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SINGER CHERYL COLE IS  
SET TO PUBLISH A  
BOOK TITLED *MY*  
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EXCLUSIVE IMAGES



**RISING STAR**

When he made his debut with *Unnale Unnale*, this charmer showed a lot of promise. Now, he has bagged a role as a no-nonsense toughie in the Hollywood project *DAM 999*. Vinay Rai talks to **Shankaran Malini** on his role in the film, passion for rugby and more

## From 'lover boy' to 'angry young man'

**The Hollywood experience in DAM 999**

My role is of an aggressive young man. It is very much in tune with my nature as I am short-tempered and very reserved. It is a completely multicultural set up, with the cast and the crew coming Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and English backgrounds. It is quite a melting pot of talents. Working with legends and experienced actors like Rajat Kapur, Ashish Vidyarthi and Vimala Raman has been a great experience.

**About Nootrukku Nooru**

It is the remake of the Jayashankar starrer. But I haven't watched the original. And I will not until the release of the movie. Working with five heroines in a film, which includes Sneha, Sandhya and Karthika has been a different experience.

**Passion for rugby**

My passion for rugby started just after college. And now I am the president of the Bangalore Rugby Football Club. Owing to my busy schedule, I find it difficult to devote time for the sport. Apart from rugby, I have had a passion for flying too. I could not pursue it at that point, as I could not afford it. But I definitely plan to own an aircraft someday and go around the world. Even today, the Microsoft Flight Simulator is a virtual means of fulfilling my passion.

**Workaholic Vinay**

Would you believe, I haven't taken a break in the last three and a half years. Nobody would even believe that after the romantic role in *Unnale Unnale*, I am becoming rather unromantic

(laughs). Work keeps me busy. But next year, I will be taking a break and going to Europe. A cousin is getting married too at that time. So, it will be a family function as well as an outing of sorts.

**Veele in Telugu**

The shooting for this film was stalled for a while following the Telangana issue in Andhra Pradesh. But it will commence soon.

**Not new to Tamil anymore**

I was born in Bombay and raised in Bangalore. Apart from Tulu, my mother tongue, the only other languages I was comfortable with were English and Hindi. But after *Unnale Unnale*, I have

been getting more and more comfortable with Tamil. I dub for my own films. In fact, there was no prompting in *Jayamkondaan*. It was during *Modhi Vilayadu* that I visited the dubbing theatre for the first time ever.

**Inspirations**

I am a great fan of Mani Ratnam. *Roja* was the first movie I watched in a theatre. And I have not missed a single movie of his since then. Director Jeeva had once said that I should approach Mani Ratnam after *Unnale Unnale*. But I wanted to evolve as an actor to the level that Mani Ratnam himself considers me worthy of a role in his film.

**Fitness mantra**

I like a lean, toned look. I do a lot of cardio. My fitness workouts are short term but fast-paced to get quicker results, which is coupled with a strict diet. But I am also a foodie. And whenever I visit a place, I always make it a point to taste the local cuisine. On the sets of *Unnale Unnale*, Jeeva sir would have *idlis* from Murugan Idly served for me, because he knew that I loved them.

**On religion**

My family members have always been great devotees of Lord Ganapathy, which is why my mother also named me Vinay after the Lord. Even today, I never miss visiting and being part for the local Ganesh festival.

**Walking the ramp**

That's a misconception many people have. I have worked on a few print and film ads and walked the ramp for my friend at the Bangalore Fashion Week. But apart from that I not into modeling.

**Classics vs commercial cinema**  
I prefer classics. There are some films which I watch even today like *The Roman Holiday*, *Casablanca*, *Godfather* and *Come September*.



I love playing rugby and am the president of the Bangalore Rugby Football Club

**MUST SEE | MUST DO**

**FOOD FEST**

Mangalorean food promo at Southern Spice, Taj Coromandel. On till Mar 31



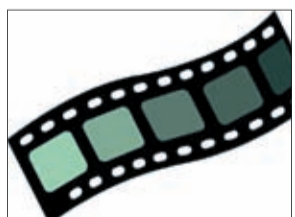
**EXHIBITION:** The Game — Photographs by Ravi Kumar Kashai at Gallery Stumukha. On till April 2

**LEISURE:** Learn to relax at the yoga workshop being conducted by Sri Ramakrishna Math, Myslapore

**FINE DINING:** Are you a foodie? Head for the Marvellous March fest at The Residency. On till Mar 31

**EXHIBITION**

Do not miss the Mexican Cinema Cycle Film Festival at South Indian Film Chamber Theatre. On till Mar 31



**FILM**

Watch *The Book of Eli* starring Denzel Washington and Mila Kunis at Sathyam



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**BEHIND THE SCENES**

With Grand Fashion Day, it was curtains down on a five-day long fashion fest in New Delhi. **Ajay Reddy** trots from runway to after-party and brings you the dope on the happenings when the flashbulbs dim

## Fashionably Yours

"HEY sweetie, my precious... I can't wait for the show to begin, but just calling because I think there's been a mistake... Yes, the back row! Oh, aha, oh I see, well Okkkk then.... but what if...?" Delhi's well-known socialite squealed into the phone as she and her gang of designer-clad divas were ushered into row six. Doing a fine balancing act on 10-centimetre heels and wearing enough grease paint to rival Anna Nicole Smith, she spewed "Damn, you silly cow" after hanging up. Despite her energetic efforts to schmooze, the wannabe prima donna had failed to secure a front-row seat at WIFW, opening ceremony. Standing behind her, while she puffed and panted, I watched her whine to her hapless dude — a duck pout young man in super skinny jeans, silly pink hair and a Gucci bag. He was apparently her stylist. "Oh let's

ditch this horrid designer and spend some time at the lounge," she commanded animatedly as she ruffled her hair as her manservant nodded and catwalked after her.

With the clicking and clacking of super-sized stilettos and women dressed like they were in Saint Tropez, trotting from runway to

amused. During the day, models, designers (even those not showing this season) and buyers would find ample reasons to nibble on green salad and chat about "quirky" habits. A designer known for his proximity to one of the most flamboyant corporate houses, who showcased his collection at a stall but didn't participate in the run-

the wannabe model brigade was out in full force, fully aware of the casting couch phenomena. "I come here every year and have got good contacts with big designers. I do their solo ramp shows for them. With this fashion week the selection process is tougher," said one hunky looking Punjabi model who even had text messages pouring in from a designer who was supposedly inside watching a show. As I worked my charm on him to see the text, he showed it to me! "I will finish up here and let's head back to mine," it read. The designer known for his super tall looks and flashbulb eyes was making a pass at a male model! Well, if that wasn't enough, I fancied a vivacious young funky female model from the backwater regions who cozied up to a designer, while the man sat in the lounge in all his ethnic finery.

Another thing that perplexed me was — why so many long faces from the elite in the front rows? Some looked like they had just escaped Hurricane Katrina! But I figured it out, thanks to my good friend at the venue, "The poker faces are to show no emotion or excitement. They might end up offending the host if they showed any negative emotion." Perhaps that was the intention but I still think it is Botox to blame. Oh and there were self-anointed fashion arbiters who furiously blogged with their fancy palmtops. I met one such enthusiastic blogger who showed me her blog. What was she thinking? The result of so many bloggers scrambling to be the first to upload resulted in hysterical blogs with blurry pictures of ghostly models and equally annoying text. But hey, what they lacked in refinement, they made up with their speed in informing the world about the goings on.

As long-legged divas and hunks towered over us like human fir trees and lesser mortals like myself were completely deprived of the Delhi sunshine, we still got our dose of flashy rays — from the fiery eye make-up which sometimes made the eye look like startled fireflies stuck in a headlight.

**DURING THE DAY, MODELS, DESIGNERS AND BUYERS WOULD NIBBLE ON SALAD AND CHAT**

after-party and an army of snakehipped men carrying huge designer bags stuffed to the brim with clotting paper and compact powder in their wake, the Autumn/Winter fashion fest kept audiences

way display was seen with new arm candy everyday. As publicists and event organisers desperately tried to woo patrons into the lounges where certain designers were 'chilling out',



Illustration: Shinod AP

## HOUSE OF HORRORS

Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet reportedly wants to move out of the New York home she shared with her estranged filmmaker husband Sam Mendes because it reminds her of all the fights she had with her ex-spouse.

Winslet, who split from Mendes earlier this year, is desperate to leave their \$6 million New York mansion because she can't stop thinking about the arguments they had since they moved there in 2005.

"Kate really wants to leave the apartment. She sees it as a house of horrors because of the fights she and Sam had there. She feels it is tainted," said a source.

The 34-year-old star is desperate to return to Britain as soon as possible, so she can spend time with her close friends. However, she is contracted to work on *Mildred Pierce*, a five-hour-long mini-series which is based on a novel by James M Cain, before she can make the move.



**Wishing you all the Joy of Easter**

Easter goodies are available at our outlets

