



“Dare to Begin” - That is the motto of singer/composer/musician from the UK - Navin. Because if you dare to begin, then your dreams can take shape and become realities.

One such dream did come true for Navin, when filmmaker Sajid Nadiadwala chose him as

a playback singer for the song ‘Freedom’, in the Bollywood film ‘Kambakkht Ishq’, after music director Anu Malik heard him singing a song for his new album. He and fellow UK artist Veronica will be singing Freedom, which is picturised on the main stars of the film, Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor.

When asked what it feels like being chosen as a Bollywood playback singer, he responded resoundingly - “It feels awesome! I have grown up listening to Bollywood music and I am a big fan of Akshay Kumar, so to be given the opportunity to sing for him still feels somewhat unreal.” How did it all come about? “It was through producer Rishi Rich that it came about. Rishi was working with Bollywood music director Anu Malik and he played a song that I had recorded for my new album. Anu Malik liked my voice, so Rishi rang me up and casually said, ‘Come down to the studio. Anu Malik is here and wants you to record for Akshay Kumar on his next Bollywood movie.’ I was like ... what??? I thought he was playing a prank on me but it was for real and it was an awesome experience recording with them!

Amazing! However, if we look back just five years ago, the events related to Navin’s singing were just beginning. Let us travel backwards in time to January 2004 and see where it all began.

At only 19 years of age, he represented the UK on the World Series of Zee TV’s Sa Re Ga Ma stage in Dubai. The following year, he went on to win the BBC Asian Network’s Unsung competition, performing live at the prestigious Birmingham Symphony Hall. In between all his many public performances in various places around the UK, Germany, Holland and South Africa, Navin has been working diligently on composing, singing and producing his debut album, which will be out this year.

Some of the tracks we can look forward to are Tukde, Tukde (Pieces), Zinda Hoon (I am Alive), Main Ha Tere Naal (I am with you), Khaali Dil (Empty Heart), Love Thing (which features the world-famous Bindiya Chamkegi from ‘Do Raaste’, sung by Lata Mangeshkar), Fade Away, and Tere Liye (For You).

‘Tere Liye’, his newest and most romantic song to date released on February 14, 2009. It debuted on the UK Unity Charts at #3 and two weeks later was at #1!

Navin has performed at the SilverDome in Holland and several other countries including Dubai last month, at the top of the seven-star Burj-al-Arab hotel no less. His most recent performance took place in the Big Apple. On May 9 he was singing his heart and soul out in the Grand Ballroom of the historic Cipriani’s Hotel in Manhattan at the South Asian Excellence Awards. The two-and-a-half

hour black-tie event featured entertainers from India, UK and North America and was broadcast on Sony Entertainment Television Asia to a worldwide audience. It was the first of many performances here in the States as part of his world tour.

In the meanwhile, you can listen to all of Navin’s award winning songs on his official website

<http://www.myspace.com/navinkundra>

## Amole Gupte Makes His Acting Debut

Amole Gupte, (writer of ‘Taare Zameen Par’) makes his acting debut with the UTV Motion Pictures produced film ‘Kaminey’. His character is a comical Don named Bhope Bhau. One of the most



awaited and talked about films of the year so far, has Vishal Bhardwaj taking the reins as ace director.

The film stars Shahid Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra as the main

characters. Actually, Shahid takes on a double role for the first time in his career, as he plays both Guddu and Charlie.

Priyanka Chopra, looking glamorous in ‘Dostana’ and ‘Fashion’, will be taking on the role of a simple Maharashtrian girl named Sweetie for which she even speaks quite a bit of Marathi in the film.

## Deepa Mehta signs on Shriya Saran for ‘Komagata Maru’

Although still busy with the promotion of ‘Videsh’ (‘Heaven on Earth’), starring Priety Zinta and Vansh Bhardwaj in India, acclaimed director Deepa Mehta has signed Shriya Saran for her next film ‘Komagata Maru’. Akshay Kumar plays the male lead in the journey of an ill-fated ship, which sets out on its voyage in 1914 from India to Vancouver. Shriya will be playing the younger of the only two female passengers who are on board the ship.

The film tells the true story of the Komagata Maru Incident, which involved close to 400 passengers from India who attempted to immigrate to Canada. However, the attempt was unsuccessful as the passengers were not allowed to disembark and many were killed in an incident with the police.

Shriya has played in numerous films in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada. Out of the five films in Hindi she was nominated for Filmfare’s Best Hindi Female Debut Award for her role as Aaliya in ‘Awarapan’. She won the award for Stardust’s Exciting New Face for her role as Anjali Sagar in ‘Mission Istanbul’. Shriya also played the part of Priya Sethi in the English film ‘The Other End of the Line’.

Filming for ‘Komagata Maru’ is expected to begin this September.

