

= Shriya Saran =

Shriya Saran (pronounced [ʃrɪja sʁn] (born as Shriya Saran Bhatnagar on 11 September 1982) , also known by the mononym Shriya , is an Indian film actress and model . She has acted in Telugu , Tamil , and Hindi language films , as well as a few films in English , Malayalam and Kannada .

Saran was born in Dehradun and spent most of her childhood in Haridwar . In 2001 , her dance master gave her the opportunity to appear in Renoo Nathan 's debut music video " Thirakti Kyun Hawa " , which brought Saran to the attention of many Indian filmmakers .

Although Saran aspired to become a well @-@ known dancer , she was rather offered a leading role . Thus , Saran made her film debut in 2001 with the Telugu film Ishtam , and had her first commercial success with Santhosham (2002) . She subsequently appeared in several more Telugu films , while making in @-@ roads in the Hindi and Tamil film industries . In 2007 , Saran starred in Sivaji , the highest @-@ grossing Tamil film at that time . She also gained critical acclaim for her role in the 2007 Bollywood film Awarapan . In 2008 , Saran played the lead role in her first English film , the American @-@ Indian co @-@ production The Other End of the Line . Her following projects included popular films such as Kanthaswamy (2009) in Tamil , and Pokkiri Raja (2010) in Malayalam , her roles in which established her as one of the leading actresses in the South Indian film industries . In 2012 , she was cast in the British @-@ Canadian film Midnight 's Children under the direction of Deepa Mehta , based on Salman Rushdie 's Booker Prize @-@ winning novel of the same name , for which she received international critical acclaim . She achieved further commercial success by starring in films such as Pavitra (2013) and Chandra (2013) . In 2014 , Shriya Saran starred in the critically acclaimed Telugu film Manam , which she received accolades for her performance .

In addition to her work in films , Saran has been the brand ambassador for several brands across India , endorsing beauty and health products . Among other philanthropic activities , she has volunteered for a number of charity organizations , and in 2011 she opened a spa employing exclusively visually challenged people . She also was the brand ambassador Celebrity Cricket League for its two first seasons .

= = Early life and background = =

Shriya Saran Bhatnagar was born on 11 September 1982 in the Haridwar in Northern India , to Pushpendra Saran Bhatnagar and Neeraja Saran Bhatnagar . Her father worked for Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and her mother was a Chemistry teacher in Delhi Public School , Ranipur in Haridwar and Delhi Public School , Mathura Road , New Delhi . Saran completed her schooling from both schools where her mother had taught . She has an elder brother named Abhiroop who lives in Mumbai . Her family lived in the small town of BHEL colony in Haridwar when she was growing up . She later studied at Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in literature . Saran is an accomplished dancer . She was first trained as a child by her mother in Kathak and Rajasthani folk dance , and later trained in Kathak style by Shovana Narayan . She was involved with many dance teams in college and with her teacher . They would incorporate social issues into their dance routines .

= = Career = =

= = Early career (2001 ? 03) = =

While in her sophomore year at the LSR College in Delhi , Saran got her first opportunity to appear in front of the camera for a video shoot . Following her dance teacher 's recommendation , she was invited to appear in the music video of Renoo Nathan 's " Thirakti Kyun Hawa " . Shot in Banaras , the video was seen by Ramoji Films who offered her the lead role of Neha in their film Ishtam .

Saran accepted the part , and even before it was released she was signed to four more films , including Nuvve Nuvve , in which she played a millionaire 's daughter who falls for a middle class man . In 2002 , she starred in Santosham , co @-@ starring Nagarjuna , Prabhu Deva and Gracy Singh , which was her first commercial success . The film took the Nandi Award for Best Feature Film and Filmfare Best Film Award (Telugu) . Saran played a girl who lets someone she loves go with another , but wins him back later in life . For her performance , she earned a nomination for the CineMAA Award for Best Actor- Female , giving her a good foothold in the Telugu industry in the early part of her career .

In 2003 , Saran acted a supporting role in her first Hindi film , Tujhe Meri Kasam , starring debutants Ritesh Deshmukh and Genelia D 'Souza in leading roles . She also performed the lead female role in several Telugu films including Tagore , which was screened at the International Indian Film Academy Awards , and was a commercial success . She followed it with her Tamil film debut in Enakku 20 Unakku 18 , alongside Tarun and Trisha Krishnan , which was simultaneously shot in Telugu as Nee Manasu Naaku Telusu , in which she played a football coach . Though she acted in films in three languages that year , overall eight of the first ten films of her career were in Telugu .

= = = Career fluctuations (2004 ? 07) = = =

In 2004 , Saran acted in two Telugu and two Hindi films , including Nenunnu , where she played a student in classical singing . She had ten 2005 releases , nine of which were Telugu films , the most notable for her being Chatrapathi . There she appeared opposite Prabhas , and earned her first nomination for the Filmfare Best Telugu Actress Award . A reviewer for Moviebuzz said that as an action film , Saran 's character of the lead 's love interest was not well developed ; that she was there primarily for the songs . Meanwhile , she tried to make her comeback in Tamil with Mazhai , a remake of the Telugu film Varsham . Neither the movie nor her performance were received well . Also in 2005 , she appeared as one of only three characters in the film Mogudu Pellam O Dongodu , which was about a married couple 's first night together , and made a guest appearance in a children 's film called Bommalata , which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu . Saran 's only lead role in 2006 , excluding three special appearances , was in the Tamil film Thiruvilayadal Arambam .

In 2007 , she was chosen to play the lead female role opposite Rajinikanth in S. Shankar 's Sivaji : The Boss , which was the most expensive Indian film at that time . R. G. Vijayasathy wrote in his review for Rediff that aside from her beauty , Saran " proves that she can act too " . Her performance earned her a South Scope Style Award for Best Tamil Actress , her first award win , and a nomination at the Vijay Awards . The role also made her a star in the south Indian film industry . During this phase of her career , she made several special appearances in item numbers , including in the films Devadasu , Munna , and Tulasi .

Also in 2007 , Saran made her comeback in Hindi cinema with Awarapan , which was a joint production between India and Pakistan , and in which she played a Muslim girl and had to learn Urdu . This was her fourth Hindi film , but the others had failed to make any impact . Sanjay Ram , writing for Business of Cinema , gave the film 2 @. @ 5 of 5 stars , and said that Saran provided a brief but compelling performance . Saran later said that the film strengthened her conviction that all religions are equal . Later that year she appeared in one more Tamil film , Azhagiya Tamil Magan opposite Vijay . Though critics exalted her looks , her performance received mixed reviews , with one reviewer , Nandhu Sundharam of Rediff , going so far as to say that her " acting is as bad as her looks are good " . That same year Saran made a special appearance in a scene in the Kannada film Arasu . In all she appeared in six films in 2007 , in four different languages .

= = = American cinema debut (2008 ? 12) = = =

In 2008 , Saran then made her American cinema debut in Ashok Amrithraj 's The Other End of the Line . She played the role of Priya Sethi who works as a telephone operator in an Indian call centre , while acting alongside Jesse Metcalfe , Anupam Kher and Tara Sharma . Shriya 's performance

was praised by critics , particularly her on @-@ screen chemistry with Jesse Metcalfe . John Anderson , writing for Variety magazine , said it was " a winning Stateside debut for beautiful Indian actress Shriya Saran . "

Saran acted in the Hindi film Mission Istanbul with Zayed Khan , Vivek Oberoi and Shabbir Ahluwalia also in 2008 . She played the character of Anjali Sagar which was inspired by the character of Romila Dutta played by Preity Zinta in the film Lakshya ; a journalist who desires to have a child with her husband , which leads to their separation , since he is reluctant . Bollywood Hungama critics said that her character was wasted , as again she gets very little screen time . However , she did pick up the Stardust Exciting New Face Award .

Her most important 2009 release was the commercially successful Tamil film Kanthaswamy , alongside Vikram . She earned a nomination at the Vijay Awards . Vikram himself said in an interview that her role was on par with his , and she easily stole the show on most occasions . Of her character in the film , Saran said that it was the best she has done so far . Also that year she appeared as the female lead in Thoranai . A reviewer said that her glamour and the songs were the only high points of the film . For Thoranai and Kanthaswamy together , she received her third award win , the Amrita Mathrubhumi Award for Best Actress . She then appeared in another English film , Cooking with Stella , which is a comedy , but also takes a look at the serious nature of relationships between servants and employers . It was selected to the Toronto International Film Festival , which Saran attended .

In 2010 , Saran made her Malayalam debut with Pokkiri Raja , in which she appeared opposite Mammooty and Prithviraj . The film was declared a super hit in the first week , breaking the record in Malayalam cinema for opening week gross income , though it was not received well critically , and it was said of Saran that all she had to do was look pretty . She then enacted her first lead role in a Telugu film after five years , in the commercially successful action @-@ comedy film Don Seenu opposite Ravi Teja , where she plays the sister of a mobster . In the opinion of some critics , she stole the show with her dances and romantic scenes . The year 2010 was her second busiest after 2005 , having appeared in eight films in all , this time in four languages .

In 2011 , Saran appeared in Rowthiram , where she worked with Tamil actor Jeeva for the first time . The film received fairly low reviews . Although some reviews said that Saran was not given much opportunity to show her acting skills , mainly just adding a romantic touch to a mostly violent film , she was referred to by another as the pivot around which the film revolves . Her performance earned her Best Actress Award at the International Tamil Film Awards . Her only other film in 2011 was a special appearance in a song for Tamil film Rajapattai .

Saran 's first release of 2012 was her second Malayalam project , Casanovva , co @-@ starring Mohanlal and directed by Rosshan Andrrews . The movie was delayed many times , and it was rumored that Saran would leave the project , but in October 2010 , the producer of the film announced that shooting would commence in Dubai with Shriya Saran among the cast . It was released on 26 January . Her next release was in Gali Gali Mein Chor Hai , from director Romy Jafry , which began shooting in September 2011 , and released on 3 February . She then was seen in the critically average comedic Telegu film Nuvva Nena with actors Allari Naresh and Sharwanand , followed by Sekhar Kammula 's much delayed Life is Beautiful .

Saran has starred in Deepa Mehta 's long delayed English project Midnight 's Children , which is based on Salman Rushdie 's highly acclaimed novel of the same name . It was filmed under the working title of Winds of Change . It was screened at several film festivals in late 2012 in Canada and finally made its general release in India on February 1 , 2013 .

= = = 2013 ? present = = =

In early 2013 , Saran appeared in an item number in the film Zila Ghaziabad . This was her first item number in a Hindi film . On 7 June Saran 's Pavitra was released , in which she played a prostitute . At a press conference in Hyderabad , she said that the film is very special for her , and that she was touched by the sensitivity that director / writer Janardhana Maharshi gave to the topic . According to a review from The Times of India , the most cinematic part of the film is a sensual

number " Sukumara Ra Ra ... " in which the camera shows in the curves of the main character . He summed up the review saying , " Besides Shriya Saran 's curves there is nothing in this movie that 's worth watching per se . " Her bi @-@ lingual film Chandra directed by Roopa Iyer was simultaneously made in Kannada and Tamil languages . She played the role of a princess in the film opposite Kannada actor Prem Kumar . The film released in Kannada on 27 June 2013 , and in Tamil on 14 February 2014 . It became a moderate success at the Kannada box office . The film marked Saran 's return to Tamil cinema after more than five years .

Saran 's first film of 2014 , released May 23 , was the Telugu family comedy Manam , which was a success in India and America . Saran 's first film of 2015 was Gopala Gopala , a remake of Bollywood blockbuster Oh , My God , released in the January festive season . She will next appear in director Karan Bhutani 's Hindi film Valmiki Ki Bandook , which is currently under production . She appeared opposite Ajay Devgan in Drishyam , a remake of the Malayalam film of the same name , which turned to be a box office success . In mid January 2016 , she made a special appearance in Nagarjuna 's Oopiri , while also signing her next Hindi film Tadka opposite Nana Patekar . In May 2016 , she was selected as a female lead in Balakrishna 's 100th film Gautamiputra Satakarni .

= = Other works = =

In 2003 , Saran hosted the 50th Filmfare South Award with actor R. Madhavan . She was a part of Tamil director Mani Ratnam 's stage show , Netru , Indru , Naalai , an event which sought to raise funds for " The Banyan " , a voluntary organisation which rehabilitates homeless women with mental illness in Chennai . She was one of the guests alongside actor Surya Sivakumar at the season 3 finale of TV dance show Maanada Mayilada .

Saran was the first actress , and the third celebrity after Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan to deliver a lecture to students at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM @-@ A) on 12 February 2010 . She said that , " The Indian media and entertainment industry is the fastest growing sector at present , so considering this IIM Ahmedabad had started a new program CFI ? Contemporary Film Industry ? A Business Perspective . I was there to give a lecture to 2nd year students of CFI and did a lot of research for the lecture for nearly five days . " She held a lecture on marketing and branding of a film . In 2011 , she gave a lecture to students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras on the history of films , and films as a medium of cultural exchange .

= = = Endorsements = = =

Saran started her modelling career by acting in a Pond 's Creams advertisement . She then did a Coca @-@ Cola advertisement alongside Tamil actor Vijay which was directed by prominent director Rajiv Menon . She also starred in a Fair & Lovely creams advertisement during her early career . Shriya Saran is also appointed brand ambassador for Pantene Shampoo . In 2007 , she became the brand ambassador of Saravana Stores . She is now the brand ambassador of the Lux and Head & Shoulders . Saran was also signed as brand ambassador along with actor Saif Ali Khan for Brooke Bond Taj Mahal Tea . Saran says no to soft drinks advertisements because she feels that soft drinks may harm children 's health . In 2011 , Saran was appointed as the promotional model for McVitie 's by United Biscuits along with actress Bipasha Basu . In 2013 , Saran was appointed as brand ambassador for Colgate Active Salt Healthy White toothpaste , along with Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor . In 2014 , she was signed as brand ambassador for Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) .

= = = CCL (Celebrity Cricket League) = = =

On the sports front , Saran is brand ambassador of Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) , a concept that mixes two passions in India , film and cricket . In April 2010 , she danced with Shah Rukh Khan at the fourth season opening ceremony of the Indian Premier League (IPL) , another cricket league .

In 2007 , Saran launched the first issue of Galatta Cinema and has been featured on its cover many times . In 2008 , she was featured in , and appeared on the cover of the June issue of Maxim India . Editor Anup Kutty said , " We had been thinking of getting someone who bridges this strange divide we have between the North , South and the West ... Shreya fit the bill perfectly . " She has appeared on various other magazine covers over the years , including Jade and South Scope . In 2012 , she again did a photoshoot for Maxim India .

= = Personal life = =

Saran is very reluctant to talk about her private life , and usually denies that reported linkups are romantic in nature . She is Hindu .

Saran is well known for her charity work . She describes herself as someone used to " sharing time and resources with the underprivileged since childhood . " She says that " celebrities can show the way by sensitising people to social issues , campaigning for causes or being part of fund @-@ raisers . " Her family has always encouraged her to think of the needy .

Saran is a brand ambassador for the Naandi Foundation , and for the Save A Child 's Heart Foundation (SACH) , which works for the benefit of poor children and people affected by natural calamities . She helps finance a Prevention of Aids foundation . In 2009 , Saran joined with other eminent personalities to promote ' The Joy of Giving Week ' , to encourage people from all walks of life to engage in acts of giving . She regularly participates in carnivals and campaigns that associate with children benefits . She is associated with animal welfare and the Blue Cross of India . She is also associated with an NGO called World Vision that finds parents for deprived kids , and works for Apollo ? s RDF to raise funds for underprivileged children .

In 2011 , she opened a Spa which exclusively employs the visually challenged . It is called Shree Spa , and is located in Mumbai . Saran has said " When I studied in DPS Mathura Road in Delhi , there was a school for blind exactly opposite to our school . I used to go there every week and spend time seeing how these students played cricket and did other things normally . That is what inspired me to do something for these people " . In an interview to TOI , the actress said , " We feel sympathetic towards them but we never employ them . We are scared because we have not grown up with them . While these people might be visually impaired , their other senses are very strong . So they can effectively give foot and back massages and treatments like reflexology . It 's important to understand that you are not doing a favour on them but they are doing a favour on you " .

In January 2008 , Saran was the subject of a controversy , when a Hindu organisation in Chennai lodged a police complaint against Saran , objecting to the outfit worn by her during the 175th day celebration of her film , Sivaji : The Boss . In a complaint , the Hindu Makkal Katchi (HMK) alleged that Shriya 's outfit had " offended Hindu culture " . Shriya publicly apologised to Tamilians and Hindus , saying it was a mistake , and that she had " great respect for the tradition and culture of Tamil Nadu [...] I was shooting for a Hindi film in Thanjavur . I came to the function directly from the shooting , [...] I was unaware of the repercussions because of the attire I wore during the function . "

On working in different regional film industries in India she has stated , " I don ? t consider Kollywood or Bollywood as separate entities . For me , there ? s only a single category , the Indian film industry , which is extremely rich owing to its diverse genres and languages . " She is fluent in Hindi , English , and can understand Telugu and Tamil well . On 19 January 2013 , she quit Twitter due to derogatory comments from her followers . However , she rejoined Twitter with a new account on 27 January 2015 .

= = Filmography = =

As Actress

= = Awards = =

Honours and recognitions

2010 ? T. Subbarami Reddy Lalitha Kala Parishath Awards for Contributions to Telugu Cinema

2010 ? Featured in a poll conducted by Rediff about woman achievers in Indian entertainment , ranking her among the top actresses

2014 ? GR8 Women 's Award

Rankings on The Times of India 's list of " 50 Most Desirable Women " : 13th in 2010 , 15th in 2011 , 18th in 2012 , 7th in 2013 , 5th in 2014 and 6th in 2015

Rankings on Hyderabad Times most desirable woman for south , 3rd in 2013 , 2nd in 2014 , 2nd in 2015

Brand Ambassador for SIIMA AWARDS in 2013 , 2014 and 2015