

Manish Malhotra views the world, this time with gold dust tinted glasses, as his bridal offerings merge antique reds with earthy cocoa

GILDED EDGE

Asmita Aggarwal

Star magnet Manish Malhotra and his Bollywood connection was unmistakable when Aditya Roy Kapur, in an ivory sherwani, along with Alia Bhatt in a cherry red lehenga, dazzled in his ICW 2014 show titled 'Portraits'.

Sixty models, 14 minutes and 60 garments, with the ramp lit with flickering candles, and Manish inspired by the antique gold touch in the Kamal Amrohi epic *Pakeezah* – immortalised by tragedy queen Meena Kumari – gave each earthy piece a gilded edge.

Interestingly, the play remained on a woman's sensual back, with Manish elevating it to star status with his renderings on *cholis* – as mirror frame shapes emerged, along with oval, Vs, bow tie-backs and hearts – as his navel revealing, pleated lehengas with oversized *gota* borders found a companion in intricate mirror work.

His love for Kashmiri *zari* work, *chikankari* and ink blue was evident, as was his love for velvet, out of which he crafted his bespectacled men's *sherwanis* and used it for layering beneath his net-covered Islamic architectural motif-drenched lehengas.

Interestingly, there was no jewellery, except occasional *naths*, as Manish introduced cocoa-tinged hues with the inclusion of sand dust, wine, old world bright red and emerald greens, which were a dramatic change from his navy. "The idea remains to dip into the past, take vintage embroideries and make them relevant today. Alia represents that bridge between the old and new, and was the ideal showstopper as she symbolises how vintage can be merged with 'now' to create memorable picture-perfect moments," says Manish.

Anjula Mya Bajaj in an earth-toned lehenga and jacket from Manish's collection

Models flaunted oversized gota borders, Kashmiri zari work on the ramp

FILMI FRONT ROW: Manish Malhotra's filmi friends, Huma Qureshi (L) and Urmila Matondkar turned up for his show

Miss Asia Pacific World 2013 and former Miss India Srishti Rana in a Manish Malhotra outfit

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SHREE RAJ MAHAL JEWELLERS
INDIA COUTURE WEEK
IN ASSOCIATION WITH Logix Group
15 - 20 July, 2014
Taj Palace, New Delhi
DAY 5 JULY 15-20



Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers' Praveen Goel (L) and Pradeep Goel (extreme right) strike a happy pose with Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapur



SHOWSTOPPING GLAMOUR Alia Bhatt

Shraddha's fairy-tale experience

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After walking for Gaurav Gupta as his showstopper on Day 4 of the couture week, Shraddha Kapoor couldn't stop gushing about the fairy-tale experience. "I felt like I was floating in the clouds – the clothes made me feel that great. It was like *jab aapke khwab reality mein badal jaatein hain*. I love his outfits, and when I saw this one – it was like a fairy tale," said Shraddha. The designer and his muse also shared an 'aww' moment, when Shraddha said, "He had made a red outfit for me sometime back, which also made me feel transformed, just like this one. I've been Gaurav's fan since forever. Three years back I was sitting in the front row of his show. And now, I'm walking at his show. I've my eye on some of the clothes from this show. But they will have to be altered drastically, because the models are so tall, and I'm just 5.5".



Shraddha Kapoor at Gaurav Gupta's show on Day 4

From front row to head ramp for Alia

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Last few weeks, all Alia Bhatt has done is dream about a designer lehenga for her character Kavya's wedding in *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania*. That wish came true on Day 5 of the Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers India Couture Week, in association with Logix Group, where she was the showstopper for Manish Malhotra's show. "Kavya's biggest wish was to wear a Manish Malhotra lehenga at her wedding, and it was not just the character's wish, it was mine too. Two years back, I was sitting on the front row of Manish's show and Katrina Kaif was the showstopper in a beautiful lehenga. I was sitting and daydreaming, thinking about how heavy the lehenga must be and how she was walking so elegantly in it. Today, I realize how difficult it is." Though she's walked the ramp a number of times before, Alia said that she's still equally nervous before every show. "I get very nervous. And that's because I am not the best walker. I am a very clumsy human being; I fall even while standing. So, walking on the ramp with these lights and wearing an outfit that weighs almost 25kg with high heels, looking good, posing and smiling while people are clapping – the whole thing is nerve-racking. But for me, I think it's the best two minutes, or one minute and thirty seconds one can experience."

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TIMESCLASSIFIEDS

SRM DIVA OF THE DAY

Since Manish Malhotra's show was all about minimal jewellery, Lakshmi Rana's *nath* by Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers stood out on the ramp