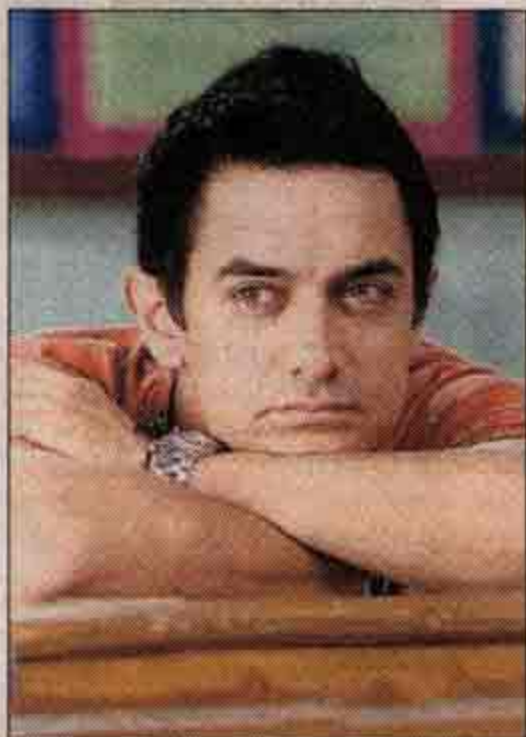




'Clay' ver move!

Aamir Khan tries out a new animation technique in TZP



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Bollywood is catching up with its Western counterpart by now featuring 'claymation' in a feature film. Aamir Khan's Taare Zameen Par extensively uses this kind of animation that, expectedly enough, uses clay.

Novel offering

A source reveals, "Since it is a children's movie, Aamir wanted something creative and attractive that a child would enjoy watching. He got Dhimant Vyas, who had done the caricature for the movie Lagaan, to add more colour and fun to the movie."

The source adds, "Dhimant decided to try clay animation or claymation in the movie. In the opening credits of the

movie when the child is being introduced, claymation is used to portray Ishaan and all the loves of his life." Ishaan, played by Darsheel Safary, is an eight-year-old boy who loves to draw and paint and live bindaas.

Says Vyas, "I have been into animation for 12 years. When Aamir approached me, he asked for an animated look for the movie. I gave him the idea of clay animation, and we used it for the first time in Bollywood."

Opening credits

Vyas adds, "Claymation has been used in the opening credits for three minutes and for all the important parts of Ishaan's life. We have a lot of transitions that take place, like water changing into a spaceship, then a fish changes into a jellyfish and so on."

What is claymation?

Clay animation is a kind of stop motion animation; where each animated piece, either character or background, is a malleable substance, usually clay. The animation of each frame, or still picture, is recorded on film or digital media and then played back in rapid succession. When played back at a frame rate greater than 10-12 frames per second, a fairly convincing illusion of continuous motion is achieved.