

King Khan

1 QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of the movies. Write the names of:

- a) An American movie star _____
- b) A British movie star _____
- c) An Australian movie star _____
- d) An Indian movie star _____
- e) A movie star from your country _____

Who do you think is the biggest movie star in the world today? _____

Compare your answers in class and then read paragraph 1 of the article.

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the words from the article with the definitions. The paragraph number will also help you find the correct word.

best-known popular industry guy tacky premiere dramatic
huge idol represents reincarnation dubbed sold out

1. someone that you look up to and admire very much _____ (paragraph 1)
2. more people know who he is than any other actor _____ (paragraph 1)
3. extremely large, very big _____ (paragraph 2)
4. a certain type activity or business _____ (paragraph 2)
5. cheap and in bad taste _____ (paragraph 3)
6. someone who has been born again after their death as a different person _____ (paragraph 4)
7. the first public performance of a film _____ (paragraph 4)
8. When everybody has bought a ticket and there are no tickets left, the tickets are _____. (paragraph 4)
9. when a film or song has its soundtrack replaced with one of a different language or using a different voice _____ (paragraph 5)
10. an informal word for a man _____ (paragraph 5)
11. exciting and impressive; full of drama _____ (paragraph 7)
12. When many people like something, we can say it is _____. (paragraph 7)
13. is a sign or symbol of something _____ (paragraph 8)

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KING KHAN

by Irene Ridgeway

1 Do you know who the biggest movie star today is? Johnny Depp? Brad Pitt? No! His name is Shah Rukh Khan and he's not from Hollywood – he's the king of Bollywood! Shah Rukh has been in 60 films in the past 16 years. And although he's 43 years old, he's still a teen idol and the best-known movie star in the world.

2 But what is Bollywood? Bollywood is India's huge film industry in the city of Mumbai, on the western coast. The name *Bollywood* comes from Bombay – the old English name for Mumbai – and Hollywood. Every year, 900 films are made in India and 3.2 billion people watch them. Only 2.5 billion people watch Hollywood movies.

3 Shah Rukh, from Delhi, didn't always want to be an actor. "For me, Indian films were loud and quite tacky," he says. But after he moved to Mumbai, Shah Rukh thought he could be a movie star – and he was right!

4 At the Berlinale film festival in February 2008, more than 20,000 fans saw Shah Rukh present his new film, *Om Shanti Om*, about the reincarnation of a Bollywood actor. The film premiere sold out in less than seven minutes, and some people paid 500 euros for tickets.

5 To tell a story, Bollywood films use music, dance and the most beautiful words from languages spoken in India – Hindi, Urdu and English. Usually, Indian films also mix action, comedy and love. Shah Rukh doesn't sing in his movies – his songs are dubbed. But he does dance. And sometimes he likes to play the good guy, sometimes the bad guy.

6 Acting in films like *Om Shanti Om* has helped make Shah Rukh world famous – and he wants the same thing to happen for the rest of Bollywood. That's why he started the film companies Dreamz Unlimited and Red Chillies Entertainment. "I want Indian films to be famous all over the world," he says.

Here comes Bollywood

Bollywood films are known for dramatic acting, bright colours and dancing that helps tell the story. Bollywood has become so popular around the world that you don't have to be in India to be in a Bollywood film. London has its own Bollywood acting school. Students learn from Indian actors and get the chance to act in Bollywood films that are made in Britain.

Om Shanti Om

"Om" is written here in Sanskrit, which is one of the oldest written languages.



Meditation and prayer in many

religions in India often begin and end with "om" – which represents the whole world and everything in it. "Shanti" means "peace". So "om shanti om" is like a prayer for peace.



Shah Rukh's films

- *Om Shanti Om* (2007)
- *The Inner World and The Outer World of Shah Rukh Khan* (2005, documentaries about Shah Rukh)
- *Main Hoon Naa* (2004)
- *Kal Ho Na Ho* (2003)
- *Devdas* (2002)
- *Dil Se* (1998)
- *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998)

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

a) Match the sentence halves to read information from the article.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shah Rukh Khan is a teen idol even though | dancing, comedy and love. |
| 2. He has made more | to be famous all over the world. |
| 3. Bollywood films are more popular | dances but doesn't sing. |
| 4. Bollywood films have music, | than 60 films. |
| 5. In his films, Shah Rukh Khan | than Hollywood films. |
| 6. Shah Rukh Khan wants Bollywood films | for the whole world and everything in it. |
| 7. Bollywood films are made | he's over 40 years old. |
| 8. <i>Om</i> is an old Sanskrit word | in Britain as well as in India. |

4 TEEN TALK

Tacky. Shah Rukh Khan uses the slang word *tacky* to describe the way Indian films were in the past: cheap and in bad taste.

What could you describe as being tacky? Give an example (think of jewellery, clothes, shoes, shops, toys, etc.).

5 DISCUSSION

Complete these sentences and discuss them in groups. Then give feedback to the class.

- Bollywood films are _____
Hollywood films are _____
The last film I saw at a cinema was _____
The main actor in the film was _____
I thought the film was _____

6 WEBQUEST

Make a poster about Shah Rukh Kahn. Think about the facts you want to have on your poster, e.g. *When was he born? Is he married? Where does he live?* etc. Then go online to find the information.

There are many websites about Shah Rukh Kahn and Bollywood; here are just a few that may help you.

- www.shahrukhkhan.org
- www.facebook.com/IamSRK
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahrukh_Khan

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KEY

1

1. idol
2. best-known
3. huge
4. industry
5. tacky
6. reincarnation
7. premiere
8. sold out
9. dubbed
10. guy
11. dramatic
12. popular
13. represents

3

1. Shah Rukh Khan is a teen idol even though he's over 40 years old.
2. He has made more than 60 films.
3. Bollywood films are more popular than Hollywood films.
4. Bollywood films have music, dancing, comedy and love.
5. In his films, Shah Rukh Khan dances but doesn't sing.
6. Shah Rukh Khan wants Bollywood films to be famous all over the world.
7. Bollywood films are made in Britain as well as in India.
8. Om is an old Sanskrit word for the whole world and everything in it.