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Lifetime achievement award for Big B

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If the opening had been grand, the closing ceremony of the 11th Mumbai Film Festival organised by Mumbai Academy of Moving Images (MAMI) at the JW Marriott on Thursday evening was the icing on the cake.



Deepti and Shreyas Talpade

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Emcees for the event Kunal Kohli and Shefali Shah, the latter looking gorgeous in a beige and gold saree, kicked off the proceedings by inviting MAMI chairman Shyam Benegal to say a few words. The director thanked the jury members Paul Schrader, Irene Bignardi, Shaji N Karun, Vimukthi Jayasundara and Brillante Mendoza, who had spent weeks trying to select the right films for the festival and later, judging them for the various awards. In the audience were the likes of Yash Chopra, Shabana Azmi, Prasoon Joshi, Amol Palekar, Shreyas Talpade with wife Deepti, Prem Chopra, Ameen Sayani, Kiran Shantaram, Kunal Khemu, Imtiaz Ali, Abbas-Mustan, Rohan Sippy, Vinta Nanda, Soni Razdan and many others from the film fraternity.

But it wasn't just the presentation of awards that kept the audience rivetted, it was the performances as well. While Anushka Manchanda rocked the evening with Golmaal, Tu Saala Kaam Se Gaya and Make a Wish, Kunal Ganjawala was at his soulful best with Pehli Baar Mohabbat Ki Hai and Bheege Honth Tere.

The evening also saw Greek film maestro Theo Angelopoulos being honoured with the International Lifetime Achievement Award.

NAME OF THE GAME: Kunal and Shefali were unsure of how to call Big B on stage to receive his Lifetime Achievement Award since he, according to them, is bigger than a legend or an icon. "He's so... he's so... he's so Amitabh Bachchan!" exclaimed Shefali. All we can say is, Shakespeare wasn't alive to have met up with the veteran actor, or else he wouldn't have asked 'What's in a name!'

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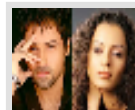
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