



Anita Aikara

A Bombay girl, she has her heart set on the cultural scene & is drawn to art in its myriad forms

You got a Bollywood star on your clutch

NEIL DANTAS

A passion for creativity and an inquisitive nature urged this NID post-graduate to quit his job as an industrial designer and explore his creative side. That was way back in 2002, when SoBo resident Neil Dantas came out with graphics on various topics on T-shirts, which he makes a living from. Don't mistake Dantas for any ordinary artist.



NEIL DANTAS

An interior design student from Mumbai's JJ School of Art, Dantas shot to fame with his 'My Mumbai' series. Yes, Dantas is the man, who popularised BEST's bus tickets by painting them on T-shirts and wooden chests. Among his Bollywood kitsch art are T-shirts with filmi lyrics. Take the case of the *Pal pal dil ke paas* T-shirt that has the lyrics inscribed on them or the art decor about the fading single theatres in Mumbai with the lyrics *Yeh dil, hai mushkil, jeena yahan...*

"I have been very passionate about design since childhood. Mumbai has always inspired me and my inquisitive nature prompted me to keep asking questions. Whenever, I used to travel and come across something interesting, I used to make a doodle of it," gushes Dantas, who now has extended his love for art to designing T-shirts.

Ask him why he hasn't extended his creativity to other accessories and he replies, "Because that's all that I can afford!" Dantas presently doesn't own a store, but operates via Facebook. "The products I design get a lot of likes, so I'm guessing that there is a big market for kitsch."

www.facebook.com/neildantas

INDERJIT NAGI & SYED ALI

Co-creators Inderjit Nagi's and Syed Ali Arif's brainchild, Item Number is a brand you are a die-hard Bollywood fan. The duo has created a wide range of Bollywood-inspired cushion covers, coasters, mugs, mousepads and fashion accessories. According to Inderjit, Item Number nudges you to think retro. "It is filled with madness, colour, vibrance and design," gushes the co-creator, "We love Bollywood—the present and what it used to be in its glorious past."

While Arif is from a design background and a painter by profession, Inderjit is a well-known fashion designer. "We club our sensibilities together and take decisions," quips Inderjit. At Item Number, the emphasis is on the emotions portrayed by the filmi characters. "We play around with emotions and love to experiment," admits Inderjit, "Our products appeal to people across all generations. While the older crowd might not buy our clutch or tote bags, they surely love to purchase our coasters, cushions and mugs."

www.facebook.com/itemnumber

NIDHI SINGH

Nidhi Singh quit her media job and launched Indigreen in 2009—a fair trade business enterprise and an ecosystem of sorts that helps support a very talented team of artists and women. A crusader of global warming, Singh has attempted to sync the colour and vibrance of Bollywood with the green cause through her product line. From belts that read "Piya tu ab to aaja, global warming se earth bahke, ab to bacha ja" to hilarious tweets like "Ooh la la, ooh la la... organic fashion hai meri fantasteeee...ab main eco-friendly ho chaleee" (@indigreenbakbak). Singh has gone to great lengths to forward the green cause through the vintage Bollywood-inspired collection available at her online store, Indigreen.co.in. Going green Bollywood style is the unofficial motto of Indigreen. "My motto is pretty simple: Promoting the cause of a happy, green Planet through Bollywood art & humor. Who says going green should be boring?," says Singh adding that at Indigreen, vintage Bollywood is an all-time favourite and Rajnikanth designs are evergreen bestsellers.

Clearly, there is nothing more quirky, colorful, fun and eye-catching than Bollywood and you can have Singh's word for it. "I did not want to be just another Page 3 designer. I wanted to create a brand that has a life and personality of its own. I am a movie buff and I know that when it comes to being quirky, mad, colorful, crazy and simply obnoxious—nothing can ever beat Bollywood," quips Singh.

www.indigreen.in

HINESH JETHWANI

When Mumbai-based computer engineer, Hinesh Jethwani, started Indian Hippy he gave Bollywood fans a reason to smile and also helped revive the career of artists who once used to hand-paint Bollywood posters. "Gone are those days when hand-painted posters were in vogue. Today it is all digital. That's when I took it upon myself to revive this beautiful art form," he informs. Jethwani has hired the services of unemployed painters to recreate forgotten vintage Bollywood film posters on to fashion accessories.

With time Jethwani has added more products to his collection. His latest offering is hand-painted vinyl LP records to celebrate 100 years of Indian cinema. "We have taken old vinyl LP



Hinesh Jethwani



Hand-painted Bollywood inspired chair by Indian Hippy



Clutch and cushion covers by Item Number

records of Bollywood blockbusters containing some of the most memorable songs in the history of Indian cinema and hand-painted them and converted them into wall clocks. We have painted just one side of the LP record. So, if the customer wants he can actually play the other side of the LP record," gushes Jethwani who owns a huge collection of Bollywood vintage memorabilia and around 5000 old movie posters.

The collection at Indian Hippy also includes hand-painted Bollywood-inspired furniture, signboards, with popular Bollywood dialogues which he has tweaked a little. For example, Amitabh Bachchan's popular line "Hum jahaan khade hote hai, line wahi se shuru hoti hai" has been used to create a restroom signboard. "There's another one which reads, 'Main aaj bhi phate hue note nahi leta'. It can be put up in shops," gushes Jethwani adding, "We want to bring a smile on people's faces when they read the signboards."

Jethwani also has a team of hand-painters who can actually recreate any classic, vintage or new Bollywood movie poster on canvas, with the added twist that the faces of the stars are replaced with those of the customers. "There's a great

demand for this in Bollywood-styled weddings," adds Jethwani, who has also recreated vintage posters on hand-painted bags, clutch purses and wallets.

www.hippy.in

Upcoming events @ NCPA

WHAT WHERE

Little Theatre

Fresh Pk Series: The Bright Day
Fri 19, April 2013, 6.30 PM



WHAT WHERE

Dance Theatre Godrej

NCPA-NT Live: People
Sat 20, April 2013, 3.00 PM



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COMIC STATION

If there is one thing stand up comedians love, it's interviews. We love talking to people about what we do...people in magazines, people in newspapers, that cute girl I see every day at the bus stop. Although the girl probably doesn't like strangers talking to her about their dreams and aspirations. That must explain the restraining order. The point being, we love interviews. The good folk at dna realised this and decided to take our love for interviews a step further. Starting this week, ever week I'll be interviewing one comedian. This week I had a chat with my buddy and colleague at Weirdest Comedy – Rohan Joshi, who is easily one of the best comics in the city right now. He is talented, hilarious, intelligent and has paid me enough money to say all this!

A generic introduction question to begin with, just so our readers know:
How did stand up comedy happen for you?

ROHAN JOSHI: So a journalist walks into a bar... (Sorry, I couldn't resist) There's an open-mic happening, and the people there seem good, but it doesn't look like rocket science. So the next month, I wrote a little material and went up on stage myself. And the crowd really responded to it, and I had the best two minutes of my life (excluding the time I met Shane Warne) on stage. And I knew that this is what I want to do.

Is there such a thing as best/worst area to perform in this city? What according to you are these areas?

RJ: I don't think there's a best or worst area, if by area you mean geographical location.

Maybe Kurla, just because it's so difficult to get to Kurla, but it depends more on the venue than the area. Does it attract an open-minded audience? Is the owner of the venue cooperative enough to shut down the bar while the comedian is on stage so the audience isn't distracted? A good venue could be in Colaba or in Andheri, or anywhere really. And so could a bad one.

Tell us one thing you love about town and one thing you hate about it.

RJ: What I love about town is that it has no auto-rickshaws. What I hate about town is how clueless townies are about the city beyond the sealink.

What has been the weirdest experience you've had on stage?

RJ: I once did a show at a bar where the organiser hadn't promoted it at all. I don't think the bar owner or the people there knew I was supposed to perform. So I ended up speaking to a crowd of people, who were

eating their dinner and ignoring me. One group, right next to the stage, was having a birthday party. I think one guy actually blew hookah smoke in my face. I was supposed to do 30 minutes. I did 11.

At every other show there is that one person in the audience who loves to participate in the show. How do you deal with hecklers?

RJ: Hecklers can actually be great fun, because if the audience likes you, they don't want to see you interrupted. So if someone bugs me, I gently pick on them and make fun of them. The audience automatically likes you more and is on your side, because they want him to shut up too. And it builds credibility, because they also look at you and think "Wow, he came up with those jokes to make fun of that guy on the spot. He isn't just good at rehearsed jokes."

My mom loves listening to my jokes, and if she doesn't find something funny, she tells me with a stern face to change it! How do your par-

ents react to you doing stand up comedy?

RJ: I'm lucky and happy to say that they're extremely proud and supportive.

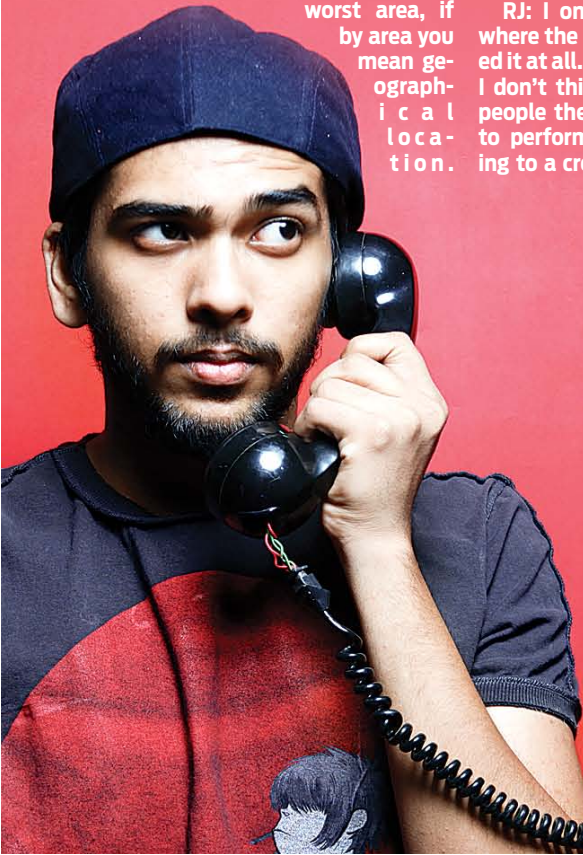
Though they both tell me, with no malice, that they prefer gentler, not-so-adult, not-so-explicit humor.

I'm sure you've encountered someone — usually a distant relative - who's said these annoying words: "hey you're a comedian na? Tell joke na!" What do you say to such people?

RJ: "It's my day off. Also, Buy a goddamned ticket like everyone else"

We can be as popular as Bollywood celebs. So in true Bollywood style, what's the one thing you want to say to the millions of fans who are reading this right now?

RJ: Mother Teresa.



Take five

Laugh your weekend away with funny man Amogh Ranadive's five picks

FOLLOW



@the_happynoodle

If you've been on twitter for a while, you probably must already be following her. If not, shame on you. Remedy this as soon as possible. This girl is hilarious.

WATCH TV



Archer. I think one of the best animated comedies on TV now. With a great ensemble cast, Archer is loud, politically incorrect, dark, gory and hilarious. You have the right to spam me with hate mail if you don't LOL at least once in an episode.

LOOK OUT FOR



Abish Mathew. If you ever see him listed as one of the performers on a stand up night at any location, catch him. The man is a phenomenal performer – with acute observations and music being his weapon of choice. And ladies, he's cute too.

WATCH STAND UP



OH MY GOD. No, this is not me revealing my bedroom face to you in words. It is American comedian Louis CK's latest one hour special, aired recently on HBO. Get it online on 'those' sites.

DOWNLOAD



The memegenerator app for your iOS phone. If you're a fan of Internet memes and think you have it in you to create your own meme, this app makes the task easy as pie. The phrase should be more like 'easy as Kim Kardashian.'

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