



Shilpa in King Street Hammersmith

Bollygood place for a tasty meal

INDIAN restaurants are hardly in short supply in Hammersmith's King Street, writes Will Davies.

In fact, anyone looking for a pre-cinema munch could go dizzy choosing from a vast array of restaurants from across the globe.

Shilpa, just west of the Cineworld, is not much of a looker – at least from the outside.

It kind of looks like a newsagents from a distance, but a peek at the street-side menu – and proud display of newspaper reviews in the window – it is instantly more alluring.

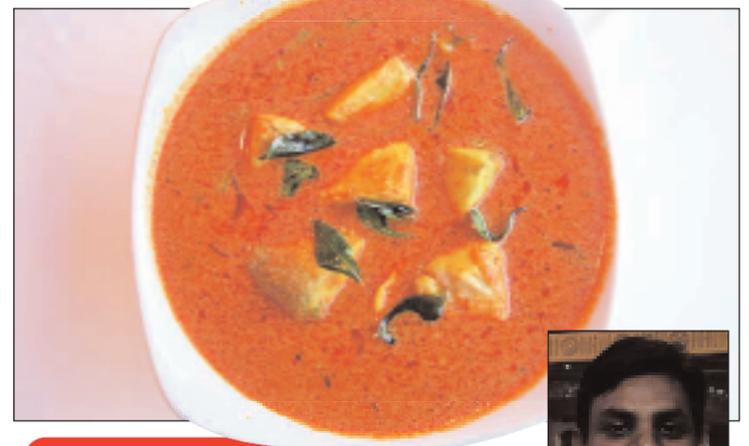
Inside is an awkward blend of contemporary crisp and traditional; large flat screens at each end of the restaurant play exotic Bollywood music videos on a loop.

Shilpa serves not just north Indian dishes but also south Indian – meaning a decent choice for veggies.

Potato bonda – deep fried mashed potato with chilly, curry leaf and ginger and served with coconut chutney – was particularly tasty, as was the onion pakoda.

Grilled sea scallops were very fine and a steal at £4.95.

For the mains, erachi mappas – a lamb speciality of central Kerala prepared with freshly ground



Rating
 Food: ★★★★★
 Ambience: ★★☆☆☆
 Service: ★★☆☆☆

Kerala Fish Curry with right, chef Sunny Kuttan



spices called 'Erachi Kootu' was succulent and tender. Although Shilpa boasts a good quality, comprehensive menu to suit all pallets, its seafood is surely the main draw.

King prawns cooked with green mangoes and coconut milk is great value at £8.50 and the grilled sea

bass wrapped in a banana leaf was so tasty it almost felt as if I were shaking my hips on a tropical Bollywood film set, instead of a grubby street in west London.

● Shilpa, 206, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 0RA. Tel: 0208 741 3127.