

"I am more romantic than Angad" Iqbal Khan bares his heart

Angad...errr..Iqbal Khan, the new poster boy and Ekta Kapoor's rockstar is a simple and down-to-earth person quite contrary to his screen self. No wonder, he is the current heart throb of not just teeny boppers but scores of housewives who religiously watch his soaps. With two daily shows *Kaisa Yeh Pyaar Hai* and *Kaavyanjali* in his kitty, his schedule is packed.

ShaadiTimes catches up with him in his vanity van on the sets of *Kaavyanjali* when he takes some time off to have his lunch and becomes candid.

Quite unlike others who graduate to films from TV, Iqbal Khan came back to TV after starting off with two films. "After college I started modelling in Delhi and eventually came to Mumbai and did few music videos. Then I signed up two films *Fun2shh* and *Bullet - Ek Dhamaka* which bombed at the box office. After that I was jobless for one year until one fine day when I was offered the lead role in a daily soap under Balaji. I wasn't too sure and then I spoke to my parents and finally took up the assignment. It worked out and people began to notice me. **I like to act. The medium does not matter.** Television is big these days. Look at the *Kahaani* people. They get mobbed wherever they go. **I would definitely consider film offers but they have to be as big as Angad,"** reflects Iqbal.



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A perfect loyalist to the Balaji camp, Iqbal was recently in the news as he was successful in having his way with the generation leap in *Kaisa Yeh Pyaar Hai*. **So what is his equation with Ekta Kapoor?** "She is my boss and I'm her employee. She is not my friend, she is my boss and I always treat her like my boss. I get offers from outside but I don't take them up as I am happy with my work and the money that I get. I would like to do something different and interesting now. Ekta is also coming up with some reality shows and I would love to be a part of them. Anchoring a show is also quite exciting. Balaji is becoming too big now. Everything is done in-house. You just have to move from one room to the other," cracks Iqbal.

You play a casanova who does not believe in love in *Kaisa Yeh...* How similar are you to your screen character - Angad?

I'm quite unlike Angad. I am a very regular guy. I wear plain jeans and tee shirts when I'm not shooting. I don't wear ear studs or chain-shains. I generally wear a clean shave but because of the character I keep a stubble. **I am probably**

a team shave but because of the character I keep a stubble. I am probably more romantic than Angad. I totally believe that romance is very important for life as it helps to keep you fresh.

Iqbal is planning to get married to long-time girl friend Sneha Chhabra next year.

So is it a love marriage?

I'm very lucky to have Sneha in my life. But **only love marriages doesn't work**. It has to be love plus arranged as the parent's consent is very important for a marriage. Thank God I have my parents' consent.

When and how did you meet Sneha?

I met her loooooong time back. I did a music video with **Falguni Pathak** and there I met her in Delhi. We liked each other and then exchanged numbers and slowly we realised that we are made for each other. So it was not a particular day when I just asked her out. She has seen me in the days when I didn't have work and also in the days when I had work.

So, what are your plans for marriage?

Oh, I don't get time to think anything constructive about marriage. I'm on the sets for 16 hours and then I am too tired and fall asleep. But I would definitely do something special for Sneha. Though we have not fixed the date (sometime next year) and venue, I can say **it will be a small event** with only close friends and family.

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