

Harjit Kumar

# I AM LIVING MY FATHER'S DREAM

Singer Tulsi Kumar talks about *Kuchh Toh Hua Hai* (*Singham Returns*), her relationships in the music industry, and her father Gulshan Kumar



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She rose to fame with *Turn Jo Aaye* from the movie *Once Upon A Time in Mumbai*, and then displayed her romantic singing prowess with *Hum Mar Jayenge* (*Aashiqui 2*). Her latest from action thriller *Singham Returns*, *Kuchh Toh Hua Hai*, has already found fame. We caught up with her for a freewheeling interview.

**How did *Kuchh Toh Hua Hai* happen?**

I had initially recorded another song for *Singham Returns*, which was eventually not used in the film (moved to another film). *Kuchh Toh Hua Hai* was written, sung, arranged and recorded in a span of 24 hours. I got a call from Ankit (Tiwari) and he said he wanted me to sing this song. We recorded it around midnight, as it was supposed to be shot the next day and this was the last entry to the film and came out as the first song that everyone has been seeing. Although, it was done in such a haste, the result is very satisfactory.

**What was the brief given to you?**

It's a romantic song. Ankit told me to sing the antara in a little laid-back style, I was told to go into the same mood and sing it. Moreover, since romance is my forte, I could deliver it well. The first part of *Singham* being such a great success, raised the bar for me; however what made the entire experience more special was that I was rendering a song for Kareena (Kapoor Khan) for the first time. So, I was even more excited.

**You have a musical legacy behind you, how was it growing up in such a family?**

I am really blessed to belong to such a family; the atmosphere at home was very musical, right from my childhood days, my father Gulshan Kumar would get music home. Every song from *Aashiqui*, *Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahii*, etc. he would ask all our opinions, right from the family members to the domestic help, no one excluded.

**How did your father's sudden demise change things for you and your family?**

I was 12 then, we moved to Delhi the same day after that incident because of the prevailing circumstances, and didn't come back until I was 19. My paternal family was at Delhi and hence we decided to settle there. I think if my father was alive, he would have been the happiest person in the world, as I am living his dream.

**When did you start learning music?**

I used to hum songs while watching TV, that's when my dad spotted me. He knew I was inter-

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ested in music, and hence, he encouraged me to learn classical music. I started learning light classical when I was seven; I was admitted to Suresh Wadekar's academy, then after we moved to Delhi, I continued learning from Pt. Vinod Mishra and later continued with Pt. Satyanarayan Mishra.

**When did you decide you were ready to make your entry into Bollywood?**

When I was 19, in the second year of college, I started hopping between Delhi and Mumbai, as I had already started singing by then. However, when I was 21, I had my bags packed to come to Mumbai permanently. My first song was *Jarabe* *Janiya* from *Aksar*, although I had recorded a song for *Humko Deewana Kar Gaye* before that, which released later.

**You've done a lot of work with Himesh Reshammiya and Pritam. How different are their working styles?**

Himeshji is more guiding, he knows what I am good at, and hence always extracts the best out of me. Pritamda is a little forgetful. I keep reminding him of what we would be working on next.

**Who are your friends in Bollywood?**

I do not have any friends within the industry and I'm quite open about it (laughs). However, a word of praise coming from a music composer like Himeshji means a lot. Pritamda once told me that Vidhu Vinod Chopra asked who has rendered *Turn Jo Aaye*, that was an honour.

**Any new work in the pipeline?**

I have recently debuted in Bengali, also a romantic track and I personally love the language; it makes you sound very sweet. I've rendered my voice for a few upcoming movies like *Roy*, *Leela* and *Love Affair*. In fact, I'm also part of an online channel for children, and I've turned into a voice-over artist, which is interesting.

**Any other genre you want to experiment?**

I want to do a fast-paced, peppy numbers. I've always been in love with the song *Chandani Raatein*.

**You have recently started performing on stage, any reason you took so long?**

I did my first show in Delhi, I'm performing next month in Himachal Pradesh and in Los Angeles next year. Initially, my family was not comfortable about me performing, hence I started off late. In fact, I still don't do weddings or personal functions.

Rank	Artist	Song	Peak Position	Weeks on Chart
1	1	1	1	1
2	5	2	2	2
3	2	2	2	2
4	3	2	2	2
5	8	7	7	7
6	4	3	3	3
7	6	1	1	1
8	10	8	8	8
9	7	6	6	6
10	9	7	7	7
11	12	2	2	2
12	11	11	11	11
13	13	4	4	4
14	-	-	-	-
15	14	3	3	3
16	15	4	4	4
17	16	1	1	1
18	-	-	-	-
19	17	1	1	1
20	18	8	8	8

■ New entry in the chart. ■ H Peak Position. The highest pe Completed based on...

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Rank	Song Title
1	Am I Wrong
2	Problem (ft Iggy)
3	All Of Me
4	Rude
5	Fancy (ft Charli)
6	Magic
7	Maps
8	Bailando
9	Bang Bang
10	Stay With Me

New entry in the ch

Here are the official

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