



## 'I cannot keep my feelings bottled up'

### in person

She may be essaying the part of Nonibala in *Chaturanga*, but Trina Nileena Banerjee tells *Rouge* that in real life she is everything that her reel persona isn't

**Tell us about your role in *Chaturanga*...**

■ I play Nonibala. She is very shy, silent, scared and apologetic all the time.

Sometimes her character is so insignificant that it tends to fade into oblivion. Nonibala's character is completely opposite to that of Damini.

**How much of a Nonibala are you in real life?**

■ I'm exactly the opposite. In real life I'm very outspoken, I stand for what I feel is right or wrong. I simply cannot keep my feelings bottled up, unlike Nonibala, who remains quiet most of the time. The only times she speaks is the time she realises that Sachis wants to marry her out of charity.

**What made you say yes to this role?**

■ I accepted this offer for *Lalda* (Suman Mukhopadhyay). I'm a big fan of *Lalda* and always wanted to work with him. His play *Tistaparar Brityanto* was quite a revelation for me during my growing up years.

**Have you also been a part of any of his plays?**

■ Not yet. But I would certainly like to be.

**Suman Mukhopadhyay is known for his bold approach... How far would you go in shedding your inhibitions?**

■ I respect *Lalda* a lot. I think he is extremely honest in his approach in dealing with sex, death, oppression or violence. I trust him completely as a director. Moreover I feel that hitting a child on screen is far more difficult than showing my bare back. After all, at the end of the day it's all about acting.

**How was the experience of working with Rituparna Sengupta?**

■ I haven't even met her. Her character comes in only after Nonibala commits suicide. I hope to meet her in the special screening or the premiere of the film in the city.

**Why is it that any on screen adaptation of Tagore generates some amount of criticism?**

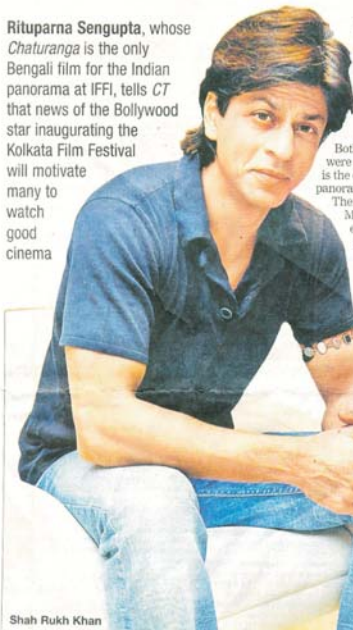
■ Any on screen adaptation of a fiction is bound to raise a certain amount of criticism as you tend to make the visuals do all the talking. Even Satyajit Ray was not spared.

***Chaturanga* has also been to several international film festivals. How important is it to get featured in such festivals?**

■ My film, *Nishabd*, was selected for 17 festivals and the film is still getting a lot of

# 'SRK IS THE OTHER NAME FOR SUCCESS'

Rituparna Sengupta, whose *Chaturanga* is the only Bengali film for the Indian panorama at IFFI, tells *CT* that news of the Bollywood star inaugurating the Kolkata Film Festival will motivate many to watch good cinema



Shah Rukh Khan

PRIYANKA DASGUPTA  
Times News Network

*Chaturanga* has been selected as the only Bengali film for the Indian panorama section. Does that boost your ego?

■ My films have always been selected for the Indian panorama. Both *Anuragan* and *Deviya Basanta* were part of it. The fact that *Chaturanga* is the only Bengali film to be in the Indian panorama this year overwhelms me. The hard work has paid off. Suman Mukhopadhyay has displayed exceptional skill in translating a difficult novel like *Chaturanga* to celluloid.

The buzz is that the Kolkata Film Festival will screen *Chaturanga* as its closing film. From walking the ramp to your films being part of festivals — you are on a roll...

■ I'm truly honoured. Tagore's novels are very contemporary. That's why making a film like *Chaturanga* is very relevant today. The film has been to international festivals but Indians haven't watched it yet. This should be the Indian premiere of the film.

In a first of sorts, Shah Rukh Khan will be inaugurating KFF. How will the festival audience benefit from this?



**Celebrities' presence at festivals helps the cause of good movies. It doesn't trivialise the intention of hosting festivals**

■ KFF is one of the most talked about Indian festivals. I'm all for Shah Rukh's presence at the festival. Shah Rukh is the other name for success. He is one of the stalwarts of Indian cinema and an icon of commercial cinema. Personalities like Shah Rukh and Aamir Khan shouldn't be limited to Bollywood. They have a passion for good cinema. There is no clash between regional cinema and Bollywood. Regional movies, especially Bengali cinema, are exploring newer grounds. Directors like Suman

Mukhopadhyay, Anjan Das, Aniruddha Roychowdhury and Abhijit Dasgupta have the calibre to take Bengali cinema to international standards. Besides, Shah Rukh has the power to motivate people. Any festival needs that power to sustain itself. He has also worked in an adaptation of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Dervish*. *Chaturanga*, too, is a cinematic adaptation of a Tagore novel. If SRK watches *Chaturanga* at a festival, it will motivate others to support good cinema. The presence of celebrities at festivals helps the cause of good movies. It doesn't trivialise the intention of hosting festivals. I will be inaugurating the film market at KFF.

**Damini, the character that you play in *Chaturanga*, is a widow who isn't ashamed of her desires. Isn't it difficult to express the sexuality of a widow?**

■ Damini is a combination of serenity and excitement. She is a desirable woman, is

progressive and also speaks her mind. She doesn't keep her desire for men under wraps. It was challenging to play such an emancipated woman. What makes her stand out, is the fact that she is sensuous in a very dignified fashion. Even in intimate scenes, there is no room for titillation. I love one of the intimate scenes which uses a shadow play with Damini's fingers to show desire. In real life, sensuality is not an in-your-face emotion. It's all about subtlety — a slow discovery of the enigma that is me.

**Are you as bold as Damini in real life?**

■ Despite the obstacles, Damini has always lived her life. I, too, speak my mind. Being bold, however, doesn't mean going overboard and saying or doing things to the disrupt lives of others. I can't discount others' emotions only to indulge what I feel strongly about.

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