

MANISH JUNKS THE BRIDAL DUPATTA

Asmita Aggarwal

Theatrics and Manish Arora are kind of soulmates, so when the maverick showcased his couture line at the French ambassador Francois Richier's residence on Day 4 of the Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers India Couture Week in association with Logix group, presented by FDCI, what stood out was the designer's new rule - no dupattas. "Why do women have to cover their heads? I thought this will be a bold move, so I removed all the dupattas from my show, so that a proud woman can walk around with her head held high on her D-Day," he confesses.

To Auckland-based Lorde's dreamy voice crooning the chart-topper *Royals*, Manish opted to parade tea-length dresses, fully embellished, freeing women from synthetic lycra *churidaars*. He added treacherously low, cleavage-baring, full-sleeve blouses with sequined *lehengas* (yes, there was parrot green, his obsession, and pink and gold), with *shararas* playing the fit and flare game, creating unbridled volume at the hems in his psychedelic colours combined with sheer, as his infatuation with intrepid hues persists.

"I've never done black and white, but this time I have done both, for the first time in my career," he adds. And what's also new is the shine, with iridescent being the flavour of the season, along with daring holographics (rainbow colours). Manish didn't forget applique and zari, as his models wore headpieces in shapes ranging from the lotus to a bunch of roses. Necklaces were worn on the chin and killer heels made way for striped wedges.

In the offering titled 'Festive 2014', embroideries were stronger and so was the detailing, as Manish refused to go by just one inspiration or idea - multiple thoughts surrounded his thought process, from royal crowns and Temari (the folk art of making embroidered balls) from Japan, to jewels, which found fun representation in terms of embroidery on his cherry red *lehengas*. What was heartening to see were the architectural motifs, Moorish style, inspired by the 16th century Peacock Room, Castello di Sammezzano, Italy, which Manish incorporated effortlessly in his multicoloured rendition. With a price range starting from ₹35,000 and going up to ₹4 lakh maximum, you can get a Manish *lehenga* for just ₹95,000.



Lakshmi Rana in Manish Arora's showstopper outfit

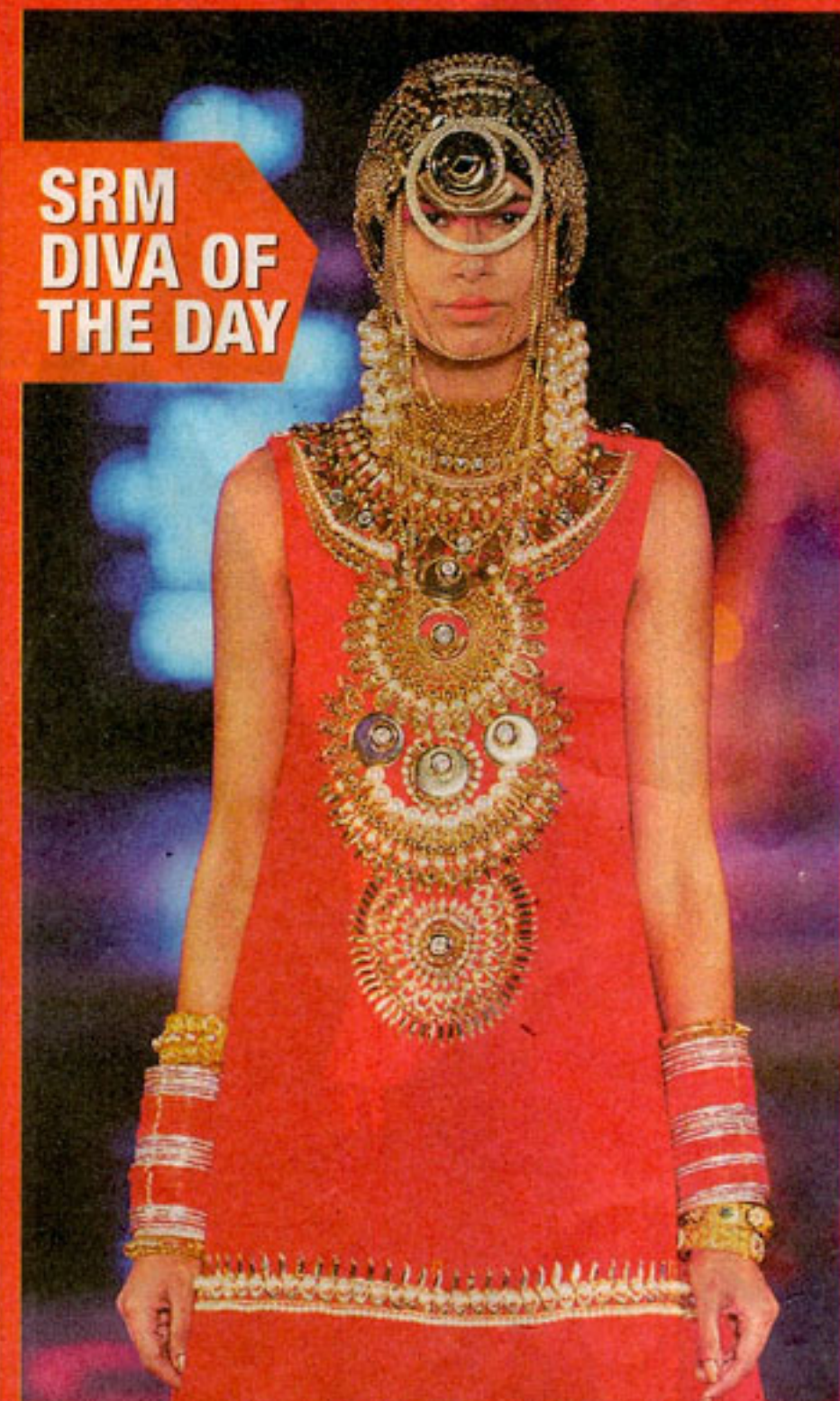


Tamara Moss in the typically quirky headgear used in Manish's show

FDCI
SHREE RAJ MAHAL JEWELLERS
INDIA COUTURE WEEK
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Logix Group
15 - 20 July, 2014
Taj Palace, New Delhi
DAY 4 JULY 15-20

Pics: Ranjit Kumar and Samik Sen

SRM DIVA OF THE DAY



A model flaunts jewellery by Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers and combines a traditional bridal *chooda* with a bright red, eccentric Manish Arora outfit at the couture week

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For more details on the jewellery you see in the week and more, visit the Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers showrooms in South Ex-1 and Karol Bagh, Delhi