soon? "I really don't know" comes the reply. He believes it is too early to talk about his film ventures until things shape up. How soon are we going to see the promos of his film on air? Inshallah, comes the reply. It has been a journey of hard work for Iqbal to make himself a household name and television's most desired actor. With simplicity and discipline as his basic principles in life this actor has





teach you how to fly a plane!" Shooting in Jodhpur was fun and exciting for him!

miles to go. Here's wishing him the very best in life!

IONA CHATTERJEE
ionochatt@gmail.com



4 **friday** ■ APRIL 11 - APRIL 24, 2008