Apply for a Personal Loan and get up to 200,000 Air Miles for flights and hotels on your perfect summer getaway
Find out more ›
Product and Offer Terms and Conditions, fees and charges apply.
HSBC

Bollywood film on India-Pak love in Dubai

A Dubai-based director is filming Darmiyaan, about best friends from India and Pakistan living in the UAE

Image Credit: Clint Egbert/Gulf News

Bollywood movie 'Darmiyaan' being filmed in Dubai on 15th March, 2016.

Published: 17:59 March 15, 2016
Manjusha Radhakrishnan, Senior Reporter

tabloid!

Add to My Gulf News SHARE

When you think of a Bollywood film about rival nations India and Pakistan, you expect chest-thumping jingoism and some traditional Pakistan-bashing.

But Dubai-based director and former banker Manav Bhalla is on a different war path.

His mission is to make a Hindi film that proves that the civilians from these two countries can live in perfect harmony in a neutral city such as Dubai.

Yes, there's a some singing and dancing, too.

"When I talk to people in Dubai, there's a sense of comfort among Indians and Pakistanis who live here. There is no animosity. In India, there's some discomfort so I thought it was important to show the world that when you are outside of that environment, there is no concept of rivalry," said Bhalla, on the sets of *Darmiyaan* in Dubai on Tuesday, where the majority of the film's scenes are set. They have another ten days of filming in Dubai left.

His crew is on their eighth day of filming in Dubai and the scene on Tuesday was a dance sequence with the two protagonists, Samar Vermani and Vibhav Roy, dancing on the Burj Al Arab beach. Back-up dancers from Russia, Egypt and other nations lend colour.

"It's a great ensemble cast with Om Puri, Tisca Chopra, Ishita, Samar and Vibhav. It's a story about relationships and how two friends from India and Pakistan weather the storm or situations that split them. We have tried to show the life in a country such as the UAE. We want to show how a country like the UAE acts as a catalyst to bringing peace between two nationalities," said Bhalla.

However, veteran actors Puri and Chopra are not a part of the UAE schedule.

"We have shot all over Dubai [at] Shaikh Zayed Road, Dubai Garden Glow and many iconic landmarks. The story will send the message of peace, love and how you have to go beyond what could be isolated incidents that harbour enemity ... We have kept away from war and how stories of India and Pakistan are shown in Hindi films," said Bhalla, who is hoping to showcase *Darmiyaan* at the Dubai International Film Festival this year.

Darmiyaan is being made on a modest budget of approximately Dh3.67 million.

"The filming in Dubai has been going very smoothly, thanks to the fantastic support systems and Dubai Film & TV commission," said Bhalla.

Read the full interview in *tabloid!* soon.

FILED UNDER

GulfNews › tabloid! › Film

TAGS

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | PAKISTAN | DUBAI | INDIA | EGYPT

ALSO IN FILM

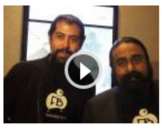
Anurag gets the best out of me: Nawazuddin

FRAMED GALLERY

Modi leads International Yoga Day celebrations

Yoga on board an aircraft carrier

GNTV VIDEOS



Meet the makers of Emirati sci-fi film Aerials

Kukunoor: Filmmaking is a personal calling

Follow Us

Worth is in the value we create for you

DUBAI INVESTMENTS

MOST POPULAR

VIEWED | COMMENTED | VIDEOS | GALLERIES

01 Stella McCartney to launch menswear line
02 'Romeo Juliet' a love story in Tamil
03 Shah Rukh on meeting Zayn: 'Biggest night'

GN NEWS MAKERS

Aamir Khan
GN RATING 2
VIEW ALL ›

Anushka Sharma: I'm a self-made woman
38 minutes ago

Khan 'rape' comment sparks controversy

© Al Nisr Publishing LLC 2016. All rights reserved