

# Where passion leads you...!

TWO INDIVIDUALS, ONE WHO SAW A DREAM AND IS FULFILLING IT TODAY, THE OTHER STILL NOURISHES IT, BUT HAS ENDED UP DOING SOMETHING ELSE IN LIFE. TANVI MALHOTRA FINDS OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.



“I feel my decision was right and today there are no regrets or hard feelings for whatever I did at that moment,” says Raj Pasta, 25, who quit his studies so that he could support his family. After his father retired, his mother was the sole earning member in the family. With his elder sister already married; Raj decided to help his mother and therefore quit his studies. “My mother use to prepare papad and sell it door to door. I had given the first

semester exams of Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) from Bhavan’s College, Chowpatty when I thought of helping my mother in running the house,” says Raj. That’s when he decided to quit studies and start looking for a job.

“My mother never wanted me to quit studies and work as she was aware how keen I was in studying and getting a degree,” says Raj, for whom his family always comes first. “But it was entirely my decision and I have no qualms over

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it,” he smiles. He then joined a small firm in Bandra and worked for around 13 months. Later, some of his friends suggested that he join a call centre and to his surprise; he was selected in 3G and he worked there for almost two years

10 months.

“Currently I’m working with ‘Unisource’- a retail firm and can proudly say that over the years I’ve gained immense knowledge,” says Raj. He was not only good in studies but also represented his college in inter-collegiate events. “I’m not very involved in sports but yes...I do enjoy playing football and cricket,” he adds. Raj feels that the decision of not studying further and taking up a job actually helped him to ‘gain more experience, add to the knowledge and polished his communication skills.’ “I don’t feel that I have lost anything, as I have gone back to my studies today,” he says proudly.

Today, besides working, Raj has also started preparing for his FY Bcom exams. “Somewhere down the line, I realised that studies play a major role especially when you are rejected just because you are not qualified enough,” says Raj who is happy getting back to studies - a dream he always wanted to fulfil.

“I like story-telling,” says Karan Agarwal, 25, who is passionate about writing, be it for films or television. After graduating in the year 2004 with a degree in Bachelor of Mass Media (BMM) from KC College, Karan decided never to work in an office set-up. “That’s the reason I chose advertising as my specialization,” he adds.

Six months after graduation, Karan started writing scripts for television shows. He has written scripts for shows like Page 3, Weekend Popkorn airing on Zoom and also for shows on Sony TV called Deal or No Deal.

“In our second year of BMM we had projects relating to TV and films. That’s when I realised my inclination to this and started approaching people with my work,” says Karan who does not have any references in this industry.

When he started, he was not paid for his work. But that did not stop him from writing. “A profession has to be a combination of passion and talent. If you have only passion and no talent, then you cannot advance in life,” believes Karan.

In August 2006, Karan moved from writing to production. Then he worked for shows like Talent hunt on kids called Rin Mera Star Superstar and was a part of the team that pitched the show Big Boss on Sony.

He’s also worked on new formats at Endemol and pitched them to various channels. Jo Jeeta Wohi Superstar is one such show which is conceptualised and pitched by Karan.

Currently, he is shooting for his first feature film ‘Picnic.’ “I started working on the script of Picnic in 2006 along with my friend Yugandar. Film writing and film making is what I enjoy the most and therefore I took up this assignment,” says Karan who feels that if everything works out well, the film might release by the end of the year. When asked, his take on criticism, Karan had a different point of view. “When you write or direct something, there are chances that you



**KARAN (RIGHT) ON THE SETS OF PICNIC WITH HIS DIRECTOR**

might not be appreciated. But you need to keep your target audience in mind and be confident of what you are making and for whom.” According to him research and instinct play a very important role. “But instinct is what matters the most as each time you cannot work as per the way the critics want. You can’t listen to everybody all the time,” he adds further. While Karan was writing the script of Picnic, most of them who read felt that the audience would not be able to connect to it. But he followed his instinct and today he is busy shooting it.

In spite of this, Karan has no regrets from the way his career has shaped up. “I’ve worked very hard and I consider

myself lucky as people have been very kind to me and appreciated my work.” If not making films or writing what else would Karan like to do? “I have no answer for this. I feel I’m completely useless otherwise.

If not in this industry, then probably I would be doing the same thing in a different field, maybe writing for comic books,” he says. When asked about where he saw himself five years down the line, he quips, “Being 30.” “Jokes apart, I see myself close to making films after having gained so much experience and studying them. I always wanted to study filmmaking but somehow couldn’t do it,” he explains.

But he will always continue writing for Television.

“There is a lot of time between two films and I don’t want to waste my time,” he says. Being constantly productive and working 24x7, is Karan’s mantra in life and he will continue doing this because as he says, ‘that’s what I enjoy the most.’

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