



Contest Edition

DATE WITH AKSHAY KUMAR

The king of stunts in a tete-a-tete with Afsha Majid, IX, AIS MV

The most amazing thing happened to me during my trip to Gujarat in the summer vacations. It was like a dream come true. Just by his presence, I could feel the breath being knocked out of me and the very thought of talking to him sent thousands of butterflies fluttering around my stomach. I happened to meet a famous film personality of India and the current king of stunts-Akshay Kumar when he was visiting the famous Ambaji Temple to receive the benediction of Goddess Ambaji.

How was your trip to Ambaji?

It was great. I felt very good and rejuvenated after visiting Ambaji Temple. I am a spiritual person and I wanted to thank God for all the success that I have achieved in life. I am also planning to make a film about Goddess Ambaji.

How does it feel to be so successful?

You see, I believe in hard work and determination. With God's kindness, people of India have always enjoyed my work, giving their appreciation in the form of love.

Any projects in the pipeline?

In July, I will start the shooting of the sequel of 'Once upon a time in Mumbai'. I have also been approached for few other projects.

How was it working for your TV show "Kha-tron ke Khiladi"?

I am a very adventurous person, the stunts and thrills excite me a lot. And, this show has it all. The best part about this show is that it lets the participants conquer their fear. I had a great time working for it and I am glad that it was well received by the audience.

What are your favourite pastimes?

Cooking, playing games like football and cricket and a rigorous training regime so that I stay fit, keeps me occupied. These all may be considered as my favourite pastimes.

STAR-STRUCK:
Afsha Majid, IX AIS MV

Being from Chandni Chowk, what are your feelings towards Delhi? Do you miss being in the city?

Well, Chandni Chowk is the best place in this world. I love everything about Delhi, be it the food, weather, warmth of the people or the development in the city. It is truly the capital of our country, I miss my Delhi.

What is your holiday Mantra?

For me, holidays are a time for complete relaxation. It means absolute family time, accompanied with lots of sleep, lots of eating, reading and playing with my son, Aarav.

Any message for the younger generation?

It is a computer age, but success doesn't come at the speed of computer. It is hard work and a lot of dedication accompanied with motivation, which leads to success in life. Youngsters should understand the basic virtues of life and should not just crave for materialistic pleasures. Everyone can do a little to make the world a better place.

I was on cloud 9 after my first celebrity interview and will remember that experience forever.

Arre yahan toh laash hai!

...and we continue to hear this dialogue till we switch to English serials

Panya Baldia
X A, AIS MV

Breaking down under melo-drama? Anti-depressants, commonly known as 'English TV serials' are what you want. They're short, crisp, humorous, heart racing and the right amount of drama.

Procedural Cop show
Original old equations- Hindi TV serial scenario:
Witness: *Arre yahan toh laash hai!*
Police *bulaao!*
Cops walk into the crime scene
Cop: *Arre yahan toh laash hai!*
Stares at the corpse for 2 minutes thoughtfully
Cop:Hmm...I need more information. Call the medical examiner!
Ad break
Scene resumes with the medical examiner rushing towards the body
M.E.: *Arre yahan toh laash hai!*
(Dude! You deal with dead bodies everyday! Get over it.)
takes a deep breath
Take the *laash* to my lab...
(And the *laash-hai*-syndrome continues for the next 5 episodes...)

Substituting the excessive melo-drama - English TV serial scenario:
Cop walks into the crime scene
M.E: The marks on the neck show a prominent case of strangling, most probably with a plastic rope. The broken ribs and bruises on the wrists suggest a struggle. The wallet was missing but I found a parking ticket from the 5th Avenue. I'll get details when I get the body back in the lab.
Cop: Ryan, contact the victim's family. Check his financials and the place

where this ticket belongs to. Pay a visit to his apartment too. We don't want to leave any stone unturned. People, let's solve this case!
(And in the next forty minutes they go from one suspect to another, crack jokes, have coffee and yet catch the killer. Moving on...)

The love theorem
Elaborate proof - Hindi TV serial scenario:
Boy (talking to self): *Aaj main use*

Graphic: Panya Baldia, X-A, AIS MV

apne dil ki baat batake hi rahunga.
(Wait for it, his resolve is going to be severely tested for the next 30 mins.)
(He roams around the whole college campus looking for the girl. He is about to find her when, filmy music starts to play and winds start to blow, and the girl walks out with a friend, missing him by a second.)
*Ad break *
(His quest for the girl continues through the next 15 minutes when finally he is able to catch hold of her.)
Boy: *stares at her for 5 mins*
I...wanted to...say something.. (Finally!)
Girl: Yeah?
And to be continued....
Short and sweet - English Serial scenario:
Boy: I think I am in love with you. (They share a romantic moment with the background music blending in perfectly.)
Now before the episode ends, they'll go out for a candle light dinner, will get into a fight, patch up and deal with family drama.
The choice is obvious, though if melodrama is your cup of tea, I will leave it up to you.

ARE YOU ABOVE AVERAGE?

Anwesha Padhy
X C, AIS MV

Above Average is a coming of Age novel, set in India's most prestigious college- IIT Delhi. The story revolves around the protagonist Arindham's life as a nerdy middle class boy, struggling to cope with the demands of his new life at IIT and

closely resembles author Amitabha Bagchi's own life. The book explores the various facets of a person's life- aspirations, betrayal, hypocrisy and affection. Being at IIT Arindham is decidedly above average, but it is averageness and acceptance that he seeks. At one point in the book, he says, "Accustomed all our lives to being

lauded as exceptional, we were all scared that the true measure of ourselves, our unremarkable selves, would emerge one day," reflecting the mindset of IITians who struggle to live up to the high expectations. Arindham tries his luck at being a

drummer, but fails and ends up as a research scholar. The simply "Above Average" Arindham strikes a chord with readers, because of the truthfulness with which he tackles the harsh realities of life. Anyone on the threshold of entering the real world should read this book to understand the complexities that await them in the big bad world that lies outside the security of home.

Quite Accentric!

Apoorva Pandey, X E, AIS MV

Mission: Anchoring special assembly
Methodology: Fake accent
Results: Jeering audience...Don't miss the funny remarks! (Oh! And the anchor pretty flustered)
Here, goes to all those people having phony enunciations.
We are the natives of a country, where numerous accents exist depending on where we are born. The notion how accents constituting heavy tones of regional flavours are ridiculed by some sort of elites, who spend their entire life faking an accent to sound polished, who believe that the way they speak English or pinpoint at others' way or mistakes in the way they do, makes them supercilious is beyond understanding. But sadly, what we pay no heed to is the fact that English is a foreign language for all of us barring the English, Americans, etc. So, let's just express our admiration for someone who strived and done what not to master it; and not shower taunts at someone who lagged behind. If one can roll his/her eyes and tongue to blab a word, does not mean s/he is the descendant of the Seventh Earl of England! And shun the perception that only accents reflect one's intellect and demeanour. NOT TRUE.

Illustration: Sukriti Kapoor, XI D, AIS MV