

= Manoj Bajpayee =

Manoj Bajpayee (born 23 April 1969) , also credited as Manoj Bajpai , is an Indian film actor who predominantly works in Hindi cinema and has also done some Telugu and Tamil language films . He is the recipient of two National Film Awards and two Filmfare Awards .

Born in Belwa , a small village in Narkatiaganj , Bihar , Bajpayee aspired to become an actor since childhood . He relocated to Delhi at the age of seventeen , and applied for National School of Drama , only to be rejected for three times . He continued to do theatre while studying in the college . Bajpayee made his feature film debut with the one @-@ minute role in Drohkaal (1994) , and a minor role of a dacoit in Shekhar Kapur 's Bandit Queen (1994) . After few unnoticed roles , he played gangster Bhiku Mhatre in Ram Gopal Varma 's 1998 crime drama Satya , which proved to be a breakthrough . Bajpayee received the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor and Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor for the film . He then acted in films like Kaun (1999) , and Shool (1999) . For the latter , he won another Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor . Bajpayee further played the role of a prince with two wives in Zubeidaa (2001) , a serial killer in Aks (2001) and a hitchhiker @-@ turned @-@ psychopath killer in Road (2002) .

Bajpayee won the Special Jury National Award for Pinjar (2003) . This was followed by a series of brief , unnoticed roles in films that failed to propel his career forward . He then played a greedy politician in the political thriller Raajneeti (2010) , which was well received . In 2012 , Bajpayee essayed the role of Sardar Khan in Gangs of Wasseyapur . His next roles were of a naxalite in Chakravyuh (2012) , and a CBI officer in Special 26 (2013) . In 2016 , he portrayed professor Ramchandra Siras , in Hansal Mehta 's biographical drama Aligarh .

= = Life = =

Bajpayee was born on 23 April 1969 in a small village called Belwa near the town Narkatiaganj in West Champaran , Bihar . He is the second child among his five other siblings , and was named after actor Manoj Kumar . One of his younger sisters Poonam Dubey , is a fashion designer in the film industry . His father was a farmer and mother was a housewife . As a son of a farmer , Bajpayee would do farming during their vacation . Since childhood , he wanted to become an actor . His father had difficulty collecting money for their education . He studied in a " hut school " till fourth standard , and later did his basic education from a school in Bettiah . He completed his class 12th from Maharani Janaki College in Bettiah . He moved to New Delhi at the age of seventeen and went to Satyawati , then to Ramjas College , Delhi University . Bajpayee had heard about National School of Drama from actors like Om Puri , Naseeruddin Shah , where he applied . He was rejected three times and wanted to commit suicide afterwards . He then did director and acting coach Barry John 's workshop after actor Raghubir Yadav 's suggestion . Impressed by Bajpayee 's acting , John hired him to assist him in his teaching . After that he applied at the National School of Drama for the fourth time , they offered him a teaching position at the school instead .

Bajpayee was married to a girl from Delhi , but got divorced during his struggle period .

He met actress Neha , who is also known as Shabana Raza , right after her debut film Kareeb (1998) . The couple married in 2006 , and have a daughter .

= = Career = =

= = Debut and breakthrough (1994 ? 2001) = =

Following his one @-@ minute role in Govind Nihalani 's Drohkaal (1994) , Bajpayee acted in the biographical drama Bandit Queen (1994) . Tigmanshu Dhulia , the casting director of the film suggested his name to its director Shekhar Kapur . Bajpayee was considered for the role of dacoit Vikram Mallah in the film , which eventually went to Nirmal Pandey . Bajpayee got the role of dacoit Mann Singh in the film . During that time , he also did a television serial called Kalakaar , directed by

Hansal Mehta and Imtihaan (Doordarshan) .

Bajpayee was a struggling actor when Mahesh Bhatt offered him the soap opera , Swabhimaan (1995) , which aired on Doordarshan . He agreed to do the serial at a low fee . Next , Bajpayee appeared in minor roles in films like Dastak (1996) and Tamanna (1997) .

Director Ram Gopal Varma discovered Bajpayee when he was casting for Daud (1997) , a comedy film , where he had a supporting role . Following the completion of filming , Varma expressed his regret for offering Bajpayee a minor role . He then promised Bajpayee to give him a prominent role in his next film . Satya (1998) , a crime drama , was their next film together . In the film , Bajpayee essayed the role of gangster Bhiku Mhatre , who accompanies the title character to form their nexus in the Mumbai underworld .

Satya was mostly shot in the real slums of Mumbai . It was screened at the 1998 International Film Festival of India and opened to mostly positive review . Anupama Chopra called Bajpayee and others ' performances " .. so good that you can almost smell the Mumbai grime on their sweaty bodies " . The film was a commercial success , and Bajpayee won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor and Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor for his performance . Filmfare later included his performance in the 2010 issue of Bollywood 's " Top 80 Iconic Performances " .

Bajpayee then collaborated with Verma in the year 1999 with Kaun and Shool ; with Verma directing the former and producing the latter . Kaun , was a whodunit with only three characters in a house , where Bajpayee played an annoying talkative stranger . The film was a box @-@ office disappointment . Shool saw him play the role of an honest police officer who finds himself in the politician @-@ criminal nexus of the Motihari district in Bihar . Sify labelled Bajpayee 's performance in the film as " truly amazing [..] especially the emotional scenes with Raveena Tandon . " The film won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi , with Bajpayee winning the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Performance . He also acted in the Telugu romantic film Prema Katha (1999) .

The year 2000 started for Bajpayee with the comedy Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar ! ! and the crime drama Ghaath , both alongside Tabu . A dialogue from the former sparked controversy in some political parties .

Bajpayee 's first release in 2001 was Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra 's supernatural thriller Aks . His negative portrayal of Raghavan Ghatge , a criminal who dies and reincarnates in the body of Manu Verma (played by Amitabh Bachchan) , garnered him the Filmfare Award for Best Performance in a Negative Role nomination . It was followed by Shyam Benegal 's Zubeidaa , co @-@ starring Rekha and Karishma Kapoor . He played Maharaja Vijayendra Singh of Fatehpur , a polo enthusiast prince with two wives . His character was inspired by Hanwant Singh , the Maharaja of Jodhpur .

= = = Career struggle (2002 ? 09) = = =

Bajpayee 's sole release of 2002 was the road thriller , Road . He played the antagonist in the film , a hitchhiker who turns to be a psychopath killer , after taking lift from a couple (played by Vivek Oberoi and Antara Mali) . Bajpayee received another Filmfare nomination for Best Performance in a Negative Role , for the film .

Pinjar (2003) , a period drama , set during the partition of India , was Bajpayee 's first release of the year . Directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi , the film was based on a Punjabi novel of the same name . He received the National Film Special Jury Award for his performance in the film . He subsequently portrayed Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav in J. P. Dutta 's ensemble war film , LOC Kargil . It was based on the Kargil War , and Bajpayee was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor for it . Both the films were commercially unsuccessful .

Bajpayee 's next roles were in Jaago (2004) opposite Raveena Tandon , Makrand Deshpande 's Hanan and the thriller Inteqam . In Jaago , he played the role of a police officer who takes the situation in his own hands , after his 10 @-@ year @-@ old daughter is raped and killed . The same year , he appeared in a supporting role in Yash Chopra 's romantic drama Veer Zaara (2004) . The film was screened at the 55th Berlin Film Festival , and grossed over ? 940 million (US \$ 14 million) globally , becoming the highest grossing film of the year .

In 2005 , Bajpayee acted in Dharmesh Darshan 's drama Bewafaa , the thriller Fareb , and the English language film Return to Rajapur . He also acted in the Telugu romance Happy (2006) .

In 2007 , Bajpayee played Major Suraj Singh in 1971 . The film tells the story of six Indian army soldiers , who escape from the Pakistani prison where they were captured during the Indo @-@ Pakistani War of 1971 . Rajeev Masand of CNN @-@ IBN , criticised the film but wrote : " [Bajpayee] is in great form , he holds back mostly and in the process , constructs a character that says more with his eyes than with words . " He next starred opposite Juhi Chawla , in Ganesh Acharya 's drama film Swami . Bajpayee 's final release of the year was the anthology film Dus Kahaniyaan . He acted in Sanjay Gupta @-@ directed story Zahir alongside Dia Mirza . All of his 2007 releases were financial failures . Next year , he starred in the ensemble comedy Money Hai Toh Honey Hai (2008) , which was also a box @-@ office disaster .

Bajpayee 's shoulder got injured while filming the Telugu film Vedam , and was absent from the screen for nearly two years . He then returned in a major role with the comedy Jugaad (2009) , which was based on the 2006 Delhi sealing drive incident . His next release was the mystery thriller Acid Factory (2009) , which was a remake of the Hollywood film Unknown (2006) . He played a comic role from one of the people who are kidnapped and locked in a factory with no memory of how they came there . The film did not do well at the box @-@ office . The string of financial failures continued with his next release . Madhur Bhandarkar 's Jail (2009) , where he played the role of a convict serving life imprisonment . He called his role as a " narrator " and the " mentor " of its protagonist (played by Neil Nitin Mukesh) .

= = = Raajneeti and beyond (2010 ? present) = = =

In 2010 , Bajpayee starred in Prakash Jha 's big @-@ budget ensemble political thriller Raajneeti . It was inspired by the Indian epic Mahabharata . Bajpai 's role was of Veerendra Pratap Singh (based on the character of Duryodhana) , a greedy politician , who considers himself the rightful heir of a political family . Nikhat Kazmi of The Times of India in her review mentioned that Bajpayee " .. grab [s] eyeballs in [his] scenes " and " .. brings back memories of his mesmeric performances " . Indian trade journalists were apprehensive of Raajneeti recovering its ? 600 million (US \$ 8 @. 9 million) investment . The film , however , proved to be a major commercial success with worldwide earnings of over ? 1 @. 43 billion (US \$ 21 million) . Bajpayee received a Best Supporting Actor nomination at Filmfare for the film . He then acted in two Telugu films : Vedam (2010) , and Puli (2010) ; followed by the comedy Dus Tola (2010) . He also provided the voice of Rama , in the animated film Ramayana : The Epic , which was based on the Indian epic Ramayana .

Aarakshan (2011) , a socio @-@ drama based on the issue of caste based reservations in Indian , was Bajpayee 's next film . The film sparked controversy in some groups and was banned in Uttar Pradesh , Punjab and Andhra Pradesh before its theatrical release . Trade journalists had high expectations for the film but it ultimately flopped at the box office . Bajpai 's followup was the thriller Lanka (2011) .

In 2012 , Bajpayee appeared in Anurag Kashyap 's two @-@ part crime film Gangs of Wasseypur . His character Sardar Khan appeared in the first one . To prepare for his role , Bajpayee shaved his head and lost four kilogram of weight . It premiered at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival , Toronto film festival , and the Sundance Film Festival in 2013 . Gangs of Wasseypur released in India on 22 June to positive response . Anupama Chopra called it his best performance since Bhiku Mhatre in Satya . For his performance in the film , Bajpayee was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Actor .

His next film was the historical drama Chittagong (2012) , based on the Chittagong armoury raid . Bajpai portrayed the Bengali independence fighter Surya Sen in it , for which he charged no money . His final release of the year was Chakravyuh , where he played a Naxalite ; a role which required him to lose 5 Kilogram weight . Writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar called Chakravyuh " the best film of last 20 years " . On the contrary , a review carried by India Today called it an " amateurish attempt " , but praised Bajpayee 's acting .

In 2013 , Bajpayee had five releases : Samar , his Tamil debut film , was the first release . He

appeared in a supporting role in the film . He then appeared in Neeraj Pandey 's heist thriller Special 26 . Based on the 1987 Opera House heist , he portrayed a CBI officer in the film . It was followed by the crime film Shootout at Wadala , where he played a character inspired from the gangster Shabir Ibrahim Kaskar .

Bajpayee collaborated with Prakash Jha for the fourth time with Satyagraha . The film was loosely inspired by social activist Anna Hazare 's fight against corruption in 2011 , featuring an ensemble cast the film was highly anticipated by trade journalists due to its release coinciding with the Mumbai and Delhi gang rape public protests . Satyagraha earned ₹ 675 million (US \$ 10 million) domestically . Bajpayee then provided the voice of Yudhishtira for Mahabharat , a 3D animation film based on the Indian epic of the same name . In 2014 , Bajpayee played the antagonist in the Tamil action film Anjaan .

Bajpayee continued to play negative roles with his next film Tevar (2015) . A remake of the 2003 Telugu film Okkadu , the film opened to negative reviews and was a box office failure . The same year , he along with Raveena Tandon , appeared in the patriotic @-@ themed short film Jai Hind . With a run @-@ time of 6 minutes , the film was released on YouTube by OYO Rooms , right before the Indian Independence Day .

Bajpayee acted in another short film titled Taandav in 2016 . Directed by Devashish Makhija , the film showcased the pressure and scenarios faced by an honest police constable , and was released on YouTube . The same year , he portrayed professor Ramchandra Siras , in Hansal Mehta 's biographical drama Aligarh . The story followed the life of a homosexual professor who was expelled from Aligarh Muslim University because of his sexuality . Bajpayee watched a few clippings of Siras to prepare for his role . The film was screened at the 20th Busan International Film Festival , and the 2015 Mumbai Film Festival . Aligarh was released on 26 February 2016 to positive reviews . He next played a traffic constable in Rajesh Pillai 's swan song , Traffic (2016) . A remake of the Malayalam film of the same name , the film was released on 6 May 2016 .

As of June 2015 , Bajpayee is shooting for three films ; including Saat Uchakke and Missing , which he has also produced .

= = Acting style = =

Bajpayee is often regarded as a method actor and a director 's actor , and is known for doing unconventional roles in films . Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has cited Bajpayee 's performance in Aks as the inspiration for his role as the antagonist in Kick (2014) . Bajpayee has also been vocal about the disparity in the pay he commands , in comparison to the top actors in the film industry . He has cited Amitabh Bachchan , Naseeruddin Shah and Raghbir Yadav as his inspirations .

Director Ram Gopal Varma describing him said " Manoj has been an education for me .. " further adding " .. he 's simply the best actor I 've ever worked with . " Shekhar Kapur , who directed him in Bandit Queen , recalls : " Manoj had the ability to portray a lot just by doing little . He never tried to overplay a scene and seemed totally comfortable with a minimalist statement . " According to director Hansal Mehta , " [Manoj] [..] has the ability to transform himself like few others . " Bajpayee 's performance as Bhiku Mhatre in Satya is considered to be one of the most memorable characters of Hindi cinema , along with his dialogue in it : " Mumbai ka king kaun ? Bhiku Mhatre " (Who is the king of Mumbai ? Bhiku Mhatre) . Kay Kay Menon credits this character as a turning point for other method actors : " If it were not for Manoj 's brilliant performance in Satya , actors like Irrfan and me might still be waiting to be accepted . Manoj opened the doors for us . " Writing about the character in his book Popcorn Essayists , journalist @-@ writer Jai Arjun Singh wrote that the " earthiness " and the " authenticity " [of the character] , was the subtle result of a persistence in Bajpai 's performance . "

= = Filmography = =