

By: Judi (Simi) Silva

It may have been short ... But it was sweet!

It was on the evening of the 54th Idea Filmfare Awards that actor Arjun Rampal won the best supporting actor award for his role as Joe Mascarenhas in 'Rock On', and he was thrilled. However, later that night something began to nag at him. Being overwhelmed at the time of his win, he realized much later that he left someone, who meant a great deal to him, out of his acceptance speech. Therefore, in a SMS (Short Message Service) he sent his apologies. To whom? Bollywood mega-star, Amitabh Bachchan.

Amitabh Bachchan a.k.a. Big B is the man whom Arjun refers to as the motivation in his life. He relayed to BB how grateful he was to have him as an inspiration and how sorry he was for not naming him in his speech. The apology affected Big B to the point that he not only wrote about it on his blog the next day, but also sent a reply SMS to Arjun telling him what his message to him meant.

"I am deeply touched. He (Arjun) has really roughed it out in the industry and labored hard. I advise him never ever to forget the moment that brought on that emotion – that shall and should be his motivation for the rest of his career."

The two will soon be working collaboratively on Chandraprakash Dwivedi's period piece - 'The Legend of Kunal' (earlier titled 'Kunal Avadana'), which will star Bachchan essaying the role of King Ashoka and Rampal as Veera Kunal - Ashoka's son. Tabu will be portraying Pishyarakshita - Ashoka's fifth wife, while Amrita Rao will be playing the part of Kanchanalak - Kunal's wife.

Interestingly, Bachchan recommended Rampal for the role of his son and Dwivedi took his advice. "This film will take you to a journey that purifies your mind and has all the elements like human passion, politics, crime and mystery. Overall, the film tries to capture and portray the conflict of human emotions and mind," says Dwivedi.

We shall see after it hits the theaters at some point this year. Watch this space for updates.



Is it a Grand-Slam in the Game of Love for Shahid?

The rumor mills are spinning when it comes to the handsome and very much available Shahid Kapur. With three back-to-back hits, namely 'Vivah', 'Jab We Met' and 'Kismet Connection', we hear that he has been supposedly dating just about all his co-stars from Amrita Rao to Vidya Balan, since his break-up with Kareena Kapoor. Poor guy! If the labeling of the term "serial dater" continues, Shahid is afraid that he won't actually be able to get a girlfriend unless the Gup Shup settles.

Well, it doesn't look like that is going to happen anytime soon. One element is different this time though ... his latest hookup isn't someone from the film industry. Who is it?

From what our sources tell us ... She is none other than Indian tennis player Sania Mirza (who incidentally is five years younger than Shahid). Yes, the same Sania Mirza who promoted the 2007 SunFeast Open alongside Bollywood Baadshah Shahrukh Khan.

Now you may ask, why the assumed "kismet connection". It may have everything to do with the fact that when she recently became the winner of the mixed doubles title at the Australian open, Shahid sent her a text congratulating her. When questioned about it, Shahid merely answered (with that twinkle in his eye and adorable boyish grin, no doubt) "Isn't that a normal thing to do? The whole world congratulated her."

Something tells me not the whole world, as most of us would have any way to get in touch with Sania to do so. Yet, Shahid doesn't have that problem, since he has her phone number logged in the contact list of his mobile phone!

Ironically, although Shahid feels that tabloid interest in his personal life is intrusive, his grandfather, Anwar Azeem, was a noted journalist. Wonder what he would have written about all this chatter flying around about his grandson.

In any case, being in the limelight, the gossipmongers will inevitably sink their teeth in every now and then. Take heart Shahid ... You aren't the only one in line for the occasional attack.

In the meantime, while we wait to hear any news of this supposed romance becoming a possible "match", Shahid is currently in Jaipur shooting for the Yash Raj Films' 'Haddipa' (directed by Anurag Singh) with Rani Mukherjee, and Rakhi Sawant. Be assured that those of us at CityMasala are looking forward to another blockbuster hit from the ace actor Sha-K and YRF.