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Karma, Confessions & Randeep!

He is good-looking but his films haven't been looking so good. Meet Randeep Hooda, as he opens up about his past, present and future.

For a beginner, an acting debut in a Mira Nair film would have been nothing less than a dream come true. But for Randeep Hooda, the role played in 'Monsoon Wedding' went almost unnoticed. The film achieved mighty success across the world, but 32 year old Randeep took a while to make his presence felt in the Hindi film industry! "When I saw 'Monsoon Wedding', I realised I had long way to go to bridge the gap between my potential as an actor & my performance on screen. I thought to myself 'God! I stink as an actor!'" confesses Randeep who spent four good years learning the craft by doing theatre before his

second movie hit cinema theatres in 2005. And boy! What a comeback!

'D' - a gritty product out of Ram Gopal Varma's Factory propelled his stardom and placed him straight into mainstream cinema. Like most protagonists in RGV's films, the character of Deshu had a peculiar trait with stark intensity which one would expect only experienced actors to be able to perform. But Randeep stunned the audience with his sheer acting prowess and put him in the league of fresh promising talent. Although films like Risk and Darna Zaroori Hai that he signed thereafter reiterated his image of an intense actor,

Randeep isn't complaining. "Hey, these are just roles. I have played a variety of characters since and they all break that image automatically, so never a problem. I have always felt boundless!" admits Randeep.

This variety was witnessed in films like Love Game (2007) & recently released Ru-Ba-Ru (2008), but the forgettable flicks did nothing more than bite the dust at the box office! "Well, Ru-Ba-Ru could have been better but I'm happy that I've been appreciated a lot in it!" he confided.

Failure of films does concern the actor who alongwith getting appreciated for his work also believes in films to succeed at the box office. "Hey man, box office is very important for an artist as that is somewhere a measure of the amount of people who view your work and trust me I want even other planets to see my work!" said Randeep with a grin. So far, Randeep doesn't hold any regrets about the choices of films he made through his journey in the industry. "Having regrets and mulling over them is one of the best ways of *bleep*ing yourself over and over with no positive result. One has to learn and move on and try and make new mistakes" he says candidly!

Only six films old, but this small town lad only dreams to go higher. "The more I learn, I realise that there is more to learn. It's an ever-growing process. So accomplishment is meant to be chased, not reached, just like a beautiful woman!" winks Randeep. Speaking of women, there's no denying that Randeep Hooda has been in the news more for his on-screen kisses and love affairs. When asked if it bothers him, he bluntly said, "I have developed a very thick skin and don't give a rats ass about it."

As for now, the only thing that Randeep cares about is the long list of his forthcoming films. There is 'Love Khichdi', a story of a young man on what he thinks love is to what it actually is. In the process, he encounters seven different women. It's a hilarious film that sometimes makes you cringe at its honesty. "It's my most mass entertaining film to date!" says Randeep. Then 'Rang Rasiya' in Hindi and the same film in English called 'Colours of Passion' which is a biopic on the life of legendary painter Raja Ravi Varma, who even today, is the most expensive Indian painter after a century since his death. Directed by Ketan Mehta, this film was screened at Cannes film festival earlier this year and is slated to release in India on November 7, 2008.

Then, there is 'Mere Khawbon Mein Jo Aaye' where Randeep plays the ideal man that every woman would want, and every man would want to be. There is yet another Indo-US venture called 'Karma, Confessions and Holi' where Randeep essays the character of an idealistic magazine publisher, honourable yet fun-loving. Apart from these, he's recently taken on a new film called 'Khusarprasad Ka Bhoot' where he plays a childish overgrown bully.

So seems like we will be seeing a lot of this handsome actor this year. "I'm excited about my work getting out there after a long wait!" But when asked whether he was nervous or indifferent about so many releases back to back, he cleverly said, "I'm nervous about the choices I made as an actor for communicating the scenes, and indifferent about the outcome as I did the best I could on that particular day, every day!"

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