

IQBAL KHAN'S FRESH NEW ACT!

● The actor makes a comeback (yes, again!) with Zee's *Sanjog Se Bani Sangini* after being gone for two years
BY DHAVAL ROY

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO FOR TWO YEARS? I went home to Kashmir, travelled abroad, made a short film, and learnt all the aspects of production, which I'd wanted to do for a long time.

WHY DID YOU GO AWAY TO BEGIN WITH? Because...shows would start off with a good storyline and end up being regressive and I didn't want to do soaps that were only about kitchen politics. Then, in the last two years, there has been a trend towards female issue-based shows. I didn't know what I'd do in a show about child marriages or female infanticide. I'd rather do a show that stars me as the main protagonist. What was left were reality shows, which I avoided because dancing is not my biggest strength and I wouldn't want people to know my personal side.

WHAT ABOUT FILMS? That was a short phase in the beginning of my so-to-speak hiatus. Unfortunately, *Apna Sa*, the Vikram Bhatt film I signed, didn't work out.

When filmmakers pump in money they think about recovering it from satellite rights, DVD sales, etc. Actors like me need someone who believes in them but we don't know where that someone is.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO DO THIS SHOW? One, I am the main protagonist. Secondly, it is almost shot like a film.

YOU HAVE TAKEN BREAKS FROM TV BEFORE. Well, I don't decide or control my comebacks. I think if the network heads stop following the TRPs and make sure they stick to creativity and a decent storyline, I will stop quitting and coming back again and again.

"*Sangini* (inset) is big in terms of production and I don't think its story will go haywire," says Iqbal.



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