

# Sheena's web

## INDIAN GIRL HITS THE NET IN NEW BBC TEEN DRAMA

BY ADITI KHANNA

**A GORGEOUS British Indian actress is at the forefront of a pioneering trend in interactive Internet television drama.**

Sheena Bhattessa, a Miss India UK finalist in 2002, has been picked to play the central character in BBC's first online teen series. *Wannabes*. The new drama on [bbc.co.uk/teens](http://bbc.co.uk/teens), will follow her life as wannabe journalist Leila Ahmed. Filming for the 14-episode series has just been completed in London and Brighton.

Bhattessa, a former presenter on Zee TV, said: "The *Wannabes* are a group of young aspiring writers and pop stars who all want to be something in life. My role is that of a streetwise tough cookie young girl who can take control of any situation."

Every week the audience, expected to range in age from between nine and 17 years, will get a chance to vote on a particular plot so that they can decide the outcome. All possible scenarios have been shot with a fixed climax in mind.

She added: "Internet is the latest craze and kids today spend so much time on it anyway so it might as well be geared towards some positive shows like this. The BBC has made it simple enough so that anyone anywhere in the world can access the series from the website and track the ambitions and dreams of the characters."

The 22-year-old business and law graduate got into acting at the age of four when her Gujarati parents enrolled her in drama school. Since then, she has had small roles in Bollywood films such as *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham* and *Mohabbatein* while focusing on completing her degree. She now plans to get into acting full time with her first Bollywood film as lead actress, *Take 2*, expected out by the end of this year.

The London-born actress said: "I do enjoy Bollywood and the catch for me was to learn Hindi as I went along because I grew up speaking Gujarati. But I do not want to limit myself to just that industry. I can't think of any Indian actors in Hollywood and it will be a great thing to bring in. There are quite a few good roles out there which Indians could play."

*Wannabes* is set to hit computer screens in the next few weeks.

