

# Hareem Farooq: The most difficult thing in Pakistan is to make a film. PAK 5 News Interview In Dialogue with Ahsan Zaman

*Hareem Farooq in exclusive interview with Ahsan Zaman, talks about on Body shaming, Feminism, Osman Khalid Butt, Bollywood, Aurat March & Pakistan Film Industry*

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Hareem Farooq

Hareem Farooq in an exclusive interview with Ahsan Zaman of London based PAK5 News, talks about Feminism, Madam Noor Jehan, Osman Khalid Butt, Bollywood Films, Aurat March, Mehreen Jabbar and her career as a successful film producer.

“

There have been so many challenges I have faced, starting from the day I decided to become an actor, being bashed or body shamed at a larger scale. Before that I did not even know that it mattered”

*Hareem Farooq*

The TV and film actor and producer will be seen in the upcoming programme “In Dialogue with Ahsan Zaman” which is now live on PAK5 News [www.pak5news.tv](http://www.pak5news.tv) .

Hareem Farooq has given this exclusive interview, and is seen having a very candid discussion on different topics, ranging from Feminism, Madam Noor Jehan, Osman Khalid Butt, Bollywood, Aurat March, Body Shaming, Mehreen Jabbar, Producing Films and her admiration for the film Laal Kabootar.

Being a producer and actor of Pakistani box office hit films

like Parchi, Janaan and Heer Man Ja, Hareem Farooq also shares her views on rebirth of Pakistan Film Industry and her experience and challenges she faced as film producer.

Having also hosted HUM TV Awards and Pakistan Super League PSL, the Diyar-e-Dil actress shares the challenges she faced on her successful journey in the industry, including body shaming, patriarchy and stereotyping heroines.

Still in her twenties, Hareem has already worked in 13 dramas, produced 3 films and done a lot of theatre, and has worked with leading actors from the Pakistani Films and Dramas industry including Abid Ali, Osman Khalid Butt, Maya Ali, Sanam Saeed, Mikhaal Zulfiqar, Ali Rehman Khan, Junaid Khan, Mansha Pasha, Fahad Mustafa, Adnan Siddiqui, Yumna Zaidi, Ahsan Khan and Sanam Jung.

Her mega hit plays and films have been produced by Momina Duraid, Mehreen Jabbar and Haseeb Hassan.

Below are excerpts from this interview:

#### PRODUCING FILMS IN PAKISTAN:

Responding to a question about producing films in Pakistan, Hareem said:

"The most difficult thing that you have to do in Pakistan is make a film, we have lack of resources, we are out of experience as far as films are concerned. You have to start everything from scratch".

#### PATRIARCHY IN PAKISTAN'S FILM INDUSTRY

When asked if Hareem faced male attitudes and patriarchy when making films in Pakistan, Hareem said:

"I don't take patriarchy into consideration, I don't take gender into consideration. I don't care if there's a man sitting in front or a woman sitting in front of me. I don't care man or woman, let's talk business., let's talk work. It's like don't give me that gender thing , ... I am not here to gossip with you, I am not here to hangout with you, I am here to work"

#### AURAT MARCH

When host Ahsan Zaman asked Hareem about her views on Aurat March and Feminism in Pakistan, Hareem replied:

"I think you know finally it was time that women got up, and I'm glad that they're united at a certain front"

#### ON FEMINISM

Hareem said: "Definitely there are a few feminist views I might not completely agree with. But one thing that I do absolutely agree with. And I am talking about extreme feminist views, I am not talking about the basic feminist views. Because for me feminism is all about equality. Its not about that I am better than a man, or a man is better than me. It is definitely about equality, there is noting more to it. ....Feminism for me is not about that ke oh my God I am going to kill all those men".

#### ON MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTING FILMS

Hareem said: "We started this (marketing trend) from Janaan film. Before that nobody invested so much in marketing. We were the first ones who started investing heavily into marketing".

#### CHALLENGES FACED

When host Ahsan Zaman asked "What has been one single biggest challenge you faced so far to be where you are?", Hareem replied:

"There hasn't been one single challenge, there have been multiple, multiple challenges. There have been so many, starting from the day I decided to become an actor, me being 103 Kg, being bashed or body shamed at a larger scale. Before that I did not event know that it mattered."

#### FAVOURITE FILM:

On a lighter question when asked about her favourite film, Hareem replied:

"OK so for me the top of my head is Moulin Rouge. To this day visually it still is by far one of my favourite films. It was it for me. And I was like Oh my God, ye bhi ho sakta hai!" (Moulin Rouge was directed by Baz Lahurmann and Starred Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor)

Full interview can be viewed on PAK5 News now at:

<https://pak5news.tv/hareem-farooq-full-interview-hd-in-dialogue-with-ahsan-zaman/>

#### About PAK5 TV Network

PAK5 TV is a London-based, English language news and entertainment channel that focuses on latest Pakistani news and analysis on economy, climate change, business, tech, arts & culture and human rights in Pakistan as well Pakistani diaspora spread across the globe. For info please visit: [www.pak5news.tv](http://www.pak5news.tv)

Media Relations

PAK5 News

+44 20 8938 3258

email us here

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