

# Bengal's new gift to Bolly

He has lent his voice to Akshay Kumar in *Khakee* and the soon-to-be-released *Family*. Meet Arnab Chakraborty (below), the singer whom director Rajkumar Santoshi repeats in his ventures for Akki. With three numbers in *Family*, Arnab is here to stay. A tete-a-tete with the singer...

## ● How did *Family* happen?

My song *Wada raha* from Rajkumar Santoshi's earlier film *Khakee* was a huge hit and earned me a nomination for the best male playback singer at the Zee Cine Awards 2005, held at Excel Arena, London. I was lucky to get another opportunity to work with the same team in *Family*. Music director Ram Sampat was so happy with my song *Wada raha* in *Khakee* that this time he gave me three songs in *Family*!

## ● Three songs for Akshay Kumar as against the one in *Khakee*...

Yes, and interestingly, *Qatra qatra*, *Janam janam* and *Quick bite*, are distinctly different from each other.

● Though recognition comes to you now, it is not like you are a new entrant. After ad films, remixes and films, was this a planned move? And which of these would you consider most satisfying?

Each medium has its own attraction and creativity in any medium is

always a satisfying experience. Yes, remixes are great testing grounds as one gets to repackaging legendary songs. There is always a comparison drawn between the two versions, which helps a lot in self-analysis. Jingles is a different challenge as you have to convey emotions within a few seconds.

## ● Can we know some of the brands you have sung for?

Well, I have done jingles for Airtel, Ponds, Vimal, Samsung, ICICI Bank, Revital, Horlicks, Mortein, 7Up, Siyarams, Fortune Cooking Oil, Suncity, Manikhand, Odonil, Britannia and various others. Of course, the most satisfying are film songs, where you get the maximum freedom to express your creative abilities, lend an original touch and create a distinctive style. The onus is on you to make or break an original song. It gives one the highest recognition as it is the most popular form of music in India.

● You are from Kolkata. Was it difficult entering

## the Hindi film industry?

Six years back, I came to Mumbai from Kolkata. And the beginning was normal and humble. I made a demo tape and started visiting music directors. Then I got the chance to prove my talent in remixes, jingles and regional movie songs.

## ● How effective is formal training in singing?

I have had formal training in music under the tutelage of Shri Gautam Mukherji. I also did a two-year PG in popular music from Mumbai University under the guidance of Pandit Achyut Thakur.

## ● Does training help make singers?

It moulds and polishes a singer's skills.

## ● How much has technology helped music?

It saves studio time and costs.

## ● You have sung in Bengali, Telugu, Assamese and Oriya languages.

All that happened after *Wada raha* became popular. It gives me the satisfaction and confidence to sing in various languages.

## ● What next?

I want to better myself as a singer, lend voice to melodious songs and spread the message of love, peace and unity through music.

