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Vidya in vacation mode! P2

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AMITABH-REKHA REVISITED

John Abraham and Priyanka Chopra set to reprise veteran actors' chartbuster; PC's first item number to be shot in January

Prashant Singh prashant.singh@hindustantimes.com

Be it with her sexy 'desi girl' moves in Dostana (2008) or more recently in Agneepath, Priyanka Chopra has proved that she can dance. But while she has danced in her own films, she's never really done an item number. Until now.

Priyanka is now confirmed for an item song for Sanjay Gupta's Shootout At Wadala (SAW), starring John Abraham. Priyanka and John will revisit a classic Amitabh Bachchan-Rekha song: the yesteryear hit 'Salaam-e-ishq' from Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978).

The song will see Priyanka reprising Rekha's bit from the original song, while John emulates Amitabh. "Don't be surprised if the item number reminds you of Bachchan and Rekha's yesteryear hit," says an insider from the unit. In the song, John will also reprise the 'Jumma chumma de de'



Amitabh Bachchan with Rekha

song from Hum (1991). The insider adds, "The 'Jumma chumma' portion will have a different setting — a kotha and not a dockyard."

The song will be shot in January. "Sanjay and Ekta (Kapoor, producer) are keeping things under wraps. They haven't decided on the choreographer yet," says the insider. "The number will merge mujra with tapori dance, like Bachchan's moves in Hum. We will also see traces of

'Apni toh jaise taise' from Laawaris (1981)."

Bipasha Basu was earlier supposed to do the item number, but Priyanka is now confirmed to replace her (John was apparently not comfortable dancing with his ex-girlfriend). PC and John, however, share a good relationship, having worked together in Karam (2005), Dostana and 7 Khoon Maaf (2011).

"Before agreeing to do the song, Priyanka watched the film and was impressed by it," adds the insider.

Although PC says that "till now" she's not doing any (item) song, sources insist she has agreed in principle but will hear the final version of the song next week. Gupta remained unavailable for a comment.



Priyanka Chopra

PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH

Ekta favours Priyanka?

A few days back, Ekta Kapoor said she was very impressed with Priyanka's "professionalism and hardworking nature" at an award function. Ekta had told her, "We will work together the moment I have a role for you." Later, it was announced that Priyanka is doing the Ekta-produced Tigraasu Dhulia-directed Milan Talkies. And now, we hear that the producer has been instrumental in roping Priyanka in for the item number in SAW. "Ekta wanted an A-list star for the song. And since both of them are very close, Ekta offered the song to Priyanka, who has more or less said yes," says an insider. On being contacted, the producer told us to "wait and watch".

>> Ekta says no to reality TV P2

Akshay's tournament sports big price tag

Actor will spend a whopping ₹3 crore on his annual martial arts tournament this year

Prashant Singh prashant.singh@hindustantimes.com

Akshay Kumar has a black belt in Taekwondo. He's also studied martial arts in Bangkok and followed it up with Muay Thai lessons. It's no wonder then that the actor started his own martial arts tournament a few years ago.

Now, as the Akshay Kumar International Judo-Karate Championship enters its fourth year, we've heard that he's investing even more time and money into this venture — the latter being pegged at a reported ₹3 crore.

"The championship is very

close to Akshay's heart. Since he started his career with karate and martial arts, he doesn't mind spending the money if he has the wherewithal to do it. Also, in a country where the entire focus is on cricket, this is his way of popularising karate and giving people from the hinterlands a big opportunity. Last year, he spent around ₹2 crore, but since the tournament has become bigger now, the expenditure has gone up to ₹3 crore," says an insider, adding, "Akshay will personally attend the tournament. He has already taken out time from his schedule."

The tournament is to be held from November 7-10 at Andheri Sports Complex, with 5,800 participants (there were 4,300 last year), 400 referees and 8-10 rings. "The prize money has also been increased from ₹18-20 lakh to ₹25 lakh," claims the



Akshay Kumar displays his judo skills

insider.

Like the previous years, accommodation, food and participation are free for all athletes, including those from

countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, UAE and Japan. When contacted, Akshay remained unavailable for a comment.

Ajay returns Salman's favour, donates KBC prize money to Being Human



A still from Son Of Sardar

Ajay Devgn and Salman Khan seem to have become great friends. It was only a while ago that Salman took time out from his busy Dabangg 2 schedule to shoot a song titled 'Po po' for Ajay's upcoming film, Son Of Sardar (SOS).

Thrilled with the gesture, Ajay has now reciprocated it in a big way. The actor and his co-star Sonakshi Sinha recently shot for an episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC),

and very generously donated their prize amount to Salman's charity, Being Human.

KBC host Amitabh Bachchan wrote on his blog along with a picture of the episode: "And as you can see had the lead pair of Son of Sardar their latest film on release - Ajay Devgn and Sonakshi Sinha, who came over to play for Salman Khan's charity Being Human at KBC and Sonakshi teaching us a few elementary dance moves from

the film (sic)." We've also heard that Salman was the one who made Ajay hear the song he'd shot for, a long time ago. So when the latter asked Sallu if he could use the song, he readily agreed. Reports also suggest that later, Ajay returned the favour by giving away Sonakshi's dates for SOS promotions to Salman's Dabangg 2 shooting.

- Prashant Singh

John Abraham

Paris Hilton in the House?

American heiress, along with Shane Warne, Liz Hurley, Mike Tyson and Padma Lakshmi on shortlist to enter reality show this season

Kavita Awaasthi kavita.awaasthi@hindustantimes.com

After giving the show a family-oriented twist this season, the makers of Bigg Boss are now gearing up to add one international name to the mix.

The channel, Colors, has approached seven global celebrities, one of whom will appear on the show for a few days.

An insider reveals, "There are seven



Paris Hilton

celebrities who have been approached, including Paris Hilton and actor Julia Roberts. The other names are actor Jackie Chan, boxer Mike Tyson, television host Padma Lakshmi, retired Australian cricketer Shane Warne and his fiancée, actor Liz Hurley."

Apparently, some Pakistani celebrities were approached too. "But the channel wants to play it safe. Also, two other Indian personalities will also enter the house in early November. One of the international names will be finalised as per their availability and fee. The production house and channel hope to lock the name in

two weeks and bring the celebrity to India by the end of November," says the insider.

In the previous two seasons, Baywatch actor Pamela Anderson, former Australian cricketer Andrew Symonds and sumo wrestler Yamamotoyama have appeared on the show. They stayed in the house for three and seven days and one day respectively.

Earlier, in season two, late Jade Goody — infamous for her racial slurs against Shilpa Shetty on the UK's Big Brother show — had stayed on



EYE ON BIGG BOSS

the show for a longer duration. In season four, Pakistani personalities Veena Malik and Begum Nawazish Ali were among the inmates. The former has stayed back to make a Bollywood career in India.

Indian-origin wrestler The Great Khali stayed on till the end on season four, and last year on season five, adult film actor Sunny Leone entered the house, where she was even offered a film that kick-started her Bollywood career.



Liz Hurley, Shane Warne, Mike Tyson and Padma Lakshmi

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