

2010 Bollywood Mid-Year Awards

by Roshni Mulchandani

Compared to 2009, Bollywood has seen a far more successful 2010. This time last year, cinemagoers were craving for a good film to watch; the same cannot be said about the current year. Although we are only midway through the year, which seems to be running at the speed of light, there have been a number of films, performances and even songs that are worthy of praise, accolades and even awards. Normally, awards are bestowed to the industry after a year is fully completed. However, who said being normal was fun? Regularity is overrated and thus, instead of waiting a whole year for the awards to be given and received, we at City Masala have decided that the films thus far deserve an award ceremony of its own. Here's presenting the Mid-Year Awards of 2010. Come on up stars and claim what is rightfully yours!

Best Album

Winner: **I Hate Luv Storys** (*Vishal-Shekhar*)

Hands-down, **I Hate Luv Storys** housed some of the best music thus far. And credit is due where earned, which demands that we credit music composers *Vishal Dadlani* and *Shekhar Rajvani* with full marks for their urban album. While the film failed to create any waves critically, it lived up to *Dharma Productions* standards when it came to music. From the title song, which screamed young, to the romantic *Sadka Hua* and peppy *Jab Mila Tu*, the songs in the soundtrack out did each other.

Best Song

Winner: '*Tere Naina*' (*Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy*)

Once again, a *Dharma Productions* film that may not have worked as well as director-producer *Karan Johar* would have liked it to, but it has some extremely melodious music. '*Tere Naina*' from **My Name is Khan** takes the crown for best song and rightly so. The poignant and emotional number speaks volumes about the lead characters played by *Shah Rukh Khan* and *Kajol*.

Best Comedian

Winner: *Boman Irani* (**Housefull**)

Housefull was House-Dud but it did give us an outstanding humorous performance from *Boman Irani*. While the actor never fails to impress, he was the only actor in the film who managed to bring some substance to a film that otherwise had no premise or plot for the most part. The supporting actor literally stole each and every scene he was in and these include ones with *Akshay Kumar*. Enough said!

Best Villain

Winner: *Manoj Vajpayee* (**Rajneeti**)

Even though this 'Award Ceremony' is awarding actors who have performed par excellence in the last six months, we almost guarantee no other actor will bag the Best Villain Award at later award ceremonies. *Manoj Vajpayee* got into the character's soul as he depicted the conniving **Veerendra Pratap**. As he got more tangled in the political webs of **Rajneeti**, the more evil he became the more we loved him!

Best Supporting Actor

Winner: *Arjun Rampal* (**Rajneeti**)

Just when you thought he couldn't get any better, *Arjun Rampal* is certainly on a roll with his acting career. *Arjun Rampal* comes back with a *dhassu* performance in **Rajneeti**. Not only did he prove with his grey role in the political drama, that he can act and how, but also verified that he is capable of acting in any role. Amongst a mammoth cast, *Arjun* shines!

Best Supporting Actress

Winner: *Zarina Wabab* (**My Name is Khan**)

Besides being beautiful, *Zarina Wahab* is ma(a)ha talented. As *SRK's* mom in **My Name is Khan** we finally saw the otherwise forgotten actress, back in action. Her execution of a doting mother, who believed her son was supremely talented, is one of the few admirable aspects of the film. Her performance screamed to casting directors, "Forget me not!"

Best Actress

Winner: *Vidya Balan* (**Ishqiya**)

Finally *Vidya Balan* comes out of her commercial shell. The actress has been capable of stellar performances and proved it initially with **Parineeta** and now with **Ishqiya**. As the raunchy, greedy and yet enchanting *Krishna*, she manages to captivate the likes of *Naseeruddin Shah* and *Arshad Warsi* along with the audiences' hearts.

Best Actor

Winner: *Ajay Devgan* (**Once Upon a Time in Mumbai**)

While many would argue that I am cheating here because **Once Upon A Time in Mumbai** released in August, I believe that *Ajay Devgan* stole the year with his depiction of **Haji Mastan**. In a role that could be taken to an extreme, the actor comes out with an award winning performance. With great dignity and poise, he literally became Sultan Mirza and wowed!

Best Film

Winner: **Rajneeti** (*Prakash Jha*)

Could you have thought of any other film which could have stolen the biggest award? We think not. **Rajneeti** wins not only for its immaculate execution and mind-blowing performances but because director *Prakash Jha* proves that he understands Indian sentiments and politics with a depth that is unfathomable. In a film where the stars could have gotten lost within each other, each one stood out and held their own. Entertaining and a film that makes you think, **Rajneeti** may have not possessed a commercial theme but certainly made blockbuster money!

Now just because we are mid-way into the year, it doesn't mean you won't see any more films that are worthy of praise. The year thus far has taught us a couple of lessons.

1. A huge star cast doesn't necessarily insinuate a blockbuster, i.e. **Raavan** and **Kites**.
2. *Yeh public sab jaanti hai!* When you think a film will not work, they will turn it around and make that film the biggest hit of the year, i.e. **Rajneeti**.
3. Small casts, low budgets and risks, is a formula that should be exploited, i.e. **Love Sex Aur Dhoka**, **Udaan** and **Tere Bin Laden**.

Until the end of the year, we will see you at the movies!