



# SHAANA DIYA

The star of *Namastey London* and *Cash and Curry*

**So is it true you got it on with Akshay Kumar on the set of *Namastey London*?**

He was lovely and such an inspiration to work with. You can tell he's a pro; give him a script five minutes before filming and he'll have it nailed. He gave me some great pointers and taught me how to carry myself better.

**Do you think Katrina Kaif was threatened by you?**

Katrina's a successful actress and has no reason to be jealous of me – whatever people have been saying. We're not the best of friends, but we're not enemies either. I'd prefer not to get involved in the bitchy comments.

**She had better watch out. In *Cash and Curry* you play a sari-clad assassin!**

Well it's no *Kill Bill* routine, but I have to do some pretty cool stuff and I've never really had a part where I get to kill people. I had to learn how to hold a gun and release that ultra ego – it was like being a sexy bad Bond girl!

**You have an unusual look...**

Being half Indian and half Swiss is both my strongest and weakest asset. Some think my look is very exotic, but others aren't so keen. An Indian director refused me on the grounds that I looked Italian...

**How annoying is that?**

Tell me about it! I love Bollywood so being told I haven't got the look for the industry is disheartening. I can't wait for a time where actors can metamorphosise into things and not have an identity stamp. Maybe I'll go to all my auditions in a sari. Maybe minus the gun though...

• **Cash and Curry is out this summer**