

Big Fat Bollywood Weddings

By: Roshni Mulchandani

Courtesy of films like *Hum Aapke Hain Kaun*, *Monsoon Wedding* and *Kuch Kuch Hota Hain*, audiences have come to believe that weddings need to be as ostentatious in real life as they are onscreen. In fact, so much do Desis love the idea of weddings, that most hit films that come out of Bollywood are centered on the subject of marriage and the excitement that surrounds them. When it comes to falling in love, romancing and eventually tying the knot, Bollywood does it with style, pomp and élan.

Often imitated but never fully copied, many have attempted to mock the various functions, dances and of course the fancy designer wear; some successfully and others not quite so. Interestingly, when most celebs finally take the plunge in real life, they have contrastingly different ideas—some like it elaborate, while others prefer the ceremony to be personal and small. Whichever they choose, celebrities find themselves at the center of massive media frenzy with every minor detail being thoroughly scrutinized. Take a look as we dissect and give you the glitterati on some of the Big Fat Bollywood Weddings.

Abhishek Bachchan weds Aishwarya Rai

The Bachchan-Rai wedding was not only the talk of the town back in 2007, but was deemed as the “Wedding of the Century.” The festivities were spread over three days and included a traditional *Sangeet*, where the couple performed their own songs, followed by a *Mehendi*



(Henna) ceremony the next day and finally a super bonanza wedding ceremony at the groom’s massive house—which started a trend of weddings at home. *Mehendi* for the bride’s hands was specially ordered from Rajasthan as it is said to be the “best” in the country, providing a distinctive shade of maroon. Both the houses were decorated with bundles of orange and yellow marigold flowers, which were exclusively imported from Kerala, forming the theme for the wedding. Additionally, the sweets came from the small city of Kanpur and *Ash’s* jewelry was purchased solely from Kolkata. Just in case that wasn’t enough, the grand outfits were completely made by some of India’s favorite designers. *Aishwarya* was dressed by her favorite stylist, *Neeta Lulla*, *Ash* wore a gold sari embellished with sequins and jewels. A master weaver was hired to hand weave the embroi-

dery on her sari using a silk base. *Abhishek* chose to stick with his favorite duo *Abu-Jani* and wore a *Sherwani* equipped with a turban much like that of a king. To top it off, helicopters were hired and petals were showered over the couple after the wedding ceremony. All done in true Bollywood style; the cost of the wedding was estimated to set the *Bachchans* back a whopping **ten million U.S. Dollars**.

Karisma Kapoor weds Sanjay Kapur

Four years before *Bachchan* tied the knot, ex-fiancé *Karisma Kapoor* tied the knot with Delhi-based industrialist *Sanjay Kapur*. The wedding took place in true *Raj Kapoor* style at the *R. K. Cottage* filled with celebrity guests and a wide array of food. The bride, who chose best friend and ace designer *Manish Malhotra* to take charge of her trousseau, went against all odds and opted to wear pink on D-Day

along with diamonds for jewelry and embellished sandals. The groom took on *Rohit Bal* to design his closet for the wedding and wore an off-white *sherwani* with a matching turban. The cottage, which is known to be the site for most *Kapoor* weddings, was decorated in mirrors and jasmine flowers. Since the *Kapoors* are known for being complete foodies, an array of Thai, Italian, North Indian and Mughlai, was presented; appealing to all the various palettes of their family and friends. Insiders also claimed that during the wedding ceremony, only vegetarian starters were served but once it was over, a full bar opened up for the guests. And lastly, the wedding card came in the form of a personalized letter which was fitted with *rudraksha* beads.



Fardeen Khan weds Natasha Madhvani

When *Fardeen Khan*, son of the late extravagant *Feroz Khan*, decided to marry *Natasha Madhvani*, daughter of yesteryear’s beauty *Mumtaz*, India knew this wedding was going to be a grand and lavish affair; and it definitely was. *Grand Hyatt, Mumbai* was the venue chosen for the wedding and was filled with scrumptious food for local and foreign guests. The cuisine was all decided keeping the Hindu-Muslim wedding in mind and included variations of seafood, chicken, a live Italian station, a *tandoori* grill and a large selection of continental desserts. Incidentally for most of the western dishes, the ingredients were imported from all over the world for the approximately 2,000 guests that attended. The Khans also opened up a huge



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bar and additionally hired a bartender to stir-up mocktails to cater to the teetotalers. Designer *Shaahid Amir* was in charge of Fardeen's clothes for the celebrations and he put together a deep blue *sherwani* for the wedding which was filled with Swarovski crystals, made from popular Lucknowi *dhaaga* (thread) work. The bride's trousseau was handled by the groom's mother, *Sundari*, who used many trimmings and peach tones to form the central theme for the trousseau. The couple was dressed in totally ethnic yet chic clothing that was adored by all guests. Keeping it all in the family, the wedding card was sketched by the groom's sister, *Laila Khan*, who is an established artist. It is said that *Laila* combined *Om* and *Allah*, which added the final finesse with a sophisticated touch to the Khan wedding.

Zayed Khan weds Malaika Parekh



Fardeen's cousin Zayed hopped on the marriage bandwagon with much style - living up to his reputation. The actor married his childhood love in a wedding ceremony that was filled with laughter as close actor friends put on a skit for the *Sangeet* filled with gags and dances. *Parekh* was dressed to fit a queen - quite

literally - as she chose designer *Adarsh Gill* whose designs have been worn by the Queen of England. She chose a bright vivid green *lengha* and her jewelry was designed by her designer sister-in-law *Farah Khan*. The groom chose a *sherwani* suit embossed with diamonds which was a creation of *Shahab Durazi*. The food selection for the mega-event at *Grand Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai* was overloaded with more than 58 dishes, including an assortment of *biryani*s followed by a five-tier wedding cake. The actor wanted to keep his wedding youthful and thus, took much interest in the preparations leading up to the nuptials. The couple also hosted a small family reception at a renowned spa in Bangalore.

Ayesha Takia weds Farhan Azmi



Ayesha Takia chose to keep it simple when she married restaurateur *Farhan Azmi*. Instead of choosing any famous designers to take care of her and her groom's clothes, they chose to go with an unknown one and kept it traditional. The bride wore a gold *sharara* and the groom chose dark blue *sherwani*. A quiet traditional *Nikaah* at the groom's restaurant was followed by a majestic reception hosted by the groom's parents at a local stadium in Mum-

bai. The couple decided to restrict the wedding to just one day and kept it comparatively low-key.

Amrita Arora weds Shakeel Ladhak

Most of *Amrita Arora's* wedding was arranged by her sister *Malaika Arora-Khan*. The couple indulged in a *Nikaah* and church ceremony;

a *Mehendi*, and *Sangeet* was followed by a reception. Over three days, the couple managed to cram in all of the above functions

which were attended by the crème de la crème of Bollywood. The bride chose the prominent *A. K. Motiwala* as the official jewelers for wedding which was brimming with gold, rubies, diamonds, and emeralds all to match her expansive trousseau by *Ashley*



Rebello and *Manish Malhotra*. The groom chose *Shantanu-Nikhil* to design his suit and *sherwani* for the different occasions. The venues used for the soirée also catered the food which ranged from Italian to Chinese and local Mumbai favorites. Her *Sangeet* was said to be one of the best till date. Best friend *Kareena Kapoor* took center stage and danced away to some of her popular numbers with *Malaika*, who also played the Maid of Honor at the church ritual, and danced to some of her sister's favorite numbers. This one was all in the family.

In the past, some of Bollywood's luminaries have individually chosen different routes when it comes to celebrating their weddings. *Kajol* and *Ajay Devgan* chose to keep it rather intimate and simple with a small ceremony at *Devgan's* home. Pin-up boy *Hrithik Roshan* chose a small private affair in the form of a registered marriage and then a small reception for close friends and family in Bangalore. *Raveena Tandon* chose Rajasthan as her wedding destination and married film distributor *Anil Thadani* in a family-filled palace wedding.

Clearly, Bollywood celebrities have contrasting opinions when it comes to celebrating their big day. And whichever they go, they do provide prospective couples with great ideas to implement into their own weddings ... taking notes, potential brides?