

= Rani Mukerji =

Rani Mukerji ( / rʌni mʊkʰərʤi / ; born 21 March 1978 ) is an Indian actress . Through her Bollywood career , she has become one of the most high @-@ profile celebrities in India , winning several awards , including seven Filmfare Awards . Her film roles have been cited as a significant departure from the traditional portrayal of women in Bollywood .

Although Mukerji was born into the Mukherjee @-@ Samarth family , in which her parents and relatives were members of the Indian film industry , she did not aspire to pursue a career in film . However , while still a teenager she dabbled with acting by playing a supporting role in her father 's Bengali language film *Biyer Phool* ( 1996 ) and later accepted a leading role in the 1997 social drama *Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat* on the insistence of her mother . She then began a full @-@ time career in film and gained recognition for a supporting role in the romance *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* ( 1998 ) . After this initial success in her career , Mukerji 's films fared poorly at the box office for the next three years . Her career prospects improved when Yash Raj Films cast her as the star of the drama *Saathiya* ( 2002 ) .

By 2004 , Mukerji had established herself as a leading actress of Bollywood with roles in the romantic comedy *Hum Tum* , and the dramas *Yuva* and *Veer @-@ Zaara* . She achieved further success for portraying a deaf , blind and mute woman in the acclaimed drama *Black* ( 2005 ) and an unhappily married woman in *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna* ( 2006 ) . Mukerji then collaborated with Yash Raj Films on several unsuccessful films which led critics to criticise her for choosing poor roles and pairing with the same set of actors . The semi @-@ biographical thriller *No One Killed Jessica* ( 2011 ) proved to be her first box office hit in four years , and she followed it by starring in the successful thrillers *Talaash : The Answer Lies Within* ( 2012 ) and *Mardaani* ( 2014 ) .

In addition to acting in films , Mukerji is involved with several humanitarian causes and is vocal about issues faced by women and children . She has participated in concert tours and stage shows , and featured as a talent judge for the 2009 reality show *Dance Premier League* . Though she is reticent to discuss her personal life in public , her off @-@ screen life is the subject of substantial media coverage in India . She is married to filmmaker Aditya Chopra , with whom she has a daughter .

= = Early life and background = =

Rani Mukerji was born in Mumbai on 21 March 1978 . Her father , Ram Mukherjee ( born to the Mukherjee @-@ Samarth family ) , is a former film director and one of the founders of Filmalaya Studios . Her mother , Krishna Mukherjee , is a former playback singer . Her elder brother , Raja Mukherjee , is a film producer and director . Her maternal aunt , Debashree Roy , is a Bengali film actress and her paternal cousin , Kajol , is a Hindi film actress and her contemporary . Another paternal cousin , Ayan Mukerji , is a scriptwriter and film director . Despite her parents and most of her relatives being members of the Indian film industry , Mukerji was uninterested in pursuing a career in film . She said , " There were already too many actresses at home and I wanted to be someone different " .

Mukerji received her education at Maneckji Cooper High School in Juhu and graduated with a degree in Home Science from SNDT Women 's University . She is a trained Odissi dancer and began learning the dance form while in the tenth grade . As part of an annual tradition , the Mukherjee family celebrates the festival of Durga Puja in the suburban neighbourhood of Santacruz every year . Mukerji , a practising Hindu , takes part in the festivities with her entire family .

In 1994 , director Salim Khan approached her to play the lead female role in his directorial , *Aa Gale Lag Jaa* . Her father disapproved of a full @-@ time career in film at such a young age , so she rejected the offer . At the age of eighteen , Mukerji experimented with acting by portraying a supporting role in her father 's Bengali language film *Biyer Phool* ( 1996 ) . The film starred Prosenjit and Indrani Halder in lead roles and narrates the story of two sisters ; Mukerji played the younger sibling of Halder 's character . Soon after , Khan approached her with another film offer to play the protagonist of the social drama *Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat* , Mukerji accepted the role due to her mother

's insistence that she continue to pursue acting on an experimental basis . Before she began work on the film , Mukerji trained at Roshan Taneja 's acting institute .

= = Career = =

= = = Debut and public recognition ( 1997 ? 99 ) = = =

Mukerji portrayed a rape victim who is forced to marry her rapist in *Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat* , which released in 1997 . Although the film was a commercial failure , Mukerji 's performance was praised , and she won a special recognition trophy at the annual Screen Awards ceremony . Following the film 's poor showing at the box office , Mukerji returned to college to complete her education . However , inspired by her cousin Kajol 's success in Bollywood , she decided to pursue a full @-@ time career in films .

In 1998 , Mukerji starred opposite Aamir Khan in Vikram Bhatt 's *Ghulam* ( 1998 ) , a moderate commercial success . Though her role in the film was small , the song " Aati Kya Khandala " earned her widespread recognition . Due to Mukerji 's broken voice texture , Bhatt hired a dubbing artist with a much higher pitched voice to dub for her lines . When asked if the director 's decision to not use her voice in the film affected her , she said that her voice was dubbed as it " did not suit the character " .

Later that year , Karan Johar cast Mukerji opposite Shah Rukh Khan and her cousin , Kajol , in his big @-@ budget directorial debut *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* . The role was originally written for Twinkle Khanna , but when she rejected it , Johar approached several leading actresses , all of whom refused the offer . He eventually cast Mukerji after she volunteered to play the role . Johar had originally intended that a dubbing artist dub Mukerji 's lines in the film , but she improved her diction and eventually dubbed for her own lines . She portrayed Tina Malhotra , a college student who is in a relationship with Khan 's character . Writing for *India Today* , film critic Nandita Chowdhury considered Mukerji to be the scene @-@ stealer and added , " Oozing oomph from every pore , she [ .. ] proves herself an actress whose time has come . " *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* proved a breakthrough for Mukerji ; it emerged as a blockbuster in India and abroad with earnings of over ? 1 @.@ 03 billion ( US \$ 15 million ) , and won eight Filmfare Awards , including a Best Supporting Actress trophy for Mukerji .

Following the success of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* , Mukerji played leading roles in the social drama *Mehndi* ( 1998 ) and the comedy *Hello Brother* ( 1999 ) . Both these films were critical and commercial disappointments which failed to propel her career forward .

= = = Career struggles and initial success ( 2000 ? 03 ) = = =

By 2000 , Mukerji wanted to avoid being type @-@ cast as a " standard Hindi film heroine " and thus decided to portray more challenging roles in addition to the archetypical glamorous female lead . However , none of her film releases in 2000 were particularly notable . In *Badal* and *Bichhoo* , two male @-@ centric action dramas ( both featuring Bobby Deol in the lead ) , she played roles that were met with little acclaim from the critics . A supporting role in Kamal Hassan 's bilingual film *Hey Ram* proved more rewarding . The film was a partly fictionalised account of Mahatma Gandhi 's assassination and Mukerji portrayed the character of Aparna Ram , a Bengali school teacher who is raped and murdered during communal riots in Calcutta . The controversial subject matter of *Hey Ram* led to poor box office earnings , but the film was critically acclaimed and selected as India 's official entry to the Oscars that year . Mukerji found no success in her next two releases , the comedy *Hadh Kar Di Apne* and the romance *Kahin Pyaar Na Ho Jaaye* . The romantic comedy *Har Dil Jo Pyar Karega* , however , earned her a Best Supporting Actress nomination at Filmfare and was better received by the critics . Padmaraj Nair of Screen found Mukerji 's role to be " too meagre for her to prove herself " but added that " she is quite adequate in whatever scenes she has been given " .

The year 2001 was a disappointing one for Mukerji . In a review for her first release of the year , Chori Chori Chupke Chupke , a drama based on surrogate childbirth , film critic Sukanya Verma found Mukerji to be " handicapped with a role that doesn 't give her much scope besides weeping and sobbing " and preferred the " meatier " role of her co @-@ star Preity Zinta . In Bas Itna Sa Khwaab Hai and Nayak : The Real Hero , films that failed to garner praise , Mukerji played the love interests of Abhishek Bachchan and Anil Kapoor respectively . In a review for the latter , Sarita Tanwar wrote that " [ Mukerji ] has very little to do except being part of some magnificently picturised songs " .

After three consecutive years of poorly received films , Mukerji 's career prospects began to improve in 2002 when Yash Raj Films , a leading production company in India , cast her for two high @-@ profile productions : Mujhse Dosti Karoge ! , a romantic comedy co @-@ starring Hrithik Roshan and Kareena Kapoor , and Saathiya , a remake of the Tamil box office hit Alaiyuthey . Mujhse Dosti Karoge ! was heavily promoted before release and proved a success internationally , but failed to earn profits in India . The romantic drama Saathiya proved a major turning point in her career , winning her a Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress in addition to a Best Actress nomination at the same ceremony . Mukerji was director Shaad Ali 's only choice to play the lead role ; he said , " She was born to play this role . She looked the character . She looked vulnerable . She looked the right age . She was perfect " . The film co @-@ starred Vivek Oberoi , and her paternal aunt Tanuja , and proved an economic success . Mukerji 's portrayal of Suhani Sharma , a medical student who deals with the tensions and discontent of being married at a young age , met with critical acclaim . The BBC stated that " Mukerji plays the character of a middle class girl with great conviction " , and Udita Jhunjhunwala of Mid Day added , " Her expressions and acting are understated in a role that fits her like a glove . "

In 2003 , Mukerji replaced Aishwarya Rai to play the lead female role opposite Shah Rukh Khan in Aziz Mirza 's romance Chalte Chalte . Media reports suggested that Rai was replaced after feuding with her then boyfriend Salman Khan on the film 's sets , but Shah Rukh Khan insisted that Mukerji had been the original choice for the role . The film 's concept was similar to Saathiya and dealt with misunderstandings between a married couple . Mukerji said , " [ Unlike Saathiya ] , Chalte Chalte deals with a more mature and deeper form of love . It is about how a man and woman react to situations . [ .. ] You cannot really get very different with the characters , but you can put them against a different background " . The film was well received by both critics and audiences , and the following year Mukerji received a second Best Actress nomination at Filmfare . Also that year , she starred in Milan Luthria 's romantic comedy Chori Chori opposite Ajay Devgan , Sudhir Mishra 's suspense drama Calcutta Mail , alongside Anil Kapoor and Manisha Koirala , and J.P. Dutta 's ensemble war film LOC Kargil . None of these films fared well critically or commercially .

= = = Widespread success ( 2004 ? 06 ) = = =

The year 2004 marked the beginning of the most successful period in Mukerji 's career . At the 50th Filmfare Awards in 2005 , Mukerji won both the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress awards , becoming the only actress to win both awards in the same year . The Best Supporting Actress win was for Mani Ratnam 's Yuva ( 2004 ) , a composite film that featured an ensemble cast including Ajay Devgan , Abhishek Bachchan , Vivek Oberoi , Kareena Kapoor and Esha Deol . The film narrates the story of three youngsters from different strata of society whose lives intersect by a car accident ; Mukerji was cast as Shashi Biswas , a financially deprived Bengali housewife who is abused by her husband , a local goon ( played by Bachchan ) . Taran Adarsh wrote , " Amongst the leading ladies , it is Rani Mukerji who is the best of the lot . The role demanded an actress of substance and Rani more than lives up to the expectations . " She won the Best Actress award for her starring role in Kunal Kohli 's Hum Tum ( 2004 ) , a romantic comedy about two headstrong individuals who meet at different stages of their lives . The film pitted her opposite Saif Ali Khan and proved one of the biggest commercial successes of the year . The Hindu found Mukerji 's portrayal of Rhea Prakash to be " self assuredly competent " and Tanmaya Kumar Nanda of Rediff.com wrote , " Rani is her usual collected self , changing into the many hues of her character with the ease of a

chameleon " .

Later that year , Mukerji achieved further success when Yash Chopra cast her alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Preity Zinta in his romantic drama Veer @-@ Zaara . The film narrates the story of star @-@ crossed lovers , Veer Pratap Singh ( played by Khan ) and a Pakistani woman , Zaara Hayaat Khan ( played by Zinta ) ; Mukerji played the role of Saamiya Siddiqui , a Pakistani lawyer embroiled in a court case involving Singh . With a worldwide gross of over ? 940 million ( US \$ 14 million ) , Veer @-@ Zaara emerged as the highest grossing film of the year ; it was screened at the Berlin Film Festival and met with critical acclaim . Mukerji 's role was praised by the critics ; BBC noted , " [ I ] ts Rani Mukerjee who deserves praise for her acting . To act through your eyes and not using dialogue is an art . Rani for one , has perfected this . " She won the Best Supporting Actress trophy at the IIFA Awards ceremony , and received a nomination in the same category at Filmfare .

In 2005 , Outlook magazine published that Mukerji had established herself as the most successful actress of contemporary Hindi cinema . Her first film role that year was opposite Amitabh Bachchan in Sanjay Leela Bhansali 's highly acclaimed Black , a drama about an alcoholic man who dedicates his life to teach a blind and deaf girl how to communicate . Bhansali wrote the part of the blind @-@ deaf girl specifically for Mukerji , who was initially hesitant to take on the role due to its " challenging " subject matter . Once Bhansali enforced his faith in her , she agreed and began intensely studying sign language with professionals at the Helen Keller Institute in Mumbai . Black won several awards including two National Film Awards and eleven Filmfare Awards , and Richard Corliss of TIME featured it as the fifth best film of the year . Mukerji 's performance met with unanimous acclaim ; Empire called the performance " astonishing " , Filmfare included her work in their listing of Indian cinema 's " 80 Most Iconic performances " and wrote , " Rani has left an indelible mark with this role that usually comes once in a lifetime for most " . She became the only actress to win both the Best Actress and Best Actress ? Critics trophies at the Filmfare Awards ceremony .

That year , Mukerji received a second Best Actress nomination at Filmfare for her work opposite Abhishek Bachchan in Bunty Aur Babli , a comedy film which marked her fifth collaboration with Yash Raj Films . She played the title character of Vimmi " Babli " Saluja , a con woman . The film was the second highest grossing film of 2005 and Mukerji 's third major success in two consecutive years . Film critic Namrata Joshi wrote that " Rani plays to the gallery with ease " and Taran Adarsh wrote that she " sinks her teeth into the role and comes out with flying colours " . She followed it with Amol Palekar 's fantasy film Paheli , reuniting her with Shah Rukh Khan . The film was a box office flop in India but was given a strong international release ; it was screened at the Sundance Film Festival and was India 's submission for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 79th Academy Awards . Raja Sen of Rediff.com was impressed by the film as well as Mukerji 's performance which he called " another perfectly played part " . Mukerji 's fourth and final release of the year was the highly anticipated period film Mangal Pandey : The Rising . Director Ketan Mehta initially approached her for a cameo appearance , which was developed into an " important part " after she gave her consent to star in the film . Her role was that of Heera , a prostitute who forms the love interest of the title character ( played by Aamir Khan ) . Derek Elley of Variety mentioned that Mukerji made " the most of her feisty nautch @-@ girl , " despite having " a small role for a star of her caliber . "

Mukerji turned down an offer from Mira Nair to star in the Hollywood film The Namesake , choosing instead to collaborate once again with her friend Karan Johar in Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna ( 2006 ) , an urban drama dealing with infidelity and dysfunctional relationships . The high @-@ profile production featured an ensemble cast of Amitabh Bachchan , Shah Rukh Khan , Abhishek Bachchan , Preity Zinta and Kirron Kher , and told the story of two unhappily married couples in New York which results in an extra @-@ marital affair . Mukerji played Maya Talwar , a woman layered with self @-@ doubt and question about the relationship between her husband ( played by Abhishek Bachchan ) and herself . Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna was a popular release , emerging as a major economic success with gross earnings of over ? 1 @-@ 13 billion ( US \$ 17 million ) . Rajeev Masand of CNN @-@ IBN wrote , " Rani looks a million bucks and she dives under the skin of her character to make that part one that we will remember for a long time " . The role won Mukerji a third consecutive IIFA Best Actress Award and among other nods , earned her a sixth Best Actress

nomination at Filmfare . The poorly received melodrama Baabul was her final appearance that year .

= = = Professional setback ( 2007 ? 10 ) = = =

Following the failure of Baabul , Yash Raj Films cast Mukerji in Siddharth Anand 's family drama Ta Ra Rum Pum in the role of a popular racing driver 's ( played by Saif Ali Khan ) wife and the mother of two . Mukerji was excited to play the part of a mother for the first time , and modelled her character after her own mother . Released in 2007 , the film was an economic success , but received mixed reactions from the critics . Khalid Mohamed hailed Mukerji 's performance as " near flawless " but Rajeev Masand thought that neither she nor Khan " are able to make much of an impression because their characters are so unidimensional and boring . " The woman 's film Laaga Chunari Mein Daag from director Pradeep Sarkar was Mukerji 's second release that year . She described the film as a " journey of a girl into womanhood and her sacrifices for her family " . Her portrayal earned her a seventh Best Actress nomination at Filmfare , she played the role of Vibhavari Sahay , a young girl of limited means who is forced to moonlight as a prostitute to fend for her family . Jaya Bachchan , Abhishek Bachchan , Konkana Sen Sharma and Kunal Kapoor co -@-@ starred in the film which released to poor box office returns and little praise from the critics . The Indian Express noted that Mukerji was responsible for " hold [ ing ] the film together , even if her part , both as the ingénue and the hooker , doesn 't have freshness " .

Mukerji played a prostitute for the third time in Sanjay Leela Bhansali 's Saawariya , an adaptation of Fyodor Dostoevsky 's White Nights , co -@-@ starring Ranbir Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor . Mukerji said , " I play very different kinds of prostitutes in Saawariya and Laaga Chunari Mein Daag . The woman in Saawariya has no problem with her profession , whereas in the other film it 's completely different " . Saawariya was her only release in three years that was not produced by Yash Raj Films . The film was a box office flop and met with polarising reactions from the critics . Mukerji 's performance was received favourably and she earned her second Filmfare nomination that year , this time for Best Supporting Actress . By the end of 2007 , Mukerji 's popularity had begun to wane . Rediff.com attributed this to her " monotonous pairing " with the same set of actors ; Hindustan Times published that she had become an " exclusive Yash Raj heroine " which hindered other directors to approach her for roles .

After a series of serious roles , Mukerji sought to play a part that would be a " clutter @-@ breaker " for her . She found the role in Kunal Kohli 's Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic ( 2008 ) , a children 's film about an angel who comes to Earth to help four troubled kids . In a particularly scathing review , Khalid Mohamed criticised Mukerji 's choice of roles and wrote , " As a Geeta Poppins , she 's one @-@ dimensional , either darting full blast smiles or tetchy scowls . Her costumes , too , are uneasy @-@ on @-@ the @-@ eyes " . The film had low box office returns and further contributed to a decline in Mukerji 's career prospects . An India Today article spoke of her " running out of luck at the box office " and mentioned her decline in endorsements .

In an attempt to overcome this decline in her career , Mukerji lost weight and underwent a complete makeover . In 2009 , she collaborated for the ninth time with Yash Raj Films on Dil Bole Hadippa ! , a romantic comedy opposite Shahid Kapoor . Mukerji had high expectations from the film in which she played a cricket @-@ obsessed Punjabi village girl masquerading as a man ; it was hugely hyped before release and had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival . The Economic Times critic Gaurav Malani was disappointed with the picture and wrote , " Rani Mukherjee comes up with a spirited performance but her mock sob @-@ whine @-@ whimper do [ es ] not amuse anymore . Also after a point you dislike visualizing the charming actress as the moustached male player . " The film was Mukerji 's fourth economic failure in a row . When questioned about her recent spate of flops with the Yash Raj Films banner , she stated , " An actor is here to act and pick great roles and scripts . I was getting great roles from Yash Raj at that point , roles that any actor would give an arm to do . I stand by those films regardless of their fate " . Later that year , she featured as a talent judge for the Sony Entertainment Television reality show Dance Premier League . She said that appearing on television would make her " more accessible " to the

audiences and help her " gain visibility " when she was " not doing too many films " . Mukerji did not make any screen appearances in 2010 .

= = = Success in thrillers ( 2011 ? 14 ) = = =

Film critic Aniruddha Guha of Daily News and Analysis described Mukerji 's performance in the 2011 film No One Killed Jessica as " one of her best performances till date " . The film ( co @-@ starring Vidya Balan ) was Mukerji 's first commercial success since Ta Ra Rum Pum , and was especially noted for being a success despite the absence of a prominent male actor . The film was a semi @-@ biographical thriller based on the Jessica Lal murder case in which Mukerji played the fictional character of Meera Gaity , a foul @-@ mouthed television journalist who is deeply involved with the case . To promote the film , she reprised the role of Gaity on the C.I.D. television series . In an interview with The Telegraph she said , " It was such a different role to portray . It wasn 't a role that was typical of a Hindi film heroine . Meera was more like a hero . It was a character that actually took the story forward . [ .. ] Meera made a lot of things happen . It wasn 't something that I had ever done before . I actually had to play a man ! " Certain critics , however , were critical of her performance , including Anupama Chopra of NDTV , who called her role , " the fatal , false note in No One Killed Jessica , " arguing that " the character is written superficially and Rani 's portrayal of her is equally banal . It 's all about externals . She argues a lot and proudly labels herself a bitch but her hair stays perfectly in place and in the end , she even gets to do a super @-@ hero @-@ like slow motion walk . " Nonetheless , the role earned her several awards and nominations , including a third Best Supporting Actress trophy at Filmfare .

After the success of No One Killed Jessica , Mukerji accepted a leading role in Sachin Kundalkar 's Aiyyaa ( 2012 ) , a comedy of manners co @-@ starring Prithviraj . She played Meenakshi Deshpande , a woman with a heightened sense of smell who develops a one @-@ sided attraction towards Prithviraj 's character . Critically and commercially unsuccessful . Rediff.com criticised her decision to star in the film , writing that she " gets no support from the way her character is written " . Greater success came for her portrayal of Roshni Shekhawat , a mother who has lost her only child in a boating accident , in Reema Kagti 's psychological thriller Talaash : The Answer Lies Within . Co @-@ starring Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor , the film had worldwide earnings of over ? 1 @-@ 74 billion ( US \$ 26 million ) . Ronnie Schieb of Variety described Mukerji as " vivid in a quietly sympathetic role " , and she received Best Supporting Actress nominations at several award ceremonies , including Filmfare .

The following year , Mukerji starred in the anthology film Bombay Talkies consisting of four short films . Mukerji was part of the segment entitled Ajeeb Dastaan Hai Yeh in which she played Gayatri , a journalist who discovers that her husband ( played by Randeeep Hooda ) is gay ; it was her fourth collaboration with director Karan Johar . The film was screened at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival as part of the centenary year celebrations of Indian cinema . Despite poor box office returns , Bombay Talkies met with widespread critical acclaim , with praise directed to Johar 's segment . Tushar Joshi of Daily News and Analysis said that Mukerji was successful in " proving [ that ] she 's the queen of subtlety when it comes to stripping off the make @-@ up and letting herself fly " .

In 2014 , Mukerji appeared in Pradeep Sarkar 's crime thriller Mardaani , in which she played the lead role of Shivani Shivaji Roy , a Maharashtrian policewoman involved in a kidnapping case that leads her to uncover secrets of human trafficking in India . She took on the role " to show all girls what the reality is , what the world has come to , and how they need to protect themselves " . In preparation , she interacted with senior officials of Mumbai 's crime branch , and learned the Israeli self @-@ defense technique of Krav Maga . Rajeev Masand found Mukerji to be the prime asset of the film , adding that by " investing Shivani with both physical strength and emotional courage , she gives us a hero that 's hard not to root for " . Writing for Hindustan Times , Anupama Chopra also praised her performance , writing that she not only " imbues Shivani with steely resolve but also gives her emotional depth " . The film was a commercial success and garnered Mukerji another Best Actress nomination at Filmfare .

= = Personal life and off @-@ screen work = =

Despite constant media attention , Mukerji remains guarded about her personal life . Unlike many other celebrities , Mukerji limits her interactions with the media and is sometimes labelled a recluse ; she said in a 2011 interview , " Today actors have become more open with the media . But this has posed a problem for actors like me because if I don 't do that , then I end up being called reclusive . So now I have changed myself and am easily approachable . " Mukerji has collaborated frequently and maintained a close friendship with actors Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan , and filmmaker Karan Johar . The nature of Mukerji 's relationship with filmmaker Aditya Chopra was the topic of fervent tabloid reporting in India , though she refused to publicly talk about it . On 21 April 2014 , she married Chopra at a private ceremony in Italy . On 9 December 2015 , she gave birth to their daughter , named Adira .

Alongside her acting career , Mukerji has been actively involved with several humanitarian causes and is vocal about issues faced by women and children . Mukerji was appointed as an ambassador by Procter & Gamble and the NGO Child Rights and You for their joint venture , Shiksha , to endorse the cause of children 's education . In 2011 she set up a Stroke Treatment Fund , in association with the Indian Stroke Association , to pay for the treatment of financially deprived stroke @-@ affected patients .

Mukerji has made public appearances to support other charities and causes . In March 2004 , she visited the Indian army unit in Pokhran , Rajasthan to interact with the jawan troops , for the NDTV reality show Jai Jawan . A decade later , in August 2014 she visited the jawans again at Baramulla . In February 2005 , Mukerji and several other Bollywood actors participated in the 2005 HELP ! Telethon Concert to raise money for the victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake . In March 2006 , Mukerji celebrated her birthday with the physically challenged children of the Helen Keller Institute ; she had previously worked with them while preparing for her role in Black . In November 2010 , she was part of a fund raising auction for the " Because I am a Girl " charity campaign . In 2014 , Mukerji attended a charity dinner on child abuse in London , where she was felicitated by Prince Charles for raising awareness on the issue through her work in Mardaani .

Mukerji has participated in several concert tours and televised award ceremonies . Her first concert tour , " Magnificent Five " , was in 1999 in which she performed with actors Aamir Khan , Aishwarya Rai , Akshaye Khanna and Twinkle Khanna . The " Temptations 2004 " concert had Mukerji perform alongside Shah Rukh Khan , Saif Ali Khan , Preity Zinta , Arjun Rampal and Priyanka Chopra in nineteen stage shows worldwide . The following year , she participated in the " Temptations 2005 " concert in New Delhi with Shah Rukh Khan , Fardeen Khan , Ameesha Patel and Malaika Arora Khan ; the show was organised to help raise funds for the National Centre For Promotion of Employment for Disabled People ( NCPEDP ) . In 2010 , Mukerji performed at a concert in the Army Stadium of Dhaka , Bangladesh with several Bollywood actors including Shah Rukh Khan , Rampal and Ishaa Koppikar . For the " Temptations Reloaded " concert of 2012 in Jakarta , Mukerji performed alongside Shah Rukh Khan , Zinta and Bipasha Basu , for the 2013 concert of the same name in Auckland , she performed with Shah Rukh Khan , Madhuri Dixit and Jacqueline Fernandez , and in 2014 she performed in Malaysia with Shah Rukh Khan , Dixit , Yo Yo Honey Singh and Arijit Singh .

= = Artistry and media image = =

Mukerji has been described by the critics as one of the most accomplished actresses of Bollywood . As part of a career analysis , Sukanya Verma noted that Mukerji made a " rather unconventional debut in films " ( she played a rape victim in Raja Ki Aayegi Baarat ) , and after a few years of oscillating between success and failure , she " achieved the status of a star , performer and showgirl " . Indo @-@ Asian News Service reported that during her initial years in the industry , Mukerji was referred to as the successful Kajol 's poor cousin and was written off by the critics for being " plump " and " short " . Raja Sen added that despite the odds being against her , Mukerji " slogged her way with grit " and emerged as " the most powerful leading lady in Bollywood " . Film critic Baradwaj

Rangan of the New Sunday Express writes that Mukerji 's unusual " sandpaper @-@ scratchy , I 'm @-@ recovering @-@ from @-@ a @-@ bad @-@ cold " voice sets her apart from her contemporaries and The Times of India has credited her for breaking the " fairness myth " of Bollywood .

Reema Kagti ( the director of Talaash : The Answer Lies Within ) said of Mukerji 's craft , " Rani likes to prepare a lot . She gets obsessive about the role and wants to know everything about her character . What 's her character 's back @-@ story , what is going on in her head at a specific point " . In an interview with Daily News and Analysis , Mukerji described her approach to acting :

" A month before I start shooting , I sit with my director , try to understand how he has visualised the character on the screen and take notes . Then I start working on the most basic thing ? the look . It 's very important that the physical appearance of the character gets decided because if I look the character , it makes it all the more believable . Once that is achieved , I go into the finer nuances of what the girl is like , her background . And then from there [ .. ] I have to get the accent right " .

To avoid getting " saturated " , Mukerji prefers portraying " drastically different roles " , and is credited in the media as " one of the most versatile actresses " of Bollywood . She has played roles in both high @-@ profile mainstream productions and lesser @-@ publicised films of independent filmmakers ; Hindustan Times published that Mukerji has made this progression so " natural [ ly ] [ .. ] that it 's gone virtually unnoticed " . Namrata Joshi of Outlook adds that she is unafraid to take risks and portray roles that " none of her contemporaries have been able to do " . Mukerji has garnered a reputation for playing roles that are a significant departure from the traditional portrayal of women in mainstream Indian cinema ; in Hum Tum she played a widow who engages in pre @-@ marital sex , in Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna she is involved in an extra @-@ marital affair with a married man , and in Bichhoo and No One Killed Jessica she smokes , drinks , and utters expletives .

Mukerji is one of the best @-@ known and most high @-@ profile celebrities in India ; at the peak of her career she was frequently listed as one of the most popular and attractive Indian celebrities , was one of the highest paid actresses in Bollywood , and the brand ambassador for a number of products . Filmfare featured her in their listing of the " Ten Most Powerful Names of Bollywood " for two consecutive years ( 2005 ? 2006 ) . In 2006 , Eastern Eye ranked her as one of " Asia 's Sexiest Women " . Mukerji ranked first on Box Office India 's " Top Actresses " listing for two consecutive years ( 2005 ? 2006 ) . She topped Rediff.com 's annual listing of the " Top Bollywood Actresses " for three consecutive years ( 2004 ? 2006 ) ; in 2007 , she held the fifth position . She was also featured by Rediff.com in their listing of " Bollywood 's Best Actresses Ever " , " Bollywood 's Most Beautiful Actresses " , and " Bollywood 's Best Dressed Women " . Since 2007 , Mukerji 's popularity was on a decline and she lost out on her brand endorsements to a number of younger actresses . In 2013 , the American Embassy in India honoured her with a special trophy for her contributions to Indian cinema .

= = Filmography and awards = =

= = = Selected filmography = = =

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

For her roles in the films Kuch Kuch Hota Hai ( 1998 ) , Yuva ( 2004 ) and No One Killed Jessica ( 2011 ) , Mukerji won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actress . She also won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress for her roles in Saathiya ( 2002 ) and Black ( 2005 ) , and received the Filmfare Award for Best Actress for her roles in Hum Tum ( 2004 ) and Black ( 2005 ) .