Classic Poetry Series

Javed Akhtar

- poems -

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Javed Akhtar (17 January 1945 -)

Javed Akhtar (Urdu: □□□□□ □□□□) is a poet, lyricist and scriptwriter from India. Some of his most successful work was done in the late 1970s and 1980s with Salim Khan as half of the script-writing duo credited as Salim-Javed. Akhtar continues to be a prominent figure in Bollywood and is one of the most popular and sought-after lyricists.

Early Life

He was born as Jadoo Akhtar in Gwalior, (Madhya Pradesh) to Jan Nisar Akhtar, a Bollywood film songwriter and Urdu poet, and singer Safia Akhtar, a teacher and writer. His original name was Jadoo, taken from a line in a poem written by his father: "Lamba, lamba kisi jadoo ka fasana hoga". He was given the official name of Javed since it was the closest to the word jadoo. Amongst his family members who are poets are the Urdu poet Majaz (maternal uncle), and his grandfather, Muztar Khairabadi, and Maulana Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi, a noted philosopher, poet and religious scholar of the nineteenth century. Akhtar's younger brother, Salman Akhtar, is a psychoanalyst practicing in the United States.

Having lost his mother while very young, Akhtar's early years were spent in Lucknow, Aligarh and Mumbai, mostly with relatives. He studied in Colvin Taluqdars' College in Lucknow and the Minto Circle where he completed his matriculation from Aligarh Muslim University. After matriculation, Akhtar acquired a B.A. from Saifiya College in Bhopal. A gifted debater in college, he won the Rotary Club Prize frequently.

Career

Akhtar arrived in Mumbai on 4 October 1964. In his early years living in Mumbai, he managed to write the dialogue for a minor film for Rs. 100. Occasionally, he used to work as an assistant. He got a job as a scriptwriter on Yakeen which flopped. Akhtar then joined with his friend Salim Khan to develop the story for Adhikar. Salim-Javed were hired by G. P. Sippy's Sippy Films as resident screenwriters and produced the screenplays for successful films like Andaz, Seeta Aur Geeta, Sholay and Don.

Akhtar used to write his scripts in Urdu, which were then written out in Hindi by his assistant. Another assistant would type out a one line summary in English. His association with Salim Khan lasted until 1980. After this Akhtar wrote some scripts on his own, but mostly moved into writing lyrics for films, in which he achieved success.

Akhtar has also attempted more serious Urdu poetry aside from writing lyrics

for movies. A major set of his works were compiled in Tarkash, which was also rendered into audio in his voice. Singers such as late Jagjit Singh and late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan have sung some of his non-movie poetry.

Javed Akhtar was also a judge alongside Anu Malik, Kailash Kher and Sonali Bendre on India's singer hunt Indian Idol 4. He is also on the advisory board of the Asian Academy of Film & Television.

Personal Life

Akhtar was born a Muslim, but later became an Atheist as he stated in his speech "Spirituality, Halo or Hoax". Akhtar was married to Honey Irani, a script-writer for Hindi films, with whom he had two children Farhan Akhtar and Zoya Akhtar, both film directors and actors. The father and son duo have worked together in films such as Dil Chahta Hai, Lakshya, Rock On!! and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara along with Zoya. His son Farhan is married to a Hindu girl called Adhuna.

After Javed's divorce with Irani, he married actress Shabana Azmi, the daughter of another Urdu poet, Kaifi Azmi.

Awards

Javed Akhtar was awarded the Padma Shri award by the Government of India in 1999 and received the Padma Bhushan in 2007. Akhtar has also won the Filmfare Award fourteen times, seven times for Best Script, and eight times for Best Lyrics for "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha..." in 1942-A Love Story, "Ghar Se Nikalte Hi..." for Papa Kahte Hain, "Sandese Aate Hain...." for Border, "Panchhi Nadiyan Pawan Ke Jhonke..." for Refugee, "Radha Kaise Na Jale" for Lagaan, "Kal Ho Na Ho" for Kal Ho Na Ho, "Tere Liye..." for Veer-Zaara and "Jashn-e-Bahara" for Jodhaa Akbar.

Akhtar has won the National Award five times. In 1996 he won for Best Lyricist for the film Saaz and in 1997 he won the National Award for Border. He again won the National Award in 1998 for Godmother. In 2000 he again won the National Award for the song "Panchhi Nadiyan Pawan Ke Jonke..." from the film Refugee and in 2001 for "Radha Kaise Na Jale" from Lagaan. He has won the 1995 and 1997 Screen Videocon Awards. He also won first Zee Award for Best Lyricist for "Sandese Aate Hain" from the film Border. He was awarded a Videocon Screen award as well as a Lux Zee Cine award for "Panchhi Nadiyan Pawan Ke Jhonke..." for Refugee.

In 2001 Akhtar received the "National Integration Award" from the All India Anti-Terrorist Association and the Avadh Ratan from the U.P. Government. He also won the 2003 Hakim Khan Sur Sammaan Award from the Maharana Mewar Foundation, Udaipur.

Works:

As Scriptwriter

Movies written as part of the Salim-Javed team are marked as such.
Haathi Mere Saathi, 1971 (Salim-Javed)
Seeta Aur Geeta, 1972 (Salim-Javed)
Yaadon Ki Baaraat, 1973 (Salim-Javed)
Zanjeer, 1973 (Salim-Javed)
Majboor, 1974 (Salim-Javed)
Deewar, 1975 (Salim-Javed)
Sholay, 1975 (Salim-Javed)
Immaan Dharam, 1977 (Salim-Javed)
Chacha Bhatija, 1977 (Salim-Javed)
Manushulu Cesina Dongalu (Telugu film), 1977 (Salim-Javed)
Trishul, 1978 (Salim-Javed)
Don, 1978 (Salim-Javed)
Yugandhar (Telugu remake of Don), 1979 (Salim-Javed)
Kaala Patthar, 1979 (Salim-Javed)
Dostana, 1980 (Salim-Javed)

Shaan, 1980 (Salim-Javed)
Kranti, 1981 (Salim-Javed)
Shakti, 1982 (Salim-Javed)
Duniya, 1984, story, screenplay, and dialogue
Mashaal, 1984 (Javed Akhtar)
Mr. India, 1987 (Salim-Javed)
Main Azaad Hoon, 1989,Story
Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja (1993), story, screenplay, and dialogue
Don: The Chase Begins Again (Salim-Javed: based on original script), 2006
He has been awarded the Filmfare Best Lyricist Award 8 times.

As Lyricist

Duniya (1984)
Saagar
1942: A Love Story
Dil Chahta Hai
Saath-Saath
Narsimha (1991)
Mashaal
Sailaab
Mr. India
Tezaab
Hafta bandh
Joshilay
Arjun
Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja
Yugandhar
Jamai Raja
Khel
Gardish
Silsila
Papa Kehte Hain
Border
Sapnay
Virasat
Mrityu Dand
Dastak
Sardari Begum
Saaz
Mil Gayee Manzil Mujhe
Diljale
Yes Boss
Darmiyaan: In Between
Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya
Wajood
Kabhi Na Kabhi
Drohi
Jeans
Bada Din
Duplicate
Laawaris
Godmother
Baadshah
Arjun Pandit
1947 Earth
Dillagi
Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani
Refugee
Karobaar
Hamara Dil Aapke Paas Hai
Raja Ko Rani Se Pyaar Ho Gaya
Champion
Gang
Pyaar Ki Dhun
Zubeidaa
Lagaan (2001)

Abhay
Moksha
Agni Varsha
Mere Yaar Ki Shaadi Hai
Badhaai Ho Badhaai
Ye Kya Ho Raha Hai
Satta
Love at Times Square
Hero
Armaan
Chalte Chalte
Kuch Naa Kaho
Kal Ho Naa Ho
L.O.C. Kargil
Tehzeeb
Main Hoon Na (2004)
Veer-Zaara (2004)
Lakshya
Charas
Kyun! Ho Gaya Na...
Dobara
Swades
Kisna: The Warrior Poet
Bose: The Forgotten Hero
Mangal Pandey: The Rising
Dil Jo Bhi Kahey...
Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna
Don: The Chase Begins Again
Namastey London
Ta Ra Rum Pum
Dhan Dhana Dhan Goal
Welcome
Om Shanti Om
Jodhaa Akbar
Rock On!!
Luck by Chance (2009)
What's Your Raashee? (2009)
Wake Up Sid (2009)
Karthik Calling Karthik (2010)
Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Sey (2010)
Aisha (2010)
Red Alert - The War Within (2010)
Prem Kaa Game (2010)
Don 2: The King is Back (2011)
Banda Yeh Bindaas Hai (2011)
Traffic Signal (2009)
Ekk Deewana Tha (2011)

A thing that still hasn't come up to my lips

A thing that still hasn't come up to my lips and only peeks through my eyes,
It asks for words, sometimes from me and sometimes from you,
So that it can wear those words and come to the lips,
And so that it could be embraced by words..

But this thing is actually a feeling…only a feeling,
It's like a fragrance floating in the air,

Fragrance, which has no voice…and about which you know and I know too.
It is not hidden from the world, what kind of a secret it is?

Javed Akhtar

Ham to Bachpan main bhi Akele the

Javed Akhtar

If you have eagerness in your heart

If you have eagerness in your heart, it means you are alive,
If your eyes are filled with dreams, it means you are alive
Learn to be free like the wind,
Learn to flow freely like the river,
Embrace every moment with open arms,
See a new horizon every time with your eyes,
If you carry surprise in your eyes, it means you are alive,
If you have eagerness in your heart, it means you are alive…

Javed Akhtar

The moment seems to flow like a molten sapphire

The moment seems to flow like a molten sapphire
and there's deep blue silence,
Neither there is earth below,
nor sky above,
The rustling branches,
leaves are saying that only you are here,
Only me,
my breath and my heartbeat,
Such deepness, such loneliness and me…
only me,
It all makes me believe in my existence.

Javed Akhtar

Whenever the clouds of pain and sadness loomed,

Whenever the clouds of pain and sadness loomed,
Whenever tears came till the eyelashes,
Whenever this lonely heart got scared,
I told my heart, Oh Heart, why do you cry?
This is what happens in this world…

This deep silence…the world has distributed it to everyone,
Some sadness is a part of everyone's life,
Some sunshine is a part of everyone's life,
Your eyes are wet without any reason,
Every second is a new season,
Why do you let go of such priceless moments?
Oh Heart, why do you cry?

Javed Akhtar