

We are ready for the big challenge!

Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 4, starting tonight, promises to be a rocking affair with 12 cool celeb contestants and three hot judges

They have been achievers all the way, professional, passionate, stars in their fields. The fourth season of *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*, based on the

international format *Dancing With The Stars*, airing at 9 pm (Monday and Tuesday) on Sony Entertainment Television, has an interesting line-up of 12 celebrities, paired with professional dancers, who will take on the challenge with one mission — *India ka manoranjan!* There's Ragini Khanna, the popular television *bahu*, hot couple Sushant Singh Rajput and Ankita Lokhande, singer-actor Meiyang Chang, the eternal and lovable *bhabhi* Renuka Shahane, the girl with a

golden voice Anushka Manchanda, Arjuna awardee boxer Akhil Kumar Yadav, sizzling model Yana Gupta, the witty Shekhar Suman, comic star Krushna Abhishek and the petite Mahi Vij. Not only will the show feature themes like Street Dancing, Swinging 60s, Disco 70s and Superstar Special, but contestants will also be subjected to challenges, like shadow dancing, blindfold, rope acts and mid-air dancing. And the participants need not worry too much, hosts Mona Singh and Sumeet Raghavan are going to be there to support them.



Madhuri Dixit, Malaika Arora Khan and Remo



Another exciting thing about the show is the panel of judges. There's dance guru Remo, the sexy Malaika 'Munni' Arora Khan and none other than Bollywood's *dhak-dhak* girl Madhuri Dixit. "I'm here right now only for *Jhalak*," said the talented actress, who's now based in LA. The participants in the show have impressed the dancing queen. Equally charged up about her role as a judge is Malaika, who's recent *Munni* number from *Dabangg* has become a rage all over. "I love my job," said Malaika, ready to don the judge's hat. And for Remo, being next to the two beauties, who are fabulous dancers, is indeed memorable apart from judging well-known names from the entertainment world.

'My wife fears I am overdoing it'

But that's what I have always done, says the oldest contestant — Shekhar Suman

What does age have to do with anything? The versatile Shekhar Suman is set to rock it in the dancing field, this time. And he's put in a lot of effort. "I not only get up at six am, but also rehearse for over eight hours daily to make sure I don't forget any step. My wife fears I'm overdoing it, but I believe that's what I have always done. Honestly speaking, to be performing a jig is a scary thought, at least to me. That's why I have been turning down dance-based reality shows. But I accepted *Jhalak*... because it will help me learn different dance forms — Salsa, Zumba, etc — without me



Shekhar Suman with his partner

ing to shell out any money. In fact, I'm being paid to do this! So how could have I not said yes," he says.

WE ARE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE!

Here's what some of the contestants had to say just before their first shoot for the show

- Mahi Vij: I grabbed this opportunity as I wanted to be a good dancer.
- Meiyang Chang: I took part in *Jhalak*, to learn something new in life.
- Ragini Khanna: It's a good opportu-

nity for me.

- Yana Gupta: I am extremely excited to learn dance. Get trained and learn to dance better.
- Anushka Manchanda: I'm absolutely thrilled
- Krushna Abhishek: What fun... I'm loving it!



Akhil Kumar Yadav

Packing a punch

Akhil Kumar Yadav is ready to pack a punch! Till now, the boxer, who's made India proud, has never had the time to shake a leg. But his choreographer is trying hard to bring out the best in him, we hear. The shy and low-profile Akhil might just surprise everyone like former hockey player Mir Ranjan Negi, who shocked even himself with his moves in one of the previous seasons.

Love birds happy for each other

They are a cute couple, both on screen as well as off screen. We're talking about Sushant Singh Rajput and Ankit Lokhande, who will now compete with each other in this show. But Sushant says, "I don't see Ankit as a competitor, I'm competing with myself." Is he saying that Ankit is not a competition for him as a dancer? He says, "Ankit is a good dancer and I love to see her dance. I'll be equally happy if Ankit wins the competition. And if she does, I'm gonna ask her to share some of the prize money with me!"

Ready to learn

Renuka Shahane, like all other contestants, is anxious but also excited about getting to learn various dance forms. Hubby Ashutosh Rana is glad she's taken part in the show. "He encouraged me to take it up. In fact, he literally pushed me to, because he knew that even though I wanted to, I have this stage fright," she says.



Renuka Shahane

Ankit Lokhande and Sushant Singh Rajput

From contestant to host!

This show changed Mona Singh's life. From being a contestant and winning the first season to playing host today, she has indeed come a long way. Says Mona, "I was too much in the Jassi garb, but *Jhalak* helped me learn how to dance. And not just dancing, I think even hosting happened because of it. The show surely helped boost my confidence. It transformed my life. Before *Jhalak*, I was a terrible dancer. I had four left feet, let alone two! Even though I was terrible in the initial rounds, I knew I had to win. It was tough because you're dancing in front of judges who're awesome dancers themselves."



Mona Singh