



# style statement

## BEAUTY AS WELL AS HIS UPCOMING UK TOUR



ternet for inspiration; I just close my eyes and capture the final look and image in my mind's eye. From that point, I trace each step back into actually creating that look. It is the same today for me as it was in the days of analogue photography.

### Tell us something that not many people know about you?

I am an extremely passionate person. I love my work. I am a friendly, hardworking, family oriented man and love my friends. Plus, I am someone who is always willing to learn something new.

**You have made a career out of making women look incredible. How much have you enjoyed that?** I have loved all of it. Every single day, when I do a photo shoot or bridal make-up, I see the transformation of women who I believe to be God's ultimate beautiful creation. Enhancing their beauty is a complete joy for me. I don't only style actresses and models, but advise them and guide them in their personal lives too. I suggest hair colours, or what cuts of dresses to wear, right down to which bag they should carry. It is a complete regimen.

Everything at Ather Shahzad is about extreme glamour and how to achieve it. We study trends being followed around the world and customise them according to the client's or model's personality and requirements.



### What key style tip would you give? Less is more.

### Selfies are all the rage. How do you feel about them as one of the world's leading photographers?

Personally speaking, I don't take selfies, but people are doing it all the time. I think the good thing it has brought in is that now people know their good angles. I enjoy that and am sure it is a lot of fun for people to look at them. Sometimes, of course, it becomes irritating but if you like them, then good for you.

### What are your biggest passions away from work?

I love travelling. Europe is my favourite place to visit. I can't get enough of it. I enjoy different kinds of cuisines and am a shopaholic. I also like meeting friends, historical places, theatre and museums.

### What is your greatest unfulfilled ambition?

I always wanted to make a movie because I love the silver screen, but haven't had the chance to do that yet. I feel I should have directed at least one amazing film. Everything else that I ever dreamt of, Allah has mercifully bestowed upon me.

### Why should we come to the Shahzad Raza make-up master class?

Come to learn the techniques and get the knowl-



edge from me directly. Come and see for yourself how I work in person. It is very important for you to learn the tricks from the artist himself and gauge for yourself what makes a stylist famous, because this is art and it cannot be justified by just a theoretical lecture. Judge for yourself by experiencing first-hand what goes into the making of a truly glamorous, dazzling and stylish look, the likes of which you have been seeing in our work for so many years. I believe it is a great opportunity for fans of our work.

### Finally, what inspires you today?

Everything serves as inspiration. I can't pick and choose. Even while being on the road, if I see a bird or a tree or a building, it can inspire me. A magnificent outfit or a woman with interesting features – it is very difficult to not be inspired by those. It's not easy for me to pick one object – just a shade of a lipstick can stimulate and motivate me enough to create an entire look around it. Basically, nature inspires me.

*Shahzad Raza master classes will be taking place at Central Hall, Westminster, in London next Saturday (23), Harvey Nichols in Manchester on Thursday, January 28, and The Place Boutique Hotel in Edinburgh on Sunday, January 31. Log onto [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) to find out more.*

**Priya Mulji**



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## Rejection reaction

I WILL remember 2015 for the lows rather than the highs, but you know what, it's okay because that is what makes us stronger. I am proud of myself for getting through it and coming out on the other side positively.

One thing people don't realise is that when you experience rejection, it isn't always a bad thing. The cliché goes 'God has a plan and that's why it happened'. Now, I'm not going to get all preachy and religious with you here, but it's true and rejection does make you stronger. I believe the way your life is supposed to go is destined; however, you can always give it a little push.

You will face many experiences in your life and one of those will be rejection. It can come in many different forms – being turned down in a job interview, the person you love or your family objecting to certain lifestyle choices. This is all rejection, but it isn't something we have any control over. Of course, I could sit here and tell you until the cows come home that it's okay and something better will come along, but the reality is you will be feeling absolutely rubbish about yourself in that moment. But that is an emotion you need to embrace.

First of all, don't ever blame yourself for being rejected because there is always a 'real' reason that it happened. For example, the reason you didn't get the job could be they probably found someone better suited to their specifications and you just need to concentrate in applying for other opportunities better suited for you.

One of the most difficult things to be rejected from is love, whether it is being dumped by the love of your life or a date with someone whom you really like not turning out how you hoped it would. It is something I have faced a lot and it never gets easier, but the thing is never to blame yourself because someone's feelings are something you can't ever argue with.

I broke up with my ex-boyfriend because he didn't love me. Even though at the time it didn't make sense: I mean, how can someone just stop having feelings for me? I learnt to accept it and that is what will happen over time with any form of rejection.

Rejection can affect our confidence, mental wellbeing and give us feelings of self-blame. However, you can learn to accept what has happened. To keep a positive outlook can be hard, but just a few small steps like taking deep breaths, making a list of what to do next and spending time with people you love always helps.

Over time you will change your mindset about what has happened and you will learn to accept, move on and make the next step you take a success. Remember, when one door closes, another one opens and being rejected from one love or job does not mean you won't find a better man or job again, because you can and you will.