

## Amrita Rao

Text by Rohini Iyer



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She is not your average newcomer. For one, she is not ambitious. "I don't have the courage to go out and make things happen." She smiles. "If it happen, fine." Luckily for Amrita Rao, things have happened. She was seventeen when she bagged her first ad." I was in college when my friends asked me to audition for Fairever. Luckily, I got the ad..." She is matter of fact when she talks about her commercials. "I Perk, Bru, Closeup..."

Unlike other wannashines who can't wait to sign films, Amrita reveals that she was very very skeptical. "I come from a completely non filmi background. My dad wasn't too happy with the idea of me joining films." But Lady Luck intervened (as usual) and Ms Rao bagged a prestigious contract with the music company Tips. "They have branched out into artist management. They came up with a great offer. Dad liked the whole setup. So he gave me the go ahead."

Thanks to the contract, Amrita has bagged the role opposite Ajay Devgan in Raj Kumar Santoshi's The Legend of Bhagat Singh. "I'm sure the film will turn out to be a classic," she declares. The Legend of Bhagat Singh will however be her second release. The first will be Raj Kanwar's Ab Ke Baras which also marks the debut of Raj Babbar's son Arya. "Raj Kanwar saw one of my ads and called me up. I auditioned for Ab Ke Baras with

Arya and they liked me. I share equal footage with Arya. I'm not just dancing around trees."

"You see, I'm very clear about this. I want to do substantial roles." Isn't it a little too early in her career?

" Yeah, it is. But I know I'm talented. So why not?"

Finally a newcomer who knows her mind and is not afraid to spill it!

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