"Every role teaches you something crucial. As for favourites, I tend to identify with parts of myself in what I play"



completely immersed in the process; that's the thrill of it. Otherwise, why turn up on set at all? It's about creating that imaginary world around you and staying in it, at least till the shoot is on. That's what really gets to me—it's one of the biggest pleasures of being an actor.

M: Your love for horses is known. What is it about riding that keeps making you go back to it?
RH: I had a severe accident and broke both knees in 2023—one's been operated on, one's still pending, so I can't ride too much or do competitive show jumping for now. I can't sit and meditate—the only way I truly can is on horseback, because that's when I am not thinking of anything else.

M: Have you intentionally chosen to step away from the spotlight and why?
RH: I've just not been present in places scrutinised by cameras and reels. I meet people—I'm not solitary or anti-social. But as an artist, you need time to be by yourself to introspect and reflect, in order to create meaningful work that has an impact.

M: If you had never become an actor, what do you imagine your life would look like?
RH: I would be a farmer since I love nature. As I am growing older, I am becoming more and more inclined towards the occupation of my ancestors.

M: What are you manifesting in 2026?
RH: A home of my own by the lake amidst the jungle, some good roles I can sink my teeth into, and to finish my screenplays. ■



Make-up: **Renuka Pillai**; Hair: **Amit Tawar**; Styling Assistants: **Ria Awlani**, *and* **Kareena G Mishra**; Location: **Aurika, Mumbai Skycity**