

By: Tirusha Dave

Masti with Mallika and Ranvir from Ugly Aur Pagli

She's cool, confident, poised, elegant, and attractive. She has taken the Bollywood industry by the storm and has recently been out publicizing her latest film, "Ugly Aur Pagli". Internationally known as Bollywood's 'Kissing Queen,' with her heated performance in the film "Murder" - you guessed it, I'm talking about the one and only, the gorgeous and glamorous, Mallika Sherawat! I wish I could say I flew to Mumbai to interview Mallika, but hey, picking up the phone and calling her on her cell is just as cool, and to my surprise, her co-star Ranvir, was also with her. This interview was definitely not what I signed up for. It was a lot of masti, madness, and a ton of slaps...yes, I said slaps! You'll just have to continue reading to see what I mean!

Tirusha: Mallika and Ranvir together, wow, this was totally unexpected. Alright, who's Ugly and who's Pagli?

Ranvir: Mallika is Ugly!

Mallika: Yes, I'm Ugly (laughing) and Ranvir is Pagli!

Ranvir: Yes, I am Pagli and she's Ugly! Now this is exclusively for you guys, a role reversal! In the film I am Ugly, obviously, and she's Pagli ... not so obvious!

Mallika: What's not so obvious about it?

Ranvir: You are hardly insane! Are you insane? Tirusha, you cannot see this madness on the phone, you can only hear it, but she slapped me a second time.

Mallika: In the film, I have slapped you 100 times, more than 100 actually!

Ranvir: No, no that's only the tag line for the film.

Mallika: How much clarification will you give? You have been slapped some 100 times!

Ranvir: In the film? Which film are you talking about? Did we work together in the film?

Tirusha: Uh oh!

Mallika: (laughing) Why are all the romantic films so mush-mushy? Why can't there be some violence in them? In *Ugly aur Pagli*, there's everything, slaps, slaps, and more slaps ... so much violence you see!

Ranvir: Yes, Mallika likes it. When she is whacked around a little bit in romance, so we have taken the same idea to make this film while making the film, our roles got reversed and I had to bear all the slaps.

Mallika: I love violence!

Tirusha: (Quite amused) Oh God! This is going to be a tough interview! *Ugly Aur Pagli* is quite a name for a film! What's the film about?

Ranvir: Wacky title! Mallika will tell us about it!

Mallika: Ranvir, you tell them!

Ranvir: Wacky! Sorry Tirusha, what were we talking about? Just kidding! I am sure Mallika would differ on this. She often makes a film in her mind. *Ugly aur Pagli* is a story of two brats, actually. Kabir, the character I am playing, is the only child of his middle class *Maharashtrian* parents.

Mallika: (Laughing) Yes, who has failed FOUR times in Engineering, who has never had a girlfriend, and suddenly he finds Pagli who is a psycho kind of character who also happens to be quite hot and attractive. Kabir realizes that he can't stay with this girl and wants to get rid of her but he cannot!

Tirusha: Wow - sounds like a fun film!

Ranvir: Yeah, here I am the troubled one. Mein phansa hua hoon!

Mallika: This is a girl who wants to slap her boyfriend at least once in her life. This happens with every woman in the universe, I guess!

Ranvir: And most of them do it! And this girl who is called Kuhu in the film can't talk without slapping her boy-



friend!

Tirusha: Tell us about Mallika's character!

Ranvir: Kuhu is also a brat much like Kabir. She's also the only child of her *Bong* (Bengali) parents. Ummm So I think they have something in common but at the same time they are very different from each other.

Tirusha: Mallika, how much do you identify with 'Kuhu'?

Mallika: I totally identify a 100% with the role and to prepare for this role, I got in touch with the devilish and mean side of me.

Ranvir: That would have been easy.

Mallika: Very easy and great fun as well!

Ranvir: Tirusha, let me ask you something. As far as the title is concerned, don't you think this title has a history? Like *Heer Ranjha*, *Laila Majnu*, *Neal & Nikki*, *Ugly aur Pagli*!?

Tirusha: I think I'll stick to asking the questions!

Mallika: Tirusha, I just slapped Ranvir again!

Ranvir: This is the sixth time you're hitting me, three more are left, the tenth one would be from me and that one would be enough.

Mallika: Don't threaten me, I am not scared.

Ranvir: Hey! Stop slapping me now! The shooting for the film is over. This is real life now and we are in the middle of an interview!

Mallika: You keep quiet! Who do you think you are? I will take off your glasses.

Ranvir: Clothes, clothes, please remove my clothes also!

Mallika: *Koi stupid idea dimaag mai aaya na... toh bharta bana dungi*—you spoiled my hair-style!

Tirusha: Wow, you two are something else. You do know we have more questions, right?

Ranvir: Sorry Tirusha, you can blame Pagli!

Tirusha (Laughing) It's alright! So is this just another love story or a chick-flick? What's Ranvir doing in a chick-flick?

Ranvir: Is it a chick flick? No, it's not a chick-flick. It's a love story. It's a love story.. It's a love story!

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makes him realize a lot of things.

Mallika: Now, don't tell the whole story. Basically, the film is very different. It's something new. You have probably never seen such characters in any film until now. The essence of the film is very different.

Tirusha: Were there any funny incidents on the set while shooting?

Ranvir: Yes! I want to tell you about one. There is a scene in which I had to ride a scooty and Mallika is sitting behind me. She suddenly tells me to stop the scooty because I am riding it too slow and tells me to sit behind her. I asked her if she could drive well and she said, "yeah, yeah I can, don't

Mallika: So what? A girl can always slap a guy.

Ranvir: And a guy can't slap the girl?

Mallika: No!

Ranvir: Why not? All are equal now.

Tirusha: Children, let's stop fighting now before Mallika slaps you again! Mallika, what was it like to work with Ranvir?

Mallika: He is superb to work with. Now Ranvir, please don't be mean and say good things about me.

Ranvir: It was wonderful to work with Mallika. Tell me who else would have been ready to bear the brunt of giving so many slaps!

Mallika: He is one of the finest actors we have.

Ranvir: And brave as well.

Mallika: Yes, the bravest of all. All the girls will fall in love with him after watching the film. My female cousins and mom have already fallen in love with him.

Ranvir: Who won't like a guy who takes being slapped so many times *aram se*?!

Tirusha: All this slapping around and scooty riding, not to mention more slaps, makes me want to go watch the movie right now! Do you guys have any last words or slaps for the readers?

Ranvir: No more slaps, please! Thanks Tirusha, for the interview. Sorry if we really became ugly *aur pagli*! Go out and see the movie, you'll love it! It's a love story, a love story, NOT a chick flick!

Mallika: Stop, before I slap you again! Thanks Tirusha, you are so cute! Come to Mumbai and we can go slapping sometime! Go see the movie, it is fun, different, and full of laughs and slaps! Ciao!

Author's Note: I would like to give a special thanks to producer Pritish Nandy and the production house, Pritish Nandy Communications, for putting together such an exclusive interview for CityMasala!

Mallika: Ok, I think she understood. How many times will you say "it's a love story"? Ranvir has done a lot of crazy things for me - he's worn my heels - my six inches heels and roamed around!

Ranvir: How do you walk in those heels? Wearing heels is like a massacre streak for girls, like, *mai apne toe ko aage se crush karun aur apne peir ko uthaun* and then balance myself and walk!

Mallika: Half the time you had to carry me - what a heavy load you had to carry on your back!

Ranvir: Yes, that's true. Mallika is very heavy, and I don't mean just mentally! So love story, it is a love story. It's not a chick flick. Is there any element of a chick flick in it? No, there is no chick flickish thing about it!

Mallika: Kuhu is a little psycho, that's all!

Tirusha: What am I going to do with you guys? Thank God this is just over the phone! OK, tell me, what is Ranvir like in real life?

Mallika: Oh, he is very attractive!

Ranvir: So attractive that she often used to get distracted by my attractiveness.

Mallika: I loved slapping and bullying him in the film. Everyone knows I am single and no one will even think of me after watching me in the film.

Ranvir: Unless someone is real gutsy. My character is very lazy. He has been studying for the last four year in the same class but is happy because he gets pocket money from his parents and doesn't have to do anything in life. This girl Kuhu



worry." We do this scene. The director calls out but ma'am doesn't stop because there is a bull chasing the red scooty and Mallika starts screaming, "I don't know how to stop!" We all couldn't stop laughing.

Tirusha: Mallika, is Kabir special?

Mallika: Yes, very special. I hope I find a guy like Kabir.

Ranvir: No one will bear being slapped so many times.

Mallika: Why not? Every couple fights.

Ranvir: But here it's not fighting, it's being slapped!

