

= Randeep Hooda =

Randeep Hooda (pronounced [r?d ? i?p hu??a?] ; born 20 August 1976) is an Indian film actor who appears in Hindi @-@ language films . Hooda was born into a Jat family in Rohtak , Haryana ; he studied at the Motilal Nehru School at Sonapat , where he began acting in school productions , and later studied for a postgraduate degree in human resource management in Melbourne , Australia . He returned to India and began modelling and acting in stage productions .

Hooda made his Bollywood debut in Monsoon Wedding in 2001 , and he garnered praise for his performance . His next project was Ram Gopal Varma 's D (2005) , and he then worked on a series of critically and commercially unsuccessful projects . He then starred in the commercially successful Once Upon a Time in Mumbaai (2010) and was subsequently noted for his performance in Saheb , Biwi Aur Gangster (2011) , which earned him an IIFA Award for Best Supporting Actor nomination . He garnered further critical acclaim for his role in Imtiaz Ali 's drama Highway (2014) and Omung Kumar 's biographical drama Sarbjit (2016) . Hooda 's other notable films include Jism 2 (2012) , Murder 3 (2013) , Kick (2014) , and Rang Rasiya (2014) .

In addition to his film career , Hooda has acted in numerous stage plays and made his debut as a playwright with an adaptation of Lee Blessing 's A Walk in the Woods . He is a professional equestrian who regularly participates in polo , show jumping and dressage events . He won a silver medal at an open dressage event in New Delhi that was organised by the Equestrian Federation of India . Hooda is also an activist and a blogger .

= = Early life and background = =

Randeep Singh Hooda was born on 20 August 1976 in Rohtak , Haryana , India , to Dr. Ranbir Hooda (a surgeon) and Asha Hooda (a social worker) . He has an elder sister , Dr. Anjali Hooda Sangwan , a US @-@ trained nutritionist and a younger brother Sandeep Hooda , a Software Engineer working in Singapore .

Hooda belongs to a Jat family . He was educated at Motilal Nehru School of Sports (MNSS) , a boarding school in Rai , Haryana , where he participated in swimming and equestrian sports and won medals at the national level . Hooda later developed an interest in theatre and participated in school productions , one of which he directed . In an interview with Rediff.com , he said he enjoyed appearing in front of people . However , his family wanted him to become a doctor and he was transferred to Delhi Public School , R. K. Puram in New Delhi . Hooda described the transition from an environment in which he was popular to one in which he was unknown as " difficult " .

After completing his schooling , Hooda moved to Melbourne , Australia , in 1995 , where he studied for a bachelor 's degree in marketing and a master 's degree in business management and human resource management . During that period , he worked in a Chinese restaurant , a car wash , as a waiter and for two years as a taxi driver . In 2000 , Hooda returned to India and worked in the marketing department of an airline . He subsequently started modelling and working in amateur theatre in Delhi . While rehearsing for the play To Teach His Own , director Mira Nair approached Hooda to audition for a role in her upcoming film .

= = Film career = =

= = = 2001 ? 09 : Debut and struggle = = =

Hooda made his acting debut in Mira Nair 's film Monsoon Wedding (2001) , playing a non @-@ resident Indian from Australia . Although the film was a critical and commercial success , Hooda waited four years for a second project . In the meantime , he worked in theatre and appeared in television commercials to support himself financially . He also attended and assisted an imagination and improvisation workshop conducted by Naseeruddin Shah at the National School of Drama in New Delhi .

In 2005 , Hooda was cast as the male lead in Ram Gopal Varma 's gritty gangster film D. His performance in the film received positive reviews ; Taran Adarsh wrote , " D wouldn 't be what it is without Randeep . He changes his expressions like a chameleon changes colors and that 's where he scores . " After D , Hooda appeared in a series of critically and commercially unsuccessful films including Darna Zaroori Hai (2006) , Risk (2007) , Ru Ba Ru (2008) , and Love Khichdi (2009) .

= = = 2010 ? present : Breakthrough and critical acclaim = = =

In 2010 , Hooda appeared in Milan Luthria 's Once Upon a Time in Mumbaai , a period action drama depicting the rise of organised crime in Mumbai . Co -@-@ starring alongside Ajay Devgan , Emraan Hashmi , Kangana Ranaut and Prachi Desai , Hooda played ACP Agnel Wilson . His performance in the film was appreciated by critics , and proved to be a turning point in his career . Sudish Kamath of The Hindu wrote , " In the few scenes he gets , Randeep chews the scenery around him with his Bachchan @-@ like presence , his baritone firing away dialogue as if he were born to play this role . " Komal Nahta described him as a " revelation " . The film was a critical and commercial success , earning over ? 780 million (US \$ 12 million) in India . Hooda later attributed his success to this film : " Things have really changed for me professionally because before Once Upon A Time In Mumbaai I did take a hiatus from acting , but that film brought me back in a big way . Now other directors and production houses look at me as an actor who can carry bigger parts and a longer screen presence . "

The following year , Hooda featured in Tigamshu Dhulia 's romantic thriller Saheb , Biwi Aur Gangster with Jimmy Shergill and Mahie Gill . The film (and his portrayal of a gangster who falls in love with a married woman while working as her driver) earned rave reviews from critics . In an interview with Digital Spy , Hooda said " My inspiration for this character went back to my roots in Haryana , to the time I grew up and people I observed . My uncles were drivers and I thought of those times and people around me . " Nikhat Kazmi of The Times of India called him " absolutely mesmerising " ; Garauv Malani wrote , " Randeep Hooda plays the best character of his career so far and gets immense scope to show his performance prowess . The passion , obsession , emotions and expressions he brings to his character is simply outstanding . "

Hooda 's first film in 2012 was Kunal Deshmukh 's crime thriller Jannat 2 , a sequel to Jannat (2008) . Jannat 2 received mixed reviews from critics and Hooda was praised for his performance . Taran Adarsh wrote , " the actor delivers yet another knockout performance . He dominates in several sequences , making you realize that if given an opportunity , the guy can steal the thunder from the best of actors . " Sonia Chopra of Sify said , " Randeep Hooda is the best thing about the film . " It was a commercial success and earned a domestic revenue of over ? 410 million (US \$ 6 @.@ 1 million) . Hooda 's next appearance was in Pooja Bhatt 's erotic thriller Jism 2 opposite Sunny Leone . The film and Hooda 's performance received mixed reviews from critics . Lisa Tsering of The Hollywood Reporter said Hooda " smolders to the best of his ability in the role of a violent criminal " . Rajeev Masand , who was less impressed by his performance , wrote , " The usually dependable Hooda , goes a little overboard with all the feeling ; alternating clunkily between melancholic and hyper , Hooda constructs a wildly implausible character that inspires most of the unintended laughs in this film " . Jism 2 was a moderate commercial success , earning ? 350 million (US \$ 5 @.@ 2 million) in India .

Hooda 's final film of the year was Madhur Bhandarkar 's drama Heroine , starring Kareena Kapoor , in which he played cricketer Angad Paul . Before the start of principal photography , Arunoday Singh was chosen for the role but was dropped for unknown reasons . Media reports began speculating about several actors (such as Ranbir Kapoor , Imran Khan and Prateik Babbar) , although Bhandarkar later confirmed that he selected Hooda after seeing his performance in Saheb , Biwi Aur Gangster (2011) . The film received mixed to negative reviews , but Hooda 's performance was appreciated by the critics . Kanika Sikka of Daily News and Analysis wrote , " Randeep , as usual does justice to his role . " The film was fared poorly at the domestic and international box office .

In 2013 , Hooda starred opposite Aditi Rao Hydari and Sara Loren in Vishesh Bhatt 's Murder 3 , an

official remake of the 2011 Colombian thriller *The Hidden Face* . The film and his portrayal of Vikram (a fashion and wildlife photographer) garnered mixed to negative feedback from critics . A review from *Mint* said that Hooda " is hundreds of shades below his ability to enact a character . " The film earned a worldwide gross of ₹ 250 million (US \$ 3 @. @ 7 million) in ten days and was an average grosser . Hooda also featured in *John Day* and alongside Rani Mukerji and Saqib Saleem in a segment of anthology film *Bombay Talkies* directed by Karan Johar .

In 2014 , Hooda appeared opposite Alia Bhatt in Imtiaz Ali 's *Highway* . To get used to his character , who had a distant relationship with Bhatt 's character , Hooda avoided speaking to her for about 25 days . Parmita Uniyal for *Hindustan Times* wrote , " He delivers a nuanced yet controlled performance . He perfects the Haryanvi accent to lend authenticity to his character . He 's able to get into the skin of his character Mahabir Bhati . His character opens up and frees himself from the self @-@ imposed shackles towards the end . " Hooda 's performance in Sajid Nadiadwala 's *Kick* , which emerged as one of the biggest blockbusters of 2014 , was praised . His last film appearance of 2014 was alongside Emraan Hashmi and Kangana Ranaut in Karan Johar 's film *Ungli* , which was a commercial failure .

In 2015 , Hooda starred in Prawaal Raman 's , *Main Aur Charles* , which is based on the life of Charles Sobhraj and the 1986 jail escape . The film was released in India on 31 October 2015 to mostly positive response from critics . In 2016 , Hooda starred alongside Akshay Oberoi and Pooja Bajpai in Syed Ahmed Afzal 's action thriller *Laal Rang* . The film was a box office failure and received a lukewarm response from critics . Hooda 's performance was highlighted as the only bright spot in the film .

= = Other works = =

= = = Theatre = = =

Hooda has been associated with theatre since the beginning of his acting career ; he is an active member of Naseeruddin Shah 's *Motley Theatre Troupe* . In an interview with *Daily News and Analysis* he said , " My first stint with theatre was in school , where I was asked to wear a lion mask and roar for several minutes . My parents came to see me with a lot of expectations and sadly , they couldn 't even recognise me on stage because of the mask . " During his film career , Hooda has participated in theatrical productions . He said , " Juggling between the two [theatre and films] does get difficult , but I don 't see myself ever give up Theatre . It 's got a deeper connect with who I really am . So , if films give you the wings to fly , Theatre is a reality check , it keeps you grounded . Films can give you the satisfaction of feeling like a hero , but theatre gives you the real satisfaction of being an actor . "

Hooda has appeared in *Kali Shalwar Aur Kuchhh Kahaniyan* (a play based on Saadat Hasan Manto 's short stories) , *To Teach His Own* , and *Arms and The Man* . He described the latter as a typical George Bernard Shaw play ; " It is complete with elements to entertain an audience . It delves into true love , heroism and some confused relationships that are pretty baffling even in the current social structure . " Hooda made his theatrical debut as a writer , adapting Lee Blessing 's *A Walk in the Woods* into an Indian context . Ratna Pathak directed the play and Naseerudin Shah appeared in it .

= = = Equestrian sports = = =

Hooda is the only Bollywood actor who regularly participates in professional equestrian sports , including polo and show jumping . He started competing at a professional level after the release of his film *D*. Hooda was coached by Colonel SS Ahlawat and Brigadier Bishnoi in show @-@ jumping and dressage . He described riding as his " passion " ; " My first stint with horses happened when I was in class eight at the Motilal Nehru School of Sports in Haryana , but thereafter I didn 't ride horses for 17 years " . He owned eight horses , but gave away two of them new trainees . He

keeps his horses at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse in Mumbai .

In December 2008 , Hooda underwent surgery after suffering a severe ankle injury in a fall from his horse during a polo match in Mumbai . The following year , he won a silver medal at an open dressage event organised by the Equestrian Federation of India in Delhi . Hooda has also won medals at equestrian events in Mumbai and Delhi , where he participated with riders from the Indian Army . In 2014 , Hooda won seven medals , including three gold and two silver and bronze medals respectively , at the National Equestrian Championship in dressage and show @-@ jumping events . Additionally , he has won a silver medal each at the Delhi Horse Show , in 2009 and the Bombay Horse Show , in 2011 .

= = = Journalism = = =

In 2009 , Hooda was a guest contributor to " In The Script " , a column published by Asian Correspondent . His article titled " Racism against Indians in Australia ... " discussed the violence against Indians in Australia controversy . Hooda wrote about his experience in Australia , where he was subjected to racial discrimination ; he said , " My experiences were not in my mind incidents of racial discrimination but more a challenge of an individual assertion of mental and physical superiority " . In conclusion , he wrote , " The point is to get tough inside out , play a sport apart from cricket , have heart and stand up in unity and say ' we 'll not take shit ' . All it needs is a few pioneers and I 'm proud to say that I tried [and will continue to do so] and I hope a few others do that too . " In 2011 , Hooda began writing a blog for Hindustan Times .

= = = Social activism = = =

In September 2010 , Hooda and Jackky Bhagnani appeared in a charity fashion show for Khushi , Kapil Dev 's NGO to improve poor communities in India . The following year , Hooda raised public awareness of chronic hunger in India . He presented a video to the cast and crew of Jism 2 , who shared it on their social media accounts . In December 2012 , Hooda participated in an anti @-@ suicide initiative with Imtiaz Ali , Rahul Bose , Mahesh Bhupathi , and Nishikant Kamath . Hooda , who had failed Class 12 , said , " Don 't accept defeat . Fight back adversities . Failure is a myth . Every experience is a just fodder for the future . Suicide doesn 't solve the problem , It ends you . "

= = Image and personal life = =

Apart from his reputation as an intense actor , Hooda is considered one of India 's most attractive celebrities . In 2010 , he ranked 21st in The Times of India 's annual list of the 50 most desirable men . In 2011 , a global online survey conducted by Internet Movie Database (IMDb) ranked him seventh on its list of the " 20 sexiest men in the world " . Although he was surprised and grateful , Hooda said he is not influenced by such labels ; " I want people to know me for my body of work , than just my body ... Being sexy can always just be an added advantage , not the be @-@ all and end @-@ all for an actor " . During an interview with Mid Day , he said during his early years in the industry , people saw him as an " explosive Jat boy " who had a calculated approach to his work . He said , " Now , I 'm a bit more careful . I 've changed the way I express myself " .

Hooda lived in a hostel from a young age ; he said , " I 've always had a good time , it 's something that gives me my spirit and fuels my spirit as well . Now , I want my parents to live with me , I want to enjoy their company more . " He said he had a good relationship with his parents , who live in Faridabad , and that their openness to everything has helped him in life . He considers Naseerudin Shah to be his " mentor , friend and confidant " , saying , " He 's an inspiration and somebody who has helped nurture me as an actor not necessarily my career but my craft . He 's also the one who opened my eyes to the world of acting . "

Hooda had a relationship with former Miss Universe and actor Sushmita Sen from 2004 to 2006 . He later said ending their relationship changed his career ; " The break @-@ up was the best thing that happened to me and I realised that I gave it too much time in my life . It freed my energy to do

things for myself . " Hooda owns a stray dog named Candy .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =