

# From small to the silver screen

*Rajan Shahi who enters film production while continuing to entertain the television audience reveals his future plans*

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After giving shows like 'Bidaai', 'Ye Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', 'Kuch toh Log Kahege' and 'Amrit Manthan', producer/director Rajan Shahi who has spent two decades in the television industry plans to enter Bollywood.

"Two decades might seem like a small time but I have seen a lot in the industry. Technically and from the angle of creativity the industry has changed a lot. Now, I want to do something which I can be proud of in the coming years," says the producer who is gearing up for the change.

He started small and sharing his journey, he says, "I started as a technician, and then became a production assistant and today I own a production house that is under the process of making films." Even though he has shown interest in filmmaking, he doesn't aim for something commercial. He rather wants a well-scripted story with quality content as his debut in Bollywood. "I want to focus on the creative aspect. I wouldn't want to bank on formula-based films. Rather something new with an exciting issue will prove to be an unbeaten formula," he shares. He is ready to take the risk of working with rank newcomers and directors as long as he is convinced about its originality.

Switching from the small to the silver screen can be a challenging task but he is not fazed by it, as it is not the first time he is being associated to Bollywood. "I have worked with Vishesh films earlier on some small projects," he says and adds, "I love the concept of multi-tasking. When I look at people like Ekta Kapoor and Karan Johar, I admire their ability to tackle and handle many jobs at a time. Ekta who started with television is now a successful film producer and Karan a successful director, producer, and judge. They inspire me."

When asked whether he is scared of getting acceptance as film is altogether a different medium than television. He replies, "There was a time when TV was considered a second option to cinema but now it is a huge platform to find talent. In fact, I have already met some talented television actors for my first film. But, everything is still in the nascent stage." He continues, "We have actors like Sushant Singh Rajput and Vidya Balan etc who are acclaimed while they too have worked on television."



When asked about one big name he would want to work with, he replied with a lot of enthusiasm, "I would love to work with Shah Rukh Khan because we have a common connection as we studied in the same school. He was my senior in St. Columbus." "At the 'Star Parivaar' awards when King Khan got to know about our shared history he called me on stage and said that while he (SRK) is in Bollywood, I was ruling television. It was a great honour," he exclaimed.