

= Sonam Kapoor =

Sonam Kapoor (pronounced [soʔnʔm kʔʔpuʔr] ; born 9 June 1985) is an Indian actress who appears in Bollywood films . Kapoor is one of the highest @-@ paid actresses in the industry . She has been nominated for four Filmfare Awards .

The daughter of actor Anil Kapoor , Kapoor studied theatre and arts at the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore . She was an assistant director to Sanjay Leela Bhansali on the 2005 film Black . Kapoor made her acting debut in Bhansali 's romantic drama Saawariya (2007) , for which she was nominated for a Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut . She had her first commercial success three years later in the romantic comedy I Hate Luv Storys (2010) .

After a series of commercial failures , the sleeper hit Raanjhanaa (2013) marked a turning point in her career , earning her several Best Actress nominations . She then featured in the 2014 romantic comedy Khoobsurat and the 2015 comedy drama Dolly Ki Doli , both of which earned her Filmfare Award for Best Actress nominations . Kapoor played a princess in the melodrama Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2015) , one of the highest @-@ grossing Bollywood films of all time . She garnered critical acclaim for portraying the titular role in the biographical thriller Neerja (2016) , one of the highest @-@ grossing Bollywood films featuring a female protagonist .

Kapoor supports various charities and causes , such as raising awareness of breast cancer and LGBT rights . She is known in the media for her outspoken personality , and is a prominent celebrity endorser for brands and products .

= = Life and career = =

= = = Early life (1985 ? 2006) = = =

Kapoor was born in the Mumbai suburb of Chembur on 9 June 1985 . Her father is actor and producer Anil Kapoor , the son of the late filmmaker Surinder Kapoor and the founder of the Anil Kapoor Films Company . Her mother , Sunita , is a former model and designer . Kapoor has two younger siblings : film producer Rhea and brother Harshvardhan . She is the niece of film producer Boney Kapoor and actor Sanjay Kapoor ; actress Sridevi and producer Mona Shourie (Boney 's wives) are her aunts . Kapoor 's paternal cousins are actors Arjun Kapoor and Mohit Marwah , and maternal cousin is actor Ranveer Singh .

The family moved to the suburb of Juhu when Kapoor was one month old . She was educated at the Arya Vidya Mandir school in Juhu , where she confessed to being a " naughty " and " carefree " child who would bully the boys . She excelled at sports such as rugby and basketball , and trained in Kathak , classical music and Latin dance . Kapoor , who practices Hinduism , states that she is " quite religious " , and that it is a way of " reminding myself that I need to be thankful for so much " .

Kapoor 's first job was as a waitress at age 15 , although it lasted only a week . As a teenager , she struggled with her weight : " I had every issue related to weight that I could have . I was unhealthy , I had bad skin , and I had hair growing on my face ! " Kapoor was diagnosed with insulin resistance and polycystic ovarian disease , and has since begun an initiative to increase awareness of diabetes . Kapoor enrolled at the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore for her pre @-@ university education , where she studied theatre and arts . She has said she later started courses in economics and political science through University of Mumbai correspondence programme , after returning from University of East London where she began her bachelor 's degree in the same subjects but returned to Mumbai soon after she began . The actress Rani Mukerji , a family friend , visited her family in Singapore on holiday while working on Black (2005) . Kapoor , who had originally wanted to be a director and writer , expressed a desire to work as a crew member on the film . On her father 's recommendation to director Sanjay Leela Bhansali , she was appointed as his assistant .

= = = Debut and career fluctuations (2007 ? 12) = = =

During the production of *Black*, Kapoor developed an interest in acting when Bhansali professed that he wanted to cast her in the lead in his next film, *Saawariya*. She was advised to lose weight; at the time, she weighed about 80 kilograms (180 lb). Motivated by Bhansali's confidence in her, she lost 35 kilograms (77 lb) in two years. Kapoor studied acting with Roshan Taneja, Jayati Bhatia and Feroz Abbas Khan, and has cited actresses Waheeda Rehman and Nutan as influences, admiring their " path @-@ breaking films ? [and] quality of doing different things " .

Released in 2007, *Saawariya* saw Kapoor play a Muslim woman awaiting the return of her lover opposite Mukerji and Ranbir Kapoor. It was the first Indian feature film produced by a Hollywood studio, Sony Pictures Entertainment. *Saawariya* proved to be a major critical and commercial failure. Writing for BBC, Jaspreet Pandohar called the film a " misfire on a massive scale ". Raja Sen of Rediff.com described her laugh as " almost as infectious as her father's ", but wished that she had been " allowed to simper softly, instead of having a clearly overdubbed plastic giggle plastered onto her. " The film earned her a Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut nomination and the Stardust Award for Superstar of Tomorrow ? Female .

In 2009, Kapoor played an aspiring singer opposite Waheeda Rehman and Abhishek Bachchan in the Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra @-@ directed drama *Delhi @-@ 6*. Despite critical acclaim, the film was not a box @-@ office success. CNN @-@ IBN's Rajeev Masand referred to Kapoor as a " revelation ", writing that she was " a firecracker, instinctive and uninhibited in what isn't even a conventional female lead ". Sonia Chopra of Sify described Kapoor as an " earnest and effortless performer ", and found her character likeable, despite the " typical Delhi @-@ girl recipe " .

Kapoor's first release in 2010 was Punit Malhotra's romantic comedy *I Hate Luv Storys*, opposite Imran Khan. She played an engaged woman who develops a one @-@ sided attraction to her commitment @-@ phobic co @-@ worker. Khan said about Kapoor's craft, " We'd be shooting a scene from multiple angles ? for three or four hours you're doing the same scene, the same lines ? and here is this person [Kapoor] who brings consistency to her work, from the way she talks, to her accent. " Although Shubhra Gupta of The Indian Express called Kapoor's performance " stiff and rehearsed ", Daily News and Analysis' Johnson Thomas found her " likeable and believable ". *I Hate Luv Storys* was Kapoor's first commercial success, earning ? 725 @. @ 2 million (US \$ 11 million) worldwide .

Kapoor next played the eponymous role in *Aisha*, a romantic comedy adaptation of Jane Austen's novel *Emma*, which was produced by her sister Rhea. She described her role opposite Abhay Deol, Ira Dubey and Amrita Puri as " a meddlesome busybody with a passion for matchmaking and playing Cupid ". An Indo @-@ Asian News Service reviewer thought that Kapoor had stood out with her performance, making " the best of a rather rare opportunity for an Indian leading lady to be part of a Bollywood film that salutes Victorian mores and Delhi's elitist affectations in one clean cool sweep " .

In 2011, Kapoor starred in *Thank You*, a comedy about three women who teach a lesson to their philandering husbands. The film, along with Kapoor's performance, received poor reviews; Nikhat Kazmi of The Times of India called her " terribly out of sync ". She then played the romantic interest of Shahid Kapoor in the Pankaj Kapur @-@ directed romantic drama, *Mausam*, which was also poorly received. Despite doubts about her acting ability, critic Saibal Chatterjee of NDTV thought Kapoor conveyed " the essential vulnerability of a girl forever under duress, bringing out just the right mix of feminine fragility and native resolve ". The following year, Kapoor played a computer hacker opposite Abhishek Bachchan and Bipasha Basu in the Abbas ? Mustan @-@ directed action film, *Players*, a remake of 2003's *The Italian Job*. Her role was originally written for Katrina Kaif, who was unavailable for the film. Although journalists had high expectations, it failed commercially, and Raja Sen of Rediff.com remarked derogatively that Kapoor " truly entertains with her childish attempt to pass off as a Gold @-@ medalist hacker ". Kapoor's string of poorly @-@ received films began to hinder her career .

= = = Raanjhanaa and beyond (2013 ? present) = = =

Kapoor 's role in the Anand L. Rai @-@ directed romantic drama Raanjhanaa (2013) marked a turning point in her career ; Geety Sahgal called it her best performance to date in The Indian Express . Kapoor 's role was that of Zoya Haider , a young Muslim student from Varanasi who is drawn into politics after the murder of her Sikh lover . To prepare for her part , Kapoor interacted with students , attended workshops and practiced with theatre groups associated with Jawaharlal Nehru University . She also studied Jaya Bachchan 's work in Guddi (1971) , which she felt was " perfect " for her role . Discussing her character in the film , Kapoor described her approach to acting : " I have always tried to do different films and ? I try to be different for every character . I like doing different things to challenge myself in every way and don 't like to repeat myself . " Although Raanjhanaa received mixed reviews , her performance was praised ; Rajeev Masand wrote that she " does some of her best work here , going smoothly from innocent to manipulative to cynical , without ever losing Zoya 's inherent vulnerability " . With worldwide earnings of over ? 1 billion (US \$ 15 million) , Raanjhanaa was a commercial success and Kapoor received her first nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Actress .

Kapoor followed the success of Raanjhanaa with a brief appearance in Bhaag Milkha Bhaag (2013) , a biopic on athlete Milkha Singh . She received ? 11 (16 ¢ US) for the film , made on a budget of ? 300 million (US \$ 4 @.@ 5 million) , citing her admiration for director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and the film itself as reasons for her appearance . Critically praised , Bhaag Milkha Bhaag was one of the top @-@ grossing Bollywood films of the year . The critic Sarita A. Tanwar wrote in her review that despite her minor role , Kapoor proved to " be the perfect warm counterpart to Milkha " . Both Raanjhanaa and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag received Filmfare Award for Best Film nominations , the latter of which won .

In 2014 , Kapoor portrayed the banker Mayera opposite Ayushmann Khurrana and Rishi Kapoor in the Yash Raj Films comedy @-@ drama Bewakoofiyaan , in a role which Anupama Chopra found to be poorly written and an " uphill climb " . She next starred in the romantic comedy Khoobsurat , an adaptation of the 1980 film of the same name , playing the role which had originally been given to Rekha . Though she received a Filmfare Best Actress nomination for her performance , critics were divided in their response , with Shilpa Jamkhandikar of Reuters calling her " loud and exasperating " , and Andy Webster of The New York Times ' comparing her to a young Anne Hathaway and highlighting her " Julia Roberts @-@ like smile " . Later that year she met entrepreneur @-@ model Sahir Berry on a social media network , and began a romantic relationship with him , although they broke up a few months later .

In 2015 , Kapoor starred as a runaway bride in Dolly Ki Doli , a comedy co @-@ starring Pulkit Samrat , Rajkummar Rao and Varun Sharma . Mint 's Udit Jhunjhunwala criticised Kapoor 's performance in the film , writing that her " range is too limited to bring alive a character that may have had heaps of potential on paper " . Shubhra Gupta wrote : " Kapoor is in almost every frame , and should have filled them all . But the treatment of the character shows up her limitations . " Despite the negative reviews for her performance , she was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Actress . While filming Sooraj R. Barjatya 's Prem Ratan Dhan Payo with Salman Khan in Gondal , Gujarat in February 2015 , Kapoor was diagnosed with swine influenza , from which she recovered the following month . Kapoor portrayed Rajkumari Maithili Devi , a princess looking for love . The film became one of the highest @-@ grossing Bollywood films of all time . She was praised by Rachit Gupta for her credibility as a royal , and Komal Nahta thought that the role was significant enough to be a turning point in her career . However , she won a Golden Kela Award for Worst Actress .

Following an appearance in the music video of Coldplay 's " Hymn for the Weekend " (featuring Beyoncé) , Kapoor starred in Ram Madhvani 's biographical thriller Neerja (2016) . She was cast as the eponymous air hostess Neerja Bhanot , who died while saving the passengers of the hijacked Pan Am Flight 73 in 1986 . Kapoor added that she felt a " little more responsible towards the film as it is based on a real person " , and to prepare for her role , she met Bhanot 's family . The film garnered wide critical acclaim , and several commentators considered Kapoor 's performance to be her best to date . Raja Sen found her performance to be career @-@ defining , while Hindustan Times ' Rohit Vats wrote that " she carries [the film] entirely on her shoulder . She looks earnest ,

scared , benevolent and bold , all at the same time . " With a worldwide gross of ? 1 @. @ 47 billion (US \$ 22 million) , the film emerged as one of the highest @-@ grossing Bollywood films featuring a female protagonist .

As of June 2016 , Kapoor has committed to play one of the lead roles in Shahanka Ghosh 's directorial debut film Veere Di Wedding , a romantic comedy co @-@ starring Kareena Kapoor , Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania about four girls who embark on a trip from Delhi to Europe .

= = In the media = =

Born into a prominent actor family , Kapoor has appeared in the media from an early age , and is one of the highest @-@ paid actresses in Bollywood . After the success of Raanjhanaa and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag she was cited by Subhash K. Jha as one of the top actresses in India , though a commentator for Rediff.com notes that several of her films have been commercial failures . In 2009 she was the first Indian actress to appear on The Hollywood Reporter 's " Next Generation : Asia Class " , a list of newcomers in film . Outspoken publicly , Kapoor 's comments about contemporaries and others in the Indian film industry have occasionally caused controversy . In a 2015 interview , she acknowledged that her opinions often get her into trouble , but remarked that " I believe it pays to be honest in the longer run " .

Kapoor is a popular figure nationally , with a significant following on Twitter since 2009 and Facebook . She appeared on The Huffington Post 's list of " 100 most influential women on Twitter " in 2015 . She has been described by the media as a style icon , and featured on Rediff.com 's list of " Bollywood 's Best Dressed Actresses " in 2012 and 2013 . Though Kapoor has earned praise for her dress sense and style , she has faced some criticism for wearing traditional Indian dresses . She was ranked seventh on The Times of India 's 2010 " Most Desirable Woman " list , placing 14th , 28th and 14th the next three years , and was in the top ten of UK magazine Eastern Eye 's " World 's Sexiest Asian Women " list from 2011 to 2014 . In 2012 and 2013 she also held 48th and 45th place , respectively , on the Indian edition of Forbes ' " Celebrity 100 " lists , based on the income and popularity of Indian celebrities . In 2014 , Kapoor reached 31st place , with an estimated annual income of ? 112 million (US \$ 1 @. @ 7 million) , and peaked at the 26th position the following year .

As well as endorsing brands such as Colgate , Electrolux , Lux , Mont Blanc , Oppo Mobile , Salvatore Ferragamo S.p.A. and Signature , Kapoor is the Indian ambassador for international cosmetics manufacturer L 'Oréal . Rediff.com reported in 2012 that she received ? 30 million (US \$ 450 @, @ 000) for each endorsement , making her one of the highest @-@ paid celebrity endorsers in India .

= = Philanthropy = =

Kapoor has supported charitable organisations for various causes . In 2009 , she participated in the International Indian Film Academy Awards fashion show , which supports widows and orphans of Indian film @-@ industry workers . On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) she wrote to Maharashtra Home Minister R. R. Patil , protesting against the use of glass @-@ coated manja (used on fighter kites) , which kills birds who become entangled in it . Kapoor is vocal in her support for LGBT rights in India . In 2012 , Kapoor asked fans to donate to the Ogaan Cancer Foundation for her birthday , and collaborated with the foundation to increase awareness of breast cancer . She is also the brand ambassador for the Elle Breast Cancer Campaign .

Kapoor auctioned some of her clothes on stylist Pernia Qureshi 's online fashion boutique , Pernia 's Pop @-@ Up Shop , in 2012 . The proceeds were donated to Smile Foundation , a child @-@ welfare organisation . In 2014 , she attended a charitable art exhibition organised by the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation , and donated clothing and accessories to a website raising funds for In Defense of Animals . Kapoor walked the ramp in a 2015 fashion show by Manish Malhotra for the Mijwan Welfare Society , a non @-@ profit organisation dedicated to empowering girls . The same year , she appeared with Hrithik Roshan in the music video for " Dheere Dheere " , whose profits

were donated to charity .

= = Awards and nominations = =

= = = Other honours = = =

2011 : NDTV Brand Ambassador of the Year

2013 : Hindustan Times ' Style Icon (Reader 's Choice)

2013 : Indian GQ Woman of the Year

2013 : Indian Vogue Beauty Award Beauty of the Year

= = Filmography = =