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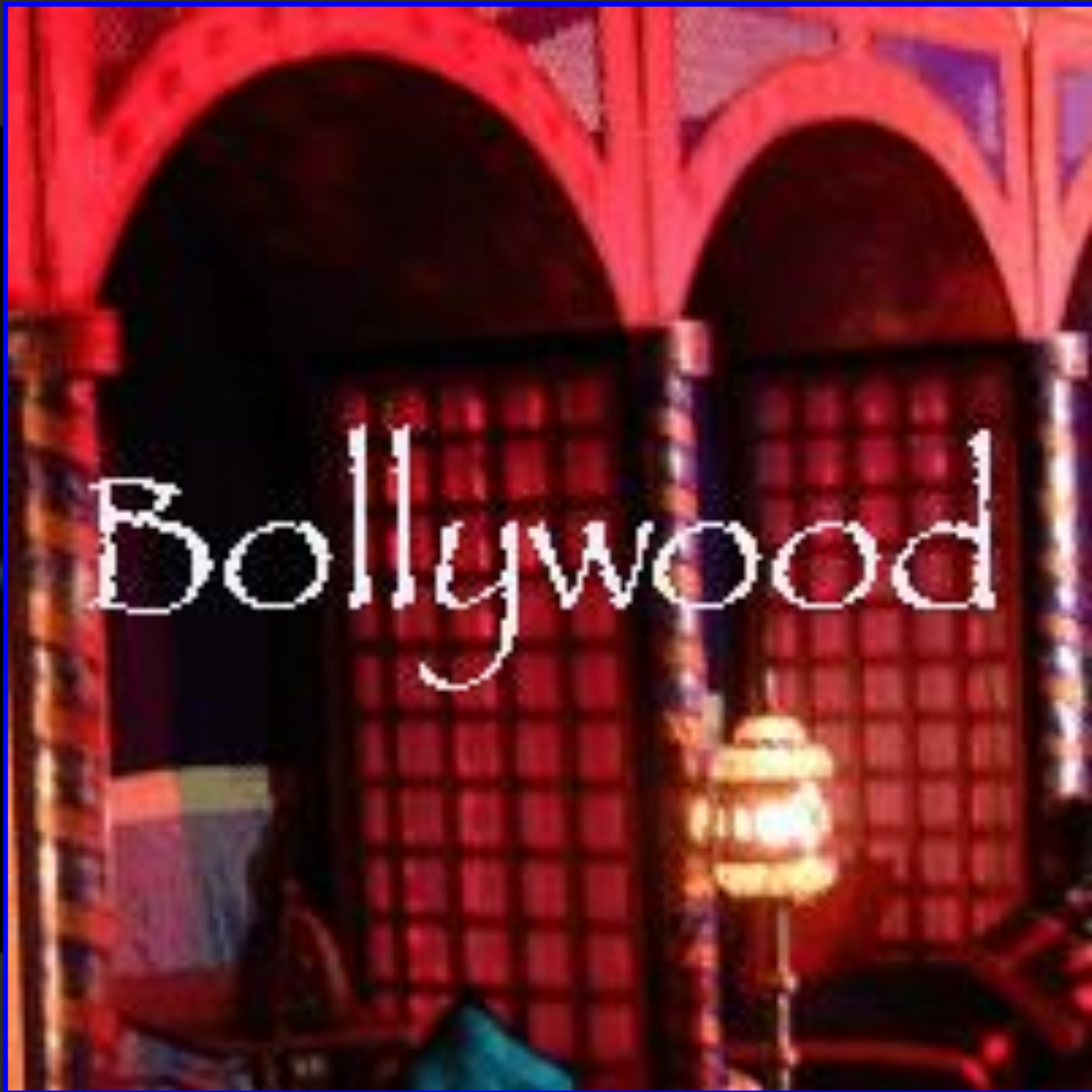
bollywood

— India's film industry

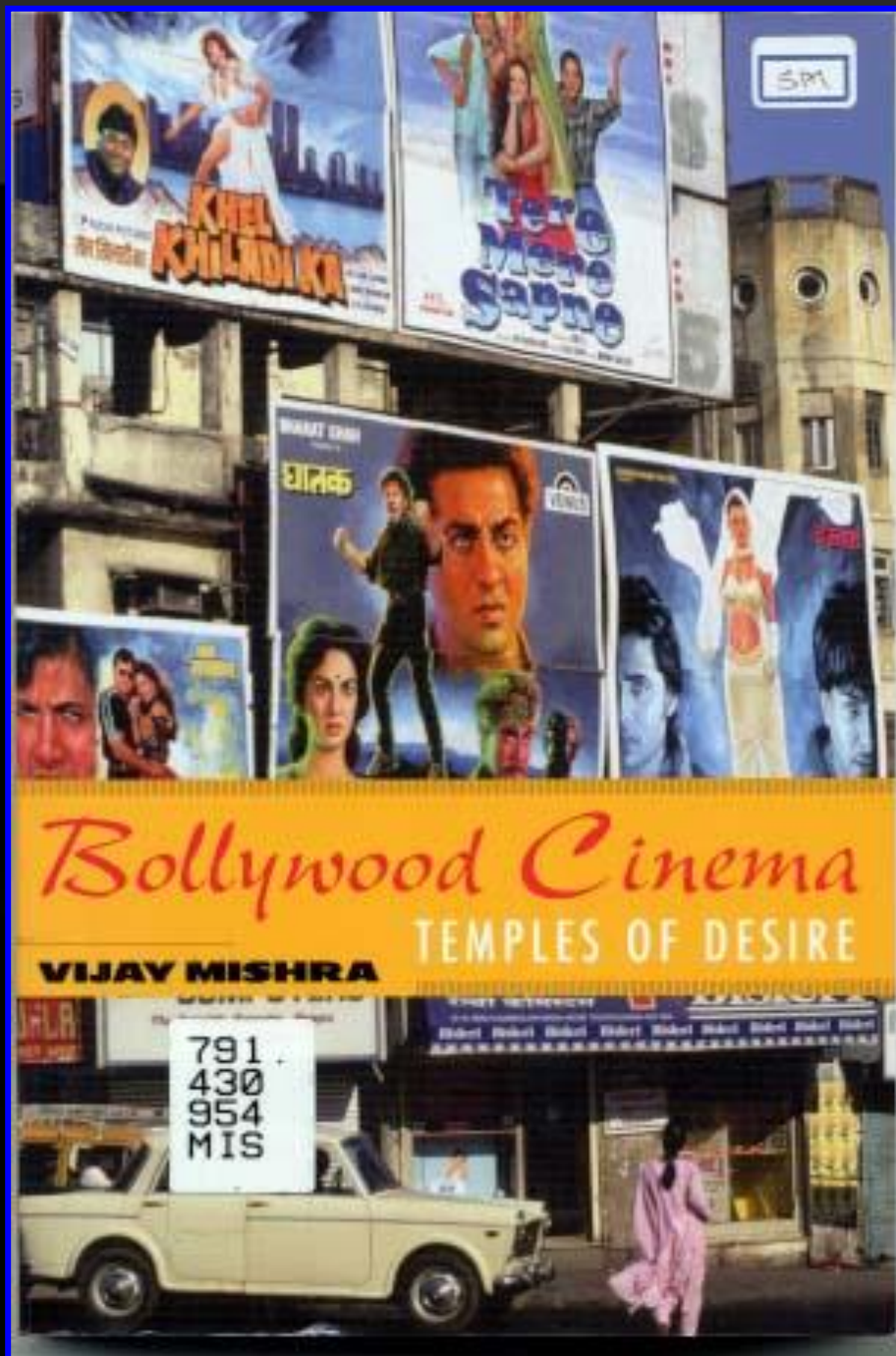
Presented by

Sanjeev Chowdhury









Bollywood Cinema
TEMPLES OF DESIRE

VIJAY MISHRA

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1998

AFTERNOON DESPATCH & COURIER

Sanjeev Chowdhury institutes award in Persis Khambatta's memory

BY A STAFF REPORTER

One week after Persis Khambatta's death, her close friend Mr. Sanjeev Chowdhury, vice-consul and assistant trade commissioner, Consulate of Canada, has instituted an award in her memory.

To be called the Persis Khambatta Memorial Award, this honour will be conferred annually to a graduating fashion design student of the Mumbai chapter of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). The award, for excellence in scholarship, accomplishment and character, will be donated personally by Mr. Chowdhury and will consist of a trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000. Nomination and election of the recipient will be made by the faculty of the NIFT, Mumbai.

Mr. Chowdhury explained the Persis Khambatta Memorial



■ CLOSE FRIENDS: Vice-consul and assistant trade commissioner, Consulate of Canada, Mr. Sanjeev Chowdhury, and Persis Khambatta, in whose memory he has instituted an award for students of NIFT, Mumbai.

Award: "When Persis was planning her television talk show based on

her book, 'Pride Of India', she told me that she would like to have her

clothes done by the students of NIFT to give their work exposure on the air. That is why I have chosen NIFT Mumbai to be the beneficiary of this award."

Mr. Chowdhury will officially introduce the award this evening at the Ritz Hotel during a special meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City, where he will be the guest speaker. Persis Khambatta was an honorary member of this Rotary Club and had arranged for Mr. Chowdhury to address the group several weeks ago. She was originally scheduled to make the official introduction of Mr. Chowdhury this evening at this special gathering of Rotarians and their spouses.

The Persis Khambatta Memorial Award, which has been approved by the Khambatta family, will be presented annually by Ms. Khambatta's niece, Diana, as per Mr. Chowdhury's wish. ■

Aavjo, Persis

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Persis Khambatta, the starry-eyed young girl who grew up to be crowned Miss India and became an international model and Hollywood star, was laid to rest at the Parsi Towers of Silence at Malabar Hill this morning.

It was a quiet funeral, attended, among others, by actor Kabir Bedi and photographer Sooni Tarapore,

Magna publisher Nari Hira and Canadian vice-consul Sanjeev Chowdhury. The Khambatta family was represented by Persis's mother and brother.

Death had come suddenly and unannounced, at 5 o'clock yesterday morning. The previous night, she complained of feeling uneasy and was admitted into a nursing home at Marine Lines. A niece stayed with her.

In the morning, when the doctor arrived, he found she had expired. Cause of death: cardiorespiratory failure.

Ms. Khambatta, who became a *Star Trek* icon with her shaved head, after spending most of her life in Europe and the US, had recently returned to

Mumbai and decided to settle here. She had considered several TV offers but had made up her mind to go into her own production.

One of the final tributes to her came from Author Khushwant Singh, who told her in a TV interview last Friday: "Wherever you go and whatever you do, we know you will make India proud." ■



■ PERSIS KHAMBATTA: Death came suddenly.

Persis's friends since their days together in Hollywood. Mr. Bedi had another grim task ahead of him. He was leaving for Delhi, where, he hoped, there might be news for him of his former wife Protima who was feared killed in a landslide in Nainital. Two former Miss Indias also came to pay their last respects to Persis, Pheroza Cooper and Meher Mistry (Castelino). And her close friends,



Friends forever

INCIDENTALLY, Sanjeev (he's also the assistant trade commissioner) has been in India only for a year but he has already become friends with some of the most glamorous gals in town. One of his best friends was Persis Khambatta, who recently passed away. Not only did he help in organising her funeral, to ensure that her memory doesn't fade,

Sanjeev has initiated the Persis Khambatta Memorial Award. Exclusively for graduating students at NIFT, the winner will be given a Rs 10,000 cash prize. Apparently, Persis had been planning to make her book *Pride Of India* into a TV series and wanted NIFT students to design her clothes — the reason why Sanjeev decided to start this award. While Sanjeev's family had known Persis for years, he first met her on New Year's Eve. Since then the two had become great friends and often escorted each other to parties.



WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 1998

BOMBAY TIMES, THE TIMES OF INDIA

In memory of Persis Khambatta

Anirudh Sharma

THE specially-sculpted trophy for the Persis Khambatta Memorial Award to be presented annually to a graduating fashion design student from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Mumbai, is ready. It will be unveiled at the Fashion Bistro tonight by four celebrities, including political personality Renuka Chowdhary and Persis' niece Diana Khambatta.

Sanjeev Chowdhary, Canadian vice-consul, who had instituted the award one week after Persis died

on August 18, is organising the by-invitation-only function. "Renuka has confirmed her arrival and if all goes well, she'll be here tonight to lift first of the four veils from the trophy." The 18-inch brass trophy has been sculpted by veteran sculptor Anson Amanna who spent four months in perfecting the trophy which has Persis in her *Star Trek* role with her arms stretched towards the sky. The trophy has been designed by Sanjeev himself.

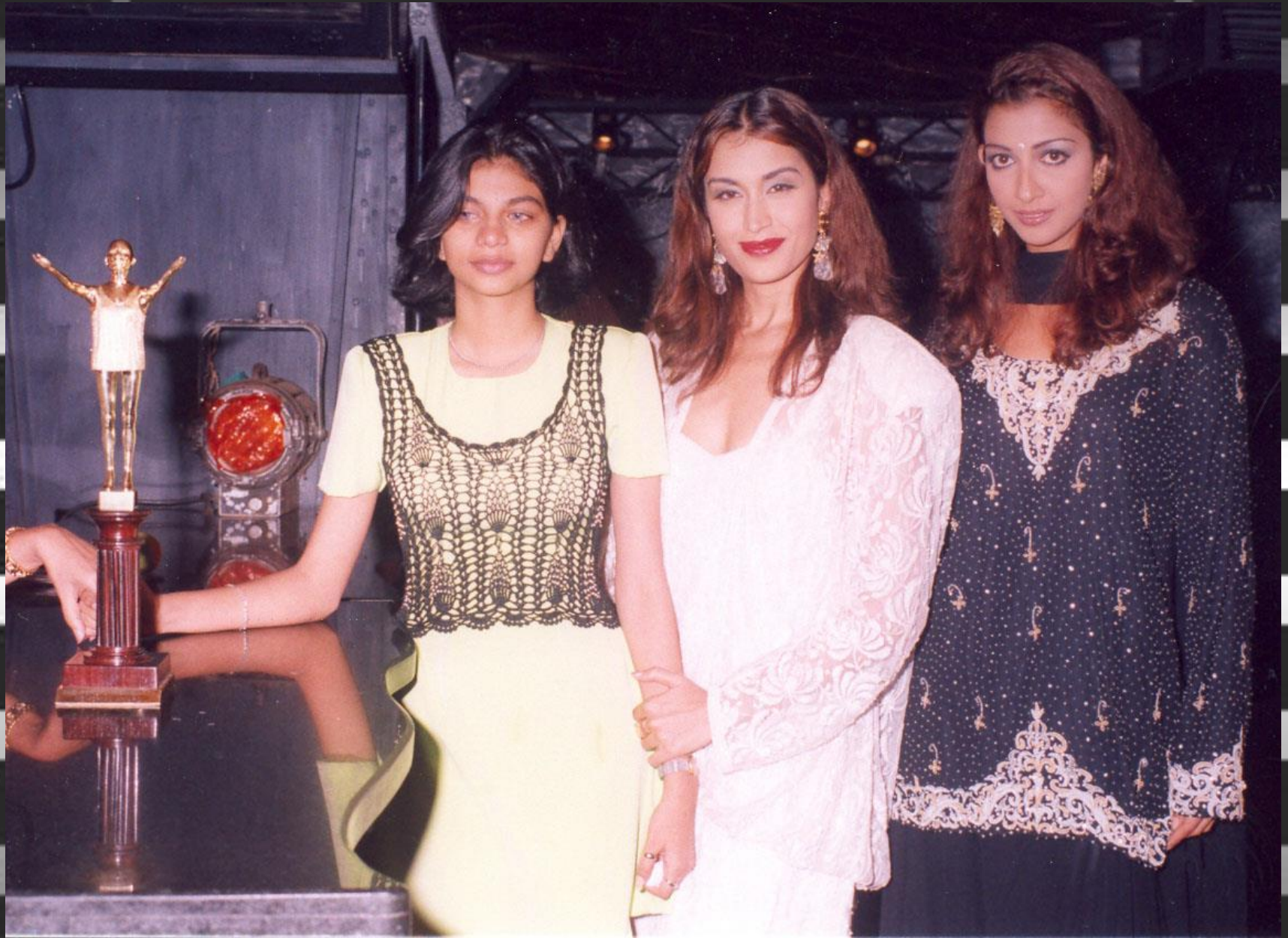
Ritu Sharma, Achla Sachdev, Gita Bali and Sumera Peerbhoy, all known to Persis, will display

four outfits worn by the late actress. The outfits will include the black feather boa neck outfits she wore while presenting the Academy Awards in 1982.

"We have also invited 24 former Miss Indias," says Sanjeev Chowdhary, founder trustee of the Persis Foundation. After Chowdhary leaves the country he'll nominate designer Manish Malhotra as one of the trustees.

At the ceremony, a specially produced 7-minute video with clippings from Persis' movies will also be shown.



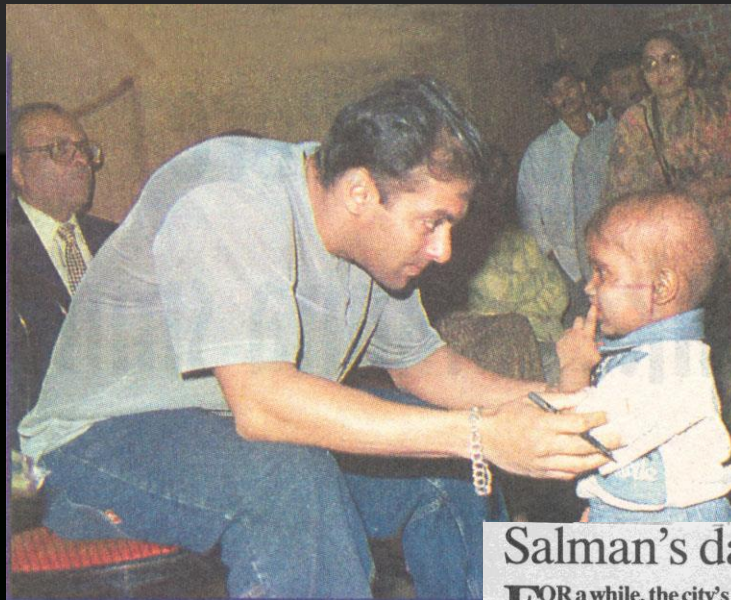












EXPRESSNewsline
MUMBAI ■ TUESDAY ■ JUNE 29, 1999

Salman's day

FOR a while, the city's social scene has been pretty dull. But the rains seem to have changed all that. Last week, not only did it pour incessantly, it was also one of the busiest weeks of the year for Mumbai's glitterati.

The chain of events kicked off on Monday at Three Flights Up, when the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) hosted a special evening for children suffering from the disease. The kids got to spend the whole evening at the Narang's night spot and seemed to be really enjoy themselves playing pool and throwing darts. But the highlight of the event for these kids was a chance to meet Salman Khan.

Apparently, this actor has been helping out the CPAA for a long while and takes time out to talk to cancer patients and visit terminally ill children. Salman was accompanied by his parents and aunt Helen. This Khan really seems to take the cause seriously — for, he has even persuaded his other *filmi* friends like David Dhawan, Sunil Dutt, Sajid Nadiadwala and father Salim Khan to donate over Rs 10 lakh in aid of cancer patients.

One person who looked really pleased with Salman's enthusiasm was the event organiser, Sanjeev Chowdhury. And he was given lots of moral support by close friends. Also spotted at the do were Sonia Garware, Nirmal and Chhaya Momaya, Kishan Mulchandani and Aarti and Kailash Surendranath.

Salman shows cancer patients he cares

Namita Sonalkar

It was a fullhouse Monday night at the Three Flights Up. But one that made for a rare sight. While the DJ blared the music loud, at centre stage were a bunch of 50 seemingly happy kids, prancing to their favourite Hindi film music. Happy, of course, is a relative term, considering who these children really were. Carefree as they appeared, these young ones were in fact victims of cancer. That evening their bursting joyousness was to be explained by the fact that their favourite Uncle Salman had promised to pay them a visit.

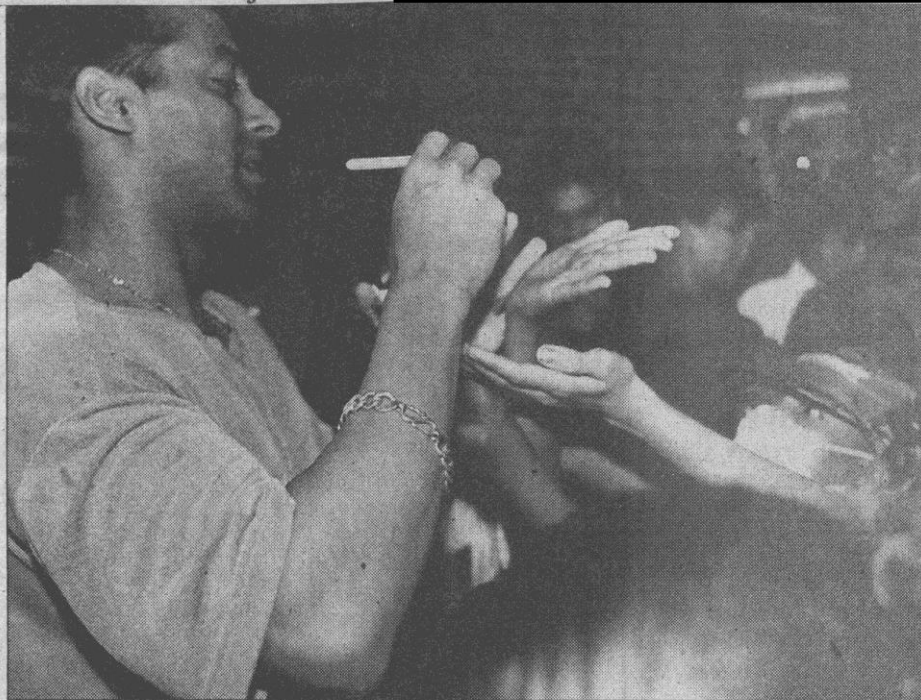
This was no chance meeting, however, because the event had materialised courtesy The Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) and Sanjeev Chowdhury, consul for Canada. The CPAA is an organisation that provides financial and emotional support systems to the families of those afflicted by cancer.

Explaining how it had all been conceived, Chowdhary said, "Both Salman and Sanjay (Narang) had expressed their wish to contribute to the work of the CPAA, so we thought this was the ideal way." Narang on his part, has pledged that for the next two years, Rs 2 from every bill at two of his restaurants — The Pizzeria and Not Just Jazz By The Bay will be donated to the CPAA.

As for Salman, his affinity for these tiny tots is not unknown. Apparently, there have been times that he has turned up unannounced at the care centre and brought many smiles to their haunted faces. And even unflinchingly forwarded his cell phone number, so that they could call him at any given hour of the day. One day it seems, Salman actually turned up as donor for a bone marrow transplant, in aid of a leukemia afflicted child.

Meanwhile, anticipation ran high on the dance floor as the children waited for a whole hour before their hero walked in, with the senior Khans in tow - Salim Khan, Salma Khan and Helen. Cheers filled the air as they rushed towards their idol. Unfortunately, however, a star struck audience mobbed him even before they did. When finally he managed to escape, the way the children greeted him made for a poignant picture.

Later a cheque worth Rs two lakh was made to the CPAA on behalf of a well known city industrialist. Salman stayed an hour and a half, and uncomfortable as he seemed with all the glaring attention, with the kids he was completely at ease. Even after he left, the glow remained on those young faces, a sight to cherish for the parents. After a meal, provided by Three Flights Up, the children went home, clearly elated.



Salman Khan signs autographs for children suffering from cancer at 'An evening with Salman', an event sponsored by Cancer Patients Aid Association at Three Flights Up on Monday. ■ Kedar Nene

Time out with Salman Khan

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai, June 21: Those who call Salman Khan arrogant should have been at Three Flights Up on Monday evening. Success definitely has not gone to his head. Or at least that is what one saw at the popular nightspot where the hero humbly mingled with around 50 children suffering from cancer. Organised by Cancer Patients Aid Association, the function saw the macho Khan signing autographs, giving away gifts and posing with the children.

As Khan, accompanied by his parents, entered the night-club, he was almost mobbed. Autograph seekers, including some elders, jostled with each other. Sanjeev Chaudhury, vice-consul and assis-

tant trade commissioner, consulate of Canada, almost whisked the actor away to the dais. Devoid of any star trappings, the actor shook hands with the children. Four-year-old Arpan Pramanik reached Salman with an autograph book in hand. It was an emotional scene. A small child suffering from a dreaded disease craving for the autograph of a film star.

Perhaps it is to satisfy the desires of the less fortunate that CPAA regularly organises such *Meet The Celebrity* functions. As founder chairman of CPAA, Y.K. Sapru, said: "Our motive is to bring some moments of joy to the patients. Children, who get to meet film stars, develop a positive attitude to life." Mr Sapru said Salman had helped CPAA earlier too.

"He has given his cellular number. Whenever a child wants to speak to him, he immediately comes on line. To adults it may not be a big deal, but to a child who is suffering from cancer, it is a great relief. Even if momentarily, the patient forgets his trauma," said Mr Sapru. The hero, through his contacts in the film industry, has raised Rs 10 lakh for CPAA.

Viji Venkatesh, who has been associated with the association since the last 13 years, said the children had developed a positive attitude. "The good thing is that the children have learned to cope with it. It has given hope to their parents who earlier felt guilty," she said. And that also gives hope to all those who care for cancer

■ Turn to Page 11

Salman's aid

SALMAN Khan is one personality who is just unable to keep his name out of the papers. The big question at the moment is: Does he love Ash or Somy? But Salman is not letting all this press get in the way of his day-to-day life. In fact, next Monday, he will be making a special appearance at Three Flights Up, from 6.30 to 9.30 pm to meet children who suffer from cancer.

The event is being organised by Sanjeev Chowdhury who has been working closely



with the Cancer Patients' Aid Association for some time now. The CPAA will also receive a cheque of Rs two lakh collected from various well-known industrialists including Harsh Goenka, Mukesh Ambani and Gulu Mirchandani. So perhaps this actor who is better known as an arrogant brat on his sets, does have a heart after all.







FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1999

AFTERNOON DESPATCH & COURIER

Sonali to play Santa for cancer children

BY A STAFF REPORTER



Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre is going to be Santa Claus tomorrow and visit the Bowling Company at Parel, where she will have lunch and play with over 50 young cancer patients and their families, the Cancer Patients' Aid Association (CPAA) has announced. The event is being

organised by Mr. Sanjeev Chowdhury, vice-consul and assistant trade commissioner, consulate of Canada.

In keeping with the characteristic of the season, Ms. Bendre is specially flying back from a shoot in Australia before schedule to be with the children suffering from cancer on Christmas Day.

The Bowling Company has allotted 12 lanes for them and their families, and will also organised the lunch tomorrow. The bowling teams will be drawn up from among these people and will be captained by members of the Rotract Club of Bombay Hills South.

Ms. Bendre will arrive at the Bowling Company at noon. She will pose with the cancer patients for photographs, then distribute gifts to them before lunch. The gifts are being provided by Chocossieur, the Belgian chocolate store in Mumbai. ■

DECEMBER 26, 1999

Sunday
Afternoon

Sonali turns Santa Claus!

BY A STAFF REPORTER

FIFTY cancer-stricken children had their tryst with Santa Claus yesterday, Christmas Day. The venue was the bowling alley at the Bowling Company, Lower Parel. And Santa didn't slide down the chimney. But flew all the way from Australia. Santa in the form of actress Sonali Bendre.

Bendre not only laughed and spoke with the children, she also bowled them over, lighting up little faces strapped with masks. Eyes bright and eager, the children rushed towards her as she came striding in, dressed in a beige top and black jeans. Bendre, who was in Australia shooting for a film, came to meet the children at the request of the Cancer Patients Aid Association. The event was organised by Canadian vice-consul, Sanjeev Chowdhury.

Bendre was greeted with a loud cheer by the children. She stood amongst them as they tugged at her sleeves, caught her hand and even pulled her down for a kiss. She giggled with them and allowed the squealing children to do what they liked. Not a ruffle creased the pretty countenance of Bendre. She let herself be kissed, her hair tousled, and autographed innumerable scraps of paper.

"Coming here has made a difference," said a smiling Bendre. "It gives Christmas a new meaning for me." The smile never wavered all the while that Bendre was with the children. She handed out a gift

to each child and cradled some of them who were too small to reach out and collect their gifts from her.

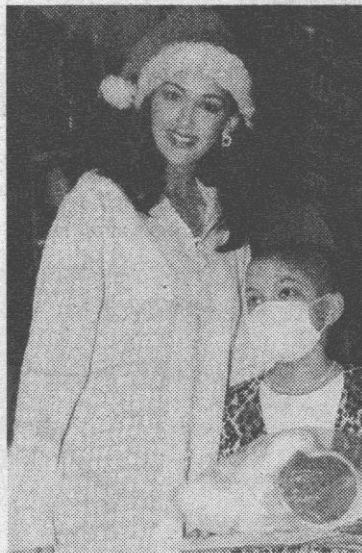
A very chubby and smiling Sanjeev Kumar Haldar said he was happy to touch Bendre. A resident of Bihar, the 13-year-old was in the city for treatment for Hodgkin's disease. "I have only just touched her. I got

her autograph. But I haven't seen her properly," he said. And 'properly seen' to Sanjeev is to be photographed with Bendre and to talk to her. "I have met one more film star," he observed. On being asked who it was, he thought for a while and said, "Mukesh Khanna. That was at Andheri," before rushing off to collect his gift from Bendre.

Five-year-old Meghashree, who is suffering from leukaemia, was delighted to have met Bendre. "I have seen Kajol also. And also Shaktimaan." That is the popular name of the serial in which Mukesh Khanna essays the lead role. Her mother was very happy that film stars graced such occasions. "It means a lot to these children. My child will now talk about this visit and be happy for a long while," she said.

Wishing the children a merry Christmas, Bendre exhorted them to

be happy. This was a Christmas like no other, she said. "I have liked this today. It was very special. Just look at these kids. In spite of being so ill, it is amazing to see them smile. And we complain because we are bogged down by little problems! Seeing these huge smiles on the children's faces is truly wonderful!"



● **Sonali Bendre: spending time with children who need it the most.**



Actress Sonali Bendre celebrates Christmas with children of the Cancer Patient Society at the Bowling Company, Phoenix Mill, Parel, on Saturday. A photograph by Rajesh Nirgude







The Indian **EXPRESS** *

■ MUMBAI ■ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1999



MODEL ART: Sanjeev Chowdhury
and Lisa Ray







Shiamak Davar to perform for charity

By A Staff Writer

SUNDAY
evening (7.30 pm)
at Homi Bhabha
Auditorium will
see the city's large-
hearted at it
again - at the
Canadian
Corporation
Charity Gala



featuring Shiamak Davar's performance. Organised by the Consulate of Canada and Times Card, the proceeds of the event will go to the Cancer Research Institute at the Tata Memorial Hospital. Says a proud Sanjeev Chowdhury, Vice Consul and Assistant Trade Commissioner, "This is the first time that the consulate is doing an event of this magnitude."

The evening's highlights include an auction of designer Manish Malhotra's creations for the hit *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. The proceeds too will go to charity.

Shiamak Davar, who has done many charity shows for cancer and AIDS, says that this one is extra special. "I've lost an uncle and grand-aunt through cancer and another dear person of breast cancer. This show means a lot to me."

The event will be preceded by a run at Priydarshini Park from 10 am, the purpose being to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

Tickets (ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 1000) are available at Rhythm House.

















JULY 11, 1999

Sunday Afternoon

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was a National Day celebration which saw over a 1,000 of the city's top movers and shakers crowded into the Taj Ballroom to celebrate Canada Day, with special guests H. E. Peter Walker, Canada's High Commissioner to India, and his charming wife, Janet Burns-Walker, who flew down from New Delhi just for this event.

The hosts Sanjeev Chowdhury, Acting Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate of Canada, and Gul Kripalani, National President, Indo-Canadian Business Council, left no stone unturned to ensure a unique and unforgettable evening.

While there were many high points, surely the performance by the students from the Sanskardham Vidyala School for the Hearing Impaired, touched people the most, as they sang in sign language to a beautiful ballad called *Song for Canada*. Bollywood movie star Akshaya Khanna arrived to present the High Commissioner with a souvenir copy of the CD from the upcoming



Hindi film *Taal*, which is currently being shot in Toronto by India's premier movie director, Subhash Ghai. Other surprises that night were Shiamak Davar's performance, Sanjeev Chowdhury's stirring rendition of the national anthem *O Canada*, and the grande finale laser show by Wizcraft.

Enjoying the evening were

industrialists R. G. Dhoot and family, Vithal Kamat, Shashikant Garware, Magnasound's V.P. of Corporate Relations Sairam Choudary, Reliance President M. N. Chaini, Genie Award nominee for best supporting actor for the movie *Such a Long Journey* Kurush Deboo, jewellers Kamlesh and Mahesh Hemdev of Ghanasingh & Sons, the Hingorani family of

Dianoor fame, film makers Sai Paranjpe and Anuradha Tandon and author Vikram Chandra.

Designer Rohit Bal, flew in for the night and was seen chatting with Kishin Mulchandani, Sonia Garware, Nirmal and Chhaya Momaya of Fashion Bistro and Grasim Mr. India Abhijit Sanyal.



SAY NO TO SMOKES: Mario Carballo, Suchitra Pillai, Madhu Sapre along with Canadian vice-consul Sanjeev Chowdhury, kick off an anti-smoking campaign aimed at the youth, over the weekend at St Mary's High School. Story on page 5

The image features a vertical film strip on the left and right sides, with a dark grey background. The word "bollywood" is written in a white, lowercase, serif font in the center. A bright blue light flare emanates from the left side of the text, creating a lens flare effect with several rays extending downwards and to the right.

bollywood