

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Waheeda

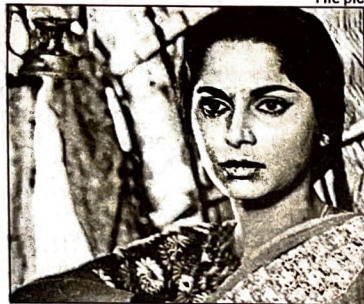
Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Waheeda Rehman, whose luminous beauty and accomplished acting skills endeared her to a generation of moviegoers, will be the recipient of the 53rd Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest film honour.

The timing of the award, announced on X (formerly Twitter) by Union minister for information and broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur, couldn't have been more perfect for the 85-year-old actor. It came on the birth centenary of Dev Anand, a co-star she was fond of and frequently worked with.

"I'm doubly happy because it is Dev Anand's birthday. I think tau-fa unko milna tha, mujhe mil gaya (He should have got a birthday present, instead it is I who got a gift)," Rehman told PTI.

"I'm really happy and grateful to the government that they chose me for this honour. So, it is a combination and celebration of this and



Waheeda said she was doubly happy that the announcement came on the birth centenary of Dev Anand

Dev sahab's 100th birth anniversary," she added.

In Dev Anand's 'Guide' (1965), which was based on writer RK Narayan's novel, Rehman delivered one of her most defining performances as Rosie, a woman who refuses to be silenced in a bad marriage. Rehman's performance is riveting in a role many remember her by.

It was almost a decade ago in another Dev Anand box-office

smash, 'CID' (1956), that Rehman first marked her presence playing a part with negative shades. The two stars were also paired in the hit romantic comedy, 'Solva Saal' (1958), among the first of Hindi film remakes of Frank Capra's 'It Happened One Night' (1934) and a bunch of other black and white movies such as 'Kala Bazar' (1960) and 'Baat Ek Raat Ki' (1962) that continue to draw old-timers on YouTube and OTT channels.

'CID' was produced by Guru Dutt, who brought her into Hindi films and with whom she created some of the most stellar moments of her career. She played a prostitute who stands by the forlorn poet in Dutt's 'Pyaasa' (1957) and a girl who becomes an accidental star in the tragic 'Kaagaz Ke Phool' (1959). With Dutt, she also delivered one of the biggest hits of her career: 'Chaudhvin Ka Chand'.

Other notable films in her career include Sayajit Ray's 'Abhijan' (1962), where she played the

sensuous Gulabi, the amiable nautanki dancer in director Basu Bhattacharya's 'Teesri Kasam' (1966), the sensitive nurse who only finds love in madness in 'Khamoshi' (1970), and the clanswoman in Sunil Dutt's desert classic, 'Reshma aur Shera' (1971), for which she received the national award for best actress.

"At a time when the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has been passed by the Parliament... this lifetime achievement award is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian cinema and one who has dedicated her life after films to philanthropy and the greater good of society," Union minister Thakur said.

In recent years, Rehman also featured in Kamal Haasan's 'Vishwaroopam 2' (2018) and Manjari Makijany's 'Skater Girl' (2021). The award will be conferred on her during the International Film Festival of India in Goa in November.

(With inputs from agencies)