

Fatima Sana Shaikh recalls facing sexism in film industry: 'Learn to stand up for yourself'

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh has opened up about facing sexism and deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes in the film industry.

She asserted that women often have to fight against societal conditioning to make their voices heard. Speaking at the trailer launch of her upcoming release "Hunkkaar—The Roar," the 'Dangal' actress said patriarchy cannot be blamed solely on men, as women are also part of a system that has been deeply ingrained in society. "Patriarchy is not only the fault of men. There are also women in it. They are also included. It internalizes. And we are all born in the same conditioning. And we have to fight it," she says and acknowledges that it's "deeply ingrained."

Sharing an example from the film industry, Shaikh recalled being in meetings where she was presented with a female-centric story about a woman trying to find her voice.

Fatima said, "Even I have been in such rooms, where you go to a room, the producer tells you that this is a mind-blowing film for you. Then, the role is of a woman who is try-

ing to find a voice," - an idea that is female-oriented, taps into women-empowerment, social politics - however, Shaikh finds no woman in the room except her, emphasizing the irony of the situation.

"The irony is that when you try to say something, she won't appreciate it. She can't handle it. And then, she will make weird jokes, or she will mansplain. Because she will tell us how women feel when there is a violent crime. She will tell us that actually, it's not that bad. It's like this," she explains. However, she also points out that the way to deal with all of it is to "learn to stand up for yourself and fight," she added.

Meanwhile, Fatima takes on the role of a no-nonsense police officer in the upcoming courtroom drama. The show is produced by Birla Studios and Applause Entertainment, in association with Priyanka Chopra's production house, Purple Pebble Pictures, and Mangata Films Production.

Directed by Karan D. Kapadia and Nitya Mehra, "Hunkkaar—The Roar" is scheduled to stream on JioHotstar from September 25.



Karisma Kapoor reveals she learnt Bhangra from Neetu Kapoor

Actress Karisma Kapoor took a trip down memory lane on an episode of dance reality show, India's Best Dancer Season 5, as contestants Deepali and Ritesh brought the festive spirit of Baisakhi to the stage with an energetic performance on the iconic song 'Rang De Basanti'. The duo's lively Bhangra performance prompted Karisma to recall her aunt Neetu Kapoor's dancing skills and reveal that she learnt the energetic dance form by simply watching her perform.

Talking about the attitude and energy needed to perform Bhangra, Karisma praised Neetu for her ef-

fortless moves and shared how she would watch and emulate her aunt.

Karisma said, "Bhangra karne ke liye you need that attitude, and Neetu aunty does it amazingly. Maine unse sikha. Woh hamare family mein shaadi hui abhi recently do din, toh unhone kiya, toh I was just admiring her and watching her. Maine unse actually sikha, apne Neetu aunty ko match kiya." (To perform Bhangra, you need that attitude, and Neetu aunty does it amazingly. I learnt it from her. There was a wedding in our family recently, just two days ago, and she performed, so I was just admiring her and watching

her. I actually learnt it from her and tried to match my Neetu aunty)

For the uninitiated, Neetu Kapoor is the wife of Karishma Kapoor's uncle Rishi Kapoor.

On the professional front, Neetu Kapoor was touted as one of the finest actresses of the late 70's an early 80's era of Bollywood.

While being at the top of her career, Neetu Kapoor quit Bollywood to get married to Rishi Kapoor and headed towards a family life. She is the mother of Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor and jewellery designer Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, and the mother-in-law of Bollywood star Alia Bhatt.