



Hrithik Roshan India's first Superhero

Hrithik Roshan, one of the most versatile and talked-about actors among the current crop in Bollywood, is basking in the success of his latest sci-fi action film *Krrish*. Playing a "superhero" called Krrish in the movie, Hrithik makes transition from a simpleton in a village with superpowers to a masked crusader in Bangkok.

The actor, who spent two months taking lessons in martial arts in order to perfect his role for *Krrish*, is jubilant at the success of his new movie. "My main aim as an actor is to take our cinema to the next level. And that's where *Koi... Mil Gaya* (*Krrish's* prequel) took a small step, though we projected it as a big Indian sci-fi flick. But *Krrish* is a giant leap," Hrithik said.

Hrithik was born to yesteryear Bollywood actors Rakesh and Pinky Roshan on January 10, 1974.

As a child, Hrithik worked in many films as a child artist. His first film as a child was *Aap Ke Deewane* (1980), directed by his father. Then he essayed the role of a young dancer in *Aasha* (1980). However, his best remembered performance as a child star was in *Bhagwan Dada* (1986).

After completing his graduation from Sydenham College in Mumbai with a bachelor's degree in commerce, Hrithik decided to join the film industry.

He started his career as an assistant-director, assisting his father (who had later moved to film-making) in films like *King Uncle*, *Karan Arjun* and *Koyla*.

It was on the sets of *Karan Arjun* that actor Salman Khan suggested that Hrithik should start acting in movies. The advice was taken.

In order to prepare himself for the industry, Hrithik enrolled himself in Namit Kapoor's acting classes without informing his parents. He wanted to realise his potentialities as an actor before showcasing himself in front of the world.

Hrithik started his acting career in the year 2000 with the movie *Kaho Na...Pyar Hai* opposite debutante starlet Amisha Patel — a film directed by his father. The movie became the biggest success of that year, sweeping all the major movie awards. Hrithik's performance in the movie earned him the Filmfare Best Debut Award and the Best Actor Award.

After his successful debut, Hrithik acted in a large number of movies including *Mission Kashmir*, *Fiza*, *Aap Mujhe Acche Lagne Lage*, which did not do well at the box-office.

He also acted in the blockbuster movie *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* in 2001, directed by Karan Johar. The actor once again sprang back

with another blockbuster hit *Koi... Mil Gaya* in 2003. Hrithik's portrayal of a mentally challenged character in the film won him the Filmfare Best Actor Award and the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Performance. He was also nominated for the Filmfare Best Actor Award for the film *Lakshya* in 2004.

Apart from being a good actor, Hrithik is also an accomplished dancer. His live stage shows are a rage no matter where he performs.

Hrithik is married to his childhood sweetheart Suzzane Khan, daughter of actor-producer Sanjay Khan. The actor is currently shooting for another Bollywood sequel, *Dhoom 2*, by Yash Raj Films. ■



Hrithik Roshan in a still from *Kaho Na...Pyar Hai* and, top, from *Krrish*