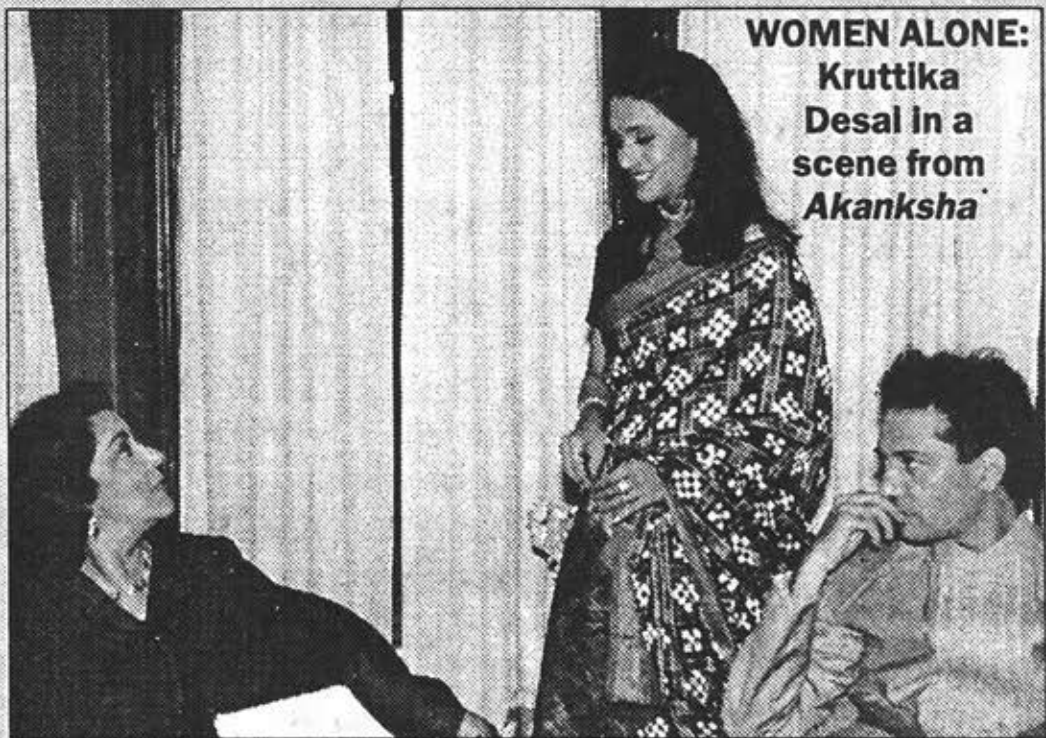


WOMEN ALONE:
Kruttika
Desai in a
scene from
Akanksha



Women on the Make

IT has happened in Hollywood before. Women have usually made the most misogynistic films. In India, the most controversial portrayals of women have been written by women. First, there was *Tara* scripted by **Vinta Nanda**. Then *Swabhimaan* written by **Shobha De**. Now, there is *Akanksha*, penned by **Selina Sheth**, and directed by **Sanjay Ray Chaudhuri**.

Kittu Gidwani plays a role she must have learnt by rote now — that of a starlet on the make who must forget a horrifying past and

Soap WATCH

start afresh (their words, not mine). She may have to make a few compromises on the way, but it is supposed to be justified by the traumas she has suffered. Then there's **Kruttika Desai**, who is an idealistic journalist (shades of *Shanti*?) with a husband who has an obsessive mother.

Slickly produced, the serial is absorbing in the way only soaps and airport novels can be. But with it being on **El TV**, there's not much chance of it becoming widely addictive. ■