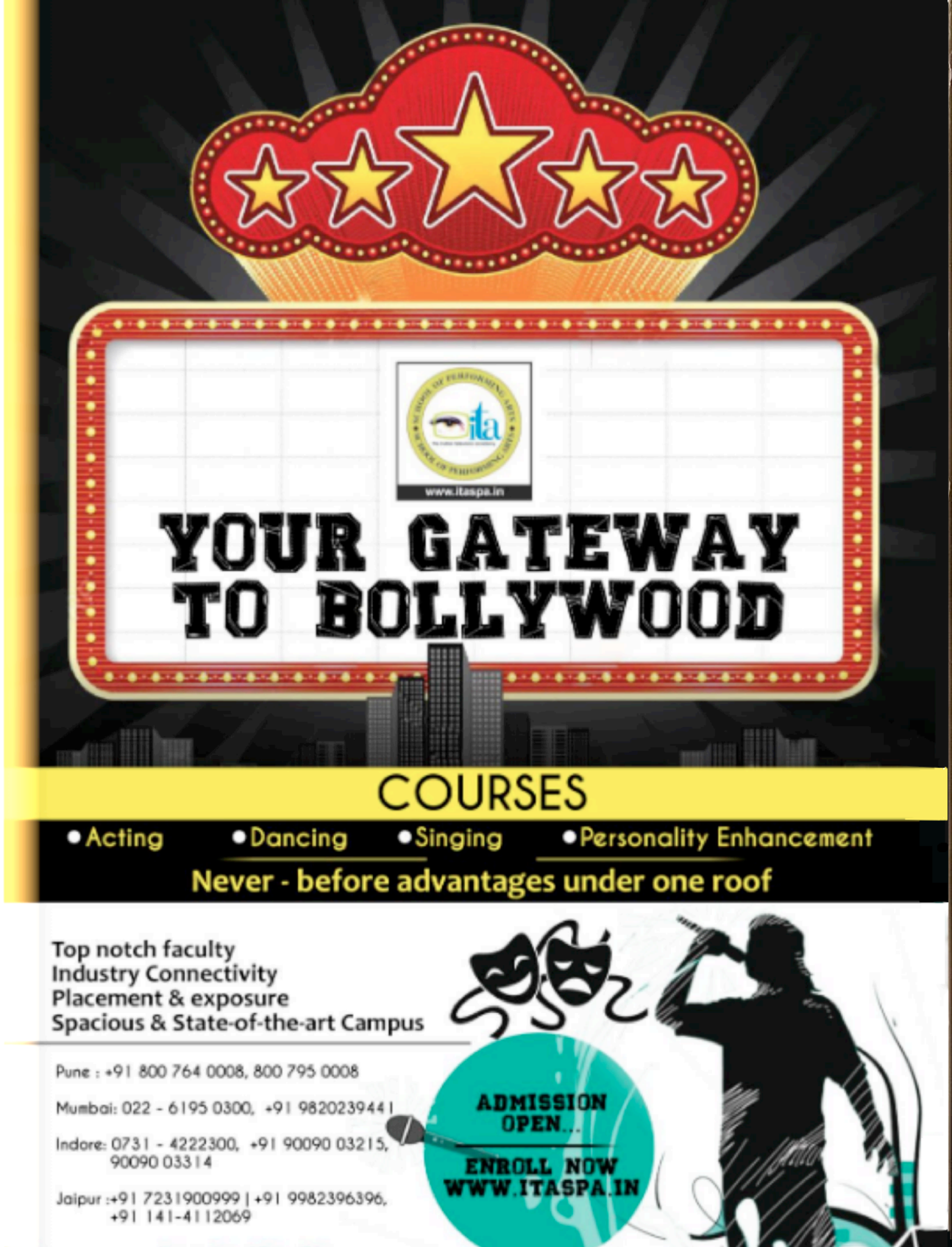
THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

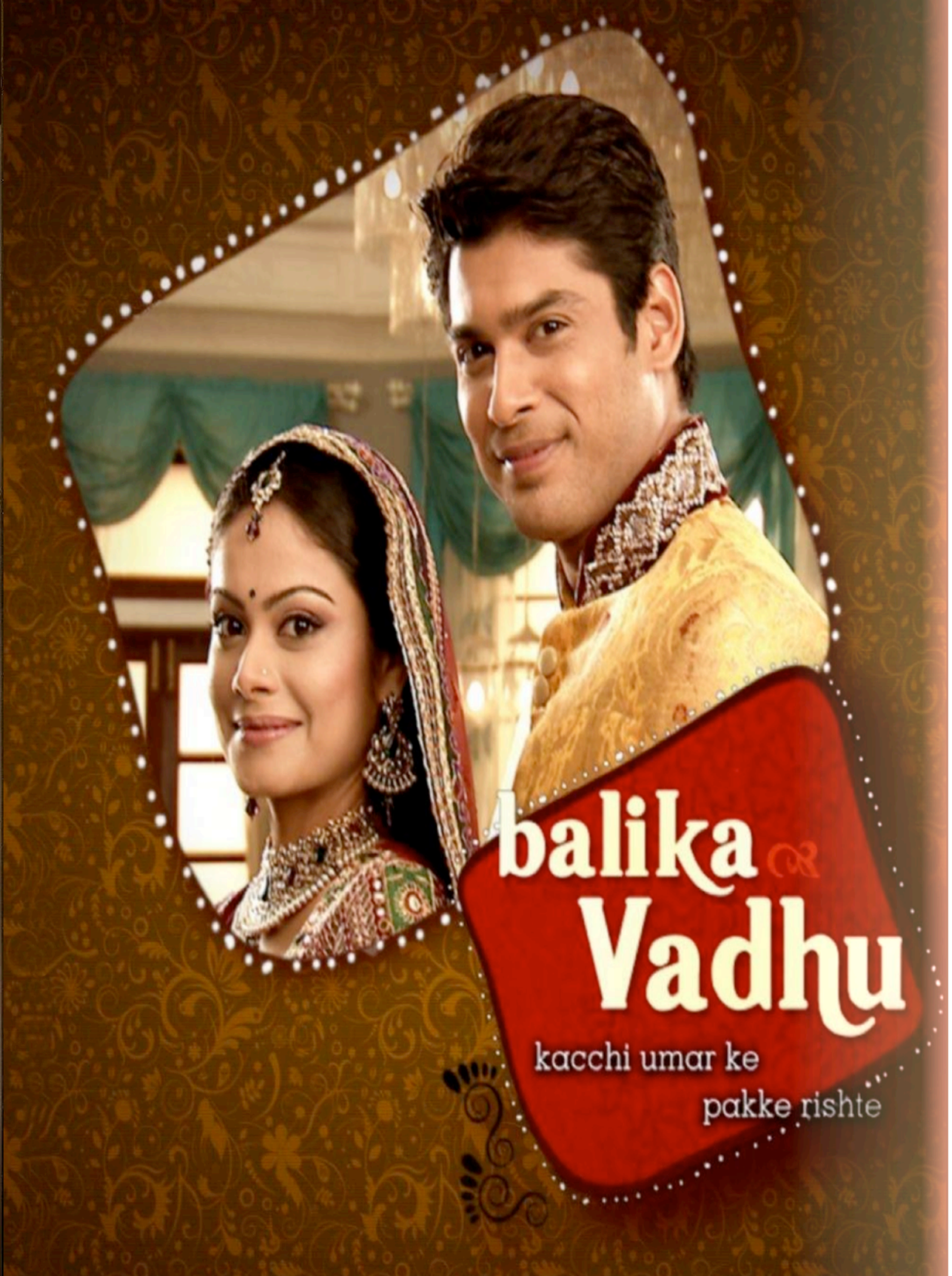
Minoti Vaishnav has produced several successful US TV shows. Here's her take on Indian TV vs American TV.

What kind of shows do you write and produce?
In scripted, I write one-hour drama shows. Mostly sci-fi/fantasy, historical dramas and superhero/action stories. In unscripted, I write and produce investigative docu-series. I have also worked on a historical docu-series, and do docu-follow stories as well.

What do you think is the difference between Hollywood soap operas and Bollywood soap operas?
In America, most TV soaps air in the daytime. They are made for a loyal audience that has been watching 30+ years. In India, most soaps are prime-time and reach a very wide audience.

Why do you think reality TV is not more successfull in India? How do we make it a major industry here?
I think India has mastered the market when it comes to talent based TV - singing, dance shows etc. And they have many successful talk shows from what I've seen. But in terms of more documentary-style series, I think one thing that India could do is look into the mystery/ investigative genre. For example, where is Dwarika? That could be an investigative show. Or another avenue would be historical - could there be a hybrid docu-series about the Mughal Empire?





Do you ever see yourself moving back to India to work in Indian television?
I think the language barrier may be an issue - I'm not fluent in Hindi and I've only ever produced TV in English. But never say never. International television is making big waves because of streaming services like Netflix. So I'm open to working on international projects.

What are some of your favorite television shows that you've ever written or produced?
I enjoyed writing on Hunting Hitler. I also wrote two scripted pilots for other production companies - The Gym for Vigilants Entertainment and 3 Orbs of Light for PKM Images. And I work in development as a Producer, so I really enjoy all the projects I produce at Karga 7 Pictures.

What kind of shows do you like to watch?
Everything! My current favorites are Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D, The Good Place, Game of Thrones and Stranger Things.

You share representation with the likes of Deepa Mehta and Nandita Das. Do you see yourself going into filmmaking like them?
Technically, I came from filmmaking. I worked in film producing and writing for four years at Prophecy Girl Films. But would I go into filmmaking again? Sure! I love television and I think long-term, that's where I want to land. But I do love feature films as well.