

TAMIL FILMS

Simbu reaffirms Dhanush's words



Just a few days back Dhanush had created headlines saying that Silambarasan and he were indeed friends. Dhanush's speech at the audio launch of *Pori* had been the talk of the industry as he and Simbu were seen as rivals. Now Dhanush's words are finding resonance in Simbu's.

After his return from a hectic trip abroad, Simbu has reaffirmed Dhanush's opinions. Saying that he had always been friendly with Dhanush, Simbu however said that rivalry in career was always bound to be there. Stating that he was happy for Dhanush's success in *Thruvilaiyadal Arambam*, Simbu revealed that he had spoken to Dhanush after his return from abroad. "I congratulated him on becoming a father."

Priya Mani eagerly expecting Paruthi Veeran



Priya Mani, who has the looks and talent and has acted under top directors like Bharathiraja and Balu Mahendra, is eagerly awaiting the release of *Paruthi Veeran*. The girl who is also no slouch in glamour stakes, had a very inertia-filled start to her career. For *Paruthi Veeran* that is set for Pongal release, the portents are good. Lady Luck has smiled on this damsel in Telugu too.

Yes, Priya Mani has found a new niche in Telugu. One of her releases, named *Pellaina Kothalo*, has been declared a hit.

More than that, her performance in the film has been noticed and appreciated. Now she is all set to do a high-stakes movie named *Yamadonga* with NTR. So things have actually started to move in the right direction for Priya Mani. Now she has to translate that into viable success in Tamil.

Anwar is looking interesting

Coming Friday sees the release of *Anwar* that stars Siddharth Koirala in the title role. Pitted against *Guru*, it is indeed a tough task for *Anwar* to make its presence felt at the box office but by the look of things; it does appear to be a good, dramatic outing in the offering.

Based on the backdrop of an innocent man [Anwar] caught in the web of politics, communism, media, law keepers and last but not the least, betrayed love, the film is the second directorial outing of Manish Jha who had debuted with a stunning and hard hitting *Matrabhoomi* a few years back.

Initial reports indicate that *Anwar* is yet another good effort by Jha who has walked a tightrope in narrating the tale of the central protagonist named *Anwar* and extracted superlative performances by his entire main and supporting cast.



Bollywood

Why does Dia Mirza keep weeping?

Normally bubbly and ever so smiling, Dia Mirza is sad...and she is weeping inconsolably! In her upcoming film *Honeymoon Travels Pvt Ltd.*, she plays the role of a Gujarati girl named Shilpa who has just got married to Ranvir Shorey.

Unhappy with her marriage and now on a package honeymoon trip with five other couples, she continues to be sad about the state of affairs and is found weeping for most part of her journey.

The grapevine indicates that her character in the film is shown to be in love with another man. Will she find him at the end of her tour and wipe off her tears? Also would Ranvir allow her to embrace him *a la Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*? Come February 2 we should have the answer!



Meet Brothers have a question

"Mika - Tune Pappi Kyon Li" - is the question Meet Brothers have been openly asking Mika with their latest song offering that has the namesake lyrics. As a follow up to the Mika-Rakhi Sawant kissing controversy that rocked the nation last year, Meet Brothers and Mika, who are friends in real life,

have cut a new album which has this song as its major attraction.

The music video of the song is out and also aims at some laughter with a female model giving a tell-tale account of the kissing, *a la Madame Sawant's* outburst in front of media when the actual incident had happened.

Vikram Bhatt pairs with regular Praveen Bhatt for Red

Director Vikram Bhatt and cinematographer Praveen Bhatt are almost Siamese twins when it comes to their projects. After all the two have been working together for years now! A Mahesh Bhatt protegee who has earlier worked in his films like *Janam*, *Naam*, *Kaash*, *Aashique*, *Saathi*, *Sadak*, *Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayi* and around half a dozen more flicks, Praveen Bhatt has formed a fruitful partnership with Vikram Bhatt as well over the years.

And now Vikram Bhatt and Praveen Bhatt have united again for *Red* that stars Aftab Shivdasani, Celina Jaitley, Amrita Rao and Sushant Singh in principal roles. This ace cinematographer's touch is quite evident in each of the frames, especially due to the now-famous night-blue lighting that Bhatt's have been famous for.



Akshaye Khanna set to steal the applause in SEI

When *Salaam E Ishq* was in the making, all must have thought that the film would have Salman Khan hogging the limelight and glory.

But with the latest promos of the film being out, it appears that Akshaye Khanna would be the young man who may eventually run away with the honours!

With numerous witty lines belonging to his character named Shiven who is a nice man to be with but has only one problem in life, commitment to marriage, it seems quite obvious that Akshaye would bring the house down every time he appears on screen.

Paired opposite Ayesha Takia again after *Shaadi Se Pehle*, one looks forward to another spirited performance by Akshaye Khanna after *36 China Town* and *Aap Ki Khatir* that came last year.



Pitt the perfect father figure

Angelina Jolie was looking for a father to her children before she met Brad Pitt, and she's so impressed with his parenting skills she now wants a huge family with him.

The actress has lavished praise on her partner, insisting he's a caring humanitarian and a fantastic dad to the couple's adopted son, Maddox, 5, and their biological daughter, seven-month-old Shiloh.

She reveals, "What I wanted was to find somebody who, first and foremost, was a great father, because I was already a parent. Yes, I needed somebody who cared about the issues. But it's not just that Brad will travel and he loves kids. He's a thoughtful, intelligent man.

"We definitely want a very big family. It might seem crazy to build it so quickly. But if we're going to have 10 kids, we'd like to raise them while we're young."

Manson marriage over



Shock rocker Marilyn Manson's marriage to burlesque star Dita Von Teese is over after just a year, according to reports.

The former *Playboy* model and dancer — real name Heather Renee Sweet — filed for divorce before Christmas but has been unable to find Manson to serve him with the papers, according to the *New York Post*.

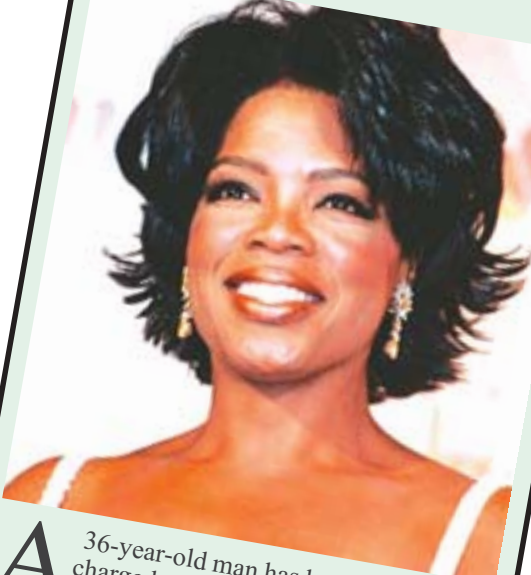
Sources claim Von Teese, 34, cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for separation, adding that Manson's alcohol use was a factor.

One friend tells *Post* gossip column *Page Six*, "She tried to tell him she was divorcing him, but she can't even get him on the phone. She's moved out of the house and he hasn't even noticed."

Hollywood

Movie world with Arthur Wamanan and Warren Balthazaar

Extortion attempt on Oprah



A 36-year-old man has been arrested and charged with attempting to extort \$1.5 million from TV titan Oprah Winfrey. A criminal complaint filed in Chicago's District Court claims Atlanta man Keifer Bonvillain, 36, targeted "a public figure and owner of a Chicago-based company." Local newspapers *The Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times* have named Winfrey as the victim in question. Bonvillain is accused of illegally recording conversations with a Winfrey employee he met at a party over two years ago.

The complaint claims Bonvillain e-mailed the "owner" in October saying he had 'records' about her.

Bonvillain is also alleged to have told the associate he would publish a book based on the recordings unless he received a substantial amount of money.

After the associate got in touch with the FBI, he agreed to a \$1.5 million price for the tapes and offered to meet Bonvillain in a car park. Bonvillain was arrested the following day.

Bonvillain has refused to confirm or deny he attempted to extort money out of Winfrey, but says of the charges, "There is nothing to (the charges). It's nothing. It was a big mix-up."

Spears & Federline agree for custody



Britney Spears and Kevin Federline have agreed to share custody of their sons, Jayden James and Sean Preston, for the remainder of January.

Spears has agreed to let her estranged husband have physical custody of the boys every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon at her home.

Under the arrangement, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Spears will be allowed to be present

for her husband's playtime with his kids — but she won't be able to prevent him from seeing the boys, aged one and four months.

In return for his estranged wife's custody terms, Federline has given Spears permission to take the children to Florida for a week.

The pair is expected to use the month as a testing ground for future custody arrangements. They will decide on custody matters from February and beyond later this month.

Brutal behaviour by Tyrese

R&B singer Tyrese is under investigation by the Los Angeles police for an incident involving the singer reportedly assaulting his pregnant girlfriend by punching her twice in the stomach.

The singer's live-in girlfriend has made statements to the police that the two were involved in an argument that escalated to violence. The argument took place in the early morning hours of Thursday, January 4th, at the couple's Los Angeles home.

Paramedics were called to the scene after Tyrese allegedly struck his girlfriend (who is five months pregnant) twice in the stomach and then left the scene in his vehicle, according to reports posted on TMZ.com.

