

Deepti Naval

Deepti Naval (born 3 February 1952) is an Indian-American actress, director, and writer, predominantly active in Hindi cinema.^[1]

Her major contribution has been in the area of art cinema, winning critical acclaim for her sensitive and 'close to life' characters that emphasized the changing roles of women in India. She is the first Indian-American actress to make her debut in the Hindi film industry.^[2]

Early life

Naval was born on 3 February 1952^[3] in Amritsar, East Punjab, India, but moved to New York City when her father got a teaching job at City University of New York in 1971.^[2] She studied fine arts at Hunter College.^[4]

Acting career

Naval made her debut in 1978 with Shyam Benegal's film *Junoon*. Two years later, she played a lead role in *Ek Baar Phir*.^[4] Alongside Smita Patil and Shabana Azmi, she became an actress in 1980s Parallel cinema, playing roles in films like *Kamla* (1984) or *Ankahee* (1985).^[5]

Starting with *Chashme Buddoor* in 1981, she was often cast with Farooq Sheikh and they became an iconic on-screen couple of the early 1980s, with films such as *Chashme Buddoor*, *Saath Saath*, *Kissi Se Na Kehna*, *Katha*, *Rang Birangi* and *Faasle*. Three decades later, they reunited in *Tell Me O Kkhuda* (2011). Their last film together was *Listen... Amaya* which was released in 2013, the year Shaikh died.^[6]

While she was very prolific in the 1980s, her career slowed down in the 1990s and she explored other art forms.^[5] She came back in the 2000s with social dramas like *Bawandar* and *Firaaq*, and won Best Actress awards in several international film festivals for her roles in *Leela* (2002), *Memories in March* (2010) and *Listen... Amaya* (2013).^{[7][8][9]} She was also recognized as the 2007 Tribute Honoree of the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles.^[10]

Mostly present in Hindi cinema, Naval also acted in other Indian languages, as with *Marhi Da Deeva* and *Mane*, which respectively won the award for Best Feature Film in Punjabi and Best Feature Film in Kannada at the 1990 National Film Awards ceremony.^[11] She was to make her debut in a Bengali movie

Deepti Naval	
 <div>Naval in 2024</div>	
Born	3 February 1952 <div> <u>Amritsar</u>, <u>Punjab</u>, <u>India</u></div>
Nationality	American
Other names	Dipti Naval
Alma mater	<u>Hunter College</u>
Occupations	Actress · director · writer
Years active	1978–present
Spouse	<u>Prakash Jha</u> <div> (m. 1985; div. 2002)</div>
Children	1

under director Sanjoy Nag but the film - *Memories in March* - was eventually shot in English.^[12] She has also acted in Odia movie "*Ei Sangharsh*" (1990).

Naval has been active on TV with a few telefilms and serials such as *Sauda* (1992), *Tanaav* (1994) or *Muqammal* (2003). She came back in 2011 with the daily soap opera *Mukti Bandhan* on Colors TV.^[13] She made her theater debut in 2015 with the poetic stage show *Ek Mulaqaat* in which she played the celebrated Punjabi writer Amrita Pritam.^[14]

In 2019, Naval appeared in an episode of *Made in Heaven*, a web series on Amazon Prime directed by Zoya Akhtar.



Farooq Sheikh, Deepti Naval and Rakesh Bedi at the special screening of *Chashme Buddoor* (2013)

Other work

Naval made her directorial debut with *Do Paise Ki Dhoop, Chaar Aane Ki Baarish* starring Manisha Koirala and Rajit Kapur. The film won the Best Screenplay Award at the 2009 New York Indian Film Festival^[15] which released on Netflix in 2019.^[16] She also wrote and directed *Thoda Sa Aasmaan*, a TV serial centred around strong female characters, and produced a travel show, *The Path Less Travelled*.^[4]

Her first selection of poems in Hindi, *Lamha Lamha* was published in 1983. In 2004, MapinLit published a new collection called *Black Wind and Other Poems*.^[4] Naval is also the author of a collection of short stories, *The Mad Tibetan*, published in 2011.^[17]

Naval is also a painter and photographer with several exhibitions to her credit. Her works as a painter include the controversial *Pregnant Nun*.^[18] She also runs the Vinod Pandit Charitable Trust, set up in memory of her late companion, for the education of the girl child.^[19]

Personal life

Naval was married to the filmmaker Prakash Jha and the two have an adopted daughter, Disha Jha.^[18] Naval was later in a relationship with the late Vinod Pandit, the nephew of Pandit Jasraj.^[20] As of 2010, she is an American citizen.^[21]

She is also interested in painting and photography.

Awards

- 1988, Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards, Best Supporting Actress, *Mirch Masala*
- 2003, Best Supporting Actress Award at the Karachi Film Festival^[7]
- 2012, Best Actress Award at the Imagine India Film Festival (Spain)

- 2013, Best Actress Award at the New York Indian Film Festival^[9]

Filmography

Films

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1978	<u><i>Junoon</i></u>	Rashid's wife	
1979	<u><i>Jallian Wala Bagh</i></u>		
1980	<u><i>Hum Paanch</i></u>	Lajiya	
1980	<u><i>Ek Baar Phir</i></u>	Kalpana Kumar	
1981	<u><i>Chashme Buddoor</i></u>	Neha Rajan	
1981	<u><i>Chirutha</i></u>	Chirutha	
1982	<u><i>Angoor</i></u>	Tanu	
1982	<u><i>Saath Saath</i></u>	Geetanjali Gupta 'Geeta'	
1982	<u><i>Shriman Shrimati</i></u>	Veena	
1983	<u><i>Rang Birangi</i></u>	Anita Sood	
1983	<u><i>Ek Baar Chale Aao</i></u>	Gulab D. Dayal	
1983	<u><i>Katha</i></u>	Sandhya Sabnis	
1983	<u><i>Kissi Se Na Kehna</i></u>	Dr. Ramola Sharma	
1984	<u><i>Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho!</i></u>	Asha Joshi	
1984	<u><i>Kanoon Kya Karega</i></u>	Mrs. Anju Gautam Mehra	
1984	<u><i>Kamla</i></u>	Kamla	
1984	<u><i>Hip Hip Hurray</i></u>	Teacher Anuradha Roy	
1984	<u><i>Yeh Ishq Nahin Aasaan</i></u>	Sahira	
1984	<u><i>Wanted: Dead or Alive</i></u>	Angela	
1984	<u><i>Andhi Gali</i></u>		
1985	<u><i>Damul</i></u>	Mahatmain	
1985	<u><i>Faasle</i></u>	Sheetal	
1985	<u><i>Telephone</i></u>	Rajni	
1985	<u><i>Holi</i></u>	Professor Sehgal	
1985	<u><i>Ankahee</i></u>	Indu Agnihotri	
1985	<u><i>Aurat Pair Ki Juti Nahin Hai</i></u>		
1986	<u><i>Aashiana</i></u>		
1986	<u><i>Begaana</i></u>	Asha	
1986	<u><i>Nasihati</i></u>	Sunita	

1987	<i>Meraa Suhaag</i>		Special appearance ^[22]
1987	<i>Mirch Masala</i>	Saraswati, Mukhiya's wife	
1988	<i>Abhishapt</i>		
1988	<i>Shoorveer</i>	Nanda (Shankar's Wife)	
1988	<i>Main Zinda Hoon</i>	Bina Tiwari	
1989	<i>Didi</i>	Didi	Directed by Tapan Sinha
1989	<i>Marhi Da Deevea</i>	Bhan Kaur/Bhani	Punjabi film
1989	<i>Jism Ka Rishta</i>		
1990	<i>Ei Sangharsh</i>		<u>Odia Film</u>
1990	<i>Ghar Ho To Aisa</i>	Sharda V. Kumar	
1991	<i>Mane</i>	Geeta	Kannada film
1991	<i>Ek Ghar</i>	Geeta	Hindi version of Mane
1991	<i>Saudagar</i>	Aarti	
1992	<i>Current</i>	Sita	
1992	<i>Yalgaar</i>	Sunita (Deepak's wife)	
1994	<i>Mr. Azaad</i>	Rajlaxmi (Azaad's mother)	
1995	<i>Dushmani: A Violent Love Story</i>	Rama Oberoi	
1995	<i>Jai Vikraanta</i>	Harnam's Wife	
1995	<i>Guddu</i>	Kavita Bahadur	
1996	<i>Sautela Bhai</i>	Saraswati	Delayed release
1999	<i>Kabhi Pass Kabhi Fail</i>		
2000	<i>Bawandar</i>	Shobha Devi	
2002	<i>Leela</i>	Chaitali	Winner – Best Supporting Actress Award at the 2003 <u>Karachi Film Festival</u> ^[7]
2002	<i>Shakti: The Power</i>	Shekhar's mother	
2003	<i>Freaky Chakra</i>	Ms. Thomas	
2004	<i>Anahat</i>	Mahattarika	Marathi film
2006	<i>Yatra</i>	Smita D. Joglekar/Sharda	
2008	<i>Firaaq</i>	Arati	
2011	<i>Tell Me O Kkhuda</i>	Mrs. R. Kapoor	
2010	<i>Memories in March</i>	Arati S. Mishra	Winner – Best Actress Award at the 2012 <u>ImagineIndia Film Festival (Spain)</u> ^[8]
2011	<i>Trapped in Tradition: Rivaaz</i>	Paro	
2011	<i>Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara</i>	Rahila Qureshi	
2011	<i>Bhindi Baazaar Inc.</i>	Bano	
2013	<i>Mahabharat</i>	<u>Kunti</u>	voice role

2013	<i>B.A. Pass</i>	Mrs. Suhasini	Special appearance ^[23]
2013	<i>Aurangzeb</i>	Mrs. Ravikant Phogat	
2013	<i>Inkaar</i>	Mrs. Kamdhar	Nominated – <u>Apsara Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role</u>
2013	<i>Listen... Amaya</i>	Leela	Winner – Best Actress Award at the 2013 <u>New York Indian Film Festival</u> ^[9]
2014	<i>Yaariyan</i>	Girls hostel warden ^[24]	
2014	<i>19th January</i>	Naseema	
2014	<i>Bang Bang!</i>	Jai and Viren's mother (Shikka Nanda)	
2015	<i>NH10</i>	Ammaji	
2015	<i>Heartless</i>	Mother of the protagonist	
2015	<i>Tevar</i>	Pintoo's mother	
2016	<i>Lion</i>	Saroj Sood	^[25]
2023	<i>Mother Teresa & Me</i>		
2023	<i>Goldfish</i>	Sadhana Tripathi	

Television

Year	Show	Role	Notes
1985	<i>Apna Jahan</i>	Shanti A. Sahani	Television film
1991-1992	<i>Kahkashan</i>		
1992	<i>Sauda</i>		
1994	<i>Tanaav</i>	Mrs Malik	
2003–2004	<i>Muqammal</i>	Sumeesha	
2011	<i>Mukti Bandhan</i>	Parimeeta	
2016	<i>Meri Awaaz Hi Pehchaan Hai</i>	Kalyani Gaikwad	
2017	<i>The Boy with the Topknot</i>	Sathnam's Mother	Television film
2019	<i>Made in Heaven</i>	Gayatri Mathur	Guest
2020	<i>Pawan & Pooja</i>	Pooja Kalra	
	<i>Criminal Justice: Behind Closed Doors</i>	Vijaya 'Vijji' Chandra	


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External links

- Official website (<http://www.deeptinaval.com/home.htm>) 
 - Deepti Naval (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0622732/>) at IMDb
 - Deepti Naval (<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/celebrity/deepti-naval/>) at Bollywood Hungama
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