

Leeds girl is a Bollywood star-maker



SLIDESHOW
ONLINE

WATCH AT:
yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk

STAR SPOTTER: Naaila Mughal with people hoping to be cast as extras in a new Bollywood film to be part-shot in Yorkshire. *From left, Lisamarie Kakuya, Dal Kaur, Ansar Hussain, Arslan Ali, Naushad Qayyum, Mia Sohel, and Lee Stavers*

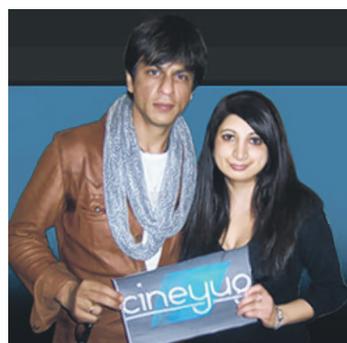
From Moortown...to Mumbai's tinsel town

BY AISHA IQBAL

LEEDS lass Naaila Mughal has journeyed from Moortown to Mumbai to become a top Bollywood talent scout – and she's happy to make a song and dance about it!

The former Allerton Grange pupil, who grew up in the North of the city, is now a casting director and production manager for the world's biggest movie industry. She spends much of her time hanging out with the Indian film glitterati and has major Bollywood stars on speed dial. But she was back in her hometown this week to recruit an army of extras for a new film starring subcontinent superstars Shahid Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra. The movie will be filmed partly in Leeds next month and will feature a cast of extras made up of up to 50 Loiners. Naaila, who is in her 30s, said her passion for Bollywood – renowned for its colour and song-and-dance spectacle – started at a young age when she would watch the latest

flicks with her mum. After being invited to meet her favourite actor Mithun Chakraborty, an 80s superstar, her Bollywood destiny was sealed. "I really started to enjoy the buzz and was meeting big stars of the



THE KING AND I: Naaila with 'King Khan' Shahrukh Khan, Bollywood's number one star

time," she said. An early career organising Bollywood concerts led to film work and her first-ever film credit on period epic *Veer*. Naaila recently scored her proudest coup – signing India's current

number one star, Shahrukh Khan, as an ambassador for her work. She even made her own film debut in Mr Khan's new film, a superhero flick called *Ra.One*, where she plays a nurse in a song and dance sequence.

"I go to Mumbai every year but I am not seduced by the glamour of it all," she said. "I am still a down to earth Leeds girl.

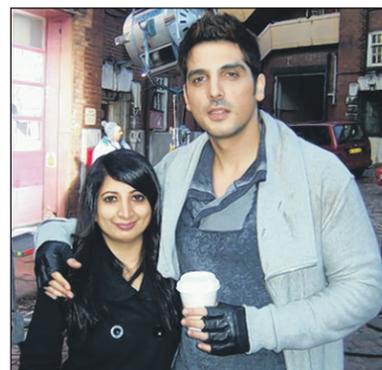
"They did struggle to understand my Yorkshire accent at first and they used to take the mickey out of me about it!"

Naaila is circumspect about her Bollywood success but admits seeing her name at the end of a blockbusting film for the first time "felt good".

"People think it's pure glamour but it's very hard work," she said. "My passion does lie in Bollywood. I am often stressed and have no sleep. But I still love it."

As well as kick-starting many acting careers with her casting work, Naaila has also launched a Bollywood acting academy. Visit www.naailamughalartistes.com and www.thebollywoodacademy.com for details.

aisha.iqbal@ypn.co.uk



MEETING STARS: Naaila with Zayed Khan, and below, with Ajay Devgan – Bollywood's own brooding Al Pacino-type



NEWS FILE
wednesday

Discussion on elected mayors

A DEBATE on whether Leeds should have an elected mayor will be hosted by the Leeds Chamber Business Forum on July 28 from 5pm to 7pm. It will take place at the DWF offices at Bridgewater Place on Water Lane in Leeds. The event is free. To book, email events@yourchamber.org.uk.

Gabby launches gymnastics prize

SPORTS presenter and former gymnast Gabby Logan paid a visit to a local school to launch a new trophy. The Gabby Logan Gymnastics Trophy will be awarded to a pupil at St John's Catholic School for the Deaf, in Boston Spa, for the student who makes the most progress in the sport.

Coroner's office seeks relatives

THE Coroner is appealing for the relatives of Mary Kevins Bone McNaught to come forward. Mary, 67, died at home on Dennil Crescent, Cross Gates, on July 13, of natural causes. It is believed she previously worked for Leeds Social Services. Relatives should call 0113 397 0602.

Charity AGM disco and buffet

THE public are invited to the People In Action annual general meeting and celebration of volunteers on Wednesday, July 27, from 7pm, at St Chad's, in Headingley. Entry is free. Tickets for the post-AGM disco and buffet cost £10 with all proceeds going to the charity. Call 0113 247 0411.

P&O

cairnryan - larne 1 hr
troon - larne 2 hrs

The shortest, fastest crossings to Ireland.

Whether you want to walk in giant footsteps at the Causeway Coast, escape from it all on Donegal's windswept Atlantic beaches, shop until you drop in bustling Dublin and Belfast or go wild in Wicklow, the garden of Ireland...

you'll have more time to explore when you take your car to Ireland on the shortest fastest crossings with P&O Ferries.

Web Economy Single car + driver from
£99



more crossings. more routes.

more reasons to go with **POferries.com**
0871 66 44 777

P&O
Ireland Ferries

cairnryan / troon larne • liverpool dublin • dover calais • hull zeebrugge / rotterdam
Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Calls from mobiles will be higher. *Subject to availability, booking conditions apply.

Just the ticket as campaign brings trial increase in buses

A CAMPAIGN for increased bus services in west Leeds has ended in locals winning a doubling in daytime services in their neighbourhood.

Bus company First has agreed to a trial increase of the number 86 serv-

ice between Bramley and Rodley, doubling the number of buses that will pass through Rodley during the middle of the day.

From August 30, the service will operate half hourly between 10.57am

and 2.27pm with return half hourly between 10.01am and 2.01pm.

Leeds West MP Rachel Reeves, who made representations to First Leeds and Metro on behalf of locals, said: "I am delighted. Hundreds of

residents wrote letters to me and signed a petition asking for a better service to and from Rodley. I am very pleased that First have taken the views of local residents on board in drafting this new timetable."