

# 'My actors are just my medium'

**F**ilmmaker Prakash Jha has a hard time making his actors understand the issues he deals within his films. His chagrin towards the artistes is quite evident as he complains about their ignorance towards socio-political problems of the country.

"Most actors I have worked with have no idea about what I am trying to convey in my films. They have never experienced it! They don't read books, they don't even read newspapers or magazines. They are just my medium," says Prakash, who was in the City recently.

His "concerns" don't end here. According to this film producer-director-screenwriter, Ajay (Devgan) at least understands the issues because he reads newspapers. "But rest all are the same – be it Ranbir Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan or Deepika Padukone. I had to actually tell her the meaning of *Aarakshan*," he rues.

Also the maker of National Film Award winning documentaries like, *Faces After The Storm* (1984) and *Sonal*

(2002), he has also impressed audiences and critics with successful socio-political films like *Mrityudand* (1997), *Gangaajal* (2003), *Apaharan* (2005) and *Raajneeti* (2010).

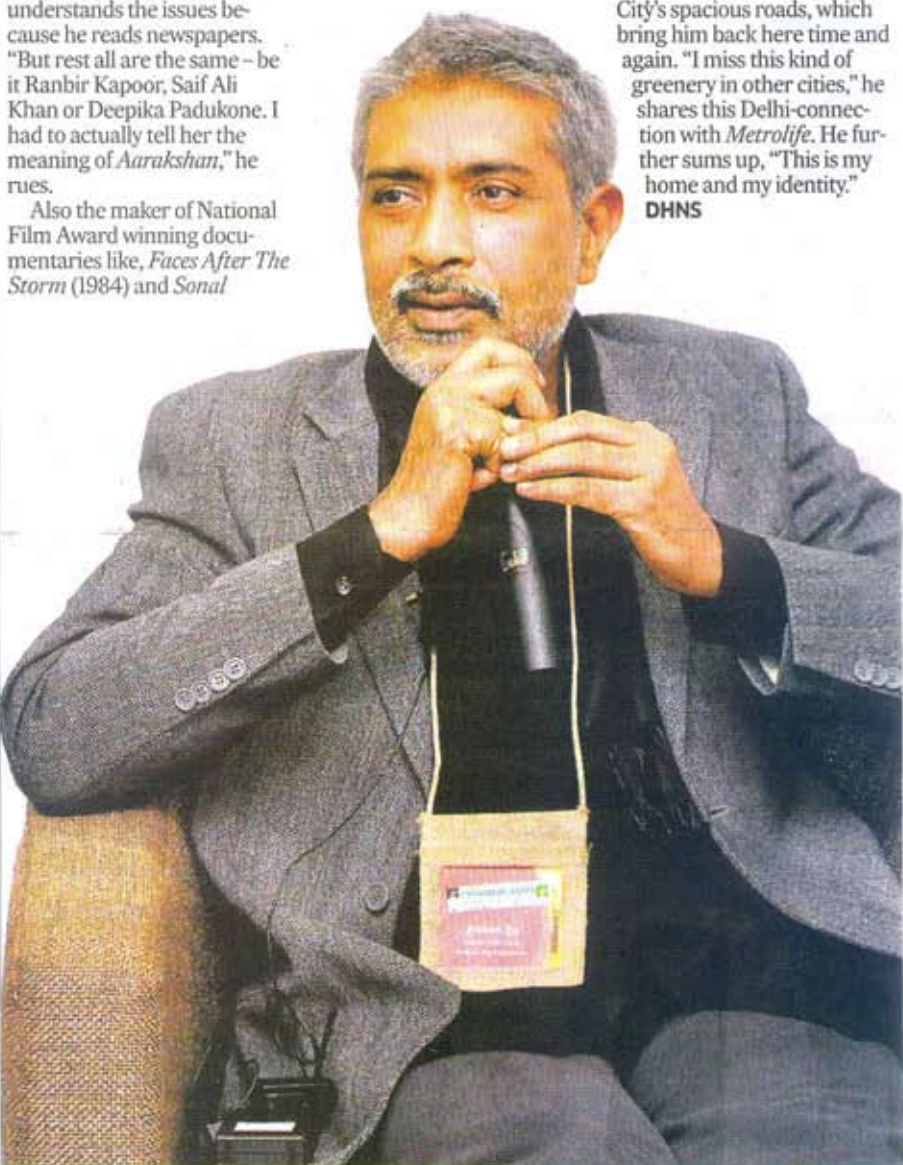
"I give them a lot of written material on the subject of the film and ask them to come up with at least 100 questions because I want the best performance out of them. And it is my responsibility to make them understand the subject," informs Prakash, whose last film *Aarakshan* dealt with the controversial issue of the reservation policy.

And how does he predict a film's future? "It could be a subject or a dialogue which connects with the audience

and makes the film popular. Look at *The Dirty Picture*, it has no big budget, no big star cast but something has clicked. It has collected Rs 50 crore in a week," he answers.

Commenting on Nana Patekar's remark that he will not work with Prakash Jha as he has become stale, the filmmaker refuses to contradict and says that Nana is a very senior artiste and free to say anything. "Nana Patekar is very senior and can say anything and whatever he says should be accepted," says Prakash, who casted Nana in his film *Raajneeti*. Like many other Bollywood celebrities, Prakash too is a fan of lush green surroundings spread over Delhi. He also loves the City's spacious roads, which bring him back here time and again. "I miss this kind of greenery in other cities," he shares this Delhi-connection with *Metrolife*. He further sums up, "This is my home and my identity."

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DIRECTOR'S CUT Prakash Jha