

# “Styling is a way to tell people who you are, without having to speak!” –Anushe Khalid



The celebrity stylist shares details about the looks she’s created for stars with respect to recent film promotions and premieres.



Having completed her undergraduate degree in Germany, celebrity stylist Anushe Khalid always knew that fashion was her true calling. Though it was never planned, the talented, young stylist always found herself pursuing things that were somehow related to style. “Though I studied international business back in Germany, to be brutally honest, some part of me always knew I would end up doing something linked to fashion,” she tells Instep.

Talking about how it all started, the celebrity stylist recounts, “I started off as a fashion content creator while working a corporate job. However, I didn’t enjoy it. Then one day, I got a call stating that I was shortlisted for the position of a stylist. I went for the interview, and luckily, I was selected. Without wasting much time, I quit my corporate job, and it’s been almost six months that I have been doing what I am passionate about.”

In a short span of time, she has come a long way and is the brains behind styling celebrities for different film promotions and premieres. Describing how the premiere season has been like, she observes, “It has been phenomenal and unlike anything I ever expected! It was a rollercoaster of highs and lows. While I love the pressure, it can, at times, become a little overwhelming.

Nonetheless, I truly enjoyed every bit of it.” Anushe shares that she hasn’t been a stylist for too long, but over the last few months, she has had the opportunity of styling a few renowned stars from the industry. “Some of the most talented individuals I have styled include the likes of Sarmad Khoosat, Zahid Ahmed, Nimra Bucha, Syed Jibran and Uzair Jaswal, to name a few,” she adds.

As for where she draws her inspiration from, the stylist says that she draws most of her inspiration from real people. “I feel a person’s personality speaks volumes of who they are and what they represent. And the clothes they wear should only be a reflection of that. I firmly believe that styling is a way to tell people who you are without having to speak, and I try to reflect this in my styling as well,” she stresses.

Here are five looks that she recently created for some of our favorite stars.

The stylist came up with this look for one of the media junkets for Sarmad Khoosat’s Kamli. “This look was entirely inspired by Sarmad’s own personality – the fun, playful side to him. I kept the rest of the outfit all white. That allowed me to make a statement through this impeccable tweed Rastah jacket with leather pocket detailing – essentially making it the center of attention, just

like the man wearing it,” she explains. White on white is Anushe’s favorite summer combo, and that is exactly the look she created for Kamli’s leading man Hamza Khawaja. “Keeping the weather in mind, easy, breezy, lighter colors are always my go-to. For Hamza Khawaja’s press conference look, I went with this white Deepak Perwani cotton kurta paired with white trousers.” She adds, “I wanted to elevate the look and add some oomph factor, so I opted for a white waistcoat with embroidery in pastel hues. It not only complemented the neutral ensemble but also aligned with the theme of the movie.”

Anushe Khalid created this look for actors Zahid Ahmed and Syed Jibran, from Ghabrana Nahi Hai, for a magazine’s cover shoot. “As Zahid Ahmed was the protagonist in the movie, I selected an off-white and beige, suit from Republic by Omar Farooq for him. Syed Jibran also wears an all-white shalwar kurta by Republic paired with a coat,” she reveals. “The main idea was to align both Zahid and Syed Jibran’s passionate and exuberant personalities through their looks, ensuring that they leave a lasting impression that was inimitable. Both looks ooze confidence and uniqueness. With the combination of harmonizing colors and ac-

cessories, I was able to achieve a one-of-a-kind look for both.” “I styled Nimra Bucha in this timeless gold sari and paired it with an exquisitely embellished black shawl,” says the stylist. “Initially, we hadn’t planned to do this outfit and had chosen something completely different. I work better under pressure as it allows me to come up with some of my best ideas and this look definitely goes down on my list of favorites. It conveys uniqueness like no other,” explains Anushe. The celebrity stylist pays special attention to the minor details that help emphasize and convey the artist’s personality to the best, which makes a spectacular difference in the finished look. According to the stylist, she styled this look for Kamli’s Lahore premiere, in which Sarmad Khoosat can be seen wearing this incredible tuxedo from Hassan Sheheryar Yasin. “I have always loved HSY’s work. Though the outcome is always super chic, you can immediately tell that his ensembles are for the bold, risk-takers who aren’t afraid to step out of their comfort zone,” she shares. While many people opt for a solid-colored suit for premieres, I went with black trousers and paired it with a beige blazer. The black collar detailing allowed for the look to come together in a cohesive yet daring manner.”

## A hopeful start with a tragic ending: ‘Sang-e-Mah’ last episode was a rollercoaster of emotions



The past few chaotic weeks of family rivalry between Haji Marjaan (Naumaan Ijaz) and his elder son Hilmand (Atif Aslam) finally came to a close last evening. Hilmand and Hikmat (Zaviyar Ejaz) made up after the former repented for his mistakes and asks Gul Meena (Hania Aamir) for forgiveness and punishment.

Fans were overjoyed with not one but two romance boats sailing smoothly in the beautiful valley of Laspiran and Ghag is now officially frowned upon as a practice. However, the episode had most users disagreeing with the depiction of suicide as the last resort. The Saifee Hasan directorial, Sang-e-Mah, took the audience through a rollercoaster of emotions with its final episode. From a happy, hopeful start with reunions and subtle love expressions between Sheherzaad (Kubra Khan) - Hilmand and Hikmat (Zaviyar Ejaz) and the Jirga (a council of men with assumed authority) criminalise Ghag, the finale took a rather tragic turn with Haji Marjaan and Zarganga (Samiya Mumtaz) giving up on life. However tragic, the scene was engaging with them dying in love and remorse, but together as always.

Hence, people have problems with its romanticisation as well. After Sang-e-Mah, Atif has a separate fanbase for himself as an actor. A user said that he was so good that with this character, he made Hilmand be his own. “Nobody could give the justice to the character Hilmand Khan like the way Atif Aslam did. He lived the character, he lived the script; he lived Hilmand Khan. Going to miss watching him every Sunday,” a user penned. While praising the show, a tweep wrote, “What a wonderful show! But the suicide scripted at the end, that too committed by practicing Muslims is not acceptable in any way! On the contrary, it must be condemned as there is ZERO TOLERANCE for suicide in Islam.”

Another user wrote that the finale was “great overall” but “suicide should not be promoted on television.” A user felt that the show was even better than the 2016 drama Sang-e-Mar Mar that had almost the same cast. “I thought they can’t excel after a masterpiece like Sang E Mar Mar a few years back. Yet here we are. This surpassed it. This was phenomenal, just phenomenal. No melodrama, no overacting. Plus the ending and Atif Aslam’s role was just superior.”

## Arjun Kapoor, Malaika Arora raise the temperature with their latest pictures



Saturday evening turned out to be special for Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora’s fans as the couple turned up the heat on social media by sharing lovey-dovey pictures from their Pairs getaway. Arjun and Malaika are in the celebratory mood and rightfully so. After all, the Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar actor is turning a year older tomorrow and the lovebirds are in Paris currently. They are making headlines for their gorgeous pictures. Just a few minutes ago, Arjun posted a new round of adorable pictures on his Instagram and we are absolutely obsessed! In the pictures, the couple went for a casual vibe and looked radiant. Arjun wore a beanie and an olive green vest. On the other hand, Malaika wore white attire. The two lovebirds looked gorgeous and absolutely in love! Along with the pictures, Arjun played with words for his caption. He wrote, “Eiffel good... I knew I would...@malaikaaroraofficial #parisvibes” The pictures went viral within seconds as fans went gaga over their favourite couple. While one fan commented, ‘Nice Jodi’, another wrote, ‘Wow’. Meanwhile, on the work front, Arjun Kapoor was last seen in Bhoot Police. He now has Ek Vilain 2 alongside John Abraham, Disha Patani, and Tara Sutaria. —AFP

## A maestro stroke

Romeo and Juliet staged by the NAPA has brought joy to the audiences. The play stayed close to the local language without losing out the details of the English version

After a long break owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) has made a comeback with a big production, an Urdu version of one of the most popular plays by William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet. The romantic tragedy about two Italian star-crossed lovers, was directed by the NAPA President Emeritus Zia Mohyeddin. It was translated by Khalid Ahmed, the head of theatre at the NAPA. The academy has previously featured several Urdu versions of Shakespeare also translated by Ahmed, including A Midsummer Night’s Dream and King Lear. The tragedy was played to a full house every scheduled day. A matinee show was added on a sunny Sunday afternoon.



In Verona, Italy, the two powerful houses of Capulet and Montague are engaged in an ancient feud, demanding loyalty from friends and family on both sides. The Prince warns the people not to be violent or they would be sentenced to death. The teenager, Juliet Capulet, and the lovesick Romeo Montague fall in love at first sight at a feast that the latter has gate crashed with his friends. The twomarry in secret with the help of Friar Lawrence. Tybalt, Juliet’s cousin, kills a friend of Romeo’s in a fight. To avenge his friend’s death, Romeo is goaded into fighting with Tybalt, who is stabbed and killed. Eventually, Romeo, instead of receiving the death sentence, is sent into exile to Mantua. Meanwhile, Capulet wants Juliet to marry Count Paris. Juliet conspires with Friar Lawrence to escape a second marriage. The play ends when all three, Romeo, Juliet and Count Paris die amid confusion and misunderstanding. Both the families realise the error of their ways and resolve to make amends.

Romeo and Julietis full of high emotion, humour, action and drama. Khalid Ahmed’s spectacular Urdu version echoes life and depth of the original so that the essence of the play is not lost in translation. In fact, the play transcends boundaries to reach a wider audience of theatre lovers. Zia Mohyeddin as a director wowed the audiences yet again with his uncompromising commitment to bring the best to the stage. The play stayed close to the local language without losing out details of the English version.

atre teams hire the actors first, followed by the technical crew. Most do not intend to explore or improve the technical details. Very few theatre professionals here pursue a career in costume design, set design, light design or sound design. Almost everyone wants to be an actor. The high level of professionalism from Zia sahib is the only way forward to uplift the theatre and performing arts as an industry.”

Romeo was played by Ali Sher, who is a sophomore theatre student at the NAPA. His performance was slightly underwhelming compared to Juliet, played by Noreen Gulwani, Mercutio, played by Fawad Khan, a faculty member, and Anna played by Bakhtawar Mazhar with her motherly, protective and heartwarming moments as Juliet’s nanny. The romance and tragedy were the dominant force with impressive and deeply layered elaborations. “A lot of research and effort can be seen in terms of sound, costume, set and light design. Every scene had a background that clearly portrayed the enacted scene, whether it was the church, the graveyard or the ballroom scene, transporting you to the 15th Century Italy. The dance choreography alone took two month-sof rigorous rehearsals, as many of the actors were non-dancers. We also hired a fight choreographer for the action scenes,” said Uzma Sabeen.

Speaking private news paper Uzma Sabeen, the assistant director, said, “I am honoured to have worked alongside Zia Mohyeddin. As demanding as he is, one is always learning something from him. He is extremely particular about the minutest of details. I am from one of the earliest batches of NAPA trainees and have directed several plays. Still, I still feel that I have a lot to learn from Ziasahib. He takes his craft very seriously, be it voice, diction, stresses, accent, dialogue delivery, pauses, language. He also takes time management very seriously. We had 32 cast members and it was important to align all on one page. Whenever one is planning a production led by Zia sahib, one ensures that everything, from set designing, lighting, to costume and sound design is planned from the beginning. Even before the rehearsals began, we had sat down with the technical team to create a visual-needed for the production. Usually, in Pakistan the-

Talking about working with the maestro, Zia Mohyeddin, Zargana, who played Lady Capulet, said, “working with Zia sahib is like being really hungry and being presented with a platter full of delicious treats. I tried to perfect the Urdu language, diction, accent and delivery. Productions like these are far and few between in Pakistan, as they are extremely difficult to enact in terms of voice, behavior and body language. My body of work consists largely of comedy plays. This was my first time acting in a romantic tragedy – quite a challenge. I feel lucky to have worked in the huge project directed by an expert of enormous stature. I can only hope to have done justice to the character as Zia sahib wanted it portrayed.”

Romeo and Juliet was packed with excellent dialogues, dramatic transitions, perfect light design, impeccable expressions, beautiful romance, viciousclashes and brilliant poetry.