



## IFFI Goa Marks Raj Kapoor's Centenary with Special Session Featuring Ranbir Kapoor

“Raj Kapoor’s films weren’t just about entertainment; they were about telling stories that mattered, stories that spoke to the heart of the audience”: Ranbir Kapoor

Despite setbacks like ‘Mera Naam Joker’, my grandfather stayed connected with the audience and took bold risks”:  
Ranbir

As artists, we must use our platforms to address global issues like climate change and spread awareness through our work: Ranbir

Raj Kapoor was a visionary; his ability to connect with audiences across generations and cultures is unparalleled:  
Rahul Rawail, Acclaimed Filmmaker

#IFFIWood, 24 November 2024

As part of the centenary celebrations of the eminent actor and director Raj Kapoor, 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) paid tribute to the legend at a special session attended by **Ranbir Kapoor**, grandson of the iconic Raj Kapoor, and veteran filmmaker **Rahul Rawail**. The session was a captivating exploration of Raj Kapoor's monumental contribution to Indian cinema, his lasting impact, and the enduring legacy of his works.



Ranbir Kapoor, reflecting on his grandfather's extraordinary influence, underlined that Raj Kapoor's films transcend time and borders. He emphasized how his grandfather's works, such as *Awara*, *Mera Naam Joker*, and *Shree 420*, had a universal appeal, resonating deeply with audiences worldwide, from Russia to India.



Highlighting the relevance of Raj Kapoor's films, Ranbir noted how the themes of *Awara* addressed casteism, while *Shree 420* delved into greed and ambition. Later films such as *Prem Rog* and *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* were praised for their moral narratives on women's issues and societal challenges, underscoring Raj Kapoor's vision as a filmmaker ahead of his time.

Ranbir also discussed ongoing efforts to restore Raj Kapoor's films, in collaboration with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), National Film Archives of India (NFAI), and the Film Heritage Foundation. He revealed that ten of Raj Kapoor's films have already been restored, with plans for their release across India in December 2024. He stressed upon the importance of preserving and celebrating the cinematic genius of Raj Kapoor, in recognition of his contributions being foundational to Indian cinema.



The session also included discussions on filmmaking, acting, and the evolving role of cinema in addressing societal issues. Ranbir shared how becoming a father had deepened his awareness of the environment and societal change, urging artists to use their platforms for spreading knowledge and advocating for global causes. He also highlighted the importance of individuality in acting, encouraging aspiring actors to find their own unique style while drawing inspiration from great artists worldwide.





Concluding the event, Ranbir Kapoor expressed his gratitude to IFFI for organizing the tribute and called upon the audience to revisit and cherish the timeless works of Raj Kapoor. Rahul Rawail added to Ranbir's insights, reflecting on the lasting influence of Raj Kapoor on the film industry as well as on society at large.

The session was graced by Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Shekhar Kapur, Indian filmmaker and Festival Director, IFFI; Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Managing Director, NFDC; and Vrunda Desai, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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