



actually, would anybody believe that I could do anything like this? After some readings I was convinced.

Once I started thinking about it, listening to the director again and again, then I really started enjoying it. Finally when I took it on, I thought this was an opportunity to really do something different.

Negative roles are really being appreciated now, so Juhi, do you think you got the better role?

Juhi: Without the villain what would the hero do, and without the hero what would the villain do. I think one is incomplete without the other. (Jokes) Honestly I did the role because that was all that was offered to me. They didn't offer me Madhuri's role. I'm just glad that I am being accepted as a villain today.

Madhuri: A film can only be made on those two energies – I believe

these two characters have got the best energies for the script. That's what makes the film happen.

Juhi, while making this film, did you realise there is a villain hidden inside you and you could have exploited it earlier?

Juhi: (Laughs) No. I didn't realise I could be so good at being bad. This is my debut role in villainy and I am hoping that it will go down very well with the audience.

Madhuri: It was the first time I saw someone be a villain with such sweetness. This is the first time you'll see this type of villain, someone who speaks so sweetly and

says things like 'kill them' in that sweet voice. That is scarier than when someone shouts and screams the same dialogue. She plays a very different kind of a role. It was fun watching her.

Was there any sort of rivalry?

Juhi: (Laughs) I am so glad that I'm the villain in this film, so you can't compare both of us. I didn't have to do any singing or any dancing – Madhuri did all of that. I had a great time just being mean on screen. **Madhuri:** Both of the roles are so different so you can't really compare. What Juhi is doing is not what I am doing in the film, so comparisons can't happen. But even if they do it doesn't matter (laughs), as long as audiences love the film I don't care.

Juhi, you have given a unique voice modulation to your character. Whose idea was that?

Juhi: I give a lot of that credit to the director because when I would hear him reading the script to me, maybe he didn't realise it, but it seemed like he was expressing the lines.

When I finally agreed to do the film all I wanted was to do it just the way he was reading it. So if it comes across well, all credit to the director.

Madhuri, did you do all the stunts or did you use a body double? And was there a fear of injury?

Madhuri: There was no fears, even when we dance you get injured sometimes. I really enjoyed doing the action; it's like choreographed action so it's a lot like dance.

I think the training I had in taekwondo helped me a lot to do these action sequences and make it look powerful. There is no stunt doubles for anyone in the movie, they are all performed by all the actors.

What is more difficult, a complicated dance sequence or action?

Madhuri: (Laughs) The word difficult is not in my dictionary actually. I like to conquer. If I think something is difficult I like to conquer it.

Can you see yourself joining politics?

Madhuri: Absolutely not. I have no interest in joining politics.

Juhi: I enjoyed doing it in films but that's it, for me.

Are you hoping Gulaab Gang helps bring back more women-orientated films, and will you be only looking for such scripts?

Madhuri: Like the director of this film says, we don't want to say this is a woman-orientated film. Audiences should forget the two main protagonists are women; they should go with the script and the story and enjoy it.

You should entertain; we should make them feel angry, sad, happy and laugh. That is what this movie is for. It just happens that there are two women in the film.

Juhi: We want to do all of that and also give audiences a message, which is there in the film. So it's about empowerment, the girl child, education.

Madhuri, in the film you say: 'Rod is god'. In real life, do you get angry and feel like picking up the rod?

Madhuri: (Laughs) There are plenty of occasions. If I start counting each one, I would have to sit here with a big stick. Sometimes you have to believe in the phrase, but not exactly a rod sometimes; you have to use stronger words. Sometimes you have to stand strong and at that time, you are the rod. I think you need to have that attitude sometimes.

Gulaab Gang will be in cinemas on March 7.

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Keep the romance alive

ONE thing that struck me during Valentine's Day earlier this month was that couples from an older generation were more romantic than younger ones.

I asked a Cypriot gentleman at work in his 70s if he had any plans for his wife and his response was an almost screaming: 'Of course', but when I asked a guy in his 30s his reply was a more: 'Ah, we don't really celebrate it.' 'That is atrocious,' I yelled, and asked where has the love disappeared to?

Yes I may not be celebrating it myself, but I would hope that if I was in a relationship my other half would make some small gestures to celebrate the day; cooking dinner, buying chocolates or flowers, making a mix CD (or iTunes playlist these days). As much as women say Valentine's Day doesn't matter to them, it does. How many of these said women did you see posting pictures of their roses on Facebook; all of them right?

So let's forget Valentine's for another year. Your partners love to be loved and I'm going to tell you as an outsider how to keep love alive. First of all, men treat your woman like a queen. She loves it and there's no shame in making your girlfriend/wife feel like she is the most important person in your life and in the world.

You don't have to buy her expensive gifts but tell her you love her daily, cook for her, even if it's pasta, and she will appreciate it. Get her small bouquets of flowers and let her watch *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* and *X Factor* whenever she wants.

Women, my mum once told me men like to be spoilt, so spoil them; massages, cooking, make them feel important. Be interested when they tell you about their day even if you've got no idea what they're talking about.

One of the most important things to keep romance alive is making love. So often I hear: 'Ah, we've been married 15 years now, we hardly have sex'. Why? Sex is one of the most intimate and important parts of a relationship and I don't understand why people don't give it as much importance as it should have.

Ladies, spice things up by getting new sexy lingerie or by dressing up as a French maid or masseuse. Men, book that spa weekend and give her a slow massage after she's been in the spa and had a facial (that you booked for her as surprise). This will leave her feeling relaxed, sexy and comfortable. Guaranteed to boost your sex life.

These are small ways to keep that spark alive. Yes we get older and may not be confident about our bodies or say we don't have time because the kids are in the way. But your partner married you for a reason, and you're still together. In terms of the kids, what are in-laws for? Get that dirty weekend booked now and spice up your love life.