

= Genelia D 'Souza =

Genelia D 'Souza (born 5 August 1987) is an Indian film actress and model . She has appeared in South Indian cinema and Bollywood films . After gaining wide attention in a Parker Pen commercial with Amitabh Bachchan , Genelia began her acting career with the box @-@ office hit Tujhe Meri Kasam in 2003 . She was recognized for her role in Boys the same year , and later established herself in Telugu cinema by acting in several Telugu films during 2003 ? 2005 .

Genelia received her first Filmfare Award in 2006 for her performance in the Telugu romantic film , Bommarillu , which earned her critical acclaim . In 2008 , she gave critically acclaimed performances in Santosh Subramaniam , a Tamil remake of Bommarillu , and the Bollywood movie Jaane Tu ... Ya Jaane Na . Having acted in several commercially successful movies in Telugu and Tamil , Genelia has established herself as one of the leading actresses of the South Indian film industry . In addition to mainstream acting , Genelia has hosted the television show Big Switch , and is the brand ambassador of Fanta , Virgin Mobile India , Fastrack , LG Mobiles , Garnier Light , Margo , and Perk in India .

= = Early life = =

Born in Mumbai into a Mangalorean Catholic family , Genelia was raised as a Roman Catholic in the Bandra suburb of Mumbai . Her mother tongue is Konkani . Her mother Jeanette D 'Souza was formerly a managing director of the Pharma Multinational corporation (MNC) , who left her job in 2004 to help Genelia with her career . Her father Neil D 'Souza , is a senior official with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) . She also has a younger brother , Nigel D 'Souza , who works with the Bombay Stock Exchange . According to Genelia , her name means " rare " or " unique " , and is a portmanteau of Jeanette and Neil , her mother and father 's names . She is also often informally referred to as Geenu , her nickname . Genelia studied at the Apostolic Carmel High School in Bandra and later joined St. Andrew 's College in Bandra to pursue her bachelor 's degree of Management Studies . She completed her degree while shooting for her first film , Tujhe Meri Kasam in 2003 and initially thought that an MNC job would suit her . She liked sports and studies in college , and was a state level athlete , sprinter , and a national level football player .

Genelia did her first modeling assignment at the age of 15 , the result of being spotted as the bridesmaid at a wedding . She was selected for the Parker Pen commercial with Amitabh Bachchan , just two days before her exams , and had to shoot the next day . Initially she refused , because of her exam the next day , but the director persuaded Genelia to shoot for the commercial . She gained wide attention from the Parker Pen commercial with Amitabh Bachchan , who said " she was good , and her expressions were spontaneous " . She further did a Fair and Lovely 2003 Cricket World Cup advertisement with cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth .

= = Acting career = =

= = = Debut and recognition (2003 ? 05) = = =

When Genelia was offered a role in Tujhe Meri Kasam , initially she turned it down , as she was not keen to pursue a career in acting . But the crew insisted and kept contacting her for two months , and she agreed when she saw the Telugu version of the movie . Tamil director , S. Shankar , was impressed with her performance in the Parker Pen commercial and decided to cast her in a leading role in his 2003 Tamil film Boys . Genelia was selected among 300 girls , who had auditioned for the movie . She signed three movies simultaneously in three different languages , Tujhe Meri Kasam (Hindi) , Boys (Tamil) , and Satyam (Telugu) .

Genelia 's professional movie career began , with her Bollywood debut Tujhe Meri Kasam in 2003 . Film critic Taran Adarsh noted , " Genelia is a wonderful performer . She catches you unaware with a performance that 's natural to the core . " The film was a box @-@ office success . However , it

could not do much to propel her career in Bollywood . Later , she decided to act in South Indian films . The same year , she made her Tamil debut as the teenage girl Harini in Boys , a story about five teenagers having stereotypical teen @-@ boy fantasies . The movie , though noted for its vulgar sexual content , was a box @-@ office success , and subsequently she started receiving Telugu film offers . She left Tamil cinema for a while to concentrate on the Telugu film industry . She made her Telugu debut in 2003 as a medical student in Satyam . Sify noted in their review that , " Genelia is excellent as her body language is her major asset . " The movie was well received , and it raised her profile in the Telugu film industry .

In 2004 , Genelia appeared in her second Bollywood movie , Masti . The comedy focuses on three close friends who reunite after three years , but are now married and are being harassed by their wives . Genelia portrayed the character of one of the wives . Taran Adarsh was complimentary of Genelia 's role , saying , " Amongst the wives , Genelia is the best , [...] Genelia looks the stern and demanding wife and is sure to be noticed . " The film was a box @-@ office success . The same year , she appeared in two Telugu movies Samba , and Sye , both succeeding at the box @-@ office .

After appearing in her first Telugu movie in 2005 , Naa Alludu , she starred in the Tamil romantic entertainer Sachein . A review in The Hindu noted , " Genelia , who hardly made an impression in Boys , makes much impact in Sachein . " The movie evoked mixed response from audiences , but was well received with the younger generation . She later appeared in the Telugu patriotic movie Subhash Chandra Bose .

= = = Turning point in South Indian films (2006 ? 08) = = =

The year 2006 marked a significant turning point in Genelia 's career . She completed two Telugu movies in early 2006 , one was the romantic comedy Happy , and the other was Raam . She then portrayed the role of Haasini , a vibrant , effervescent and a happy @-@ go @-@ lucky young girl , in the 2006 Telugu romantic film Bommarillu . The movie , a blockbuster at the box @-@ office , grossed ? 250 million (US \$ 3 @.@ 7 million) in India , and also won the 2006 Golden Nandi award . Her character was well received , and garnered her the Telugu Filmfare Award for Best Actress , besides Nandi Special Jury Award and Santosham Award for Best Actress . Sify concluded about her acting in their review that , " The scene stealer is Genelia with her innocent looks and cute mannerisms . She does not overact and we just fall in love with her character . Genelia looks like a dream in chic skirts and is the life of the party and raises the bar of the film . "

Following the success of Bommarillu , Genelia played the role of the daughter of a local don , in the Tamil gangster film Chennai Kadhal alongside Boys co @-@ star Bharath . Rediff.com criticized her commenting , " Genelia stands up yet again to prove the point that if you are pretty and well dressed , you can get away with anything , without acting . " Shortly afterwards in 2007 , Genelia played the role of sister of a notorious gangster in the blockbuster Telugu movie Dhee , set against a gang war backdrop .

The following year , Genelia appeared in the 2008 Telugu romantic thriller Mr. Medhavi , in which she portrayed the role of a student from Canada . The movie was successful , with Rediff.com complimenting her performance saying , " Genelia is her effervescent self ? full of joie @-@ de @-@ vivre and lights up the screen . " She made her Kannada debut in Satya in Love the same year . Later , she was cast in a leading role in Santhosh Subramaniam , a Tamil remake of Bommarillu . The film also turned out to be rather successful as its predecessor . Sify described Genelia 's portrayal as " the soul of the film " and the film 's " biggest strength " , however Rediff.com described her character as " appears a little too good to be true . "

= = = Return to Bollywood and recent work (June 2008 ? present) = = =

In June 2008 , following a nearly five @-@ year hiatus in Bollywood , she appeared in Mere Baap Pehle Aap , which failed to make profit at the box @-@ office . A Rediff review noted , " besides her apparent cuteness , brings in tons of freshness and traits to the youthful characters she chooses to

play ", while a Sify review criticized her stating , " Genelia is sprightly but has a standard two @-@ three expressions bank in this film . " She later appeared in the Telugu love story Ready alongside Ram , which was well received . Her breakthrough performance in 2008 was through the portrayal of the role of Aditi Mahant in the blockbuster Jaane Tu ... Ya Jaane Na , which was an economic success across India and overseas , grossing ₹ 564 million (US \$ 8 @. @ 4 million) . Her role was widely admired for her sweetness and freshness , and new style of acting , with Rediff describing her acting as a " spark that has been missing in Hindi cinema for well over a decade now " . In that same year , Genelia acted in the Telugu romantic comedy Sasirekha Parinayam . The movie received favorable reviews , and Sify noted in their review that , " The life of the film is definitely Genelia and she has shown the varied emotions from innocence , sadness , romance and anger in equal proportions without a hitch . "

In 2009 , Genelia was cast in the Hindi film Life Partner , in which she was criticized for her performance . Indian film critic Rajeev Masand commented , " The adorable little imp from Jaane Tu ? Ya Jaane Na has turned into a nagging harridan in this film , and how you wish she 'd immediately enroll for acting lessons . " Her next appearance in 2009 was in the Telugu thriller Katha , which was well received , and for which she won the 2009 Nandi Special Jury Award . In 2010 , Genelia appeared in Chance Pe Dance and Orange , both receiving poor reviews from critics , but her Uthama Puthiran was a moderate success in Tamil .

D 'Souza had a major role in 2011 , starring as the Muslim warrior princess Arackal Ayesha , in her debut Malayalam film Urumi . The film is about a fictional story happening in Calicut , Kerala during the 15th century , about a boy who plots to assassinate the Portuguese explorer Vasco Da Gama . She learned horse riding , and spent two weeks of training to use the sword , the short stick , and movements of the Dravidian martial art Kalarippayattu . The movie portrayed her image makeover from typically girl @-@ next @-@ door roles to more serious roles . Her next appearance was in the Bollywood action thriller Force , which received mixed reception from critics , with Taran Adarsh of Bollywood Hungama noting that D 'Souza is strikingly sweet and subdued . She played the role of a journalist alongside leading actor Vijay in Velayudham , which was also commercially successful . She appeared in Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya and Naa Ishtam in 2012 and in cameo appearances in Jai Ho and Lai Bhaari in 2014 .

Future films of D 'Souza include Hook Ya Crook and It 's My Life (a remake of Bommarillu in Hindi)

= = Other work and events = =

D 'Souza was a part of Tamil director Mani Ratnam 's stage show , Netru , Indru , Naalai , an event which seeks to raise funds for The Banyan , a voluntary organisation which rehabilitates homeless women with mental illness in Chennai . She was one of the judges at the grand finale of Gladrags Mega Model and Manhunt 2009 contest on 28 March 2009 . She also walked the ramp alongside Tushar Kapoor for fashion designer Manish Malhotra at the Lakme Fashion Week 2009 on 28 March 2009 . On 5 April 2009 , D 'Souza was among several Bollywood celebrities to perform at the Pantaloons Femina Miss India 2009 finale in Mumbai . In October 2009 , she appeared as a showstopper for jewellery designer Farah Khan Ali on the second season of Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) India Couture Week , a platform created to celebrate India 's fashion heritage by showcasing the country 's leading couture designers . On 24 October 2009 , D 'Souza began hosting Big Switch , a television show based on slum kids on UTV Bindass channel to reach a bigger audience .

She has unveiled Spinz Black Magic deodorant on 7 October 2009 in Mumbai , and the Ceres Store retail outlet . At the Chennai International Fashion Week (CIFW) in December 2009 , she appeared as a showstopper for designer Ishita Singh 's spring @-@ summer indigenous collection of 2010 , showcasing the best of Indian and Western dresses . She also holds a Limca world record of delivering four different super hit films in four different languages , Ready (Telugu) , Satya in Love (Kannada) , Santosh Subramaniam (Tamil) , and Jaane Tu ... Ya Jaane Na (Hindi) in a span of one calendar year .

She was a part of online market portal eBay 's 2010 " Dream House " challenge , where she transformed an empty three @-@ room apartment in Bandra into an attractive home with online shopping . She had been provided a budget of ? 450 @,@ 000 (US \$ 6 @,@ 700) and two weeks to create a look she wants with items on sale on the website . On the occasion of Children 's Day (14 November) , D 'Souza auctioned a few items from the apartment . All proceeds received from the auction was given to Aseema , a Non @-@ governmental organization (NGO) , which aims to provide education to underprivileged children .

= = Reception = =

D 'Souza has been often tagged in the media as the " bubbly girl " , after portraying the role of a young energetic girl in several movies , especially Jaane Tu ... Ya Jaane Na (2008) . She appeared alongside Shahid Kapoor on the fourth episode of Tere Mere Beach Mein , a celebrity chat show , hosted by Farah Khan . The theme of the show was " Second Innings " , since both D 'Souza and Kapoor had the same history of failures initially and success later in their acting careers . In June 2010 , D 'Souza was crowned as the " Brand Ambassador of the Year " at the CNBC Awaaz consumer awards , for endorsing nine brands . She is now the brand ambassador of the soft drink Fanta (replacing Rani Mukherjee) , the chocolate Perk (replacing Preity Zinta) , Virgin Mobile India (along with Ranbir Kapoor) , Fastrack watches and accessories , LG mobiles (along with John Abraham and Abhay Deol) , Garnier Light fairness cream , Dabur Vatika hair oil , Margo soap , and Spinz deodorant .

= = Controversies = =

In June 2010 , she was the subject of a controversy , when a Tamil daily reported that she had attended the controversial 2010 IIFA Awards in Colombo . Several Bollywood actors and the South Indian film industry had boycotted the event , over the alleged killing of Tamilian civilians at the height of the conflict between the Sri Lanka Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009 . The rumours of her visit to Colombo started after her friend Ritesh Deshmukh was seen at the festival in Colombo . Immediately , various Tamil groups and Kollywood associations demanded her films to be banned .

In 2011 , a controversy broke out for her film Force , in a wedding sequence scene of herself and John Abraham . Sources claim that the wedding ceremony and rituals conducted were so authentic that they would have actually been husband and wife in real life . Instead of a junior artiste , a real priest was called for the scene . Again , following the reports of Ritesh Deshmukh and D 'Souza 's marriage plans , the priest landed up at producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah 's office to register a complaint . He insisted that the couple couldn 't get married , as D 'Souza has been already married to John Abraham , as all marriage rituals were observed , from wearing a mangalsutra (a sacred thread worn by Indian women as a symbol of their marriage) , to exchanging garlands , and taking the seven steps around the holy fire . Shah dismissed the claims as a publicity stunt .

= = Personal life = =

D 'Souza is deeply religious and says that , she regularly attends Sunday Mass at St. Anne 's Parish (Bandra) , and whenever the family is home , a part of their evening is reserved for saying the rosary together . In an interview with The Times of India , she comments , " I keep a Novena every Wednesday at St. Michael 's Church in Mahim . " In an interview with Daily News and Analysis , she said that " My communication with God is conversational , [...] I 'm God 's favourite child ; I believe that God has always been kind to me . " Her mother tongue is Konkani . Tabloids repeatedly linked D 'Souza romantically with Ritesh Deshmukh , ever since they starred together in their debut film Tujhe Meri Kasam in 2003 . They were reportedly ready to get engaged , but Ritesh 's father , the then @-@ Maharashtra Chief Minister , Vilasrao Deshmukh did not agree . D 'Souza later denied any rumors of a relationship with Deshmukh , and responds that she had just friendly

relations with him . However , the couple eventually got married on 3 February 2012 , according to Marathi marriage traditions in a Hindu wedding ceremony . She got married in a Roman Catholic ceremony in Bandra , the following day . The couple 's first child , a son named Riaan , was born on 25 November 2014 . Their second son was born on 1 June 2016 .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =