

1: Shirin Merchant: Latest News, Videos and Photos of Shirin Merchant | Times of India

Shirin Merchant is 78 years old and was born on 7/5/ Currently, she lives in Skokie, IL. Sometimes Shirin goes by various nicknames including shirin a merchant. Learn More.

The first extant record of his life comes from the court of John of Bavaria at The Hague where, between and , payments were made to Meyster Jan den malre Master Jan the painter who was then a court painter with the rank of valet de chambre , with at first one and then two assistants. However, his apparent age in the London probable self-portrait of suggests to most scholars a date closer to By this time he had assembled a small workshop and was involved in redecorating the Binnenhof palace in The Hague. On 18 October , the Feast of St. Luke, he travelled to Tournai to attend a banquet in his honour, also attended by Robert Campin and Rogier van der Weyden. Unlike most of his peers his reputation never diminished and he remained well regarded over the following centuries. His revolutionary approach to oil was such that a myth, perpetuated by Giorgio Vasari , arose that he had invented oil painting. The years between and are generally considered his high point when he produced works including the Madonna of Chancellor Rolin , Lucca Madonna and Virgin and Child with Canon van der Paele. He married the much younger Margaret probably around , about the same time he bought a house in Bruges; she is unmentioned before he relocated, while the first of their two children was born in At least some of this income was invested in lottery. Their precise nature is still unknown, but they seem to involve his acting as envoy of the court. In he departed for "certain distant lands", possibly to the Holy Land , a theory given weight by the topographical accuracy of Jerusalem in The Three Marys at the Tomb, a painting completed by members of his workshop c. Because Portugal was ridden with plague , their court was itinerant and the Dutch party met them at the out of the way castle of Avis. Van Eyck spent nine months there, returning to the Netherlands with Isabella as a bride to be; the couple married on Christmas Day of Typically he showed his sitters as dignified, yet did not hide their imperfections. Records from say that he was held in high esteem by the upper ranks of Burgundian nobility and was employed in foreign commissions. He was buried in the graveyard of the Church of St Donatian. He left behind many unfinished works to be completed by his workshop journeymen. Early in Lambert had the body exhumed and placed inside St. Works[edit] Jan van Eyck produced paintings for private clients in addition to his work at the court. Foremost among these is the Ghent Altarpiece painted for the merchant, financier and politician Jodocus Vijdts and his wife Elisabeth Borluut. Started sometime before and completed by , the polyptych is seen as representing "the final conquest of reality in the North", differing from the great works of the Early Renaissance in Italy by virtue of its willingness to forgo classical idealisation in favor of the faithful observation of nature. In Holland Cotter estimated that "only two dozen or so paintings He described the "complex relationship and tension between art historians and holding museums in assigning authorship. Of the 40 or so works considered originals in the mid 80s, around ten are now vigorously contested by leading researchers as workshop". Milan Filio 93v, Inv In addition, there are coats of arms connected with the Wittelsbach family with whom he had connections in the Hague, while some of the figures in the miniatures echo the horsemen in the Ghent Altarpiece. Oil on oak panel, She is typically seated, wearing a jewel-studded crown, cradling a playful child Christ who gazes at her and grips the hem of her dress in a manner that recalls the 13th-century Byzantine tradition of the Eleusa icon Virgin of Tenderness. She usually wears red. In the Ghent Altarpiece Mary wears a crown adorned with flowers and stars. Van Eyck usually presents Mary as an apparition before a donor kneeling in prayer to the side. In the early 15th century Mary grew in importance as an intercessor between the divine and members of the Christian faith. The concept of purgatory as an intermediary state that each soul had to pass through before admission to heaven was at its height. At the same time, there was a trend towards the sponsorship of requiem masses, often as part of the terms of a will, a practice that Joris van der Paele actively sponsored. With this income he endowed the churches with embroidered cloths and metal accessories such as chalices, plates and candlesticks. In Madonna in the Church she dominates the cathedral; her head is almost level with the approximately sixty feet high gallery. Her monumental stature borrows from the works of 12th- and 13th-century Italian artists such as Cimabue and

Giotto , who in turn reflect a tradition reaching back to an Italo- Byzantine type and emphasis her identification with the cathedral itself. The idea that her size represents her embodiment as the church was first suggested by Erwin Panofsky in *The Madonna of Chancellor Rolin* is lit from both from the central portico and side windows, while the floor-tiles in comparison to other elements shows that the figures are only about six feet from the columned loggia screen, and that Rolin might have had to squeeze himself through the opening to get out that way. Given the accuracy of the descriptions, many scholars have tried to link the painting with particular buildings. This can be seen from the many examples of features that would be unlikely in a contemporary church, including the placing of a round arched triforium above a pointed colonnade in the Berlin work. The lettering on the arched throne above Mary in the Ghent Altarpiece is taken from a passage from the Book of Wisdom 7: She is truly the reflection of eternal light and a spotless mirror of God". They breathe life into portraits and give voice to those worshipping Mary but also play a functional role; given that contemporary religious works were commissioned for private devotion, the inscriptions may have been intended to be read as an incantation or personalized indulgence prayers. Growing affluence across northern Europe meant that portraiture was no longer the preserve of royalty or the high aristocracy. An emerging merchant middle class and growing awareness of humanist ideas of individual identity led to a demand for portraits. He pioneered portraiture during the 15th century and was admired as far away as Italy for the naturalness of his depictions. It evidences many of the elements that were to become standard in his portraiture style, including the three-quarters view a type he revived from antiquity which soon spread across Europe , [17] directional lighting, [20] elaborate headdress, and for the single portraits, the framing of the figure within an undefined narrow space, set against a flat black background. Of his aspiration to record beard growth he wrote, "die stoppelen vanden barde wal grijsachtig" the stubble of the beard grizzled. On the contours next to the white, bluish The descriptions are less forensic, more of an overview, while the forms are broader and flatter. This led him to distort reality in this paintings; in the portrait of his wife he altered the angle of her nose, and gave her a fashionably high forehead that nature had not. Now Jan van Eyck has painted me, you can see when he began it. The iconography was embedded in the work unobtrusively; typically the references comprised small but key background details. Each employed rich and complex iconographical elements to create a heightened sense of contemporary beliefs and spiritual ideals. A heavenly throne is clearly represented in some domestic chambers for example in the Lucca Madonna. More difficult to discern are the settings for paintings such as *Madonna of Chancellor Rolin*, where the location is a fusion of the earthly and celestial. The symbols were often subtly woven into the paintings so that they only became apparent after close and repeated viewing, [61] while much of the iconography reflects the idea that, according to John Ward, there is a "promised passage from sin and death to salvation and rebirth". Campbell sees in many examples a "certain consistency which suggest that he himself had painted them", rather than they are later additions. In his single panel portraits they give voice to the sitter, [73] most notably in *Portrait of Margaret van Eyck* , where the Greek lettering on the frame translates as "My husband Johannes completed me in the year on 17 June, at the age of This can be seen in his *Virgin and Child with Canon van der Paele* , reads An inscription on the lower imitation frame refers to the donation, "Joris van der Paele, canon of this church, had this work made by painter Jan van Eyck. And he founded two chaplaincies here in the choir of the Lord. He only completed it in , however. He designed and painted the frames for his single head portraits to look like imitation stone, with the signature or other inscriptions giving the impression that they had been chiseled into the stone. The frames serve other illusionistic purposes; in *Portrait of Isabella of Portugal* her eyes gaze coyly but directly out of the painting, as she rests her hands on the edge of a faux stone parapet. With this gesture Isabella extends her presence out of the pictorial space and into that of the viewer. The London *Portrait of a Man* was likely half of a double portrait or pendant; the last record of the original frames contained many inscriptions, but not all were original; the frames were often overpainted by later artists. They are decorative but also function to set the context for the significance of the imagery, similar to the function of margins in medieval manuscripts. Pieces such as the *Dresden Triptych* were usually commissioned for private devotion, and van Eyck would have expected the viewer to contemplate text and imagery in unison. The texts are drawn from a variety of sources, in the central frames from biblical descriptions of the assumption , while the inner wings are lined with

fragments of prayers dedicated to saints Michael and Catherine. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Members of his workshop completed works based on his designs in the years after his death in the summer of
This was not unusual; the widow of a master would often carry on the business after his death. It is thought
that either his wife Margaret or brother Lambert took over after The upper portions of the right hand panel of
the Crucifixion and Last Judgement diptych are generally considered the work of a weaker painter with a less
individual style. It is thought that van Eyck died leaving the panel unfinished but with completed
underdrawings, and the upper area was finished by workshop members or followers. Portrait of Isabella of
Portugal dates to his visit to Portugal for Philip to draw up a preliminary marriage agreement with the
daughter of John I of Portugal. Facio places him among the best artists of the early 15th century, along with
Rogier van der Weyden , Gentile da Fabriano , and Pisanello. It is particularly interesting that Facio shows as
much enthusiasm for Netherlandish painters as he does for Italian painters. In fact oil painting as a technique
for painting wood statues and other objects is much older and Theophilus Roger of Helmarshausen? It is
accepted that the van Eyck brothers were among the earliest Early Netherlandish painters to employ it for
detailed panel paintings and that they achieved new and unforeseen effects through the use of glazes,
wet-on-wet and other techniques. The titles vary between authors.

2: Jan van Eyck - Wikipedia

Shirin says, "There is a term for this - anthropomorphism. It means attributing human tendencies to animals. People are putting placards around their dogs, saying, 'I chewed up the sofa and.

My family were academics and practising Muslims. My father, Mohammad Ali Ebadi, one of the first lecturers in commercial law, had written several books. He passed away in I spent my childhood in a family filled with kindness and affection. I have two sisters and a brother all of whom are highly educated. My mother dedicated all her time and devotion to our upbringing. I came to Tehran with my family when I was a one year old and have since been a resident in the capital. I began my education at Firuzkuhi primary school and went on to Anoshiravn Dadgar and Reza Shah Kabir secondary schools for my higher education. I sat the Tehran University entrance exams and gained a place at the Faculty of Law in I received my law degree in three-and-a-half years, and immediately sat the entrance exams for the Department of Justice. After a six-month apprenticeship in adjudication, I began to serve officially as a judge in March While serving as a judge, I continued my education and obtained a doctorate with honours in private law from Tehran University in I held a variety of positions in the Justice Department. I am the first woman in the history of Iranian justice to have served as a judge. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February , since the belief was that Islam forbids women to serve as judges, I and other female judges were dismissed from our posts and given clerical duties. They made me a clerk in the very court I once presided over. I could not tolerate the situation any longer, and so put in a request for early retirement. My request was accepted. Since the Bar Association had remained closed for some time since the revolution and was being managed by the Judiciary, my application for practising law was turned down. I was, in effect, housebound for many years. I used my time of unemployment to write several books and had many articles published in Iranian journals. Some were national cases. Among them, I represented the families of the serial murders victims the family of Dariush and Parvaneh Foruhar and Ezzat Ebrahiminejad, who were killed during the attack on the university dormitory. I also participated in some press-related cases. I took on a large number of social cases, too, including child abuse. I also teach at university. Each year, a number of students from outside Iran join my human rights training courses. My husband is an electrical engineer. We have two daughters. One is 23 years old. She is studying for a doctorate in telecommunications at McGill University in Canada. The other is 20 years old and is in her third year at Tehran University where she reads law. Currently the association has over active members. They include Habibollah Peyman for writing articles and delivering speeches on freedom of expression ; Abbas Marufi, the editor-in-chief of the monthly Gardoun for publishing several interviews and poems ; Faraj Sarkuhi editor-in-chief of Adineh monthly. She was found tortured to death at the home of her stepmother.

3: bestpettraining

Speaking to Life Online, Shirin Merchant said that through 'Unleash' we are trying to speed up training programmes and make people aware of dog behaviour. "People usually do not understand their dogs and therefore they struggle a lot.

The Price Women Pay: Iranian born artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat may hail from a different side of the globe, her medium may be visual while mine the written word, and her history unrelated to mine and yet when I sat down for our interview about her latest film, we may as well have been sisters. To Egyptians she is a national treasure, one to be treated with utmost respect and the highest admiration only. To Arabs everywhere, her voice, her haunting lyrics address the hurt, mistrust and misunderstanding of a whole people. She turns the resulting film into a wonderful journey through the perils of being a woman who dares to dream, and dream of success no less, along with the contradictions faced by a modern, ambitious woman. While men are never asked to choose between a private life and their profession, in our 21st Century world women are still finding it hard to juggle both a family and a career – especially a successful one. Yes, the concept is brilliant and the resulting film poses a series of questions, questions that if we sat down to truly ponder, might offer us the answers to a better world. This is a film about Oum Kulthum but obviously this is also a film about being a woman in the movie industry. How much of you is in the character of Mitra, the filmmaker? The story of Mitra is more or less inspired by my own experience as a woman artist, filmmaker, someone who has to really balance being a mother and wanted to have a private life, personal separation from work. It was really a question I had about Oum Kulthum who became the biggest artist of the 20th Century in the Arab world and she decided not to have a family, not to have a traditional destiny, she chose to be a very untraditional woman living in a very male-dominated society. She kept her private life extremely private. So as I was making this film, which initially was a biography, slowly I looked to myself and thought, a biopic is not interesting – what is perhaps more interesting is to bring the questions back to myself. What is it about her that fascinates me, is it because she was such an icon, or is it something about her trajectory as a woman artist from the Middle East that interest me? A part of me is extremely vulnerable as a woman in the male dominated world of filmmaking. I wanted to find out if I could make a film that gets under the skin of her, that I could see if she [Oum Kulthum] was also at times vulnerable or insecure and fragile. Did she ever break down? Because she seems always so stoic, even when she tears people apart emotionally with her music, people are falling into a state of ecstasy, she is like a rock. In a way she is looking to Oum Kulthum as a model, to say she could do it, I can do it! A man can leave his children with their mother. And this is really the heart of the movie, the price women from all over the planet have to pay when they decide to be ambitious, to be successful. There is really no right way to balance it all. The most iconic women, they have had very problematic and tragic personal lives. Usually men have women who support them. We often have to turn into a man to be successful. Oum Kulthum surrounded herself with men, she was absolutely masculine, not feminine and even said to be gay. And as I sit here, I feel a lot of pressure. This competition I have as a small woman, in this hugely male dominated business, as someone who is feeling very nervous about the film, did I make a good film or did I make a bad film? What do the Egyptians think? What do cinema people think? There is an added layer too, which you touch upon in your film, this idea that if you are not an Arab, in your case a Persian woman, how dare you make a film about the Egyptian icon that is Oum Kulthum. Have you heard anything about that? For the first time in my life I turned my attention away from my own country and gave myself the audacity to make a film about a major, iconic artist in the Arab world. I knew this was a major step and I was asking for trouble. Although we paid very close attention to the details in the historical parts of the film, her costumes, her make-up, the production design, her concerts, her music, I know there will be a lot of controversies and criticism and also some will be dismissive of the style of the filmmaking – the film inside of a film. Can we as women learn from icons and what should we take away from your film? What gives me a lot of pride from working on her story is that a lot of iconic women have had tragic endings and one of the reasons people make films about them is that they are dramatically interesting. People love the idea of the downfall of an iconic figure, like Princess Diana, Edith Piaf or Maria Callas, and especially with women. She was most popular at

the end. Four million people came to her funeral, she remained what she wanted to remain, whether you liked it or not. There is a lot of criticism about who she was, how she collaborated with the people in power but as an icon she is one who is not a tragic figure and this we must remember. Because as women we also need examples, we can have wonderful endings. They say she worked very hard during her life to become an image and a myth. She was something else and we need examples like her for women. She never allowed people to break her down, especially men. This post was published on the now-closed HuffPost Contributor platform. Contributors control their own work and posted freely to our site. If you need to flag this entry as abusive, send us an email.

4: Vaibhavi Merchant - Wikipedia

Titled "Happyness: Life Lessons from a Creative Addict", Merchant's book is an impassioned account of a psychiatrist's tryst with darkness and a handbook to attain fulfilment and peace.

Founder of the INDog Project www.INDogProject.com. Before that, worked with urban free-ranging dogs of Mumbai from Also a wildlife conservationist working in the tiger reserves of central India with Satpuda Foundation. Are you a Pariah Dog fan? This blog is for aboriginal breed enthusiasts. It is part of the INDog Project www.INDogProject.com. The two are NOT the same, do please read the text on the right to understand the difference. I sometimes feature other landrace breeds too. Thursday, September 20, Bringing home a Pariah dog: On the other hand, our dogs often interpret our indulgence and pampering as signs of submission, and write us off as weak-minded wimps. Miraculously, we may pass a lifetime in this beautiful bubble with no major harm done. Considering the vast body of knowledge now available on the topic of dog behaviour, there is really no excuse for bungling. As one of the kind-hearted people who adopted a stray dog, you have an additional responsibility: You are now an ambassador for the cause of street dog adoption. Shirin points out that all new dog owners need to take certain steps to settle their new pets into good habits – whether their dogs are purchased purebreds, or Pariahs and pariah-mixes adopted from the road, or abandoned purebreds adopted from shelters. We asked Shirin to respond to some of the most common queries that crop up every time a stray is adopted. Are there any basic temperamental differences between pariah dogs and mongrels and purebreds? All three play a role in the temperament of a dog and you can have a nasty tempered labrador or a wonderfully sweet rottweiler just as you can have a good natured pariah or a hot tempered mongrel. What must I expect if I adopt an adult stray dog who has lived a while on the street? New owners will often feel sorry for a rescued dog and so may initially take time off work to help it settle in, taking it for long walks and spending extra time with the animal. But when they finally go back to work, the dog will get distressed with the abrupt change in routine. A newly adopted dog is often very insecure in a new environment. It is your job as his new owner to build his confidence and convince him that he and you are here to stay. Dogs find comfort and stability in a fixed routine, so try and keep your and his daily activities as consistent as possible - it will help him adjust quickly to his new home and teach him that he can depend on you. So start as you mean to go on and get the dog used to your lifestyle from Day One. Can such a dog be taught to be obedient? Will he accept human direction after being used to an independent life? Yes, most dogs crave to be part of a social group – it could be a family or people or other dogs – and if trained with kind and reward-based methods, they will happily listen to any person in the house. However, the new owner must keep in mind that these dogs have been used to a life of freedom and can be strongly independent. They will not accept any training method that involves the use of choke chains or force – the dog may then either withdraw into a shell or show aggression to protect himself. Up to what age could a dog be trainable? If I adopt an older dog, what are the chances of his grasping house-training for instance? A dog that is trained with reward-based methods can be trained at any time and point in his life. It is a fallacy that you cannot teach new tricks to an old dog. If taught with patience and if there is consistency on the part of the owner, any dog – at any age as long as there are no medical problems – can be toilet trained within a week. Street dogs are used to passing urine and stools whenever they need to, in a place of their choice. How will they adjust to being taken out only at fixed times? What would be the most humane, healthy way to tackle this problem? As a matter of fact, street dogs are very particular where they defecate and urinate. They will never dirty their bed or near where they are fed. For those dogs that do mess in the house, they need to be put onto a toilet training schedule – with a bit of consistency and patience, they will soon learn to toilet outdoors. Many street dogs seem to dislike chains and leashes. How should we introduce them to being walked on a leash? A leash and collar should be introduced slowly to the animal. It is a good idea to teach the dog to accept the collar and leash without the distractions of the outdoors. Put on the collar and leash just before mealtime and let him eat his meal with the collar on. That way, the he will soon learn to associate the collar and leash to a pleasant experience. In addition, put the collar and leash on and walk the dog about the house, using treats and praise to lure him and distract him away from the restrictions of

the leash. Do this for a couple of minutes everyday, then remove the leash. Do not leave it on and let the dog walk about the house with the leash trailing behind; this can lead to the leash being chewed or misconstrued as a toy " which can lead to problems later on. Also remember never to use the leash to correct the dog for misbehaving, it is kinder to verbally reprimand him than to choke him by yanking on the collar. It is also advisable to use a simple collar or a half choke. Never use a choke chain on a dog " if used wrongly if the dog continues to pull on the choke chain or is yanked hard , it can harm the dog mentally and physically. A dog who is used to life on the street experiences a lot of freedom and variety. How can we prevent that? In the same way that you would for any dog " play games, take it for outings, walks, treks and give it plenty of love and care. We already have a dog and we want to adopt a second dog from a shelter. Do you think they may fight? A lot depends on the temperament, age and sex of the two dogs and whether either dog comes with a preconceived hatred of other dogs. The kennel staff will be the best people to advise you on which dog to adopt. There are ways in which you can correctly introduce two dogs, making sure few problems, if at all, will occur in the long run. What toys would be best for them? All dogs play "they may not play with the fancy toys you buy them, but they will play with any object they deem fun " it could be an empty toilet paper roll or a plastic bottle or even your TV remote control. Even adult strays can be seen playing tag with one another or play-wrestling or chasing. The games you allow your dog to play must be appropriate and not encourage any kind of aggression. Encourage the dog to satisfy his instinct to chase by throwing a ball " do not allow him to chase birds or cats or other small animals " if allowed, he could even start to chase children one day. Discourage tugging games that involve a lot of growling " stop the game when it gets out of hand. It is also noticed that men prefer to pit their strength against their dogs by playing rough and tumble wrestling games. These games should be strongly discouraged as they encourage aggression in a dog. The dog will then expect your grandmother or your niece to play the same game. Encourage your dog to find hidden objects or chase a ball. It may be difficult to get a former stray to play initially, but do see what kind of game he prefers and work in that direction. Some dogs like to use their nose " play scenting games with them. Some like to chase " throw a ball for such dogs. Some love to explore " take him for a hike. That way your dog will be kept happy and out of trouble. Will they be more territorial or aggressive than purebreds? Are they likely to attack guests for instance? If it has had friendly and pleasant experiences with people, it will probably be a friendly dog to live with. However, if it has been abused, chased or hit, it will probably attack people or even family members if it feels threatened or fear at any time. A purebred dog is more likely to turn out to be aggressive or territorial if its parents were so, or it was brought up in that manner. Lack of socialising and training a dog to be aggressive can also play a part in a dog attacking people. Stray dogs tend to be territorial when living on the streets, because their survival depends on it. But it is often seen that some of them when rehomed, tend to have a diminished territorial drive since they no longer have the need to protect resources as they are in abundance food, shelter, water, etc. Children are often cruel to strays. Will they be aggressive with them? It really depends on their previous experiences with children. Some dogs, who have faced no abuse may be okay with kids. Dogs who have suffered any kind of abuse will probably show aggression in self defence. In any case a child and dog should never be left unsupervised or alone. A good shelter will carry out temperament tests on a dog before placing it in a home with children. An adult dog that resents children or is suspicious of them will probably never come around to liking kids, so new owners have to keep that in mind and not be foolish and think that if the dog is exposed to kids long enough, it will learn to appreciate them. What are the advantages and disadvantages of adopting an adult dog, as opposed to a puppy? Puppies can be appealing and great fun, but they also require a lot of care and running around. A pup needs to be taught manners, will need to be housebroken, exercised and will chew up everything he can get his little teeth into. You can bypass the struggle with a dog that has outgrown the aggravations of adolescence. An older dog is calmer, requires moderate exercise and can even be left alone at home for short periods of time. If you lack the time, energy and commitment to bring up a pup, an adult dog may be a better choice. He will be pretty much set in his ways.

5: Shirin Ebadi - Biographical - www.enganchecubano.com

shirin merchant Now plan a holiday with your pet Here's how you can enjoy a pet vacation this season in the lush hills, beaches or farms with handy tips from experts.

We get what we think is the perfect toy for the dog, the perfect training for the dog. When was the last time we actually listened to what the dogs were saying to us? Whose idea was it to do a podcast from a van in November? Hello me bonny bairns, and welcome to the Superhero Dog Owner Show. I like my tauntaun. I thought this smelled bad on the outside. I think we may decamp and have a little fireside podcast. I think, Alex, that might be an idea. Anyway, thanks for joining us, thanks for checking out the show if this is your first time. Thanks to those people who left a review for us last week. Alex, I asked people to go onto iTunes and leave a review, and that is what people did as well. That was really nice of them. This is our hat trick. We had Rachel, we had Meagan, and today we are speaking to Shirin Merchant. She single-handedly transformed dog training in India, and I absolutely loved interviewing her. She was an absolute charm. Alex, please roll the tape. My guest today is a dog trainer and a behaviorist who works in Mumbai. She was the first Indian to conduct training classes, courses for pet dog owners. Thank you for having me on the show. Are you having a good day? What time is it over there? Are you ready to go off the leash now? First question, your favorite superhero? Nice one, good choice. Would you prefer to walk a Pug in the park, or a Boston at the beach? Pug in the park. Well, anything that involves Scent Work. You did really well, well done. Where did I get the mark? Everybody wants to get 10 out of 10 all the time. We touched upon your career in the introduction, but I want to go back a little bit further. Can you tell us where it all started for you, Shirin? Where did the love of dogs come from when you were growing up? I was born into a house that had dogs. I think my great-grandparents loved dogs, and my grandmother used to have me smuggle puppies into the house. It was only natural that when I graduated, I wanted to work with animals. Either it was going to be working with dogs, or I wanted to work with marine mammals. Coincidentally at that time, I met my mentor, John Rogerson. I know John well, he had a similar impact on my dog training career as well. Apart from John, was there anybody else who you think maybe it was in your formative years, when you were younger, who inspired you to work with animals? There have been people when I studied in England from Moira, and other people like Karen Nelson, all of them used to do working trials with dogs. I used to spend a lot of time with them, with their training, when they went to competitions, and I think they inspired me hugely. Tell me the story about how you had such an impact on dog training in India. What challenges did you face? Well when I started, it was about 20 years ago. When I finished studying in England and I came back into India, the entire country was about years behind. To make matters worse, I was a woman in a male dominated field in a country that is highly male dominated. I took it, I trained it, and I competed in the obedience showing with that little dog, and we beat all the German Shepherds, and the Dobermans in the ring with all the local trainers. In doing so, I earned their respect. As I slowly started out, I had to break a lot of mindsets. When I run my training courses and I have my students out there now, the voice is growing larger. There are ways of communicating with our dog. I bet you know, pet dog owners in India, they struggle and they find it just as stressful sometimes as pet dog owners do in England as well. I like people to know that us dog trainers struggle a little bit as well. I have a case where I have the couple that own the dog, they came in and they brought their two children in. Along with them came the brother-in-law and the sister-in-law, and then the mother-in-law and the father-in-law, and then their uncle and aunt as well. Everybody stays in the same house. Nobody would agree on the dog. I was sitting there just staring at everybody, and then they walked out on their own, and the dog and I were just sitting there with each other. There was a huge family feud over this, and the family split up all because of this dog. I must say, I was quite hopeless at that, and did not handle the family dynamics. I had a recent case of a young boy, must be a few years ago now, living with his grandmother because his mother passed away when he was about 38, and then his father abandoned him. I help them get a step forward by making them do my courses, so then they can use that as a stepping stone to a career that can also support them, and they also feel satisfied doing something that they love to do. When was

the last time we actually listening to what the dog was saying to us? Often we play games that are totally wrong for certain breeds. Sometimes the person playing them is not even listening to what the dog is saying. It becomes a one way conversation. Listen to the dog more, yeah? Well, one would be to play games that are appropriate to your dog. Give it breed related exercise. I would say the third thing is just learn to be patient, because our dogs are patient with us all the time as they try to understand what we are saying to them. I think the lack of exercise, I think that would be probably applicable in this country as well, and probably most other countries really. Tell me a story about a typical behavior case that you might have dealt with lately, in these last couple of weeks or something, and how you dealt with it. I think one of the most interesting cases that I had was one of these fancy socialites. I have this little Shih Tzu in my house, and he is guarding the refrigerator because we keep his caviar in the refrigerator. Is there something you can do about it? We bought the dog his own fridge, so now he guards his own fridge and he leaves ours alone. Yeah, often the most simple solution is right in front of you. What have you got going on at the minute, then? What are you working on at the moment? I am trying to reach out to more people. It is, it is. Tell me a bit more about the assistance and that came about. When I returned to India, we found there were a lot of soldiers that were suddenly disabled. One day able, and one day disabled, because of the war. It was a young girl and she had met with a car accident, she lost both her parents in the accident, and she became paraplegic from then on. I trained and placed our first assist dog there, and then from then on, never looked back. How many dogs are you able to place? How many dogs go through the training? Up to now, about three dogs. Where can people go to find out more about you and your work, Shirin? They can come to my Facebook page right now. I really update that regularly. No chill out time for me. Shirin, I want to thank you very much for your time today. I really, really appreciate it and I would love it if you would be able to come on and speak to us again sometime. Thank you so much for having me on. Take care of yourself.

6: Shirin Merchant: Licking isn't loving, dog-shaming isn't working - Times of India

Shirin Merchant in the United States We found 7 people in the US matching Shirin Merchant. Get Shirin Merchant's full address, contact info, background report and more!

7: My Dog Park - FUN place for dogs

Shirin Merchant & John Rogerson have given me a passion and an insight into the dog world. To make lives better for dogs and their owners. All this in a fun and educational way.

8: Life Online - Shirin Merchant

The event is curated and conducted by Shirin Merchant. Shirin Merchant is a pioneer in the field of canine behaviour and training in India. Since , she has worked hard to create a foundation for positive training and behaviour practises in India.

9: Unleash! with Shirin Merchant ! at Kharadi, Pune - Events High

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