



Power Brands Jury Panel



SONIA CHOPRA: One of India's most well known film critics and columnists, Sonia is much respected for her uncompromising and unsparing oeuvre of film journalism. Backed by her own knowledge of world cinema, over the years, her perceptive reading of films and their analysis has indeed been a guiding star to movie enthusiasts across the country.

VISHAL VERMA: A noted film critic, freelance film journalist, singer, humorist, writer, columnist and an observer, he comes from a family of writers. Vishal's association with the film industry began way back in 2000, when he started as a Personal Assistant to Udaya Tara Nayar- the former editor of Screen. From 2010, he successfully headed the Bollywood division of the pan India website indiaglitz.com for half a decade. He has been writing on cinema and its people for more than a decade now. He is currently writing features, reviews, humour specials for glamsham.com.





RJ ALOK: (aka Alok Shukla): Celebrity journalist, radio host for Oye FM, film critic, voice over professional, and proficient in a host of other creative roles. Based in Mumbai, he is also a noted senior correspondent with the Dainik Bhaskar group. RJ Alok has a wide fan following comprising of all ages. He is today one of India's most popular new age faces of Radio Entertainment.

DR. SHOMA A. CHATTERJI: Is a freelance journalist, film scholar and an author based in Kolkata. With two National Awards for Best Writing on Cinema - for Best Film Critic in 1991 and for Best Book on cinema in 2002, she has contributed to around a dozen print media and net publications. She has singly authored 25 published books on cinema and gender and has contributed essays on cinema in edited compilations on serious cinema. She has been 'member of jury' at several film festivals in India and abroad. She has presented papers and delivered lectures and also conducted courses on and in cinema at several places in India and abroad.





ANJUM RIZVIIS: A seasoned film and television producer with decade of industry experience. Anjum Rizvi forayed into film production in the early 1990s. He won international acclaim with his first documentary feature titled, 'A Mermaid Called Aida', produced in 1996. Over the years, Anjum has established his credentials as a producer par excellence with his brand of films (with the likes of John Day, A Wednesday, The Mother – Maatr, Katha, A Flat) winning critical kudos and setting new benchmarks in the industry. One of his hits, 'A Wednesday' not only won him several national and international awards, but once again showcased his foresight and ability to back ventures that while being different on established parameters, could still be commercial successes.

IMTIAZ AZEEM: He is one the senior correspondents and the Entertainment Editor of Sahara Samay. Over the last decade and a half, Imtiaz has been leading a well knit team that covers the entire entertainment industry for Sahara Samay. Imtiaz is also one of the strongest proponentS of clear and unbiased entertainment journalism. Not only for Sahara Samay - Imtiaz's contribution to entertainment journalism has been exemplary.





UDITA JHUNJHUNWALA: An "all-rounder", noted columnist, film journalist, freelance contributor, critic and consultant at AFP, First Post, New Indian Express, Mint among others, over the years Udita has successfully carved a niche for her own brand of insightful writing. Her film reviews are widely trusted for their truthful analysis with an unbiased critical eye of a professional. She is also one of the most reliable sources of Entertainment news (which is not gossip) and her close connect with some of the biggest names of Bollywood gives her an edge over the rest.

DR. RAJIV M. VIJAYAKAR: Mumbai Correspondent for Films and Entertainment, India-West, USA, Freelancing Journalist: Deccan Herald (Bangalore) and www.bollywoodhungama.com amongst many others, Freelance Features Writer, Member at the 62nd (2015) and 58th (2011) National Film Awards Jury, Consultant on Hindi Film Music, Indian Music Experience Museum (Bangalore), and Author of multiple books on Hindi film and Hindi Film Music. He is currently writing 'Main Shaayar To Nahin' (lyrics in English) for Harper Collins and a book on Bollywood veteran Dharmendra for Rupa Publications. He was conferred the Hindi Seva Samman 2013 for services to Hindi cinema and music by the Vishwa Hindu Academy on the occasion of Vishwa Hindu Diwas.





JAYA BISWAS: She has always been passionate about films. For her, watching world cinema during free hours is an ideal way to unwind. Armed with 15 years of experience, she is currently working as an Assistant Editor with Calcutta Times, the entertainment supplement of Times of India. Jaya has been associated with some of the country's leading newspapers and websites like The Asian Age, Mumbai Mirror, ibnlive.com, to name a few. As a reporter and critic, she has reviewed several Hindi, English and Bengali films and interviewed many personalities from the entertainment world.

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JYOTH VENKATESH: Editor of the popular film review platform: Cinebuster and veteran freelance film and TV journalist for well over four decades, Jyothi Venkatesh was also bestowed with the prestigious Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Achievement Award instituted for the second successive year by Gopa Kumar Pillai, Founder and Secretary People's Arts Centre (Regd) Mumbai in 2013 for his outstanding contribution to film journalism for the last 40 years. What differentiated Jyothi Venkatesh from others of his ilk was the fact that he never stooped to touch yellow as a journalist and was always frank and forthright when he wrote about actors and films and added that he was like a family friend in whom stars could confide.

SHUBHA SAHA SHETTY. She is currently the Group Entertainment Editor with Mid Day, Dainik Jagran. She is an experienced entertainment editor with distinctive skill in broadcasting, storytelling, news writing and breaking news. A prolific freelance film critic and journalist, she regularly writes for indiatimes.com, Mid-day.com, DNA amongst many others. Her close relationship with some of the leading ladies of Bollywood has given us newer insights in their lives as they comfortably confide in Shubha during interviews. Shubha, however, is a ruthless and objectively dispassionate critic, who never allows her personal relationship with the actors to have any impact when she reviews their films.





ROHIT BHATNAGAN: Noted film critic and entertainment journalist, Rohit regularly contributes to The Deccan Chronicle, The Asian Age, Patrika, Daily News, amongst others. Apart from regularly writing for films, Rohit's other passion had always been film making. His debut movie, "Baaraat Company" - directed by Syed Afzal Ahmed, is a rom-com based in Lucknow received rave reviews from every quarter of the film fraternity. Produced by Archana Chanda from New Age Cinema and distributed by Viacom 18 motion pictures - the movie has a fresh vibe and an interesting take on arranged marriages.

JOHNSON THOMAS: Johnson Thomas is a well-known film, book, theatre, music, art & culture critic and journalist, who has been actively writing on Indian films for last 17 years. He has been a regular contributor of entertainment news for some of the biggest platforms like Free Press Journal, Bombay times & indiatimes.com of the Times of India group, Midday, Indian Express, Filmy Friday.com, Rediff.com, DNA and many more. He has been on the jury for Bhumika International film festival, Panorama Section of International Film Festival of India, & International Children's Film Festival of India 2017. He is a volunteer social worker and the Director of a mumbai based NGO- AASRA, that aims to provide voluntary, professional and essentially confidential care and support to the depressed & the suicidal.





SHANOLI DEBNATH: A journalist with the most popular Bengali tabloid from the ABP Group – Ebela/ ABP Digital – since 2011, she is one of the core team members that had made Ebela- the most popular tabloid all over Bengal in digital as well as print version. Her twitter handle – "@sonamonamar" is one of the most popular places for authentic updates and tweets around the entertainment industry. Based in Kolkata, Shanoli is a perfectionist, whose eye for every meticulous details had made ebela.in such a popular digital tabloid.

SAIBAL CHATTERJEE : He is a national award-winning independent film critic, screenwriter and editor. Starting his journalistic career in 1984 with Telegraph, Kolkata, he moved to New Delhi in 1990 to join The Times of India. He was a part of the editorial team that launched Outlook magazine. Presently, his film reviews appear on ndtv.com. He also reviews Hindi films for Press Trust of India (PTI). He has covered numerous key international film festivals and enter-tainment industry events in Cannes, Toronto, Los Angeles, London, Melbourne and the like. He is also the author of 'Echoes and Eloquences'- a book on the life and work of poet-lyricist-filmmaker Gulzar.





SHARMILA MAITI: The gorgeous and glamorous TV anchor & film journalist, writer, documentary filmmaker, cartoonist, now venturing into digital anchoring – Sharmila is indeed multitasking personified! Having to her credit the hard earned privilege of interviewing some of the living legends of the film industry, Sharmila is a core member and incharge of ABP digital (ebela.in). Anchor-producer of Hotseat, Unplugged, Film Critic at #FridayFilm, Anchor of #Star Status, she has also produced and directed 'BEYOND BORDERS' as well as written and directed 'BHARATI DEVI, A BEAUTIFUL HEART', which was produced by National Film Archive of India, Ministry of I & B, Govt of India.

ANUJ ALANKAR: Entertainment Editor for Hindustan Samachar, Anuj has played the sheet anchor role for the news agency's entertainment division. Anuj is also a prolific writer, who regularly writes blogs about films, actors and social issues. Alumnus of RJP Inter College, Bijnore, Anuj has held different responsible positions in various organisations like Amar Ujala Publications Ltd., India Today Hindi (freelance contributor and entertainment journalism), Jagran Prakashan Ltd., Lokmat Media Pvt. Ltd., before becoming Entertainment Editor at Hindustan Samachar. With his experience and expertise, Anuj is one of the country's most followed and read entertainment journalists right now.





PIYUSH ROY UK and India based critic, curator, novelist and academic. After completing his MSc in Film Studies (2009) from The University of Edinburgh, he became the editor of Indian film weekly StarWeek (2011), and subsequently the youngest editor of one of India's oldest film magazines- Stardust. Recipient of the Best Film Critic Award at the 60th Indian National Film Awards in 2013, he is now the Art & Culture Editor of UK-based academic journal, The South Asianist. He also writes a weekly column on cinema in the Indian daily, Orissa Post. In 2014, he was conferred with the University of Edinburgh's Sir William Darling Memorial Prize.