



other role

Singer Sudha Raghunathan, who regards the classical realm as her kingdom, is ever ready to experiment. Be it her foray into playback singing with actor-director Partiban's Tamil film *Ivan* (*Yennai Yenna Saidaay* went on to be a chartbuster) or singing for Hindi-English movie *Morning Raga* (*Taye Yashoda* won her many admirers) or flirting with the ad world, this social activist has done it all. Always game for new things, she talks enthusiastically of her parasailing and snorkelling experience.



nearly a year, and finally said yes," she says. Did the purists raise an eyebrow? "Well, I got mixed reactions. But I was happy about it. So far, only models or film personalities were seen in such ads. This commercial is a healthy break away from that trend."

Along with her occasional "letting down your hair" sessions, as she calls them, Raghunathan is se-

singing for cinema is that a lot of people get to know you through this medium and may stray into a classical concert merely out of curiosity." She should know, for as a senior member of the music frat, Raghunathan's repertoire is rich and varied. Precisely the reason she likes experimenting with things that are not necessarily traditional. "The classical sphere is my kingdom; it is where I belong," she says. "And having soaked in it, I'm sure that nothing can dilute my music. So I like doing things that take away the monotony."

Raghunathan made her musical debut in Partiban's Tamil film *Ivan* which traced the story of a classical singer. Her aesthetic rendition of *Yennai Yenna Saidaay* created a stir. "It was an enjoyable experience, but very trying," says Raghunathan of this Ilayaraja masterpiece. If that song had movie-goers mesmerised, *Morning Raga* (in which she sang *Taye*

The interesting aspect of singing for films is that a lot of people get to know you, and may stray into a classical concert merely out of curiosity.

SUDHA RAGHUNATHAN

Yashoda) won her acclaim in the classical circuit. Recently, she recorded an "offbeat, fusion" track for Tamil film *Sattham Poda De*.

Raghunathan loves to try out new things. She talks of her parasailing and snorkelling experience in Australia with as much enthusiasm as her mind-boggling collection of Ganesha figurines. On stage, she is the diva who sports beautiful silk saris finely accessorised with diamonds. Chennaiites were in for a pleasant surprise when she turned model in an ad for a well-known store. "I mulled over it for

people

Even on film sets, I learn new compositions or work on an existing one. Acting has helped me see and appreciate my music in a new light.

ANURADHA KRISHNAMURTHI



other role

Noted vocalist Anuradha Krishnamurthi's classic south Indian looks opened the doors for an acting career when she met her new neighbour, acclaimed filmmaker K. Balachander. He offered her the lead role in his soap *Sahana*. She made her big screen debut last year with *Amritam* opposite Girish Karnad. She is now shooting for director Stalin's *Nallador Veenai* (see pix).



opportunities to sing."

That Krishnamurthi said yes to the offer was largely due to the director who she describes as "warm and re-assuring." Facing the camera was a breeze as she literally grew up on stage, performing with her acclaimed musician father, late K.V. Narayanaswamy, and mother Padma. "Being their daughter, I'm

also a perfectionist," she notes, "A trait that befits the Balachander school of thought."

Sahana's success owed much to her poignant portrayal of Indu. "I also ended up with a host of fans, many non-music lovers too," she says with a smile. After that she made her way into cinema with debutant director Vedam Kannan's *Amritam*. In that offbeat film, Krishnamurthi co-starred with Girish Karnad, rendering a sensitive portrayal of a priest's wife, a role that won her critical acclaim.

Last year, she was again seen on the big screen in Balachander's 101st film, *Poi*. "It was a small but significant role," she says. Since *Sahana*, several offers have come her way, but the artiste is open to accept roles that offer her scope for

riously committed to social causes through her Samudaya Foundation that she, along with her husband, founded six years ago. Recently, the foundation donated Rs 10 lakh to the Cancer Institute, Adyar. "At the end of the day, giving back to society is what is most soul-satisfying," she says. If Raghunathan enjoys her behind the screen action, noted vocalist Anuradha Krishnamurthi is equally enthusiastic about her on camera action.

For Krishnamurthi's classic south Indian looks are as popular as her music. And she juggles her career in music and acting pretty well. Five years ago, while returning home from a concert, she happened to meet her new neighbour, acclaimed filmmaker and director K. Balachander. The very next day, she received a call from his office offering her the lead role in his next soap, *Sahana*. "The serial was a sequel to Balachander's celebrated Tamil film, *Sindhu Bhairavi*, and he wanted me to play Suhasini's role," she recalls. "The only thing I told him was that I needed enough