

Passing Through

Jumping Jack lauds Kollywood's professionalism

BIJOY BHARATHAN | CHENNAI

Jetendra, who is also known as the *Jumping Jack* of yesteryear Hindi cinema was recently in Chennai to participate in a function to commemorate the centenary of Sri L. V. Prasad.

The actor who popularised the all-white attire (shoes including) with the energetic song *Mast Baharon ka main Aashiq* in his break-through film *Farz*, was dressed impeccably in a velvet suit and looked as young as one would expect him to be.

Jeetendra has a long-standing association with the South Indian film industry; apart from acting in numerous films with Sridevi and Jaya Prada, he has also acted in the Hindi remakes of many south Indian hit films.

Speaking about the film industry here, the actor says, "My relationship to South Indian films dates back more than 40 years. The actors, technicians and directors here are so professional, disciplined and committed, it would be tough to keep from becoming a workaholic, once one arrives here."

Jeetendra adds, "One of the advantages of working in a place like Chennai is that nobody cares about petty things like ego or self importance etc., everyone is focussed on delivering a great end product, which shows in the quality of films made here."

When asked how the actor felt about the current crop of Indian films, he replied on a solemn note, "To be honest with you, I feel very alienated when I look at today's cinema. Nothing is like it used to be in our times. In fact, whenever I give my opinion on any of the new releases, I find myself



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totally off the mark."

But he cheerfully adds, "I am glad to see that both my children — Tushaar and Ekta have taken up careers in the visual media in their own diverse ways."

Jeetendra, who often visits Chennai to oversee the postproduction and administrative aspects of Balaji Telefilms, the company run by his wife Shobha and daughter Ekta is a great fan of South Indian food too.

He says, "You should stop referring to it as south Indian cuisine from now on because it has transgressed all boundaries and become a part of our food culture just like North Indian food. In fact, *idlis* and *dosas* are like a staple component of our breakfast at our home in Mumbai."