



■ By Aasawari Shenolikar

FILMS, television, theatre, ad campaigns, - anything and everything with the world of entertainment in Bollywood, Hollywood or UK - you name it and Rahul Nath has done it. He hasn't dabbled in it, but made a name for himself in all the creative things that he's indulged in. Rahul Nath, while talking to *The Hitavada*, reveals why he is a jack-of-all-trades and a master of all.

A dentist by profession, he discovered his creative side when he was studying. A Bollywood buff, he started doing stage shows in London. "I love dance and it was natural for me to foray first into this medium. I learnt different styles of dance and because I was totally smitten by Bollywood, I mastered the techniques of Bollywood dance." And while he was busy tapping his feet, eyes of an agent in London fell upon this guy.

"He steered me towards acting. I was reluctant to get into this field because I've had no formal training. But then on second thought, I thought of taking this different road and so my career in TV and later in theatre took off."

After gaining confidence that he can hold his own, he auditioned for a TV show by Fox Network that was to be aired in USA. "The audition took place in September 2007 and I got a confirmation call in 2008. The change from London to LA was smooth, and when I started work, I realised that the pace in US is much faster and TV is much, much bigger than what it was back in the UK," says Rahul. The exposure was great, and it opened many doors for him. "It was at this time that I signed ad campaigns and did *Intel* that was aired in 14 countries. Of the ten campaigns that I've done, this is the biggest."

Bit roles in Hollywood and Bollywood

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JACK OF ALL TRADES AND MASTER, TOO!

films kept him busy. How does he manage to have all his fingers in different pies? He laughs before replying, "I strongly believe that you must love what you do. If you follow this, things naturally happen. Though I work round the clock, doing different things, I've never felt any strain. That's because I thoroughly love and enjoy whatever I do."

Rahul started his career with Bollywood dancing and life has come a full circle for him. "I didn't do any professional dancing for the past 15 years but now looking at the love people are developing towards Bollywood dancing, I thought of introducing this in a new format. And recently, I've released an aerobic DVD called *Bollywood Aerobics*, that is a cardio combination of the latest Bollywood dance moves with a non-stop cardio workout. Fitness freaks and dance enthusiasts have picked this off the shelf in no time and it's become a huge hit all over USA."

Rahul has also written and directed short films. His film *Foreign* that revolves around Radhika a young and naive girl, who is looking forward to her new married life in America. However, once she arrives, she is shocked to learn that both her husband and mother-in-law are abusive, was received well. "For an actor who has been in this field for a long time, and who is interested in other aspects of film making, becoming a writer and director is a natural progression. And so I

thought that because I have written it, I know the details and the nuances that I want to bring across. So, I thought why not act also."

Ask him which phase of his creative life he has enjoyed most, and he says,

"It's difficult to pin point.

It's like my cycle.

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dancing. I think it's all interconnected, and I've loved every phase." And then he mentions that he's found directing highly satisfying. "To help actors further their acting talent, to help them perform better is very satisfying."

And what has he learnt from acting?

"Acting helped me become mature. I became mentally tough. And to survive in this

industry, inner strength is what you need. It helped me look at life and people with a different perspective."

Having been associated with Hollywood and Bollywood, what is the difference that he finds in the working styles of two of the greatest film industries? "Bollywood is more about glamour. If one is good looking has a perfect screen presence, has the X-factor to shine on screen, then that person stands a chance to see himself/herself on the big screen. But, Hollywood is more about acting. You can be a nobody, your face can be pock-marked, you can be fat and ugly, but if you have the talent to act, then Hollywood can make you the next super actor."

Having said that he reiterates that he loves his work - and doesn't care from which part of the world he is called to

sign on for a role -

"As long as it is about acting, I'm game for it."

