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Movies, Maxim and a Whole Lot of Mojo

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Sheetal Sheth. Photo by David Ferrua.

If she had a biodata it would read something like this:

Actor with over 20 movies under her belt
First Indian woman to be featured in Maxim magazine
Starred with Albert Brooks in "Looking for Comedy in the Muslim world"
Skilled at stirring up controversy by the parts she chooses (i.e. kissing Lisa Ray in *The World Unseen*)
Independent, passionate, outspoken

Should you be intimidated?

Rest easy, you're meeting Sheetal Sheth – the graceful, intelligent actor who's as comfortable in a sweatshirt and jeans as on the red carpet. It's her nature to be uber secure in a profession full of people scrambling for screen time.

Born in New Jersey, Sheth fell into acting in high school and pursued it unrelentingly from then on. She wanted to go to NYU's prestigious Tisch acting school and waited on pins and needles till the acceptance letter arrived. When it did, she moved to NY to attend and has never looked back.

Twelve years ago South Asian actors had little opportunity. Sheth counts friends Aasif Mandvi and Kal Penn as comrades from the early days when parts were scarce and peers were even more scarce.

Her thoughtful choice of roles reveals a real love for the craft over a desire for fame. Her characters in *ABCD (her debut)*, *Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World*, *Trouble with Romance*, *The World Unseen* and *I Can't Think Straight*, are all multifaceted women. And her portrayal of these parts has often been cause for controversy.

Sheth chooses scripts because they "move or excite her." When asked about her decisions she told us "I'm drawn to strong women – woman who are fearless and have passion. I love a flawed, honest individual."

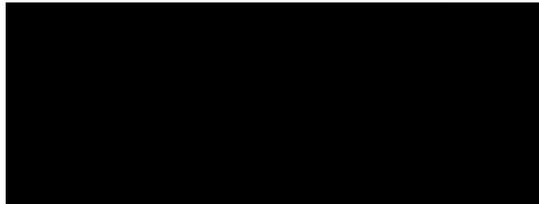
She's unabashedly unafraid herself and it shows in the work she does. Besides being Maxim magazine's first Indian woman featured, she was one of 7 women worldwide asked by Reebok to represent them in their freestyle campaign.

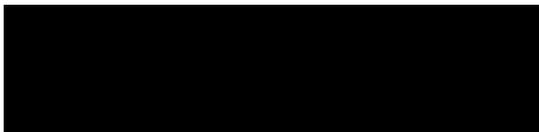
What's next for Sheth? Three film projects that continue to showcase her depth and versatility – the already controversial feature film *Three Veils*, the short film *Reign*, the feature film *The Wisdom Tree*.

We love her for her boldness and can't wait to see more of whatever she decides "moves her."

Her latest film, *Three Veils*, closes the International Women's Film Festival this Sunday in San Francisco.

Take a look at Sheth's newest film – watch the trailer for *Three Veils*, which closes the International Women's Film Festival this Sunday in San Francisco.





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Sheetal Sheth photographed by E Leon



Sheetal Sheth in Maxim



Sheetal Sheth photographed by Kwaku

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