

Suman Sarkar/DNA

'Hypocrisy is helping us'

The Gundecha brothers, in the city to perform, say that even if someone attends classical performances for outward show, the person is bound to start liking them after a while

Arkadev Ghoshal

They dress alike and talk alike. The only thing that distinguishes Umakant Gundecha from Ramakant Gundecha is a mop of white hair that the former has. "And even this has come from a lifetime spent under the harsh rays of the sun," jokes Umakant. The Gundecha brothers, noted dhrupad singers, were in Jaipur for a performance at the City Palace on Wednesday, and After Hrs caught up with them for a chat.

They brand Jaipur as a pilgrimage for dhrupad music fans, because of the city's association with the Dagers, under whom they themselves learnt dhrupad. And, the response in Jaipur, they add, has always been great, because the culture of Indian classical music runs deep here.

"Dhrupad music is making great progress. We now have more singers, more students and more audience at our concerts," they say.

But isn't it true that a lot of people who attend their concerts don't even understand dhrupad music? "It doesn't matter! True, that a lot of people occupy the front rows to pretend that they appreciate dhrupad. Let them come," the brothers exclaim.

"The first time, these people will just come and sit. If they come a few more times, they'll begin to enjoy dhrupad. Thus, their



The Gundecha brothers enthralled the city at City Palace on Wednesday with their renditions from *Sam Veda* and compositions in *raag Shuddha Gandhar* and *raag Charukeshi*

hypocrisy will one day turn to genuine appreciation of our art," they explain.

Doesn't dhrupad need to be understood? "That's a huge misconception! And popular media has played a huge role in fanning this. Dhrupad, like any other form of music, can be enjoyed for what it is. It does not require the audience to understand it," the Gundechas say.

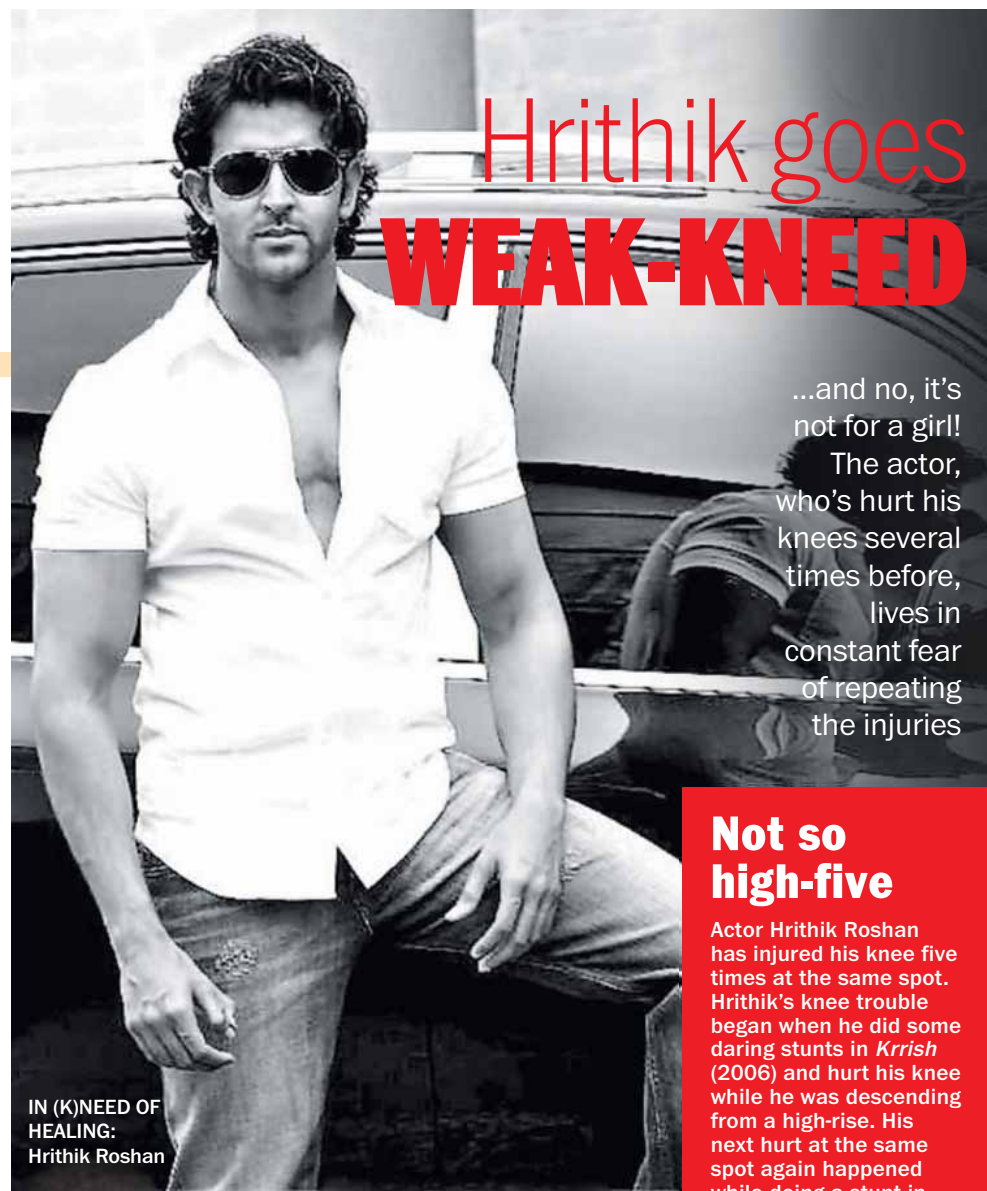
The conversation turns to how they are treated across the world, and the brothers say that they are more appreciated in foreign countries.

"In fact, there have been instances where NRIs have come up to us and told that they had earlier skipped our performances in India because they had not thought much of us, but were now eager to listen to us, despite a \$20 entry fee," they say.

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THE BROTHERS GUNDECHA: Umakant and Ramakant



Hrithik goes WEAK-KNEED

...and no, it's not for a girl! The actor, who's hurt his knees several times before, lives in constant fear of repeating the injuries

Not so high-five

Actor Hrithik Roshan has injured his knee five times at the same spot. Hrithik's knee trouble began when he did some daring stunts in *Krrish* (2006) and hurt his knee while he was descending from a high-rise. His next hurt at the same spot again happened while doing a stunt in *Dhoom 2* the following year. At this time, his ligament was torn, but he continued working despite his doctor's issuing him a warning. The next injury happened at the same spot again in December 2007 on the sets of *Jodhaa-Akbar*. He then went to Singapore for six weeks to heal his knee. Hrithik again had several injuries while shooting for *Kites* and unfortunately, one of them was again on the same spot on his right knee. Hrithik, while rehearsing for the closing ceremony of a 20-20 cricketing event, had to opt out when he hurt his knees again. Doctors have argued that any further damage to the spot might 'restrict a few movements' which means he might not be able to dance at all.

IN (K)NEED OF HEALING: Hrithik Roshan

Soumyadipta Banerjee

What is actor Hrithik Roshan's weakest point? His right knee joint! According to his doctors, the actor's right knee joint has become so weak that any more injury will bring the star's dancing to a standstill!

Hrithik, self-admittedly, is constantly in fear of hurting his knee all over again and has become quite phobic about it. "The fear is there all the time. When I am shooting, I fear that something might go wrong and I will hurt my knees again. But I can't let that fear bog me down as an actor. I will have to do what I have to do," he says.

Hrithik's career had almost come to a standstill when he suffered a knee injury for the first time on the sets of his super-hero movie *Krrish* in 2006. It came to a point when the doctors had told the star that he would never be able to dance at all. For the dancing star, not being able to dance was unthinkable, and brought up a grim scenario for him.

What followed were

months of physiotherapy and treatment in Singapore, which put Hrithik back on his feet again. Today the actor says that however deep his fears may be, he will go back to doing action sequences again in the sequel to *Krrish*, and ensure that he performs them even better.

"When you are shooting action sequences, there is always an amount of risk involved but that doesn't mean that one can afford to shy away from it. The action sequences will be bigger and better this time in *Krrish3* for sure. I am a fighter and I will always be one. The injuries have been great learning experiences for me, and they have made me more conscious. But I am not going to compromise on anything when it comes to shooting a scene," he says.

But it's not just when he's an actor that Hrithik gets conscious about his injuries, he has to be extra careful even as a father to two growing boys. "I play with my kids a lot, and have a great time. Hridaan moves like a dart. And I've to be careful to not

end up hurting my knee as both my boys are quite big now," says the dotting father.

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Can't do without this item

... Item numbers are an investment, says actor **Yana Gupta**, who recently shot for another one

Prachi Kadam

Ever since the pictures of a pantyless Yana Gupta made for news, the model-turned-item girl has gone hoarse denying that it was done for publicity. "I understand if people feel it was a publicity stunt. But it was an accident. I just couldn't sit for too long keeping my legs crossed. Besides, why would I choose an event for kids to gain publicity like that? If I wanted to do all that for publicity, I would have instead posed in a stylish, sensuous, raunchy manner for some magazine and got more attention," she says.

Recently, the item girl (known to be a fabulous dancer) found herself out of *Jhalak Dikha Jaa*. What was her reaction? "I was upset but I'm sure that I'll do better in the wild

card round. I love dancing and I hope we get to stay on the show."

There have been reports of her romancing her choreographer Salman Khan. "I'm still healing from my past relationship. I'm very much single and want to remain that way for some time," says Yana.

Why have there been no item numbers from her for so long? "I have just done an item number recently. And you'll get to see that soon. Besides, how can I keep away from item numbers? They are like an investment. If my song is a hit, it translates into more dance show offers, stage-shows and tours. Right now, topping my priority list is acting," informs the actor.

But before we see Yana the actor, there's Yana the musician who's set for another album. "I love singing, playing the guitar and flute, and I want to explore that further. I plan to release my album and I am working on it with a UK-based company," she informs.

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RED HOT: Yana Gupta

BUNNY

Vidya, Tharoor are hottest vegans

Politico Shashi Tharoor has overtaken superstar Amitabh Bachchan to be the hottest vegan in the latest poll conducted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India. Another surprise winner is Vidya Balan who's beaten the likes of Lara Dutta, Mallika Sherawat and Kareena Kapoor.

"Being a vegetarian has kept me healthy and helped to maintain my fitness levels too. And yes, it's cool to be a vegetarian," Vidya said earlier. Tharoor, on the other hand, says, "Indian vegetarians have no idea how lucky they are to have vegetarian options everywhere, even in the buffets of five-star hotels."

—Soumyadipta Banerjee



GREEN WINS: Vidya Balan and (inset) Shashi Tharoor

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JUST READ IT! Andrée with one of her paintings

She lives and works in Jaipur, but goes back to Canada to paint! Perhaps, that is what helps Andrée Pouliot capture age-old Indian love in a new light

After Hrs Correspondent

'I wouldn't do that with him, so why should I do it with you', 'He's just not that into you', 'Amma is coming to stay'.... These are not snatches of overheard girly conversation, but just some tongue-in-cheek titles that Andrée Pouliot gives to her nifty collection of contemporary miniature series: *The Perfumed Garden*.

Inaugurated on Wednesday at tablu art gallery, the exhibition has

It's not just simple miniature art

Andrée Pouliot, artiste

some interesting takes on Indian miniature art with equally interesting names. Visit the show to understand what we mean.

Through her 'collages', Andrée captures the urban Indian psyche about love and romance.

"I have endeavoured to bring about a spicy combination of age-old love and new style through my creations," she says, adding that her work is "not just simple miniature art. You come across more and more interesting things as you go deeper."

Andrée has not just tried to play with the idea and colours, but has also experimented a lot with the original form of miniature painting as we know it. Drawing, painting, textile printing, photography and computer graphics all go into her version of this very Indian art.

In fact, a large part of her influences in it comes from Jaipur; not least from the fact that she has made it her home for more than two decades or that she helped found Soma. It is also her very Indian sensibility that lends itself engagingly to her French-Canadian roots.

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