



# The PIFF Distinguished Award for outstanding Contribution to Cinema

## Anupam Kher

Anupam Kher is one of India's most accomplished actors, known for his versatility, dedication, and impactful performances across multiple languages and industries. Born on March 7, 1955, in Shimla, Kher trained at the National School of Drama (NSD), where he honed his craft before making his mark in cinema.

Kher's breakthrough came with *Saaransh* (1984), where he portrayed a grief-stricken elderly man at just 28, showcasing his remarkable ability to embody complex characters. Since then, he has acted in over 500 films in Hindi and international cinema, seamlessly transitioning between intense dramas, comedies, and villainous roles. Films like *Khosla Ka Ghosla*, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, and *A Wednesday* highlight his range and mastery of his craft.

Beyond acting, Kher is also an influential educator and motivational speaker, having established *Actor Prepares*, a premier acting school. His contributions to cinema have earned him multiple awards, including the Padma Bhushan.

Kher's impact extends beyond Indian cinema, with roles in Hollywood films like *Silver Linings Playbook* and *The Big Sick*. His enduring passion and adaptability continue to inspire generations of actors. Anupam Kher remains a towering figure in global entertainment, celebrated for his depth, charisma, and artistic brilliance.

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## Shubha Khote

Shubha Khote is a celebrated actress whose career spans decades, leaving an indelible mark on Indian cinema and theatre. Born in 1938, into a family with strong ties to the arts—her father, Nandu Khote, was a prominent actor—she naturally gravitated toward performing. Her entry into films in the 1950s marked the beginning of a journey characterised by versatility, grace, and enduring charm.

Shobha Khote is best known for her impeccable comic timing and vibrant screen presence. She gained prominence with light-hearted roles in films like *Ek Duuje Ke Liye* and *Brahmachari*. Her ability to portray characters with warmth and authenticity endeared her to audiences. Khote often starred alongside stalwarts like Mehmood, forming a memorable comedic duo. Her performances were rooted in naturalistic acting, a rare quality in an era that leaned toward melodrama.

Beyond cinema, Shubha Khote's contributions to theatre underscore her creative range. Her mastery over stagecraft and her ability to connect with live audiences reaffirm her standing as a consummate performer. A pioneer in her own right, she paved the way for women in Indian cinema, inspiring generations of actors. Her legacy is one of humour, talent, and boundless passion for the arts.

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