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'ITEM GURLZ' VIDYA BALAN AND RAKHI SAWANT SHOW OFF A SARI AND A BIG MOUTH

'Dirty' woman suffers no guilt

VIDYA BALAN is doing a Lavani for *Ferrari Ki Sawaari* by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. She talks to DIVYA KAUSHIK about taking off her prosthetic tummy for a naughty move. Next she plays a housewife

Last time we met her as a pregnant woman from *Kahaani*, she was 'carrying' a prosthetic tummy.

Thankfully, Vidya didn't wear a Marathi sari to promote her Lavani number in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *Ferrari Ki Sawaari*. Instead, she was in a pink, pearl bordered number, with golden motifs on the pallu, paired with a low back blouse. She was at Taj Mansingh as the brand ambassador of Aliva, which recently launched a new range of their multigrain snacks.

"I was born to wear a sari. It goes with my belief and presents what I am. Traditional, but sassy and glamorous. I opted for a sari, when I was a punching bag for people criticising me for what I wear.

"It hides and reveals a woman's body," said Vidya. She chose pink, because it was, "traditional."

Over years, the actress has learnt to put her "bebaakness" in open.

She no longer suffers pangs of guilt gorging. "People talk about it. It doesn't matter to me. As I evolved, I learnt that work counts ultimately. I never endorsed any zeros (size zero figure) except for those in my chequebook. I accepted my body as it is and realised sexuality has nothing to do with how you look. It is all in the mind. I was at my sexi-

est best, during *The Dirty Picture*, when I was really fat. Why should women follow a stereotype," remarked Vidya.

She did it keeping in mind it had to be, "a typically, *mastiwala* Bollywood song." Not an item number. "I learnt Lavani is about naughty expressions and funky moves. Vidhu Vinod Chopra was unsure if I would be able to do it. But I think I surprised him," she laughed. Talking about her movies, she said, "I am offered the best roles and think that is what any actress would want in this age. There is a major change in how women are presented in Indian films."

Her next film is Rajkumar Gupta's *Ghanchakkar*. "It will be my first comedy. Gupta has a reputation of getting work from his actors," she said. Balan plays a housewife in the film. "I want to debunk the idea that they are boring and simple. Our economy flourishes because housewives take care of families." Deep, eh?

