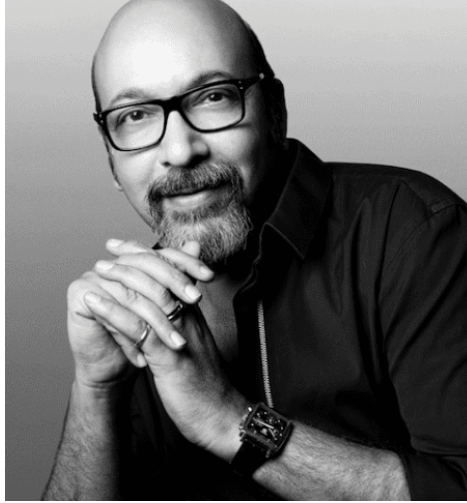


## The Magic Brush: How Mickey Contractor Became Bollywood's Makeup Legend

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Mickey Contractor began his journey far from the red carpets and movie-star glamor — initially working at a hairdressing salon in Tokyo. It was during this phase that a chance meeting with veteran actor-dancer Helen Ann Richardson Khan inspired him to shift from hair to makeup, marking the start of what would become a legendary career.

His Bollywood break came in 1992 with the film *Bekhudi*, starring Kajol, which opened the door to decades of defining beauty and style on the Indian silver screen.

### Defining Looks & Iconic Films

Over the past three decades, Contractor has been the creative force behind the makeup looks in many of Bollywood's most beloved films. Among them: *Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!*, *Dil To Pagal Hai*, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Kal Ho Naa Ho*, *Mohabbatein* — as well as recent films such as *Veere Di Wedding* and other big-budget projects.

But beyond films: Contractor's design aesthetic significantly changed the way Bollywood approached makeup. He is credited with introducing and popularizing natural-looking, luminous makeup — as opposed to the heavy, caked-up styles of earlier decades. This shift helped Indian beauty evolve globally and resonated with modern sensibilities.

### Glamour, Celebrity Clients & Red-Carpet Demand

Contractor's client list reads like a who's-who of Indian entertainment and elite social circles. From superstars like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Priyanka Chopra and Kajol — to influential personalities such as Nita Ambani and her family — Contractor has become the "go-to" makeup artist for those who expect nothing less than perfection.

He has also served as the Director of Makeup Artistry for MAC Cosmetics India, bringing his deep understanding of Indian skin tones and aesthetics to international cosmetics standards.

### Recognition & Industry Influence

Contractor's contributions have been recognized formally — he's a two-time winner of the IIFA Award for Best Makeup (for *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* and *Kal Ho Naa Ho*) among many other accolades.

He is frequently described as "Bollywood's most in-demand makeup artist," credited with transforming the profession from behind-the-scenes craft to a respected art form. His style philosophy — enhancing natural beauty instead of masking it — helped redefine glamour for generations. Mickey Contractor didn't just make faces beautiful; he helped shape the evolution of beauty standards in Indian cinema and beyond. By bringing a minimalist yet polished aesthetic, he bridged traditional glamor with contemporary sensibilities. His work across films, celebrity appearances, editorials and

brand collaborations has left a lasting imprint on the beauty and fashion industry.

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