The Evergreen Actor Passes Away Quietly in London by Melissa Smith

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Dev Anand made his last journey to London for his health treatment and also to promote his latest directorial movie "Charge Sheet" which was released on 30th September 2011. It was here where he last took his breath on 3rd December 2011; the reason behind his death is due to cardiac arrest. The veteran was 88 years old and is survived by his wife who was a former actress Kalpana Karthik, a son and a daughter. Dharam Dev Pishori Anand was born on 26th September 1923 in the Shakargarh Tehsil of the Gurdaspur district in Punjab then British India. His father Pishori Lal Anand was a well-known advocate while he was the third of four brothers born to him. Dev Anand did his graduation in English Literature from the Government College, Lahore in British India, but his main focus was to become an actor. It is when Anand left for Bombay (Mumbai) in 1940 and joined his older brother, Chetan as a member of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). He began working as a clerk in the military censor's office at Churchgate for a monthly wage of Rs.160. While working in the year 1946 he got his first break in the desi TV movie "Hum Ek Hai" made under the banner of "Prabhat Films".

During the shooting for the movie he made close friendship with yet another but unknown at that time actor Guru Dutt. The movie was released but Dev went unnoticed, this was until 1948 when "Jiddi" was released which gave him a boost to his career. But it was "Taxi Driver" that gave him an instant success. In the year 1949 the thespian launched his company "Navketan" meaning "newness" which by 2011 had produced 35 films. Under the banner, in 1950 "Afsar" became the first movie to be made and it was from this the tail continued. The evergreen actor along with his successes won many awards, but it was the 1958s movie "Kalapani" that fetched him his first filmfare award. But this was just the beginning when the first color film fetched Dev his second award. It was in the year 1966, "Guide" which was directly lifted from the novel of the same name written by R.K Naryan, became an overall success which gave a birth to new era where movies started to be made in color.

With this Dev Anand had a series of hits till the mid 70s. It is said that he received the evergreen tag because due to his on screen pairing with actress who were much younger to him. The veteran was also known to bring new faces and gave them breaks has a lead in opposite in his movies. But it was in 80s where Dev saw his downfall, under the banner of "Navketan" he continued to director, produce, write and act but the movies failed at the box-office. It was in the year 1991 when the thespian achieved lifetime filmfare award while in the year 2001 and 2002 he received "Padma Bhushan" and "Dadasaheb Phalke" Award. Dev Anand was known to act in more than 110 films and the recent to release was "ChargeSheet". The movie was a dud at the box-office but was critically appreciated. To promote the film, Dev Anand went to London where he breathed his last. The news of his demise started to air in many south Asian channels. It is said that the body of the veteran would be cremated in London on 7th December 2011.

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Melissa Smith - About Author:
Melissa Smith who paid her tribute to the veteran in London has given a minimized description

about the background of Dev Anand. She works for http://www.orderdesitv.net/ and had written articles especially related to a desi TV shows.

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