



'Words can't describe the love for our dads'

SOME of the resident *Eastern Eye* columnists marked Father's Day by paying a tribute to their own respective dads...



Mita Mistry: Words can't describe my love for my father. I am beyond grateful to be blessed with him. My papa came to this country in 1967 with very little. I admire his integrity, hard work and determination. I am lucky to have grown up feeling protected and loved; his honest and fearless nature has taught me to stand up for my truth in whatever I pursue. He pushed me beyond my comfort zone teaching me how to ride a bike, swim and explore outdoor adventures.

He has a huge heart, is always jolly and inspired me from a young age to kill any confrontations with kindness. He taught me to respect everyone, be strong, independent and not worry because everything in life unfolds how it's meant to. My dad has been my pillar of strength, supporting me in every decision I have ever made. Thank you for everything dad, I love you.



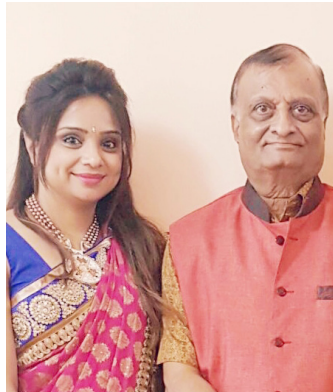
Shai Hussain: My dad has always been a hero of mine. He worked tirelessly from the moment we arrived in this country to ensure the family was taken care of and has continually supported everything I do, asking about every gig and trawling the newsagents of Huddersfield for a copy of *Eastern Eye*. Though we all regularly berate him on his stubborn bad habits (put the phone away, papa!), none of us can deny the size of the huge heart of this wonderful man and how empty our lives would be without him.



Priya Mulji: My dad is the strongest man I know, in every way. He has strength, resilience and is able to laugh, and sing in any situation. This is my favourite picture of us

and it represents our relationship; always smiling. He taught me to work hard, not to spend too much money and enjoy life.

We're both night owls, so when I visit my parents we sit together and open a bottle of wine. Sometimes we won't talk, but we will sit and watch a Bollywood movie together – it's one of my favourite things to do with him. Last year dad unexpectedly had some major heart surgery and he has made a quick and full recovery. Daddy, I might tell you off for being an ex-smoker, but it's because I love you.



Dimple Sanghani: I want to thank you dad for being the best father in the world, for supporting me always and making me realise my strengths. There is one girl who will never forget you on Father's day or any other day. You are my daddy and I couldn't ask for anyone better. Thanks for always taking care of me and loving me. Happy Father's Day!

One day is not enough to honour how special of a father you truly are because you are amazing every day of the year. Thank you for all that you do. I love you! Strong roots, make beautiful leaves. Thank you also to my grandpa for adding so much love to our family tree.



Nazia Khatun: My dad is different. A father to five daughters and a son growing up in a Bangladeshi community could never have been easy with traditional expectations for females. My father worked hard to ensure none of us went without food or miss out on a fun childhood. Growing up, every week was someone's turn to go shopping to replace trainers or a jacket, forever digging a hole in his pocket. He made sure he educated all the children, and his daughters were no different to his son or any other sons in the South Asian community.

We broke all the rules for a traditional Bangladeshi female, including me being an amateur boxer, and running my fitness company, and another sister a police officer. My father always encouraged us to travel and follow our hearts. He's a kind-hearted man who still works hard to this day to ensure that his daughters and son get the best in this life.

The father figure

EASTERN EYE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE M

by ASJAD NAZIR

ALTHOUGH selfless mothers have largely dominated Bollywood over the years, there have been plenty of great onscreen fathers in films who have won hearts of audiences and shown us all that good family men do exist.

To commemorate Father's Day this week, *Eastern Eye* goes back through time to find memorable big screen Bollywood dads and those who stepped up for fatherly duties when it really mattered...



1. Abdul Rasheed (*Dhool Ka Phool*): The stunning 1959 directorial debut from Bollywood's most successful filmmaker Yash Chopra was a brave movie tackling themes ahead of their time. The story includes a kind-hearted man named Abdul Rasheed who finds an abandoned child in the middle of a forest and fights against an unforgiving community to bring the child up as his own. The most unforgettable moment is when he sings *Tu Hindu Banega Na Musalman Banega* to the baby, which teaches the youngster that ahead of being a Hindu or a Muslim he should become a good and loyal human being first.



2. Brahmchari (*Brahmachari*): The 1968 musical drama saw Shammii Kapoor play an orphan who dedicates his life to looking after abandoned children. He does whatever it takes to care for the kids in his orphanage, even if it means sacrificing a chance of happiness with the woman he loves. None of the children are related by blood, but he is more than a father to all of them. The scenario of a kind-hearted orphan adopting orphans was later copied in 1987 smash hit film *Mr India*.



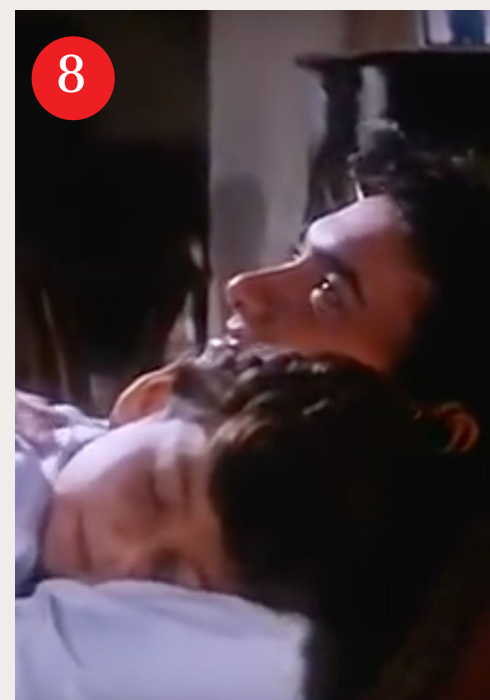
3. Hari Charan Mathur (*Koshish*): The 1972 film about hope revolves around a deaf and mute couple who fight against an unforgiving society to create a life for themselves. Sanjeev Kumar plays the devoted father and husband who will do whatever it takes to build a life for his son, including after the mother passes away. He works hard to educate his son. At the end, he teaches his son to not look down on disability and gets him to marry a deaf and mute woman. The concept of a deaf mute couple bringing up a child would later be revisited in 1996 drama *Khamoshi: The Musical*.

4. Shankar (*Shor*): Manoj Kumar produced, directed, wrote and played the lead role in the emotional 1972 drama. He plays a devoted father bringing up his young son, who is unable to speak, alone after his wife passes away. The father will do whatever it takes to raise the money for an operation that will enable his little boy to find his voice again, even if it means putting his own life in danger. The story of a father's unconditional and undying love was a massive success.

5. Karan (*Maine Pyar Kiya*): The hit 1989 romance would not only influence many films that followed, but also mapped out a career path for Alok Nath to repeatedly play a doting dad figure throughout his career. He plays Karan, who loves his daughter dearly and won't have a bad word said against her. When a rich suitor lands up on his doorstep, he challenges him to make an honest living and prove he is worthy of his precious daughter.



7. Dharamvir Malhotra (*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*): Although the father most remembered from the record-breaking 1995 romantic drama is Baldev Singh Chaudhary, the one everyone fell in love with was Dharamvir Malhotra. Anupam Kher brilliantly played the fun-loving father who has worked hard all his life for his son (Shah Rukh Khan) and only wants the best for him. He doesn't care that his boy has failed his studies and encourages him to pursue his hearts desires, including going after the woman he loves. After seeing this film, everyone wished their dad was like Dharamvir.



8. Rohit Kumar (*Akele Hum Akele Tum*): The 1995 musical drama inspired by Hollywood film *Kramer vs. Kramer* revolves around a single father (Aamir Khan) forced to bring up a young son after his wife leaves him. He faces hardships but manages to create a loving home for his little boy, and then has to step up when his rich wife attempts to take custody of the child. In the title track, the father expresses his love for his son and the child reciprocates by saying: "Oh, I love you daddy".

9. Jaiprakash Paswan (*Chachi 420*): The 1997 Indian remake of Hollywood hit *Mrs Doubtfire* revolves around a devoted father who will do all he can to spend time with his child after a divorce grants custody to the mother. The hilarious comedy saw Kamal Haasan play the father who has to disguise himself as a female nanny just to be close to his beloved daughter and look after her. His hard work pays off and he is finally able to reunite his family by the end.