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## A cool act

**Iqbal Khan** was bitten by the acting bug while still in school



There have been two significant turning points in my life — going to boarding school and reading the English translation of the Quran. The Quran made me realise that life can be made uncomplicated by following the simple guidelines of God.

I always thought that boarding school was for children who didn't do well in studies. I wasn't a very good student and had a 38-in waistline. But after going to a boarding school at the age of 12, I did better in my studies, slimmed down and above all — learned to value my parents.

Another turning point was playing the lead role in a school play titled *Mrityunjay*. At that time I was in Class XI at The Lawrence School, Sanawar, and we were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the school. The

National School of Drama (NSD) had been roped in to organise the play. This was a great experience for me and I was bitten by the acting bug.

I moved to Delhi to study English Honours at the Delhi College of Arts and Commerce and started modelling to earn some pocket-money. It wasn't long before I started to land assignments and the next obvious step was to shift base to Mumbai.

Nothing worked out in Mumbai for the first month that I was there and just when I decided to quit the city I got a call from Anubhav Sinha Productions to shoot for a music video in Switzerland. Following this I signed two films, both on the same day — one in the morning and the other in the evening. But unfortunately both flopped at the box office. I took a lesson from this failure and decided to move on.

Another major turning point was bagging the role of Angad in the prime-time soap, *Kaisa Yeh Pyar Hai*, which went on to be quite popular. Though initially I was sceptical of playing the role of a rock star, it turned out to be something that really worked for me and got me recognition.

Though I quit work to take a one-and-a-half-year break, and married in January 2007, I made a comeback to television with serials *Chhoona Hai Aasmaan* and *Waaris*. Right now I'm busy with yet another soap called *Sanjog Se Bani Sangini*. Eventually, I want to produce and act in my own films.

*(As told to Lubna Salim)*