

# Bachchan Sandhya: Review

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India's megastar Amitabh Bachchan along with his family attended an event honoring his father, Late Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan at Lincoln Center in New York yesterday. The event was organized by Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan in celebration of India's 60th Independence day as well as birth centenary of Late Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan.

It was a fascinating event in which Mr. Bachchan enthralled the audience with his commanding 'pakad'(command) on Hindi as well as 'kanthasth'(fully memorized) verses of his father's poem. Folks from far enough zones such as Washington, Philadelphia and Boston had driven to attend the occasion and were truly rewarded for their efforts in return. The event was completely sold out. During brief introduction, Mr. Bachchan introduced his late father as a very simple man with a very strong discipline in life. He mentioned that his father used to introduce himself as "Mitti ka tan, masti ka man, kshan-bhar jivan - mera parichay." While reciting 'Madhushala', Mr. Bachchan was requested by audience to sing the verses instead. He kindly apologized for not doing so. However, I felt that he needed no apologies since it was really better to listen to his baritone in fluid style and unmatched 'andaz-e-bayaan'. During lighter moments in between, Mr. Bachchan reminded and clarified to the audience that popularity of 'Madhushala' often assumes that his late father, Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan must have written the same in an intoxicated state. To that end, he further clarified that his father used to say that 'Zindagi Bhe Ek Nasha Hai'" and was a complete teetotaler. Mr. Amitabh revealed that he too has followed the same 'parampara' and recommends the same to his son, Abhishek, who was observed smiling along with his wife Aishwarya Bachchan and rest of the audience. The show followed a dance drama called 'Jeevan' based on Dr. Bachchan's poems by renowned Kathak dancer and choreographer Shrimati Vaswati Misra and her group. For your reading pleasure, following is the poem by Late Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan, titled - "Jeevan Ke Apa-Dhapi Mein", with which Mr. Bachchan started the recital, and passed on a message to the audience in a very subtle way as to why he does not like the word, "Bollywood." "I think that what is missing in Western culture is traditions. In our culture it dictates almost every younger generation to look after the older generation. These are some of the values and many, many more values that I learned from my father, it would take a very long time to describe them," said Bachchan in a press conference prior to the show. I could not have agreed more!

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