

Recent years saw TV serials sign mainly newcomers. The fresh faces could give bulk dates and were willing to work for any price and these were reasons enough for producers and channels to get the newbies on board. But one could see a deterioration in quality because the new faces were not too comfortable in front of the camera and they clearly needed time to get accustomed to their roles. But in these competitive times, when audiences sit with remote controls in hand waiting to switch channels at the slightest, many of the new faces did have an adverse effect on their serial's performance. Serials started wrapping up in no time. Incidentally, quite a few serials that wrapped up within a couple of months had new actors in them.

cool dudes are back and in young roles that suit them perfectly. Iqbal Khan's playing the main lead in *Sanjog Se Bani Sangini*. Iqbal was not seen for at least two years on TV, but the wait was worth it. Apurva Agnihotri, who vanished from the scene, made a comeback with *Bidaai* opposite Parul Chauhan. Nikkhil Arya has been getting a lot of appreciation for his performance in *Tere Liye*, where he plays Ritesh, a character with negative shades.

Raahil Azam will be seen in an upcoming show *Gulal*. Sometime ago, Shakti Anand appeared in *Godh Bharaai* and even though the serial didn't last long, it gave Shakti a new lease of life on TV.

Viewers are glad to have the stars back.

COMPLIMENTS GALORE: Nikkhil Arya



Wanted: Good Actors

Viewers any day prefer the tried-and-tested stars, who are back with a bang on the small screen, to rank newcomers. Lisa Antao reports...

Realising the pitfalls of casting new faces in lead roles, production houses and channels are now changing. Around a year ago, we saw experienced actors resurfacing. However, they were still not bagging young lead roles. Like Varun Badola signed on a



EXPERIENCE MATTERS: Iqbal Khan, Apurva Agnihotri and Raahil Azam

"It's nice to have well-known faces in main roles in a new serial," says Priti Kajaria, a post-graduate student. Nidhi Chauhan, a house-

hence the actor lar show. But becoming muc "Today actors days of Mihir associated an ter," says a c

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see that the real actors are back. And they are all young and can carry off the roles well. The tried and tested actors are any day better than rank newcomers."

Kumud Bhutani, a bank employee, who depends on serials for her daily dose of entertainment, says, "I can't imagine any new actor playing Iqbal's role in *Sangini* or Nikkhil Arya's in *Tere Liye*. There is a lot of depth that these actors have in their acting."

va
Earlier serials ran for years together, and actors were branded with a particular character. Now, with a serial's shelf-life becoming shorter, things have changed. The same actor can be repeated because those who were once Virani are gone where viewers expect a particular character from a particular actor with a particular creative head of a production

show
Maat Rahe
Tera Pitaah,
but his role
was that of
an older char-
acter. Manish
Goel returned
to TV, but as a
host of a reality
show.

But now, there's
a new wave. The



wife and TV bun,
believes that the
trend of newcom-
ers in serials must
be controlled. "If
they are promising
actors then it's fine,
but when they are
not even good, the seri-
al starts looking very
dull," she says.

Rekha Jannalal, another
housewife, adds, "I'm glad to

house. The ne
blend of expe
most importan
says. As Iqbal
What matters
whether the a
with experienc
Actresses on
lucky. In a sho
to play mother
hope. "It's happ
happen with th
who plays mot

ed of the hour is to have a fine
erience and freshness, but the
nt criterion is performance, he
Khan says, "We can all co-exist.
is good content and good acting
ctor is a new face or somebody
ce."

n TV, however, haven't been as
t span of time they are expected
s roles. But then there's always
pened with the guys, it might just
e girls too," says a young actress,
her's roles.
