

# 5

Minutes With

# Aftab Shivdasani

Rotstein Lockwood Reddy recently spent five minutes with Bollywood heartthrob Aftab Shivdasani, on location and in between takes of his latest Bollywood film. Aftab is a very popular actor in India, having appeared in more than thirty Hindi feature films over the past decade.

**RLR:** Thank you for giving us five minutes of your time Aftab.

**AS:** You're welcome. I'm looking forward to speaking with you.

**RLR:** What was the first Bollywood movie you appeared in?

**AS:** 'Mast'. It was released in 1999 when I was twenty-one years old.

**RLR:** What do you consider to be your greatest film and why?

**AS:** That's a tough one. I think it would be a tie between 'Kasoor' [released in 2001] and 'Shukriya' [released in 2004].

In 'Kasoor', I played a murderer and I was just twenty-three years old when it was shot. In 'Shukriya', my character only spoke fifteen or

so times during the film, so I was required to communicate with my eyes and my expressions. That was more difficult for me to do than to communicate through dialogue.

**RLR:** To what do you attribute your success in Bollywood?

**AS:** The love and blessings of the people who appreciate my work and who wish me well. That includes my family, my friends, my supporters within the industry and, of course, my fans.

**RLR:** What separates the actors who 'make it' in Bollywood from the thousands of hopefuls?

**AS:** In my opinion, it's a combination of fate, good luck and of course, incredible hard work and focus.

**RLR:** Which actor or actress do you most admire and why?

**AS:** Mr Amitabh Bachchan for his sheer determination, hard work and humility. He has been an inspiration for decades and continues to inspire each new generation of actors.

**RLR:** How do you choose from the many film scripts that are put in front of you?

**AS:** I choose scripts that excite me, that provide me with an opportunity to test myself as an actor and, of course, the ones that are likely to produce a film which will entertain the audience.



**RLR:** How do you deal with being in the public eye in India?

**AS:** It took me a while to get used to it and I accept that it is part of the game. Of course it has its pros and its cons, but quite frankly, I don't take those things seriously. It has helped me make lightning-fast progress through traffic jams in Mumbai though, which is always a good thing!

**RLR:** What is your greatest challenge as an actor?

**AS:** My greatest challenge as an actor has been dealing with people who appear to forget that an actor is a normal person, just like they are. If you have too many of those people close to you, it can become difficult to distinguish between what is reel and what is *real*.

**RLR:** Thank you again Aftab. It has been a great pleasure for us to spend five minutes with you. The team at RLR wishes you every success for your upcoming film releases.



***It can become difficult to distinguish between what is reel and what is real.***

