

be true to themselves. But I believe it is slowly opening up and we will have a lot more female directors in the future.

Are there any directors you look up to?

I'm a Yash Chopra fan, I love his movies. I am also a big fan of Karan Johar as well – I like his feel-good kind of movies. When I do make a movie, it would be that kind of a film.

So is directing films the next step for you?

Inshallah! I'm sort of hoping that is what will happen next. I want to make those feel-good kind of movies I just mentioned – with a lot of great songs, good drama and moments that make you smile. I want to create a world for people to escape into for a few hours.

And can you see a day when Pakistani cinema catches up with to the Indian film industry?

It will take a long time, but yes, I do. I am a total optimist. I always say that whatever goes down comes up again. The whole industry went down and now it's time for it to come up and it slowly is. You can't compare it to India because they are in a different state of evolution and there is a different thought process going on there. We are not there right now, but inshallah, we will get there. We have so much time, why shouldn't we?

According to you, what is the best and worst thing about being a director?

The worst thing is dealing with people who are not punctual because that is one thing I hate. I get really annoyed when an actor is supposed to be on set at nine and turns up six hours later. And it's horrible being on a production with someone who doesn't take their work seriously. The best thing is starting something from the scripting and casting level, then seeing the end product after it is finished. I love the whole process of being able to create something. I see the job as a blessing.

There are a number of powerful and strong female role models in Pakistan?

In the west, they have a totally different image of Pakistan, but it is a woman's world here. It's exciting because there are a lot of educated women who want to do different things and there are a lot of opportunities available in places like Karachi. Like is the case everywhere, if you really want to do something, you'll find hindrances along the way, but there is nothing stopping you and it will happen.

What advice would you give to girls who are thinking about pursuing a career in directing?

I would tell them, 'Complete your education first and learn about directing. Learning doesn't necessarily mean formal education – read books, watch a director in action, look at actors, watch good movies and learn from them. Be confident and committed, otherwise you will get lost somewhere down the line. And last but not least, believe in yourself.'

Special thanks to Manhattan Leo Burnett, Pakistan

Her top five picks

Sleepless In Seattle

(pictured): I loved the relationships and the characters in this film. I'm a total romantic and believed in the message of this film.

Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham:

I loved the relationships in the film, the songs and the way the story is so well knitted together.

PS I Love You: I just saw it recently and loved the way the story was presented.

When Harry Met Sally: The story is so well told. I never tire of watching it.

Kabhi Kabhie: I loved everything about the movie, from the songs and story to the message that you shouldn't live in the past.



ACCOMPLISHED: (clockwise from main picture) Misbah Khalid; with EE's Asjad Nazir; and a poster of her successful TV drama *Meray Pass Pass*

WomenZone



THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE

WE live in a fast-paced and technologically advanced society, and patience is one of the first casualties of our lifestyles. We know the old proverb, 'patience is a virtue' – throughout history and recorded in every religion, patience is a valued trait of humankind. But when your computer is working at a snail's pace or your appointment is running late, your patience is the one thing that is tested the most. We have all been in situations where our patience is wearing thin, but if we persevere through it, the end result is almost always a pleasant one.

BEING A TEAM PLAYER

WHY is it so hard for some people to be team players? Is it a result of poor social skills, the belief that they will be more successful doing the job on their own or the need to be the 'star' on the project? Multi-million dollar corporations didn't become successful because one person did all the work. It is the strength of a team, coupled with a clear vision, that brings success. From the experience of working with people on projects, I can assure you that anyone who lacked the skills of a 'team player' often created unnecessary conflicts and generally was not liked by the group. Just like in a recipe, having all of the ingredients working well together is one of the most important paths to success.

THE PERFECT OUTFIT

YOU get an invitation to a high-profile party and you are all excited until you realise that you are going to need the perfect outfit for the occasion. Then the stress kicks in – after all, it's not every day that you get invited to a premiere or a fancy party at a five-star hotel. You frantically search your closet, turn everything upside down and...nothing, you just don't seem to have that perfect outfit. So you call a friend and go out shopping, looking in store after store, and you still can't find it. Your friend offers you her party clothes but you are different sizes, which you know won't look flattering. To avoid such situations, when I am out window shopping and my eye is caught by the 'perfect outfit', I just buy it even though I don't have a specific occasion in mind. It may save me on that rainy day because when you are desperately looking for something, you normally can't find it.



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SHOPPING AND REALLY ANNOYING... IS THERE ANYTHING WORSE THAN A WOMAN WHO IS STUPID?

of that many times), others will keep on tolerating them because they are afraid they won't get another woman. Some guys who are not the brightest really like dating someone who will make them look intelligent, while others will desperately try to educate their women.

A dense woman's favourite subject will be herself and she won't contribute much to a conversation. She will find it really dif-

ficult to relate to most of your friends and won't make many of the decisions. She will have perfected the art of 'pretending to be a good listener' by nodding her head and smiling. She will have a really annoying laugh (I'm not sure why), won't be very ambitious and is usually attracted to money like a bee to honey – shopping is her addiction.

She will frustrate the hell out of you and will take your mind off it with smoking hot outfits and bags of flirting. The only time she will really use

her brain is when choosing an outfit or trying to find ways of making you feel guilty about something you haven't done. A guy will be unwilling to introduce her to his clever friends or his parents for fear of getting embarrassed.

But they are not the women to be afraid of, my friends! Oh no. The ones I, and most guys, fear are the highly intelligent women who play dumb, because they are the ones who play a player. They are the ones in control.