



A STUDY IN EFFORTLESS CHARM

Debuting under Girish Karnad, at 18, was a daunting challenge but one that bore testament to the immense creative talent that Sonali Kulkarni brought to the screen and stage. Karnad's Cheluvaka the Flowering Tree (1992) was based on a Kannada folk tale. It reflects on the role of women in Indian society and also contains an environmental message relating to deforestation. The film was shown at the Cannes Film Festival. Since that heady start, Sonali has been instrumental in taking Indian regional cinema, especially Marathi cinema to the global stage. Sonali,

SONALI KULKARNI



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO
MARATHI CINEMA OF THE YEAR 2018**

who made her foray into theatre with a group called Samanvay, has acted in big-ticket movies like *Dil Chahta Hai*, *Bride & Prejudice*, director Lamberto Lambertini's *Fire At My Heart* and Rohit Shetty's *Singham*, over and above countless quality regional films. In her illustrious career spread over 26 years, beside her huge contribution to Marathi cinema, Sonali has acted in English, Kannada, Gujarati and Tamil films as well. She received the Special Jury Award (non-feature) in the **49th National Film Awards** for her role in a Marathi short film *Chaitra*. She has also won two Filmfare awards of Best Actress for her performance in "*Dr. Prakash Baba Amte- the real hero*" and "*Doghi*".

And yet, immersed though she is in the tides of her craft, Kulkarni hasn't let the vagaries of an actor's life, from script to scrutiny, take even the shadow of a sheen away from zest and grace that mark her expressions in life and at work. Sonali credits all of that to a holistic personal regimen that focuses on health and personal well-being, regularly practicing meditation and engaging in cardio, weight training and spinning.

Apart from her love for acting she is also a trained dancer and readers might remember Sonali grooving to the beats in a poplar celebrity

dance competition show. She has also donned the Editor's hat – something that very few film personalities have ever done – for Viva, the supplement of the Marathi daily Loksatta. Her weekly column "*So Kool*" got some rave reviews for its simplicity and straightforwardness. As Nana Patekar said on the release of this book, "*Whenever I read her articles, I feel she is talking to me. There is so much of simplicity in her writing.*" She has also worked with Doordarshan channel and did some films like *Gulabari* in 1994 in Hindi which telecast in 1995 and *Kata Rute Kunala* in 1996 in Marathi

for which she has also got RAPA Award-Best television performance of the year. With all the awards and recognitions that came her way, how come Sonali remains motivated for her work - "*My competition is myself; I'm happy with how my career has progressed,*" she admits. "*I learn and sometimes even unlearn things with each new character that I embody.*"

We can perceive a woman who is not only extremely comfortable in her own skin, but one that is unthreatened by anything that may come her way and firm in her desire to, above all, be a good person.

