

New dating service cuts through hassle

PLASTIC SURGERY SERVICES OFFERED

by NADEEM BADSHAH

NEW haircut, a different wardrobe, plastic surgery – how far would you go to find your soulmate?

An entrepreneur has just launched a website and bespoke service to help Asian high-flyers find a partner with the help of an army of style gurus.

Kismet Concierge offers clients the chance to visit personal shoppers, plastic surgeons, fitness trainers or even a voice coach before they meet their potential partner.

The website also has headhunters from industries like banking and media looking for potential partners on its behalf.

Kismet Concierge's founder is top stylist Maryum Sharif (pictured), who has previously worked with entrepreneurs Sheetal Mehta and tycoon James Caan's wife Aisha. Sharif's work has been featured in *Vogue* magazine.

She told *Eastern Eye*: "With other sites, it is sheer desperation and you have no idea who you are meeting. You can be strung along which can be heart-breaking.

"This is all vetted, we decide the location of the first meeting. And there is a feedback process before the second meeting."

People can choose a six- or 12-month membership to Kismet Concierge. The 'premier membership' gives clients three services such as a consultation with a plastic surgeon.

On the controversial idea of plastic surgery, Sharif said: "It sounds like an extreme measure, [but] if someone wants something done, we provide options and services. It's a step up from a personal trainer."

Sharif set up the website through her Style Moguls image consultancy service.

"I did it because of the volume of people coming through. They were going on a date and wanted a new look, and my huge network connects people."

The consultation takes place two to three weeks before the first date, and includes a two-hour interview in London. The first meeting with Sharif features a questionnaire about the person's likes and dislikes. She declined to say how much the service costs but stressed its attention to individual detail.

She added: "Not everyone is accepted if they are not serious enough. There is a questionnaire about their lifestyle, personality, cultural and religious background. It is an intimate affair, trusting me with their life. Some are divorced and had a rocky marriage.

"We have about a dozen headhunters in media, social work, banking, one from each sector who move in those circles. I interview and do the matchmaking myself. They find people and look on my behalf.

"And now there are a couple of marriages in the pipeline."



CHARITY BEGINS AT

ACTRESS Jacqueline Fernandez has revealed she wants to be a charity worker after she retires.

The Sri Lankan star was in London last week to support Habitat for Humanity, a charity raising money to build 50,000 homes in India.

Fernandez and cricketers including Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara were guests at a fund-raising dinner at the Hilton Park Lane hotel in London.

The former model told *East-*

ern Eye she has benefited from charity work.

"I have been involved [with Habitat for Humanity] for the past two years.

"It is a cause I strongly believe in. They came to me but I have benefited more out of it. It is something I had to be part of like educating people, building a community and security for families.

"As someone who has a voice and a platform I



HOME, SAYS JACQUELINE

wanted to contribute. I will become more full time, I want to get more involved. It does require a lot of time and energy."

Fernandez's film *Murder 2* is in cinemas now and she has just finished shooting comedy *Housefull 2*.

She said: "*Housefull 2* is funnier, has more cast members, more locations, everything is doubled. It was a treat

[to be part of it] as a newcomer to this industry.

"With films doing well, bigger producers and directors want to work with you. Next January I will be shooting *Raaz 3*."

Fernandez joked she will retire after fulfilling her dream of working with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan. "That would be the highlight, I could retire then. I will leave it up to the gods."

■ To donate to Habitat for Humanity or for information, visit www.indiabuilds.org.uk

See Bolly-Flex at a discount

EASTERN EYE readers are being offered a discount to a concert featuring the stars of Sky 1 show *Got To Dance*.

Fans who quote *Eastern Eye* when booking tickets to the dance spectacular *Bolly-Flex on Tour* will get a 20 per cent discount on ticket prices.

Bolly-Flex are performing at London's Hackney Empire on Saturday (30) at 7.30pm. They are led by renowned Indian dance sensation Leena Patel and award-winning dance specialist Naz Choudhury, alongside a cast of 25 artists.

The group will then perform at Birmingham's Drum Theatre on August 20-21.

■ Call the box office on 020-8985 2424 or visit hackneyempire.co.uk to book tickets. For more about Bolly-Flex, see www.flexfxproductions.com.

Shining a light on Buddhism

AN epic film about the founder of Buddhism will be screened next week.

Light of Asia will be shown in a special one-off screening that will include a new live score from Pandit Vishwa Prakash and his team of musicians.

The South Asian Cinema Foundation will offer an illustrated introduction to the work of the film's screenwriter and director Niranjan Pal. He was among the pioneers of early Indian cinema and worked with filmmakers in Britain before returning to India.

Light of Asia tells the story of Prince Siddhartha who rejects his privileged position to search for truth and becomes Buddha, or the Enlightened One.

The film was shot on location in Rajasthan. The maharajah of Jaipur provided priceless settings, costumes, retinues of retainers and troops of elephants, camels and horses.

The screening is next Saturday (6) at 2pm at the BFI Southbank in London. Visit www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Teen vocalist debuts single

A SINGER dubbed the 'Indian Justin Bieber' has released his first single called *Mukhara*.

Samar Sidhu, 16, is the son of bhangra icon Amarjit Sidhu.

Samar started to learn tabla at the age of 12. Last year, he undertook vocal training from the internationally renowned playback singer Jayshree Shivram in Mumbai.

He said: "I am really determined for my music to be my own. It is influenced and inspired by the music and artists that I love. It's a reflection of my life and my personality."

'Have passion, will get degree'

INDIAN dance star Shiamak Davar has been given an honorary doctorate by Middlesex University for his contribution to mixing Indian and contemporary western dance styles.

Davar collected his doctorate last Friday (22). Speaking to an audience of Middlesex University dance, drama and music students, he said: "I started my journey in the field of performing arts in the UK and receiving this honour completes this circle. With my mission to educate, entertain and empower people, this acknowledgement reinforces my belief... Have feet, will dance. Have spirit, will triumph."