

Celebrated Costume Designer Ana Singh — A Legacy of Over 900 Films

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Ana Singh began her journey in the world of costume design in 1989 — a time when the Indian film industry had very few women working behind the scenes in technical or creative roles.

Born and raised in Mumbai, she studied at the prestigious JJ School of Arts, graduating with a Gold Medal in Textiles, Commercial Art, and Colour History. Simultaneously, she took a course in pattern-making, pattern-cutting and tailoring — equipping herself with both design sensibilities and technical skills.

Her first film as a costume designer was the romantic drama *Maine Pyar Kiya* — and from there, what began as a personal commitment to authenticity and character-based styling grew into a career that spans more than three decades.

Designing Across Genres — From Contemporary to Period Dramas

Ana Singh's versatility is one of her strongest credentials. She didn't limit herself to one style or genre; instead, she adapted her skills across mainstream blockbusters, romantic films, period dramas, ads, pageants and live events.

Some of the notable films she has worked on include:

- *Khal Nayak* (1993)
- *1942: A Love Story* (1994)
- *Taj Mahal: An Eternal Love Story* (2005) — a period drama that earned her one of her National Film Awards.
- *Once Upon A Time In Mumbaai* (2010) and *Veer* (2010) among many others.

Her ability to switch between contemporary looks (jeans, modern cuts) and historically accurate period costumes speaks to her deep understanding of fabrics, character, and cinematic storytelling.

Recognition & Records — National Awards

Ana Singh's contribution has not gone unnoticed. She is a **two-time winner** of the National Film Award for Best Costume Design, first for *Taj Mahal: An Eternal Love Story*, and also for her work in the film *Umrao Jaan*.

Beyond awards, her work ethic and volume are staggering: by some public tallies, she has designed costumes for **over 900 films**, earning her a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records. Over the years she has also received honours such as the Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award, and recognition from the Indian Television Academy for her contributions to

fashion and film.

Ana Singh's career isn't just a record of films or garments — it's a chronicle of how costume design evolved in Indian cinema. She helped redefine "look" for Bollywood heroes and heroines, turning wardrobes into character statements rather than mere outfits.

Through her pageant work, runway shows, celebrity styling, and large-scale productions, she bridged cinema, fashion and culture — bringing Indian fabrics, craftsmanship and sensibilities to both national and global audiences. Yet, the mark she left remains — in iconic film looks, pageant glamour and in the design schools where she occasionally mentors the next generation.

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