

I don't understand how TRPs work: Iqbal Khan

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Iqbal Khan

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A toned physique, a baritone and a goofy smile are what you typically notice in telly hottie Iqbal Khan when he arrives on screen. After a brief B-Town stint, and playing the lead in some TV shows ('Yahaan Main Ghar Ghar Kheli', being his last telly outing), Iqbal returns to play the lead in the episodic 'Teri Meri Love Stories'.

About TMLS, he says, "The script got me excited. This is a cute romance but I am hopeful that it will touch the segment of audience who live on a staple diet of daily soaps." He adds that the producers and channels are wary of trying

out new things and viewers seldom have much option. "Producers/showmakers don't experiment much on TV and tend to follow successful formulae. I'm glad that somebody is taking a step forward and trying new concepts. Personally, I don't understand how TRPs work and what makes a show click. I believe if a person thinks of both commerce and aesthetics and works hard towards a project, it'll definitely succeed."

Talking about the deluge of intimate scenes on TV these days, Iqbal says, "Although, I have done a few romantic scenes in my TV shows, I'm not too open about these things. At the end of the day, we cater to a family audience; while your mom may like watching regressive shows, you may like watching something youth oriented. So it's important to strike a balance and ensure that there are no awkward moments while watching TV. Television shows should leave the intimate scenes to movies."

A doting dad and a complete family man, Iqbal's daughter Ammaara just turned a year old. He says, "She has changed me completely as a person. It's said that when God wants to punish you, they do something bad to your children. After Ammaara's birth, I make that deliberate effort to be good so that my daughter doesn't have to suffer. Fatherhood has made me respect women more. My thinking has changed completely."

Iqbal's next film *Unforgettable* sees him in a very different avatar. He says, "One good thing about movies is that filmmakers follow their script. On TV, scripts are often tweaked according to the viewership feedback/TRPs." Before he signs off, Iqbal says, "When I'm working, I'm only concentrating on that. But my free time is totally about spending time with my family."