

A dream debut for Gauri

The singer has come out with a remix album that features old favourites sung to a new beat

HT Style Correspondent

FRESH FROM the release of her debut album *Chane Ke Khet Mein*, Gauri Saksena dreams of being a playback singer in Bollywood someday. The album has been released by Sagarika Music and the music has been composed by Jawahar Wattal.

"He is like my godfather. I feel very fortunate that he thought me worthy enough to work with me on this project," says Gauri.

The album also has a music video out that features Mumait Khan. But Gauri's dream is to sing for Rani Mukerji. "She is my favourite actress and I would love to sing for her," she says. Gauri confesses to a childhood crush on Salman Khan who, she says, is her favourite actor.

Other musical idols are Asha Bhosle, Lata Mangeshkar, Kishore Kumar and Mehdi Hassan.

She loves singing classical and semi-classical music, pop, *ghazals*, folk songs and *bhajans*. But her favourite music are film songs.

The San Jose-based performer started singing at the age of seven and trained at Delhi's Gandharva Mahavidyala under Vinay Chandra Mudgal.

Thereafter, she received training from Savita Devi. After relocating to the US, she has started

training under Shubhangi Sakhalkar.

But Gauri traces her love for music back to the time her paternal grandmother would sing her *thumris* and her father would sing *ghazals*.

After graduating from the capital's Lady Sriram College, Gauri went on to do an MBA from New York, and only recently gave up her job as a finance manager at Cisco systems to pursue her interest in singing.

While attending Delhi's Modern School, she won numerous inter-school competitions and was called the "Nightingale" of Modern School. She has also performed for All India Radio and Doordarshan. After her marriage, Gauri continued her singing with her family's support.

Gauri says that her success thus far has been made possible only because of the support of her family. She is especially grateful to her husband Sandeep, her parents and her six-year-old daughter Sarika.

Today, Gauri continues to perform as the lead singer for a professional Bay area band Dhun formed by her husband, Sandeep. The band has performed for a lot of charity shows that raised funds for the Gujarat earthquake, the Sankara Eye Foundation among others.



Gauri Saksena

potshots

Reality bites Ashlee

ASHLEE SIMPSON will never appear on another reality show. The sexy singer, who made her own series *The Ashlee Simpson Show*, admits she found the experience too intrusive to repeat. She also claims the show made her life look more dramatic than it actually was.

Simpson whose sister Jessica had starred in the MTV reality show *Newlyweds* with now estranged husband Nick Lachey, confessed to Britain's *B Magazine*, "I just thought it would be really cool to have a show that was about me releas-



Ashlee Simpson

ing an album and would show all the struggles behind trying to get a deal. But having a camera around all the time made me want to scream."

Agencies

Kate cleans karma

KATE MOSS has reportedly turned to Buddhism in the wake of her cocaine scandal.

A source revealed, "Kate feels Buddhism will get her through the dark times. She's been reading up about karma and is fascinated by the idea that your behaviour comes back on you."

Kate, who lost several lucrative contracts and checked into rehab after images of her snorting coke were printed is thinking about volunteering to improve her karma.

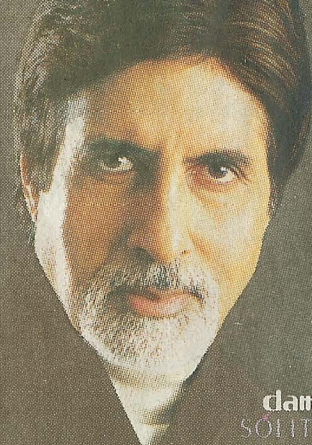


Agencies Kate Moss

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