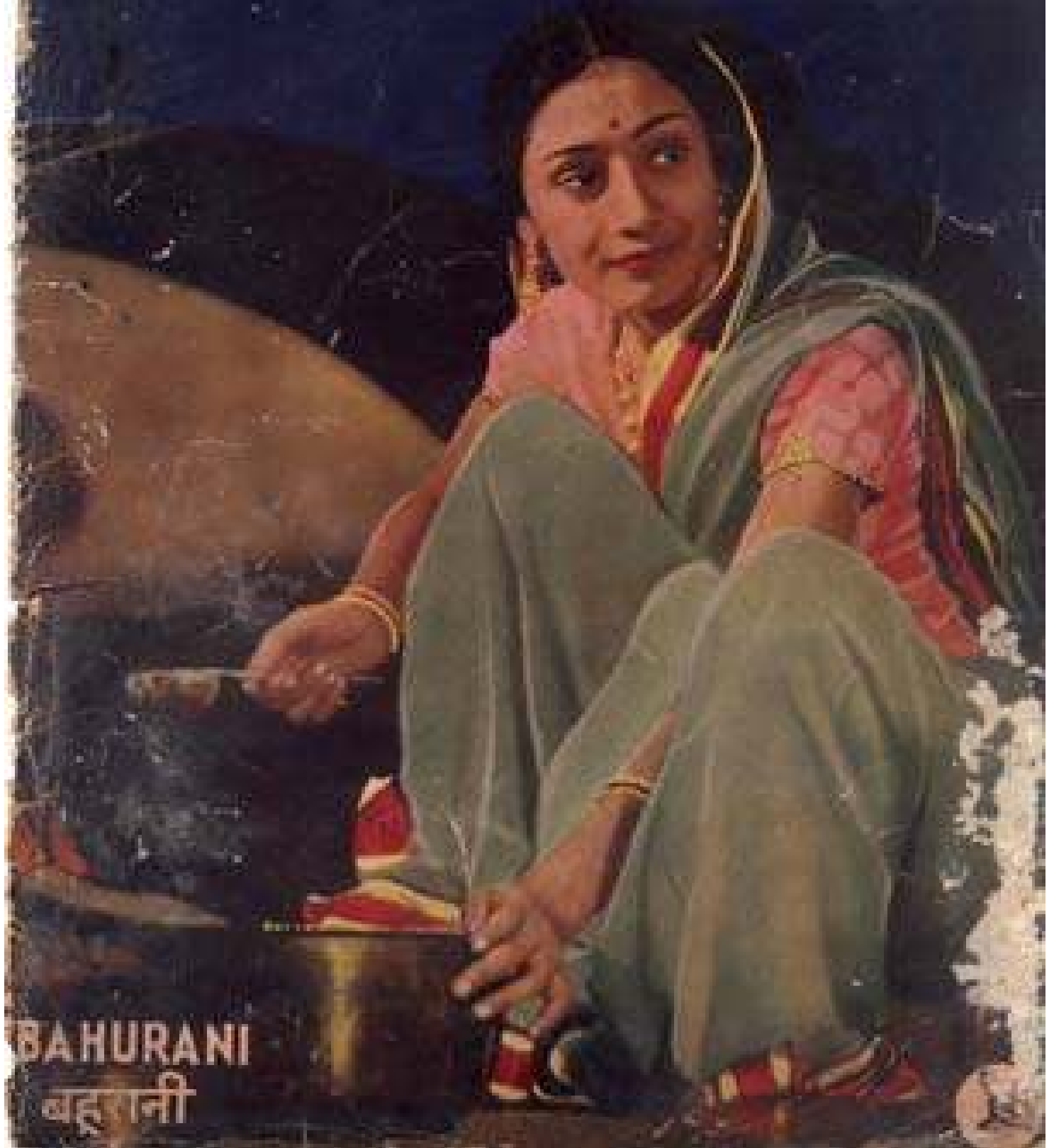


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# filmindia



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*Is widowhood the Scourge of Hindu Society ?*

*Should a Virgin Widow marry again ?*

*Why is a Widow in Hindu Society denied all luxuries of life ?*

*Why does she not wear Kumkum, Flowers, and Bangles ?*

*Are there any fixed principles and conventions governing Love ?*

*When desperately in Love, what would you do if you are told the Girl you love is already promised for another ?*

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**Mrs. SHOBHANA SAMARTH, PREM ADIB,  
Miss PRADHAN, K. N. SINGH, MAJID,  
SUSHIL KUMAR AND OTHERS.**

*Directed by: C. M. LUHAR B.Sc.*

*Music by: H. C. BALI*

*Story by: M. D. DAVE*

*Produced under the personal supervision of*  
**NANUBHAI DESAI**

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**K. Parmeshwaran. (Madras).**

I am sorry not to find a single word in the last issue about the South Indian films. Are you not interested in any longer?

I am mighty interested in helping the progress of the South Indian film industry, but the Indian producers don't seem to be so. They lack the ordinary courtesy of sending periodical studio news, which are printed free. Photographs of their stars are an impossible proposition. They do to grudge us not only the stars but their names also. For one reason, I would suggest your reading Mr. Venkatram's article on the South Indian film industry, appearing elsewhere in this issue.

**Judgeesh Banwari. (Durban).**

A friend of mine has got a photo of Pramilla. As he goes he keeps on murmuring "Pramilla, Pramilla". In the home, in the street, in the office he sees only Pramilla. If I do not act quick he is to lose his head. What can be done?

Bring him over to India and let him see Pramilla. He will be cured.

**K. Singh. (Rossburgh).**

Renuka Devi make a comeback to the screen? Every month people ask me this question five times and I can't give them a definite reply because Renuka herself doesn't know the answer when she makes up her mind to return. I shall be only too pleased to answer.

**(Jullunder).**

Is there a better director between Sohrab Mody and P. V. Venu? I am seeing pictures. You are a very sick man.

**Surajratan Thirani. (Kishanganj).**

There is very little Marwari talent in the cinema industry. I wish to encourage some people. How can it be done?

Write to Pandit Indra, the eminent story and dialogue writer of Bombay. Being a Marwari he is interested in establishing a Marwari Movietone. His address is Gujar Lane, Santa Cruz, Bombay. Your money and his experience can soon give us a Marwari studio—not to mention some charming actresses.

**G. V. P. Rao. (Devanakanda).**

Please tell me all you know about Padma Devi?

It took me eight years to know her and it will take me eight years more to tell you. Won't it be enough if I say that she is a charming girl?

**S. Abraham. (Bombay).**

Say all you know about the following stars: Khurshed, Naseem, Sabita and Ila Devi.

You have said it, I don't know more.

**M. Chandra Vyas. (Indore).**

I want to know something about Chandramohan?

Write to him c/o Circo Productions, Parel, Bombay and he will tell you everything. He doesn't give others a chance to tell his story.

**Behari H. Chhabria. (Karachi).**

Is it not surprising that in a recent issue of "Film-India" you have suggested D. P. Berry and Darr-Prasher as pen friends to one of your readers, seeing that Berry has not been able to write even a half-page good editorial, while Darr-Prasher have not been able to give any good writings on the cinema? Why did you not suggest G. A. Thakur of Karachi?

All right! I'll say G. A. Thakur of Karachi is another good pen friend.



Bhudo Advani doesn't seem to be much interested in what is offered to him. He looks beyond and seems to have a solid reason in "Sanskar" a National Studios' picture.



**Gajapathi Rao. (Masulipatam).**

I want to marry a girl like Maya Bannerjee in personality and singing like Kanan Bala—?

...and dancing like Sadhana Bose. Try Muntac of Bombay Talkies. He has personality, music and dance.

What was the total collection of "Pukar"?

Enough to pay Sohrab Mody's previous debts. I wish "Bharosa" becomes another "Pukar" to pay for "The Wall" and "Defeat."

**Amchandra Reddy. (Yellayapalem).**

Is Padma Devi doing now?

She has just finished the leading role in "Hindusthan Hamara" a picture directed by Ram Daryani in Calcutta. Jamuna also shares stellar honours in this picture. The other one, Padma Devi is working in, is "Shap Mukti" (Bengali) God's gift, led by Mr. Barua. Mr. Barua, himself plays with her. This is also a Daryani production.

**Aradia. (Johannesburg).**

Where is Ashok Kumar? I heard that he is in jail? Is he a prisoner of his own virtues. Ashok is deriding in "Bandhan".

**R. ... (Karachi).**

Do some film journalists from the North abuse size one another in a filthy way?

It is a habit they inherited. When they find "No, we else trying to take the butter away from be ab ad, they forget journalism and practise ... And who thinks that they are jour- ... one except themselves! It is perhaps the ... able crowd that can be found on earth— ... rate than the famishing wolves of ...

**... (urban).**

How do we know the address of Miss Vasantee? Write to her c/o Ranjit Film Co., Main Road, Bombay.

**... (Madras).**

Ask that Shobhana Samarth was given the city in "Mud" though her work ... of mud!

**... (Johannesburg).**

Is Maya Devi who was once working in Bombay Talkies? She is now with Sohrab Mody in Minerva, Westone, Seuri, Bombay.

**M. V. Mathur. (Trichur).**

Is Zamindar in "Kangan" I liked and I would like to see him in more pictures. What was his name?

Mubarak. He is an old actor and you can see him in "Bahurani", the maiden production of India Artists Ltd.

**K. R. Desai. (Adoni).**

Several cinema weeklies in Bombay and in the North continuously write against you, often in a defamatory way. Why don't you do something about it?

They are doing it to earn a living and I do not wish to starve them. If by abusing me, they can sell a few more copies of their publications, I do not like to stop them from doing so. It is their misfortune that they can't earn a living in a decent way. People who are so badly cursed by fate deserve pity and not censure. In Bombay I have actually to patronise one man who follows this odd occupation for a living. When he needs, he borrows from me and crossing over to the other side of the road, hires a man to sling some more mud at me. That is human nature and one cannot help it. It takes all sorts of human beings to make a world.

**H. S. Lal Agarwal. (Pilibhit).**

Which of the leading Indian actresses are mothers? All except Sabita Devi. She has a mummy of her own.

**T. A. Janoo. (Dareessalaam).**

My father says that the cinema is a luxury, while my school principal says that it is a necessity. What am I to do?

Follow the worthy teacher. Your father is trying to save money.

**P. S. Krishna Murthy. (Masulipatam).**

Why doesn't Nadia become a jockey? I think she will earn more that way?

What about the poor horse? Besides the ca may fall within the provisions of the Prevention Cruelty to Animals Act.

**A Jagga Rao. (Vizagapatam).**

If I am not inquisitive, may I know who paid the expenses of your world tour?

You are inquisitive, but I shall excuse you Filmindia Publications Ltd, the firm that owns the paper, paid all the expenses, and not any producer as some people seem to think.

**V. Chhatrapati. (Parbhani).**

Which is the better picture between "Jawani-k Reet" and "Kangan"?

Kangan! Miles better in every way.

**Miss Snehalata H. (Surat).**

Can a girl from a good family go to from bad producers, directors and such becoming a film star?

Oh yes, if she doesn't carry the proper leaf as a guarantee of her modesty. Many of "good-family" girls invite trouble by their ill hearted behaviour and it is not necessary to be producer or a director to be bad in such a case. Even doctors and journalists can do equally well.



ollina has often appeared on the screen as a widow. Is she a widow?

I don't know whether she is. But she has no reason to be. She is good looking enough to be a bride. But these Bengali producers will make any bride a widow, as tears of grief salt their daily bread better. They see the world through tears. They wonder it looks hazy to them. Even the bright and snappy "filmindia" brings tears to their eyes.

#### G. Saxena. (Ratlam).

Which is the better picture between "Adhikar" and

"Admi"? Both are very good pictures. But "Admi" was more purposeful.

#### G. Massand. (Rohri).

Will you come to Bombay to visit Minerva Movietone, so that I may Mody entertain me as his guest and show me his studios?

Of course, he will. He will also have you photographed shaking hands with him, and his publisher will print the photo in all Indian papers except "filmindia". You can't beat Sohrab in hospitality.

#### A. Sen. (Lahore).

I accept that our Hindu society has limitations of its own. There are certain things that are not universally practised. The exaggerated representation of these things on the screen is surely a big pill to swallow. For example, smoking a cigarette by Leela Chaudhary in "Ardhangi". You say, she is a college girl. I assure you, (and I think, I am being a college girl myself), that very few college girls found to be in the habit of smoking. Why do they run down the collegians this

My dear child, one question which we cannot ask our producers is "Why". There is no "Why" in this industry. The biggest "Why" is why several of our producers are at all in this industry. We have many people doing the wrong jobs. They have been going on like this for years. Some of them have now realized that they should have been share brokers. They are already making amends. So don't look the gift horse in the mouth and yet I hope your letter catches the eye of our producers. There is a lot of sense in what you say.

#### K. P. Kohli. (Jammu Tawi).

Who are the leading music directors of India?

Mr. Krishnarao (Prabhat), Mr. Roy Boral (N.T.), Mr. Anil Biswas (National), Mr. Pankaj Mullick (N.T.), and Mr. Keshavrao Bhole (Prabhat). The rest are band boys.

Which is better: "Sant Dnyaneshwar" or "Zindagi"?

Did you say "Zindagi"? Wait, let me recover my breath. "Dnyaneshwar" is too good to be compared with "Zindagi" which though produced by New Theatres is a very disappointing picture. "Zindagi" is a very poor pastiche of intentions that never materialized. Only two persons liked it, Ahmad Abbas and Jamil Ansari—but both are in love and really quite harmless.

#### Mahomed Joosab. (Pretoria).

Can India boast of a Wallace Beery or a Mickey Rooney?

What is there to boast about? Ram Marathe, our boy star, is certainly more versatile than Mickey Rooney. And in size we have Sheikh Mukhtar to compete with Beery while Yakub does Beery's roles superbly. India has too many fat faced Beerys and pug-nosed Rooneys to worry about.



Hari Shivdassani and Jamuna in Daryani Production's "Hindusthan Hamara".



# The EDITOR'S MAIL

[In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.]

**M. Joshi. (Hyderabad, Deccan).**

Does Navinchandra know Marathi?

Yes, enough to ask his maid servant for a glass of water.

**S. N. Raizada. (Meerut).**

I am twenty years old, with good figure and features. I speak Hindi and I can act and sing very well. By my race, I am gifted with rosy cheeks, eyes as blue as the sky and beautiful appearance. Can you recommend me to any film director?

You sound like a technicolor proposition. Try your luck with Sohrab Mody. He is kind hearted and gives a chance to every young man, particularly from U.P. as people from that province understand his language more easily.

**Singarababu. (Madras).**

Which is Devika Rani's next film? People on our side are waiting to see her.

Same here. She will soon resume work in "Nayana" and with a bit of good luck we should be able to see the picture in September.

And that Leela Chitnis is not an Indian girl. Am I right or you are wrong.

Usha is the most popular star in India? Is that so, of course!

**M. Gh. (Agra).**

During your world tour, when you returned to India, did you gain or lose in weight?

I gained some pounds over the seas. Why, I met Akbar Fazalbhoy of Film City, who recently returned from his American tour, has done well. And he had gone with his family. I think it is the fine climate that keeps one in trim.

What about the second session of the Indian Motion Picture Congress?

What about it? Those responsible have not yet forgotten the first one and what it cost them, though people in Bengal are trying to help them forget. I don't think that anymore sessions are going to be helpful seeing the resolutions of the first one becoming mere pious hopes.

**Krishna Rao Kisri. (Coimbatore).**

Has any Indian producer ever ventured to run up to the Himalayas to picture its natural grandeur?

Oh yes! Mohan Bhavnani has done the trick and brought back a "daughter" of the Himalayas. That way Bhavnani has run to all sorts of places and brought back "sons" of Zambou and "Shangrillas" (I don't know what that means, but looking at Navin Yagnik one can assume that a Shangrilla has something to do with a human being). Bhavnani's is an odd occupation.

**M. B. Md. Saleh. (Dacca).**

"Sohrab Mody is reputed for training raw hands and he is kind hearted in addition. He is always anxious to help everyone", acting on this advice of yours, I wrote three letters to Mr. Mody, but he refused to help. If he is a kind hearted man, as you say, he should not dishearten me thus. I merely wanted a chance as an actor. What shall I do?

I am shocked to learn this. I know Sohrab Mody personally. He is an intimate friend of mine in addition. He has more milk of human kindness than anyone else I know. He is, by his own confession to me, always anxious to help every struggling artiste. He takes it as his sacred duty as the President of the Artistes Association to help new people. I don't understand why he should have refused to help you. Probably in the pressure of work, he lost sight of his duty as President. Write to him again, requesting him to reconsider your case. I am sure he will do the needful. In a similar case, an applicant called on him personally and Mody engaged him in his own studio. That man is drawing three hundred a month to-day.

**Mohan A. Shahani. (Hyderabad Sind).**

Can you tell me which film Mr. A. R. Kardar is directing at present in the National Studios?

"Puja"—for which he has so far offered enough personal sacrifice. Let us pray for its success.

**K. Ramrao. (Calcutta).**

Shanta Hublikar's song in "Admi" in seven languages has puzzled me. Can you tell me what is her mother-tongue?

I think her mother-tongue is Kanarese and her step-mother tongue is Marathi. The rest are for production. Shanta has versatile talent.

**B. C. Jain. (Bhagalpur).**

I am the best actor of the town and I want to act with Devika Rani. Will she allow me to act with her?

Oh yes, she will if you are what you say. But Bhagalpur is not the best town in India.