

# LUCKY UNPLUGGED

Be it organic farming or flying a plane, there's more to the singer-actor than his latest album, finds Tejaswini Tirta

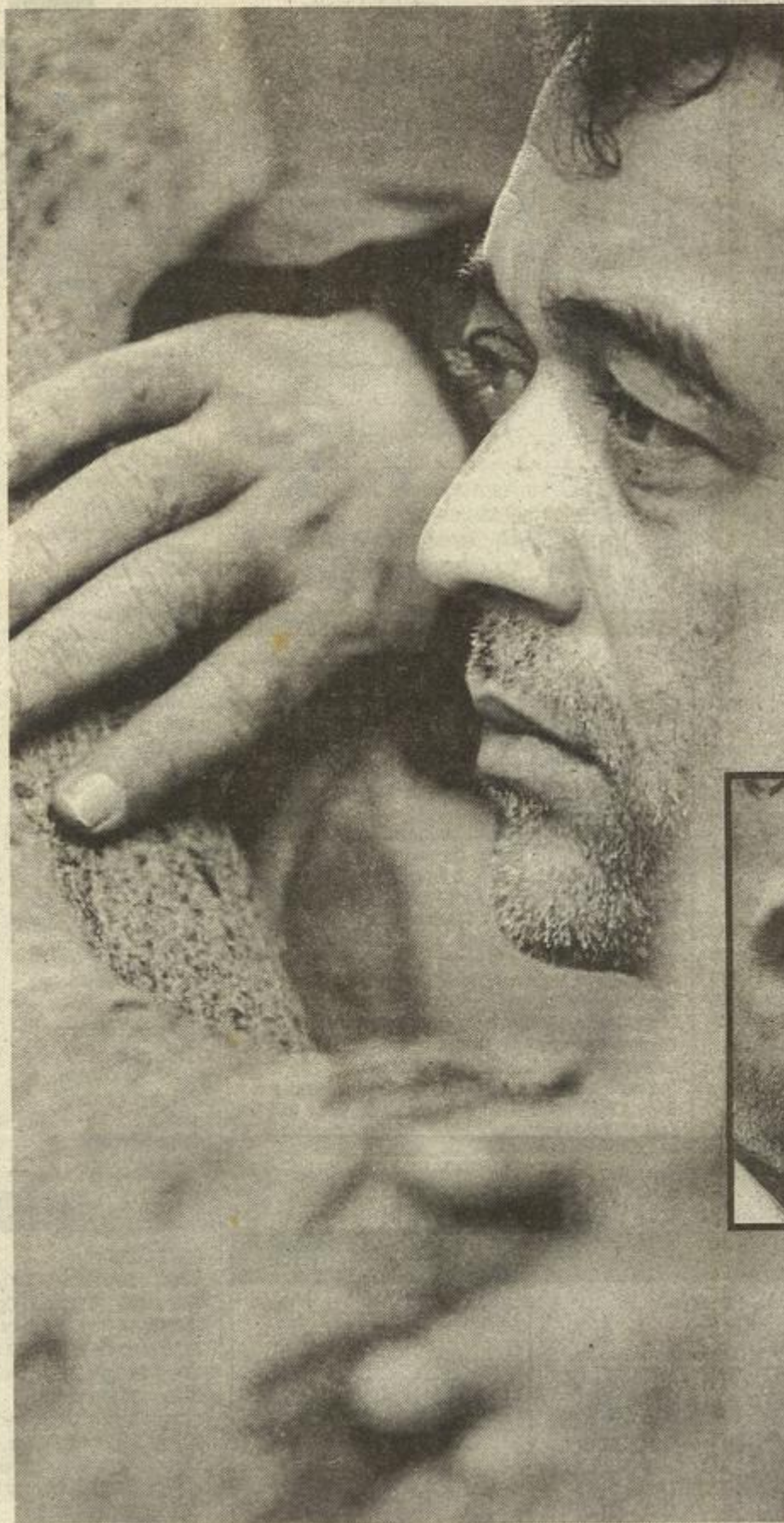
**L**UCKY Ali has a dual personality. A man of few words when it comes to a formal interview, he tries to control your text with his straight answers. It takes a simple "Thank you" or "Off the record" to cut him loose. That's how you meet the real Lucky. Simple and full of life. His sense of humour, exhilarating. His convictions, absolute.

He talks, laughs, dances and mimics, putting you at ease instantly. "You know we had this friend once..." he begins, or "You want to see Deve Gowda?" And when designer friend Deepika Govind tells you she is creating a more stylised look for him, he beams, "Phull shtyle." Music and acting are just a part of Lucky's USP. Just like agriculture — "I am into organic farming. We manufacture cheese, there's Mozzarella, Bocconcini, Feta and Chevre." Or like power generation — "I believe in extracting clean energy from the environment. It's the answer to all our energy needs." Or aviation — "I fly. I have done about 45 hours. My instructor died in the crash that killed the actress Soundarya recently."

"These are my interests," says Lucky, "but I am not pursuing any of them. All are stepping stones to reach where I actually want to go." But where does he really want to go? "I'll send you a postcard when I get there."

The singer-actor is currently in the news for his latest album, *Kabhi Aisa Lagta Hai*. "I did it for T-series. The album is in memory of my younger brother, Macky. Especially the song 'Teri yaad jab aati hai'. Otherwise it's a general Lucky Ali album," he says.

His songs are and will always be melody-based, Lucky agrees. "They



make for easy listening. Tunes come simply to me and I render them simply. I don't like complicating things." Even when it comes to playback, like many other singers he too often can't recall what songs he sang, when and for which movie. "I sing with people I like and I give it my best." The same rule applies to acting. There have been many offers post *Sur* and *Kaante*, but none that interesting. "I am listening to stories, I have liked one or two. The concept has to be original for me or let the guys be frank that they are making a remake!"

Remakes and remixes don't really bother Lucky. "I wish I could remix some of my own tracks. It's music at the end of the day and there are a few artistes who do a good job of it," he states.

Lucky's acting career started when he was two-and-a-half years old with *Chote Nawaab*. As a youngster, there was *Trikaal* with Shyam Benegal. "But yes, Bollywood recognised me with the song 'Ek pal ka jeena' from *Kaho Naa Pyar Hai*. Till then I was happy doing my albums, *Sunoh*, *Sifar*, then came *Aks...*"

Empathise, educate and entertain, Lucky believes. And that's exactly what his under-construction website will be all about, 'icrossover'. "I will build a personal rapport with my fans. They can download my music and know about my interests. If they want an autographed CD, I can send it to them. This will also curb piracy."

Lucky's musical inspirations are masters like Madan Mohan and S D Burman. "Today, all compositions sound familiar," he shrugs. As for acting, "My dad (actor Mehmood) has always been the best. Nobody has been able to achieve the kind of spontaneity that he had. A strict disciplinarian that he was, he always told me, 'Don't beg, work'." Well, that's Lucky for you. ■



**'The concept has to be original for me (to act in it) or let the guys be frank that they are making a remake!'**

Photographs by Rafique Sayed