

Singing a new tune

After stealing hearts with his hit *Waada Raha*, the future looks bright indeed for singer Arnab Chakraborty, who's just released his debut album



SING OUT LOUD! Arnab Chakraborty

Arnab Chakraborty's tale is a classic story of a young boy with stars in his eyes. As a young boy in Kolkata who learnt Hindustani classical music, his dream was always to become a playback singer in Bollywood. Arnab elaborates about his journey till date, saying, "I have done my post graduation in Hindustani vocals and have been trained under big names like Gautam Mukherjee and Achyut Thakur but it was always my dream to come into Bollywood. But I wanted to enter this extremely competitive world of playback singing, with complete preparation; because over here, ultimately, talent, that has been polished and re-polished, is what shines through and stays for a long, long time."

Arnab, who got noticed by Jatin-Lalit at a talent hunt that he was participating in, embarked on his musical sojourn with advertisement jingles for Ram Sampat. "I was lucky to be at the right place at the right time. Ramji had just signed *Khakee*, for composing the music and they were on a lookout for a good, new voice for *Waada Raha*. Ramji and Rajkumarji, both felt that my voice was aptly suited for the same and hence I got the song, which turned out to be a huge hit" and thus turning the fortunes of Arnab, who feels that Akshay Kumar is his lucky mascot. Both the songs sung by me that have been picturised on him have been huge hits and have been responsible for helping me carve out a niche for myself in the industry in such a small time" maintains Arnab, who soon began getting invited for concerts all around the country after these two num-

bers, wherein he got a fabulous response.

All in all, Arnab's popularity begun increasing; so much so, that Times Music approached him to cut a non-film album! "It was all happening so fast, that I just couldn't believe that it was true. I had always dreamt of having my own album but never knew that the chance would come so soon" gloats Arnab as he explains what the album, *Naam* is about. "It is a cocktail of all kinds of numbers, right from the soulful romantic ones, which are my forte to peppy numbers to those with traditional folk touches" says Arnab, who has a soft spot for folk music.

"I have always been interested in folk-music such as the *Bihu*, the *Lavani* etc. I feel, it's a treasure-trove of surs and ragas, which has not been utilized to the optimum. Especially nowadays, in the era of remixes, we are fast forgetting our own rich musical heritage. I have nothing against remixes. In fact, I too have done quite a few of them in the earlier days. Remixes, if done properly, without just adding a few beats here and there to the original composition, can truly present a song in a very novel way. But having said that, that does not mean that we should forget our own music and run behind Western beats. I'd love to now do something that will allow me to do my bit for promoting our music. God willing, I should get that chance soon" signs off Arnab, who at the moment, is having his hands full for numbers in films like *Baat Pakki*, *Raakh* and a film.

RESHMA S KULKARNI