Rajeev on Rumours and Restart

The blue-eyed boy of television, Rajeev Khandelwal is all set to make it big in Bollywood. His character in Kaabil Tel Hoga has managed to completely change people's perception about him. Playing the character of a lover boy, Rajeev Khandelwal managed to leave behind a strong impression amongst hordes of wannabes and women protagonist chasing the limelight. Later doing some serious roles in serials like Time Bomb, CID and Left Right Left, he proved to the world his talent and versatility.

Before the rumours started substantiating his ouster from Left Right Left, Rajeev had opted out, gearing himself to make a debut in Bollywood with Anurag Kashyap's Aamir. You may call his decision unwise, but the actor never differed from backing out from serials even at the peak of his career. Well acquainted with the army life, he believes the script did not justify its subject. “The storyline was not even remotely close to the real army life. The serial had become more of bonding between cadets, and it was drifting away,” claims Rajeev.

Khandelwal has never compromised when it comes to scripts, be it TV serial or a film. “I got 25-30 odd film offers, and I don't regret turning them down because most of them never really worked out,” says Rajeev. According to him, Aamir is the best amongst them all. My character in the movie is of a middleclass doctor who returns from London to India unaware of what's in store for him in Mumbai. The script is the only USP of the movie, and it's a completely performance oriented. In reality, he had to undergo special training under a theatre artist to get into the character.

Yet again, Rajeev is about to explore new horizon, touching upon completely different genre of acting – the comedy. “Comedy is the one genre I haven't touched upon yet. I want to be part of good films not banner,” he elucidates. It is the reason why he wants to keep away from any new projects until the release of his first movie. Rajeev believes that his creativity cannot be the proprietary of any one production house. A passionate documentary writer, he has written more than 30 documentary films based on army and women, which have already been aired on the Doordarshan.

Apart from that, he has also directed documentary dramas. In future, he sees himself directing movies and mini-series but never a soap. “My dream role is the one which I haven't dreamt of yet,” as long as roles give me a scope to grow as an actor, I don't mind doing television.

As for rumours, they don't bother him anymore. He agrees that there would be 'no smoke without fire', and goes on to hint that people deliberately light up fire for you. And then taking a breath of fresh air, Rajeev points out that most TV Super Stars have been a big time Bollywood flops. Though critics have tried to discourage his switching over to Bollywood it hasn't bothered him much. “I believe in destiny and I don't measure my success or failures with what others have achieved,” he concludes.

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