



POSITIVE:
Anushka Arora;
and (left), with
(from left) Sunny
and Bobby Deol,
Dharmendra and
Bobby Friction

is so elegant and respectful. I interviewed her when she came here for (her film) *Raavan*. I would love to do an *In Conversation* or an Oprah style-interview with her now that she is a yummy mummy!

What has been your funniest encounter with a celebrity?

(Laughs) The funniest one has to be with John Abraham. He was my first big interview and I was as nervous as hell. I wasn't a massive fan of his until he walked into the studio, and then I nearly fainted. He obviously figured out I had taken a liking towards him and throughout the interview live on air, he kept making me blush and laugh like a schoolgirl. It was embarrassing but I

loved it really. I have got that interview recorded and I think I would have an OMG moment if I listened back to it.

What is the secret of hosting a good radio show?

You need three ingredients – one, be yourself; two, play some hot music; and three, your listeners. And you are ready to rock.

You play good music on air, but what music do you like listening to?

I absolutely love listening to Bollywood music. I cannot go a single day without it.

Have you made a New Year's resolution?

I don't believe in them – I feel if you have a goal or aim in life why wait until the New Year? You should be working on achieving your goal at any time of the year.

Tell us something people don't know about you?

I trained for a year in Hindi classical singing.

What is your best and worst quality?

My worst quality is that I am very, very impatient. My best quality would be that when things go wrong personally, I will never let it affect my professional life. Ever!

What one thing do you do better than your close friends?

(Laughs) Well, I am better at multi-tasking.

You are always happy and bubbly, but what annoys you?

When people don't communicate or respond to things, it really annoys me. We are living in 2013 now, hello!

What do you always carry in your handbag and what can't you live without?

My handbag is like a mini suitcase (typical woman, eh)! Everything in there is essential – I have things in there from my wardrobe to my kitchen sink. It comes with me everywhere. A few things I can't live without are a phone, iPad, vaseline, water, hair pin and hairbrush. They are absolutely essential. Oh, and my phone charger.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

I have been taught that if you are having a bad day, leave your emotional luggage outside the door.

And what advice would you give someone who wants to make it in radio?

If you want to get into radio, you have to have the passion for it. You will have to eat, sleep, live and breathe radio. Always be yourself and, most of all, it's a tough industry so you need to be very strong.

You love tweeting, so what has been your most memorable encounter on Twitter?

I am obsessed with Twitter. There was a time when I didn't even know how to use it and now I am addicted to it. My most memorable moment is when someone (I still don't know who) made a fan club for me called Anushka's Angels. I found that the sweetest ever and they even arrange Twitter interviews with me on different themes every now and then. The best one was based on childhood memories. They asked for my pictures of when I was a baby and it was so nicely presented on Twitter.

What would you say is your idea of happiness?

Happiness to me is my work and being around the people who I love and care about and vice-versa.

Finally, why should we tune into your BBC Asian Network show?

Because we put a smile on your face no matter how your day has been.

Tune into Anushka Arora and Bobby Friction Monday-Friday from 5.30pm-9pm. See www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork for details.

Priya Mulji



Follow Priya Mulji on www.twitter.com/priyamulji or log onto <http://priyamulji.wordpress.com>

The north-south divide

CONFESSION time: When I lived in Nottingham and visited London, I got called a northerner and absolutely hated it.

Now that I live in London, I quite like being called a northerner and often find myself speaking in a more 'northern' (well, Midlands) accent. The cleaner air and the strangers on the street who will bless you when you sneeze are just a couple of things I miss about the Midlands.

There is also a difference in the men.

The situation up north: I am currently single and when I was in Nottingham, men would most of the time not give me the time of day. After a date he wouldn't text, and if he called every two months, I would consider myself lucky. Northern men seem to be slower in their approach to pursuing women; one guy even said to me when on a date, 'this isn't a date'. Now what is a girl supposed to think?

The south: I have been on a few dates and men actually genuinely pay attention to me.

So why do men up north not care and men down south pursue women more? It seems as though with the faster-paced life, their sense of urgency in chasing a woman is stronger too. They call, text, whatsapp more. Arrange dates quicker and actually tell you that they like you.

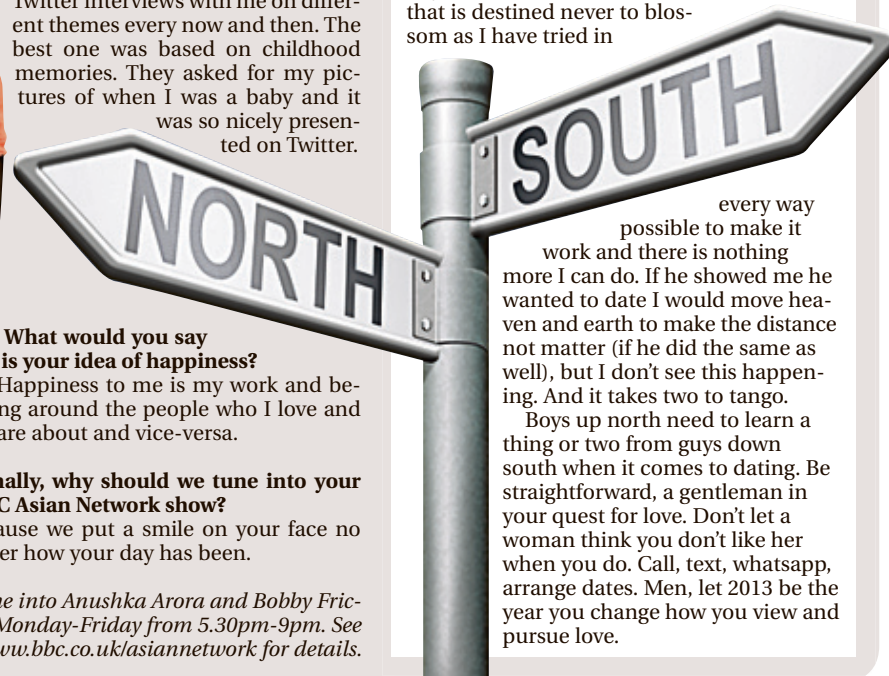
This is really driving me crazy. Maybe it is my approach to dating, but I always treat men I like the same way. So why do men behave differently from region to region?

I put this out on Facebook and a friend from the north-west said (and I apologise for any offence caused), 'southern girls are stuck-up princesses and northern girls more easy going'.

But I have noticed that southern girls have more of an air of confidence about them – the way they speak, they are more independent and more ambitious. I wouldn't call this being stuck up, but could a lot of this be misinterpreted as arrogance? Probably the same can be said for guys too.

The way I see it is that in London, life is more of a race. There are more people so the fight for jobs is harder; there is a different culture – more people go for drinks after work and you meet more people so when you do meet someone new and exciting, the thrill of the chase is almost immediately there. You pursue them quicker whereas a guy from up north will take things a little bit slower and girls automatically assume he isn't interested. End of story!

Things are always going to be different. The pace of life will be slower outside London, which will always be a rat race, but I want to make another confession. I like a boy but he lives up north. It is a relationship that is destined never to blossom as I have tried in



every way possible to make it work and there is nothing more I can do. If he showed me he wanted to date I would move heaven and earth to make the distance not matter (if he did the same as well), but I don't see this happening. And it takes two to tango.

Boys up north need to learn a thing or two from guys down south when it comes to dating. Be straightforward, a gentleman in your quest for love. Don't let a woman think you don't like her when you do. Call, text, whatsapp, arrange dates. Men, let 2013 be the year you change how you view and pursue love.