

Rajan is set for the big screen

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He's spent the past 20 years trying to understand every nuance there is in the television industry — but now, the small screen's powerhouse producer is turning his attention to films. In a conversation with the publication, Rajan said TV would still continue to be his "bread and butter", but that the quality his production house (Director's Kut) was known for, would be the hallmark of his film foray as well.

"Two decades is a long time..." says Rajan. "Technically and creatively, the (TV) industry has changed a lot. Now I want to do something which I can be proud of. I am open to exploring all kinds of genres in films, but given a choice, I'd like to make a realistic comic love story."

Given the warm equation he shares with telly actors, it is but natural to wonder if he'll be roping any in for his films as well. Rajan says it'll depend on the project, and that the boundaries between TV and film actors have anyway faded so much: "Today's scenario is very healthy. Stars like Amitabh Bacchan, Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan are film stars who've also taken up TV projects. And actors like Vidya Balan, Shah Rukh Khan and Sushant Singh Rajput have worked on television and made it big in Bollywood."

The Bollywood actors he'd like to cast in his project are Katrina Kaif and Rekha ("Rekha is a diva,

my all-time favourite actress. To work with her would be a dream come true," Rajan says) and also Kareena Kapoor and Deepika Padukone. And Rajan would absolutely love to make a film with Shah Rukh.

"He was six years (my) senior in St. Columbus School in Delhi," shares Rajan. "A few years ago, we were both at the Vishesh Samman awards, and after I received mine, he came on stage and hugged me and said, 'So you are the king of television'. I'll always remember those words."

Rajan's focus on films highlight that he hasn't made a new show announcement in a long time. "Well, *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* is still going strong at 1,100 episodes and *Amrit Manthan* is also doing well on Life OK. I will definitely be making more TV soaps. In fact, a channel and I are looking for a fresh face and will finalise a story around her character. I want to bring new talent to the industry. It is interesting and very rejuvenating to work with them," he replies.

The producer tells us that he counts Ekta Kapoor and Karan Johar among the people he admires. "I admire their ability to tackle many jobs at a time. Ekta started with television and is now a successful film producer and Karan is a successful director, producer and TV show judge and they're both good at juggling these arenas. They inspire me."

