

Vivacious, bubbly and sweet — what you see is what you get when you talk to model-turned VJ-turned actress, Shenaz Treasuryvala. The performer is set to release her romantic comedy, *Main Aur Mr. Right* later this year. We find out more...

Main Aur Mr. Right is a romantic comedy — you always said you wanted to try comedy. Do you think you've found your niche?

I think I am best at comedy. Even with a paper-bag on my head in *Delhi Belly*, I made the audience laugh. I think comedy is my thing. Nothing makes me happier than making people laugh. But, I do enjoy acting in drama too.

Do you believe in a Mr. Right?

No, there are many people who are right for me. And they are as right as they are wrong. My character does not believe or understand this.

Are you as picky as your character, Alya?

I am picky, but not as much. I know that I am not perfect and that a perfect person doesn't exist. Everyone has their own flaws and idiosyncrasies. For me, it's more about chemistry. I have only recently learned this though.

So, you're not as picky, but are you a perfectionist like Alya?

I am a perfectionist when it comes to work. I make sure I give a 100%. But, not every strand of my hair is in place and I don't even iron my clothes. Alya would have a heart attack if she saw me with my un-manicured nails, a hole in my stockings and messy hair.

What do you look for in a man?

I look for passion, chemistry, affection, love, companionship, friendship, stability, reliability and responsibility. I'm attracted to kind, smart, funny, creative and talented men.

And what would be a deal breaker for you?

If he is not a good person, mean spirited, a liar or a cheat, he's out! Also, I need to respect my man and if he is not ambitious, is living off me or riding on my coat-tails, that's a huge turn off.

Was this career path planned?

It was all by chance. I was a 16-year-old college kid who was asked to audition for an ad for Gold Spot, then for MTV and then asked to be in *Ishq Visk* by Ken Gosh at a nightclub. It was destiny. I did not even dream about being in this business. I was in plays and loved writing plays, but never imagined I had the looks to be a movie star.

I'm sure people would disagree!

Well, I was a plump, insecure child who didn't have many friends and was teased about being ugly, because my hair was too thick and my thighs were huge. School kids used to call me fatty and say things like — first Shenaz leaves class and then her butt follows after 5 minutes.

Do you think you started too young?

I did not miss out on anything. That's the one thing I can say for sure in my life. I've done and tried everything (except drugs, thank goodness). I completed my education and even have a degree in screen writing, journalism and film production. Even now, I take comedy, acting, improv and writing classes in the evenings. I am always trying something new. I guess I have FOMO (laughs) — Fear of Missing Out!

You're funny! No wonder it translates on screen. Would you say you're an entertainer in real life?

Thank you, you made my day! I'd rather be called funny than pretty. I can't stop smiling. Yes, I am the life of the party, I'm fun. I'd be my friend.

You've taken long breaks in between projects; what's that like for your career?

My career has had ups and downs. I fell into this profession and always thought it would end, so I tried my hand at other things. But destiny always brought me back into this field. A couple of years earlier when I booked a show on American TV, I

realised, this is what I am meant to do.

Most of us grew up watching you on MTV's *Most Wanted*, have you thought of being a VJ again?

I enjoy hosting shows. I have a natural talent for it. So, given the opportunity to host a show that I would like to watch, I'd say yes!

You've turned down offers in the past for item numbers. Have you changed your mind?

I turned them down because I did not think it was right for me at the time. Now, that I am older and sexier, maybe I would do one.

What's the biggest compliment you've gotten?

Aamir Khan saying I did a great job and was funny in *Delhi Belly*. He said my character was written as unlikable and I managed to make her likable! I've never blushed so much. From my fans, all compliments are the best!

THE RIGHT WAY

Unlike her on-screen character, **Shenaz Treasuryvala** isn't wasting her time looking for **Mr. Right**. She talks to **Rhea Dhanbhoora** about her ideal man, acting and starting off young in the business

SHENAZ IN A NUTSHELL

The actresses I'd like to emulate

Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Anne Hathaway, Diane Keaton, Glenn Close, Judi Dench, Konkana Sen, Vidya Balan and Poorna Jaganathan.

An actress I've worked with and admire

Poorna, who is also a close friend now. She is a brilliant and well trained actress! I have learned a lot from her.

I choose my roles by

Reading the script. If it's something I would like to watch, then I say yes.

What you don't know about me is

I'm very emotional and cry easily. I love love, passion and romance. I am very indecisive. I worry!



>> Shenaz is the first Indian girl to be on one of America's longest running soap operas, *One Life To Live*. She's been on the show for two years