

# Mansi Bagla donning the director's hat and collaborating with G. Ashok to remake three South Indian superhits

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PRODUCER Mansi Bagla and filmmaker G. Ashok have come together under Mini Films to remake 3 super hit South Indian films in Hindi. What's more is Mansi becoming a director for the first time, remaking Ninnu Kori, a Telugu superhit, in Marathi. Wishing her on her birthday today, Mid-day had an exclusive chat to know how the year went for her, how she conquers hindrances, and what's cooking at the work.

## Tell us about your journey into filmmaking.

It's been enlightening! - I got to learn from many brilliant directors and writers. G. Ashok Sir has been a tremendous strength and his precious guidance has proven to be extremely fruitful for me, allowing me to take up challenges. Besides our recent collab, I and Ashok Sir are also working together on developing a horror-comedy with Raaj Shaandilyaa.

## How has your experience been with the film industry?

I am not allied with any insider or outsider; it's only through my constant diligence and tenacity that I have reached this level. I want to be known for my skills and I am ready to work 24\*7 with good collaborations. I have done my homework and I'm prepared. I'm not here to make B/C grade films just to have my name in credits - I could've done that any time; I want to produce and work on quality cinema. I want to put this out there that I'm taking this business seriously and it's not easy. Fortunately, I'm popular amongst all the good directors. They understand my vision and I'm of course in awe of their work. I need consistency and not one or two films, for which I'm planning every day. If it's meant to happen it will. I'm

healthy, young, and driven, and if I'm loved by genuine ones, that's enough!

Even after hiring top consultants who used my analysis, skills, and money, I got zero outcomes. Ultimately, I realized one has to trust their own gut, and for the past few months, I did just that. Ergo, I got results! I have spent huge money on signing non-serious people and have also come across people who always tell me to drop the idea - I dropped those people instead. My beacon, my friend Palak is the sole reason why I dared to enter this industry. She's always looked out for me and advised me tactically. Along with her, my spirituality, MA Sharda and Vasudev are always protecting me and my work, and I'm ever thankful.

## How do you define success?

I think success can't be measured. You don't have to be a public figure to be successful in

life. There are people who look up to me in my family and friend circle, they value my decisions - I feel very successful then! I also believe that giving generously takes you towards success. I shower love and wisdom onto the people I love and I don't expect anything in return; it makes me feel good within.

## What is your approach towards the trend of trolling that's going on nowadays?

As long as I'm healthy, wealthy, and wise, nothing of this sort bothers me! I need constant pamperings and I'm sorted. Although I can forgive, I don't forget! Funnily enough, I have noticed that my enemies also love me so I'm not worried. There are people who have cheated, bullied, and fooled me but I can't be the same. I let their own karma and god fight against them.

## What do you think about the raging topic of nepotism?

Well, I'm a self-made girl, so I haven't allowed myself to be troubled by nepotistic practices. In fact, the people I've chosen to work with, like Ashok Sir, are all far away from this subject, only interested in making good films with passion. If we look at it objectively, nepotism and struggles both happen in families too, not just at work. Everyone is bound to have their own perspectives here so there's no single correct opinion.

## How were you dealing with the lockdown?

The lockdown taught me to cut down on unwanted people, unhealthy practices, and unnecessary pressures; I pray more and wish less; instead of journaling, I talk more to people who

I love!

## How do you surround yourself with good people and good cheer?

I believe it's better to be a lonely lion than a popular sheep. I too have been alone at times but I never mixed with wrong friendships. I'm blessed that I have my small, intimate circle of friends as for me, less is more. Friendship has never been about drama and disco, and God has blessed me with people who nurture me, know my preferences, think good for me, stop me at my faults, and make cakes and biryanis for me! I'm loved, pampered, so I feel lucky. Friends aren't just for parties, and I'm glad I have them for after parties too!

## RAPID FIRE WITH MANSI BAGLA

### Who's your favourite in Bollywood?

I'm loyal to King Khan - SRK. I'm his greatest fan! I have had my fan moment with him but I want to meet him with a script. I will quit everything if I just have to filter scripts for him. But I have to be a permanent one!

### Who's the most powerful person in Bollywood?

Without a doubt, Salman Khan. He actually needs nothing - everyone needs him.

### Who do you admire?

I look up to Akshay Kumar sir. He is an inspiration for everyone who aspires to be in the film industry. He is an example for all insiders and outsiders. I feel Akshay sir will one day be the Prime Minister because his decisions will always be looked up to!

### Who do you think is a star in his/her own rights?

Sushant Singh Rajput - There's a sun and there's a star. Sushant by all means is a star.

### What do you do to unwind?

I love to travel. Although I've been around the world, the places with natural beauty bring me the utmost peace. I recently visited a wellness resort, Atmantan, and I had an amazing, surreal experience there.

### What are some things you have a penchant for?

If you mean the things closest to my heart, they are food and films.

### How do you describe yourself?

I'm a typical Virgo - I flaunt my feelings and make it obvious! My display of love and dislike is very evident.



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Mansi Bagla, Film Producer