

Dolly Singh to host the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards Night



Actor, creator, director, and producer Dolly Singh is set to mark a significant international milestone as she takes on the role of host for the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards Night on 13 August. In addition to hosting one of the festival's biggest evenings, Dolly has also been invited as an official festival guest and will participate in a thought-provoking panel discussion on 'Women in Different Forms of Storytelling in Cinema.'

Over the years, Dolly has evolved far beyond her identity as a digital creator, building a diverse body of work as an actor, filmmaker, writer, and pro-

ducer. From creating original mini-series and micro dramas to directing and often shooting her own stories, she has consistently explored fresh, authentic narratives across formats, making her an apt voice in conversations around the future of storytelling.

Dolly Singh said, "It is truly an honour to be a part of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in so many capacities. Hosting the awards night is incredibly exciting, but what makes this experience even more meaningful is being invited as a guest and as a panelist to discuss something I deeply believe in: the evolving ways women are shaping storytelling in cinema." WorldNews Section

She further added, "My journey has never been confined to just acting. I've always been passionate about telling stories, whether through sketches, mini-series, micro dramas, or directing and producing my own projects, sometimes even shooting them myself. Every format has taught me that a powerful story isn't defined by its length or scale, but by its honesty and emotional impact. I am looking forward to celebrating Indian cinema on a global stage and sharing perspectives with fellow artists who continue to push creative boundaries. Festivals like IFFM remind us that storytelling has the power to connect cultures, challenge perspectives, and create lasting conversations."

Dolly Singh's multifaceted presence at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne reflects her evolution as one of India's most dynamic creative voices. As a host, guest, actor, director, and storyteller, her participation underscores the growing recognition of creators who are redefining cinema beyond conventional boundaries. With her distinctive blend of performance and filmmaking, Dolly continues to champion stories that are contemporary, personal, and deeply resonant, making her a fitting representative of the new generation of Indian storytellers on the global stage.

Dolly Singh also recently made history by becoming the first Indian to receive Instagram's prestigious Global Rings Award 2025. The award recognises creators who redefine digital storytelling with boldness and creativity.

Mrunal Thakur warns of legal action over AI-generated deepfake content

Mrunal Thakur has issued a strong public warning against the creation and circulation of AI-generated deepfake content using her identity, describing the practice as "illegal and unacceptable" and cautioning that any further misuse will invite legal action.

On Tuesday, the actor addressed the growing concern over artificial intelligence being used to manipulate the identities of public figures.

In a firmly-worded statement shared on her Instagram Story, Mrunal made it clear that she would not tolerate the unauthorised use of her likeness through AI-generated content.

"Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable. Consider this your formal notice to stop immediately. Any further misuse of my identity will result in legal action," she wrote.

The actor's statement comes amid rising concerns over the misuse of artificial intelligence, particularly through deepfakes and other forms of digitally altered content that use a person's identity without consent.

The issue has increasingly affected celebrities, many of whom have sought legal remedies to protect their image, voice and personality rights. Legal

Mrunal is among several Indian actors who have spoken out against AI-driven identity misuse.

In recent times, Salman Khan, Shilpa Shetty, Suniel Shetty, and others have approached courts over the unauthorised use of their images and voices as concerns around AI-enabled identity theft continue to grow.



Neha Dhupia's 52 Blue set for Australian premiere at IFFM

Actor Neha Dhupia is all set to take her film 52 Blue to an international audience as the film gears up for its Australian premiere at the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). Marking another milestone in the film's journey, the screening is expected to introduce audiences in Australia to a deeply moving story that has been close to Neha's heart.

Expressing her excitement ahead of the premiere, Neha shared, "I'm incredibly grateful that 52 Blue is premiering at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Every film has its own journey, but some stories leave a lasting impact on you as an actor, and 52 Blue is definitely one of them. It's a deeply emotional and honest narrative that stayed with me long after the camera stopped rolling."

She further added that taking the film to an international platform makes the experience even more special. "It's always rewarding when a story you've believed in finds audiences beyond borders. Cinema has the power to connect people through emotions, irrespective of language or geography, and I hope 52 Blue resonates with everyone who watches it at IFFM."

Calling the festival an important platform for Indian cinema, Neha said, "IFFM has consistently celebrated diverse voices and meaningful storytelling.



To have 52 Blue showcased there is a matter of immense pride for our entire team. I'm looking forward to sharing this experience with audiences in Australia and hearing their reactions." WorldNews Section

With 52 Blue heading to the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for its Australian premiere, the film continues its journey on the global festival circuit. For Neha Dhupia, the screening represents not just another career milestone, but an opportunity to celebrate meaningful cinema on an international stage, bringing a story she deeply believes in to audiences across the world.

Singer Nikhita Gandhi to perform at IFFM 2026

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2026 is set to celebrate Indian cinema and culture in all its forms, with music taking centre stage as an integral part of the festivities. Acclaimed singer Nikhita Gandhi will perform live at this year's festival, bringing her dynamic stage presence and chart-topping hits to audiences in Australia, adding another exciting dimension to one of the world's largest celebrations of Indian cinema outside India. <

Nikhita Gandhi has carved a unique space in Indian music with an impressive repertoire spanning Bollywood, independent music and multiple regional film industries including Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam. From blockbuster hits like Raabta, Ullu Ka Pattha, Qaafirana, Burj Khalifa, Naach Meri Rani, and Jugnu with Badshah, to her collaborations with some of India's most celebrated composers including AR Rahman, Pritam, Amit Trivedi, Vishal-Shekhar and Anirudh Ravichander, Nikhita has consistently delivered songs that have resonated with audiences across the country. Equally at home in film music and the independent pop space, she has become one of the most recognisable contemporary voices in Indian music.

Every year, IFFM brings together films, artists, music and audiences from diverse communities, creating a celebration that extends far beyond the screen. Live music has become an important part of the festival experience, and Nikhita's performance promises to add to the energy and festive spirit that IFFM is known for.

Speaking about performing at IFFM 2026, Nikhita Gandhi said, "I'm genuinely excited to be performing at IFFM this year. There's something magical about taking your music across borders and seeing people connect with songs that have been such a big part of our films and our lives. I've always believed that a live concert is a shared experience, it's not just about the artist on stage, it's about everyone in the room singing, smiling and celebrating together. I've heard incredible things about the love and energy that audiences in Melbourne bring to IFFM,



and I can't wait to experience it for myself. It's going to be wonderful to share an evening of music with everyone there." FilmFestivals

With its exciting line-up of films, premieres, conversations, cultural events and live performances, IFFM 2026 promises to be a vibrant celebration of Indian storytelling in all its forms. Nikhita Gandhi's performance will further strengthen the festival's unique blend of cinema and music, offering audiences an unforgettable live experience in Melbourne.



Disha Patani's sensational beach vacations often make headlines. The actress is known to hang out with her besties and this time, check out her sensual mustard bikini set raising the temperatures.