

At least that's what this team of young filmmakers in Bangalore think — as they send their first feature production (in Hindi), shot on a Red MX camera, to Cannes this year



PHOTO: HARSH VADIA

**L Romal M Singh**

WE'VE always known that Bangalore produced and nurtured far more talent than anyone's ever known, and it seemed unfair that the country's biggest film industry demanded a presence in Mumbai to be seen, heard or even noticed. That's how this project began — to show India and the world that Bangalore's got the talent and can equate or even outdo Bollywood," opens Saad Khan as we catch up with the team on the eve of the submission of their film, *Station*, to Cannes.

"The production features a lot of new talent, but also makes use of a lot of the old talents that Bangalore has on offer. He is the case, that includes Hardik Sha, Siddhant KS, Sameer Kavin Roy Vivek Shah, Kanika Saura, Rohan Nair and Vibhina Verma, or the production team that includes Saad (who also wrote and directed the film), Sumit, Hardik and I or even the musicians Joe Singh, Aaron D'Souza, Madhav Ayachit and Ram Prashant of Resonance Studios



## Who needs Bollywood anymore?

— this is a film that celebrates Bangalore talent in all its myriad forms," adds Karan Rao.

It all began a year or so ago when Sumit Ghosh, a young, enterprising venture capitalist, met Saad Khan and shared their passions for good filmmaking. Saad had already tasted success as an assistant director in the form of *Khelein Hum Jee Jun Sey*, a project with renowned filmmaker Ashvutosh Gowariker that was praised and panned equally by critics. Saad pitched the idea for an independently-produced Hindi film, far from the madness of Bollywood and Sumit loved it — there was no turning back.

Hardik Sha, who also acts in the film, was the next instrumental role player in this tale and representing Phoenix Productions, he pushed the idea forward, also roping in Karan



Rao, a model, colleague, long-time friend, and partner of Saad's from their joint venture Cold Chase Motion Pictures, as the last member of the team. The team then meticulously planned the shooting of the film, worked out the smaller details and zeroed in on a cast and crew from Bangalore. The technical talent was brought in from Mumbai and the

**BANGALORE'S BOYS:** Team *Station* (l-r) Sumit Ghosh, Saad Khan, Hardik Sha and Karan Rao; (below) The poster and a still from the film

shooting for *Station* began on a water-tight schedule.

As we speak so short, the buzz at the studio is indescribable. The team have less than 24 hours to send the movie to Cannes, and are doing 24-hour shifts to finish the project. "We need to ensure a good product, we're not aiming at assembly-line finish — this is the real deal, this is hand-crafted and speaks of each of our individual efforts and so this kind of dedication is required and expected," explains Sumit Ghosh, as we quickly wrap up the interview, as the team needs all the extra time they can get.

As we're leaving, Hardik Sha just manages to include, "We're not sleeping with Cannes — we're definitely sending this to as many festivals as possible and Berlin's the next on our list."

With a buzz like theirs and an enthusiasm that seems this project will go places... and even if it doesn't (which we are quite positive won't happen... since we've seen sneak-peeps and can promise nothing less than jaw-dropping slickness)... this will at least be the best example filmmakers in Bangalore can take inspiration from. After all, who really needs Bollywood anymore?