



SALMA AND WAHEED MURAD

By Mrs Habeeb

DASHING Waheed and his demure wife, Salma, need no introduction. The recipient of the Best Actor Award, Waheed is not only a very popular screen idol but also the producer of some of the most popular movies made in Pakistan.

The hectic life of a film star, I guess, needs a calm, peaceful home atmosphere, more than any other. That is exactly what you find in their home, a restful atmosphere prevades their living and dining area. No extra piece of decoration, the simplicity of their decor is complemented by wall-to-wall carpet in the most appealing moss green shade, which reminds one of the cool soothing expanse of a golf course.

Some of the items that were outstanding by their beauty were a square low centre table which almost seems to flaunt its perfect streamlined look. An attractive black wrought iron screen, forming a division between the dining and living room area. A bookcase takes up one wall, which holds a wide range of books on Modern Drama, Plays, short stories, and best sellers. A gigantic wall clock stands on it along with the much coveted Oscar for Best Actor.

Discussing Modern Marriages, Mr Waheed Murad said that: basically marriage remains the same in past, present or

future, the main difference in today's marriages are that there is an escape route...at one time marriage was for, till death do us part...the couple accepted their lot and made the best of it. They tried harder to make marriages work. Today the escape route—divorce—is accepted, so that he feels that the slightest bit of trouble makes modern couples think towards this, rather than trying harder, to make their marriage work.

Waheed's wife, Salma, feels that while so many factors go into making marriage successful, a common factor and an important one from time immemorable was the one with the most responsibility resting on the wife, who contributes greatly to the success of a marriage by learning and practising the art of pleasing the husband. This each wife must discover and go out of her way, to do.

Waheed described marriage as "a two way lock, and each partner has one key. Marriage requires give and take as anyone will tell you. But this should not mean, giving up each ones likes and dislikes, but it should mean — readjusting — it should be an honorable compromise for each partner," said Waheed.

Talking of the Pakistani modern women, Mr Waheed said that today a man expects his wife to be part of his business and social life therefore he expects his wife to be presentable. One of the pitfalls of this is, that, this participation in her man's life sometimes exceeds or dominates a wife's life so much that she forgets her basic position.

He feels that today's young woman is far more adaptable, that even the women who come from villages and small towns too, modernise so quickly. Though they do so with great speed, the modernisation is usually appropriate, said Waheed. The speed with which the Pakistani women have accepted their roles in modern marriages, modern society, modern professions etc. can only be described as tremendous...added Waheed.

Salma thinks that the modern young women, who are mostly well educated and of good means, could be doing so much of the much needed social and civic work. She thinks that they should utilise their talent and their education

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in doing something for other less fortunate people, instead of just wasting their time in frivolous activities, all the time.

In reply to my inquiry as to how Salma spent her time, Salma said that she was the member of a social cum social welfare womens club, where she goes once a week. She is also studying Braille, so as to be able to help translate books into Braille, twice a week she has been reading to a blind student for some time now, the student has appeared for his B.A. examinations.

Salma said she enjoys sewing and cooking, she does sewing for her club, where the sewn items are sold and the proceeds given to a deserving cause. Her interest in cooking, inspire her to serve something different by way of food at her dinner parties. Waheed and Salma get a rare evening to themselves, when they do, they enjoy reading, playing cards or playing scrabble.

I asked Salma what had caused her obvious change in her style of dressing since there was a time when Salma was more often flashly dressed than otherwise. She feels that her taste has become subdued, and she said this has been influenced by her spouse, who was ready to take almost all the credit for this change.

Commenting on todays Youth, Waheed Murad said: "I could not condemn my youth. . . the age of rebellion comes on all of us, and no one must judge too harshly". He went on to explain, that when one has so many material possessions, one likes to have a whale of a time—and this period seems to be strongest when the

young men are going through a period of indecision, about their future career. The young want guidance—but not from any one or everyone—he said.

Waheed went further and said that he thinks, that the young man should know that his father or his parents have full trust in him, when he is going through this period of indecision. No one, unless he is an absolute no-good, would willingly let his father down. He says if the parents show this regard for their son's potential, the son will come out alright from this period of aimless merrymaking.

He feels very proud of his own parents who did'nt try to enforce him into any particular career, and let him know that they had faith in him. He said: 'I drifted for a time, I tried joining my father's business, (his father Mr Nisar Murad is a film distributor) I did'nt find interest in that and got to producing films instead'. He was already a producer of a couple of films while in his final year at college, he is a Master from Karachi University in Literature, his chief interest being Drama.

I inquired where Salma and Waheed had met, and was told that they grew up knowing each other as their families were friends. They had been going on family excursions picnics, and parties along with the other members of the family and friends, but it wasnt till a year before their marriage in 1964, that they got interested in each other in a romantic way, and this was perfect, said Waheed, as he feels that a courtship should'nt last too long as then the glamour wears off.

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Salma said she had just finished her Inter-Arts when Waheed proposed. Like the most inquisitive of fans, I asked, if he was as romantic during their courtship, as he is on the screen, and she, with a shy happy laugh said, "Oh Yes".

From what I know of Salma in my acquaintance with her for the last few years, it seems to me that Salma has an enormous amount of sweet temper and patience. She takes in her stride all the odd hours of work and shooting of films, all the busy schedules, all the broken appointments, with a smile and charming downcast eyes, presenting an unruffled face to her screen throb husband, whom girls are flocking to see at every turn, and while their adulation must be inspiring to the star, their over effusiveness must be tolerated.

Of his acting career, Waheed said, "It was absolutely incidental. . . it grew out of all proportions. I never visualised myself in this successful position."