



Daisy's Bright Spark

By Patricea Chow

"**Sometimes** when I'm on the streets people will call out my name. They will then say 'You don't know us but we know you're Daisy!'," relates Daisy Irani.

Playing 'Daisy' in *Under One Roof* has endeared Daisy to Singaporeans with her convincing portrayal of a local Indian advertising executive who is neighbours with the Tan family residing in Bishan.

So it was a surprise to discover that Daisy hails from Mumbai (Bombay), India. Now a Singapore citizen, she followed her husband, Subin Subaiah, to Singapore 12 years ago, when he was posted here for work.

Initially, it was difficult for her to leave India and settle in a place that she hadn't heard of.

She recalls, "Back in India, I had been acting and very involved in the Gujarati and Hindi theatre scene. When we came here, we didn't know a single person and I didn't have any projects so I had to start from scratch. It was difficult."

However, she 'bit the bullet' and went to look for work. While at an interview for a producer's position, she was asked to take on the role of 'Daisy' in *Under One Roof*. A simple 'yes' and Daisy became a part of local sitcom history.

Today, Daisy, who is in her forties, is a Managing Executive Producer with Production 5 at MediaCorp Studios. Her work involves conceptualising and producing dramas, docu-dramas like *Incredible Tales* and new comedies like

Living with Lydia. She has also begun writing scripts to be produced later in the year.

Although her duties as a Managing Executive Producer keep her busy, the energetic lady still can't resist making a cameo appearance on television or taking up a role on stage if asked.

"I produce and direct, and I also want to act. I don't understand how people can say that you can only be one thing and not the other. I am a daughter to my mother, a wife to my husband and a mother to my children!"

Although she is extremely busy, Daisy fosters strong family bonds by having a designated weekly family day, which is Sunday. She will spend the day with her husband, 15-year-old son Jaidev and 12 year-old daughter Insha doing things like playing mini golf, going to the library, or indulging in general knowledge quizzes.

As for her children following her footsteps, the loving mother prefers them to find their own paths in life.

She explains, "My children are still young and I want them to explore all possibilities. I think it's very crucial that they truly know what they want to do, not only with their head but also with their heart.

"After their education, I would have done my part and prepared them to face the road ahead. They can then fly from the nest. If my son tells me he wants to be a social worker after he has obtained his degree, that would be fine with me."

