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## Yolanda's unwraps Indian line of saris, wedding attire

By **Kerry Purcell**

Thursday, January 19, 2006

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Yolanda's is going global with the launch of Shelly Chhabra's handmade Indian bridal collection. The Waltham bridal boutique carries Greek-, French- and Italian-made gowns, but the woman in white is bringing Indian bridal attire into the mainstream.

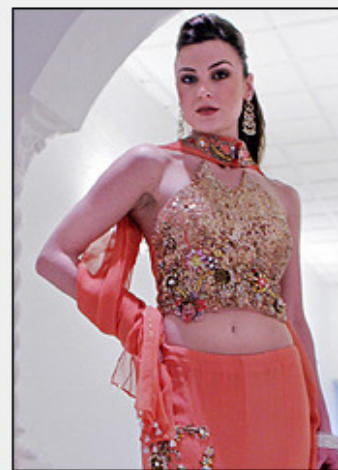
"No one that we know of is doing this in a custom bridal shop," said owner Yolanda Cellucci. "Not even in New York or California."

Chhabra, 29, a former electrical engineer and business analyst, is carrying on her family's name in the United States, after three generations of Chhabra stores have flourished in India.

Chhabra first started collaborating with Yolanda's in November and will showcase an 18-piece collection at tonight's fashion show. Each piece is custom-made and beaded by hand in India.

"A lot of girls spend thousands of dollars going back to India to shop for their dress and they squeeze all their shopping into 10 days," Chhabra said. "There are other small pockets of Indian shopping in the U.S., but the selection is cookie cutter and costumey. The gowns I'm showing are not traditional, to appease the needs of brides today, with a new modern, fresh look."

Besides using red, which signifies love, power and passion, Chhabra has fused Indian and American traditions in her collection of ornate saris, halters, A-line and full skirt lehengas. Each selection can be custom fit.



Shelly Chhabra will showcase an 18-piece collection tonight. (Staff photo by Nancy Lane)

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