

Fare evading Desi style

The other day I entered the Parliament station and saw the magic of one Met ticket.

There were a few desi students (overseas) and they did it all. It was simple. They were four or five of them and they crossed the barrier with just one ticket. How? One entered through the barrier and went instead of going down the moving steps went back on the other side at the end of the railing and handed over the ticket to a friend and then he came in through the barrier again. This was repeated till all of them were in. I only wondered what would happen if there was manual checking inside the train. Anyway, fare evasion is a crime whether Desi or non Desi.

Shilpa Shetty in town

She came last month for one day to promote her new movie 'Metro' and flew to UK in the evening. The actress is so slim that one person wondered if she ate anything at all. True to Indian style the media conference at National Gallery of Victoria was late by about 20 minutes. Both the organizers and Shilpa apologized for the delay and all went off well. Most of the time Shilpa talked to the media standing (unlike in India where media conferences are sit-ins) but later a chair was brought in to make her comfortable. After the media conference Shilpa went round the Cinema India – The Art of Bollywood exhibition. A few lucky visitors got her autographs and a snap with her.

Taxi Taxi

More and more subcontinent fellows (students) are driving cabs. They are qualified and study in different universities. It is common to see a desi staring at you from a taxi at the red lights. The young fellows have a hard life. Studying, earning and cooking. I

Melbourne Durbar

By DesiOz



hear that driving a taxi at night (weekends) is risky. Tippy passengers can be a problem. However, income is not bad. That keeps the desi taxi drivers going. In addition, casual jobs are hard to come by. Therefore, driving a cab is not a bad bet unless you are touchy (main bade ghar ka hoon) about it.

Bollywood Exhibition

An exhibition 'Cinema India – The Art of Bollywood' ended last month (9 March – 20 May 2007) at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). The more than a month long exhibition displayed landmark images and

explored major themes, which outlined the stylistic and historic development of Indian cinema. Huge hoardings outside the NGV and advertising at bus stands with colorful posters stared at passersby. However, the real thing was inside the NGV. From large-scale hoardings and over 100 posters to costumes and excerpts from key films, Cinema India, charted the historical, political and cultural changes in India as seen through the eyes of the Bollywood film industry. Supported by the Qantas, JCDecaux, Moonlight Projects, Ritledge Engineering and MG Distribution, the exhibition was a delight to see. For one who has grown up with Bollywood it was a journey down memory lane. Posters of yesteryears Bollywood films with Premnath, Raj Kapoor and much more created intense nostalgia. Film clips from very old B/W movies took one into a bygone era. Books on Bollywood and original DVDs were also on sale. A media kit distributed to journalists details the evolution of Bollywood starting from 1895 to the present times. One pamphlet in the kit 'Six Bollywood films you need to know about' is interesting. It mentions – Diamond Queen(1940), Devdas (1955), Mother India (1957), Sholay (1975), Umrao Jaan (1981) and Lagaan (2001). And another on 'Film stars of the Bollywood family' mentions Fearless Nadia (born in W.Australia), Guru Dutt, Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, Aamir Khan, Shahrukh Khan and Aishwaraya Rai. Well, it is difficult to choose the best Bollywood films and actors with a time span running from 1896 onwards. I am sure many will disagree with these lists prepared for (we do not know who prepared them) the exhibition. Anyway, the show (a first here) was a job well done and NGV needs to be congratulated for that.

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