

# Richa takes inspiration from Meena Kumari

Actress, who essays the role of Lajjo in 'Heeramandi...', harked back to the timeless classic, 'Pakeezah'

**R**icha Chadha, who is gearing up for the upcoming series *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, revealed how she delved into the iconic performances of legendary actor Meena Kumari to craft her character.

Chadha, who essays the role of Lajjo, a courtesan with a captivating persona, shared that she found inspiration in Meena Kumari's portrayal of Shahibjaan in the timeless classic, *Pakeezah*.

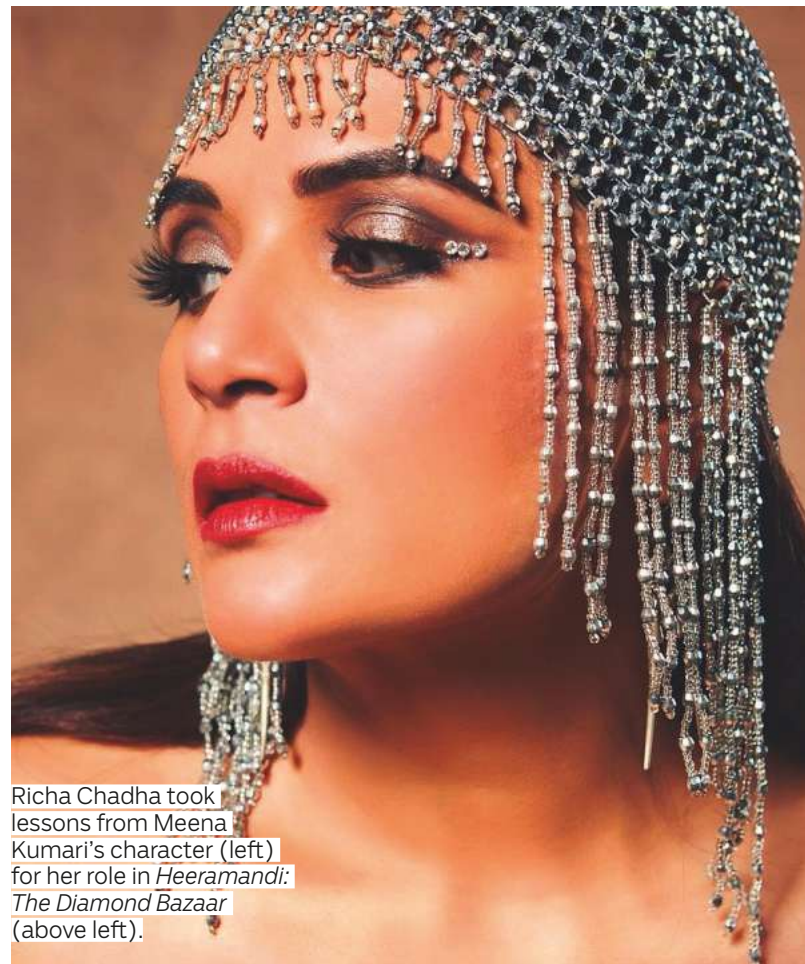
"Carefully observing, learning from and taking lessons from Meena Kumari's character in *Pakeezah* was a truly enriching and deeply transforming experience for me, ahead of shooting for *Heeramandi*. In the movie *Pakeezah*, Meena Kumari's character has a certain tragic depth and complexity that resonated with Lajjo, the character that I play in the show. I worked on the voice and diction, while studying Meenaji's work, to the point of imitation sometimes. I felt like I was walking in the footsteps of a cinematic legend, and it was an honour to pay tribute to Meena Kumari through my portrayal of Lajjo," she said in a statement.

Set against the backdrop of



the Indian freedom struggle of the 1940s, *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* promises to be an epic saga of love, power, revenge, and freedom.

Bhansali Productions shared the trailer on their official Instagram handle. The caption



Richa Chadha took lessons from Meena Kumari's character (left) for her role in *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* (above left).

Photos: Instagram/therichachadha, Gulf News Archives, Reuters

reads, "In the glittering, regal halls of Shahi Mahal, romance and revolution clash in silence ... Sanjay Leela Bhansali's sweeping saga of love, loss and liberation — *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. Trailer out now!"

The intriguing trailer show-

cases the lives of courtesans in Heeramandi, Lahore, British India. Outside, the city is rolling with revolutionaries seeking India's independence from British domination, with Mallikajaan's daughter, Bibbojaan (Aditi Rao Hydari), joining the struggle for freedom. — ANI