



DHARMENDRA DEOL

THE ON-SCREEN DEBONAIR

Back in 1958, when Dharmendra landed in Mumbai as a contestant of the first-ever Filmfare Talent Hunt, his chiseled looks caught the attention of many. But it was producer Arjun Hingorani, who saw the star in him and offered a role in the movie *Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere*. After that, there was no looking back for Dharmendra. He went on to weave a fine tale of success. And by the late 1960s, Dharmendra Deol aka Dharmendra was a busy star. Slowly, he established himself in the industry and did scores of movies with the actresses like Meena Kumari, Mala Sinha, Sharmila Tagore, Mumtaz, Rekha, Rakhi, Hema Malini and several others.

However, his first major hit '*Phool Aur Paththar*' established him as the 'He-Man' of the Bollywood and gave him the Macho status.

While the 60s was marked by some intense films like *Bandini*, *Satyakam*, *Phool Aur Patthar* and *Haqeeqat*, 70s saw him serenading success through blockbusters like *Sholay*, *Charas*, *Dream Girl*, *Seeta Aur Geeta*, *Dharam Veer*, *Professor Pyarelal* and many others. The 80s and the 90s saw him working with

every big banner. Several of his films celebrated silver, gold and platinum jubilees at the box office.

Such has been his charisma till today that he is considered as the most beautiful thing that ever happened to the Indian film industry. During his hey days, he was considered as the one of the best-looking men in the world. And in 70s there were hardly any men in the film industry as good looking as Dharmendra. But what makes Dharmendra a wizard of the sorts is the fact that he stayed and became a heartthrob of millions despite all odds. Right from the time he set his foot in the industry, he had to face tough competition from Shammi Kapoor, Rajendra Kumar, Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, yet he survived all the superstars waves and the showbiz drama. He emerged as one of the most

bankable stars in the Indian cinema history and went on to become a household name.

Afterall, who can forget the naughty '*Viru*' and his pranks to woo '*Basanti*' of *Sholay*, played by Hema Malini. Dharmendra's pairing with Hema Malini was quite a hit with whom he acted in more than a dozen movies. Dharmendra and Hema acted in many blockbusters like *Sholay*, *Charas*, *Aas Paas*, *Jugnu*, *Seeta Aur Geeta*, *The Burning Train*, *Tum Haseen Main Jawan* and many more.

Born in Phagwara, Punjab

to Jat (Sikh) father Kewal Kishen Singh Deol and Sikh mother Satwant Kaur on 8 December 1935, Dharmendra today is an institution in himself. He has done over 300 movies and many of them have been major money grossers. But what makes him a gem of a person is his humility despite the stardom he enjoys. Kind and emotional, Dharmendra Deol has been a family person. His sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol are also actors. He married Hema Malini in 1980, with whom he has two daughters, Eisha Deol and Aahna Deol.

Dharmendra, till today remains a marvel and Mr. Charming walking the film industry in flesh and blood!

"For more than five decades, Dharmendra has epitomized the burly masculinity in various characters he has played and has pulled off all the acts effortlessly and with perfection"

Though there was no dearth of good looking and talented actors in the Indian cinema in 1960s, Dharmendra's arrival to the film scene came as a whiff of fresh air. The handsome hunk proved to be not only a replica of some Greek God, but also enormously talented