

“Rendezvous with Ajinkya Deo”
Online interactive session with Shri. Ajinkya Deo interviewed by
Shri Sanjay Kshemkalyani on 22nd September 2020 at 5:30 PM

In an interactive session titled “Rendezvous with Ajinkya Deo”, that was graced by the renowned Marathi and Hindi film actor Shri. Ajinkya Deo, there was an exclusive discussion about his acting journey, his experiences, the era of Indian cinema their family was involved in, and a lot more. He is a familiar name in Maharashtrian households as he has acted in and directed multiple Marathi movies like “Sarja”, “Majha Ghar Majha Sansar”, “Maherchi Sadi” and Hindi movies including the latest Bollywood movie “Tanhaji”. This interaction unfolded the story of the Deo family which has been an integral part of Indian cinema for more than six decades. The actor also revealed the secrets of the family’s success with consistent and dedicated efforts, continuous upgradation in acting skills and use of advanced technologies in their production house. The actor was interviewed by Sanjay Kshemkalyani, actor and production manager, who is known for films such as “Rishte Naate” and “Jetaa.”

Journey in the film industry: Acting, Direction and Production:

Shri Ramesh Deo, renowned Marathi and Hindi actor, was born in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. With no godfathers in the film industry, it was on the basis of his excellent acting skills, that he carved a niche for himself in the Marathi film industry, debuting with the film “Paatlaachi Por”. After this there was no looking back, and he started delivering hits in many popular Marathi and Hindi movies, and played important roles with superstars like Amitabh Bachchan and Rajesh Khanna. He is married to the noted actor Seema Deo (formerly known as Nalini Saraf). He established Ramesh Deo Productions (RDP) as a movie production house in 1971 and its ad film division was set up in 2000. RDP is involved in the production of advertising films, television serials, music videos, documentaries and short films.

Shri Ajinkya Deo, the elder son of Ramesh Deo, is a popular actor in Marathi and Hindi films. His younger brother Shri Abhinay Deo, is an Indian film director known for his work in “Game”, “Delhi Belly”, “Blackmail”, etc. The entire Deo family is an integral part of the Indian film fraternity and has been entertaining cinema lovers with quality films and acting performances for more than 60 years.

Continuous Learning and Efforts:

In spite of being born to parents who are successful actors, Ajinkya initially did not think of taking up acting as a career, he shared during the interview. He had planned to join the emerging IT industry of that era and settle down in the United States. Before flying to the States, his uncle insisted that he should act in a movie. Initially he was apprehensive of facing the camera, but he worked hard to accomplish his acting skills and achieved a state level award for his first film “Ardhangi”. His tireless efforts towards acting made him one of the most successful actors of the Marathi film industry.

The importance of developing yourself in multiple areas:

Diversification was a mantra which the Deo family used to achieve great success in their careers. Instead of limiting themselves to just one skill, in spite of being at the peak of their acting careers, they also started working in multiple arenas like direction, production, and advertising which gave them widespread success.

Down to earth attitude:

Talking about their family life, Ajinkya shared that his family, in spite of being well-recognized and being privileged in life, follow a simple middle-class lifestyle and are very much down to earth. This gives the learning that even with varied achievements in life, one should remain deeply connected to their roots and stay grounded.

Giving back to society:

Sharing the story behind establishing the Academy of Learning and Development, Ajinkya revealed that the search for treatment for his daughter, who is diagnosed with GDD (Global Developmental Delay), took him and his wife around the world. Making this knowledge and experience available for the benefit of the countless number of children with special needs in our country was the motive behind starting the Academy. With this example he advised all to contribute towards the betterment of society as per one's individual capability.

The interactive online session ended with a question and answer session where Ajinkya spoke about the family's future plans as a production house. He appreciated the initiatives of Vidyalankar Dnyanapeeth Trust for organizing such events and expressed his willingness for collaborations in the future.

Vidyalankar salutes the Deo family for their valuable contribution to Indian cinema and social services and wishes them great success in all their endeavors!

Compiled by – Prof. Sunil Kavatkar, Prof. Pravin Annadate and edited by Prof Meenakshi Nandula of Vidyalankar Institute of Technology