

TETE-A-TETE

"WE ARE INVESTING 900 CRORE IN FUTURE PROJECTS"

- DHILIN MEHTA

Shree Ashtavinayak Cinevision Company took Hindi film distribution sector by storm when they brought Mumbai distribution rights of Shah Rukh Khan's MAIN HOON NAA at an unheard of price. They followed it with MUJHSE SHAADI KAROGE. After huge initial success, unheard of prices and there came a time when top Mumbai distributors had no clue what hit them. Almost all of them had gone into hiding then and it was time to turn to production in big way. They started it with MAINE PYAR KYUN KIYA and followed it with BHAGAM BHAG, GOLMAAL and JAB WE MET. The company has now some huge plans for production.



MAHARATHI, KIDNAP, GOLMAAL - RETURN, RUN BHOLA RUN, BLUE, LUCK, MUDH MUDH KE NA DEKH MUDH MUDH KE and BOND are some of their next films. They are investing 900 crores in new films which will also include Tamil and Telugu films. Here managing director of the company, Dhilin Mehta speaks to COMPLETE CINEMA.

MHARATHI which saw lot of casting changes is finally ready for release. Are you satisfied with the final result?

We worked for 18 months on the scripting of **Maharathi**. We had a discussion with Paresh Rawal. By the time script was ready, we realised that it had developed into a good commercial script. Then we decided to go for a director. We had seen Shivam Nair's work. We were confident that we will do justice to the script. Fortunately we have got talented artistes like Paresh Rawal, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Boman Irani, Tara Sharma and Neha Dhupia. So we are confident about the film. It will be released next month.

JAB WE MET did huge business everywhere. Did you regret pre-selling it to Studio 18 at a reasonable price?

See our business policy is very simple. If we earn gross 25% more on our total investment we are happy with that. We completed **Jab We Met** in six months and earned good money by pre-selling it. Most importantly, Studio 18 did full justice to the film as far as exploitation is concerned. No wonder then that our next two films **Golmaal - Returns** and **Kidnap's** worldrights are with Studio 18 again.

What happened to Abbas-Mustan's FRAUD?

We are making some changes in the script. And since Sanjay Dutt and Ajay Devgan are both busy,

we are trying to match their dates. This comic thriller also stars Anuj Sawhney.

Imraan's debut film **JAANE TU YA JAANE NA** has worked big time and he is working in your two films **KIDNAP** and **LUCK**?

Yes, he is working in two film of ours. Sanjay Gadhvi's **KIDNAP** and Soham's **Luck**. But I must tell you that we had auditioned Imraan two years back and realised his potential at that time.

What is the position of KIDNAP now?

This Sanjay Dutt, Imraan Khan starrer is 30% to 40% complete. It's a thriller-cum-family drama.

What changes you have made in GOLMAAL - RETURNS?

Subject of **Golmaal-Return** is totally different from the previous one. Though Ajay Devgan, Tusshar Kapoor and Arshad Warsi are still there. Shreyas Talpade comes in place of Shraman Joshi. Kareena Kapoor and Amrita Rao are the added attractions of the film.

You are also making one of the costliest film ever made in India BLUE with Sanjay Dutt and Akshay Kumar?

When we have assembled the cast of Sanjay Dutt, Akshay Kumar, Zayed Khan, Katrina Kaif and Lara Dutta it was a dream starcast. Besides, it is being shot under water. Lot of Hollywood technicians are working on

the film. Adfilmmaker Anthony D'souza is making this film which will be a never-before-seen kind of experience for Indian audience. It also has got lot of special effects and music by A.R. Rehman.

How is it working with Govinda in RUN BHOLA RUN?

We had signed Govinda before **Partner**. He is very professional actor and has given wonderful performance in this film which is directed by Neeraj Vora and also has Tusshar Kapoor, Tanushri Dutta and Amisha Patel. Neeraj Vora will direct one more film for us **One Way Ticket** which will star Anil Kapoor, Akshay Khanna and two heroines.

What's happening to Soham's LUCK?

This action flick stars Sanjay Dutt, Imran Khan, Danny, Ravi Kissen, Mithun Chakraborty - Kamal Hassan's daughter Shruti Hassan makes her debut with this film.

What are your other projects?

Mudh Mudh Ke Na Dekh Mudh Mudh Ke, with Himesh Reshammiya - **Bond** with Sanjay Dutt which will be in association with Sanjay Dutt Productions Pvt. Ltd. - Rummi Jaffrey's John Abraham-Kareena Kapoor starrer - Rohit Shetty's film with Ajay Devgan - Imtiaz Ali's next with Akshay Kumar - a film Vivek Sharma which will star Govinda and one more hero and a Saif Ali and Kareena starrer, director of which hasn't been finalised yet. We will also start Tamil and Telugu film production from this year.