

# Stealing the Show

by

Ally Adnan

Photographs by Yaseen Lakhani

Gohar Rasheed steals the show with a momentous performance in *Hum TV's Mann Mayal*.

"*Digest Writer* was a turning point in my career," says Gohar Rasheed. "I came into my own and arrived as an actor with the serial. It raised the bar for me and changed my outlook about my career in show business. I was no longer interested in being a superstar and wanted to become a



celebrated actor. I decided to be a part of only those projects with performance opportunities similar to those afforded me by *Digest Writer*." Gohar's studied selective behavior has paid rich dividends. His resume

features a string of plays with performances of consistently high caliber. *Mann Mayal*, his first project for *Hum TV* after *Digest Writer*, marks the talented young actor's glorious return to the channel and establishes his credentials as one of television's most bankable actors.

*Mann Mayal* is co-produced by Samina Humayun Saeed and Tariq Shah, producers of the hit serial *Sadqe Tumhare*, fashion stylist Sana Shahnawaz,



and Hum TV's Momina Duraid. *Mann Mayal* brings two major television personalities – director Haseeb Hassan and writer Samira Fazal – together for the first time. Winners of the *Lux Style Awards*, both have been associated with some of television's most successful plays. Haseeb Hassan's directed the phenomenally successful *Dayar-E-Dil*, *Nanhi*, and *Bol Meri Machli* in the past. Samira Fazal's long list of acclaimed serials includes *Mera Saayeen*, *Shak*, *Chup Raho*, *Bari Apa*, *Mera Naseeb* and *Alvida*. The star studded cast of the serial features Hamza Ali Abbassi, Aisha Khan, Maya Ali, Saba Hameed, Talat Hussain, Laila Zuberi, Sheheryar Zaidi, Mehmood Aslam, in addition to Gohar Rasheed.

Gohar Rasheed plays the role of a young man named *Meekail* who is engaged to Manahil (Maya Ali) who, in turn, loves with her neighbor, Salahuddin (Hamza Ali Abbasi). Gohar's entry in the second episode of *Mann Mayal* established the love triangle that is likely to form the basis of the serial. As soon as he appeared in *Mann Mayal*, the young thespian stole attention from his co-actors with an intelligent and nuanced performance as a young man whose intentions and values are a mystery for others.

Gohar's *Mekayal* has received a warm reception in Pakistan, India and the rest of the world. Gohar, however, tries to ignore comments about his



remarkable performance in *Mann Mayal*. "I do not believe that I am stealing attention away for others in *Mann Mayal*," he says humbly. "The serial stars some of the finest actors in Pakistan. It was never my attention to compete with any of them and I am not doing that. A television serial is a collaborative project. It is virtually impossible for any one actor to do well by himself. One only performs well when others are doing the same. That is the case with *Mann Mayal*. The serial features a lot of great actors at the



top of their game. It will be remembered as an outstanding serial for a very long time.”

*Mann Mayal*’s team consists of top professionals from their respective fields who are known to be working tirelessly to produce a serial that they



hope will take the standard of Pakistani productions to new heights. The talented team also seems to be having fun in the process. “It's always a blast working with a team [consisting of] talented artists [who are] also very dear friends,” says first-time producer, Sana Shahnawaz. “I'm confident the audiences are going to love this serial”. Viewers have responded to *Mann Mayal* with great love and enthusiasm. The serial has received rave reviews from critics and journalists. Industry insiders and luminaries are full of praise for *Mann Mayal*. Compliments continue to pour in from Bollywood. The tremendous reaction to the serial certainly seems to validate Sana’s confidence. *Mann Mayal* seems destined to become a serial for the ages.



Ally Adnan lives in Dallas and writes about culture, history and the arts. He tweets @allyadnan and can be reached at allyadnan@outlook.com.