

## Professional Profile

A multiple-award winning professional stage, television and screen actor who has appeared in scores of Marathi dramas and films, television serials and shows, parallel cinema, mainstream Hindi and South Indian movies. Has also established himself as a noted director and light-designer of plays. Versatile, famous for his astounding range, the actor continues to be in popular demand by Marathi, Hindi and South Indian directors and producers for his intense, honest, thought-provoking portrayals.

## Achievements

Has won several prestigious film and stage awards and has also featured in numerous award-winning films and dramas. Among the most prominent awards are:

In 2010, at the 56th National Film Awards, won the Best Male Actor award for the lead role in Marathi film, 'Jogwa.'

For 'Jogwa,' also won the Shivaji Ganeshan award, Baburao Painter award, V. Shantaram award, Sanskriti Kaladarpaan award and Maharashtra Times award.

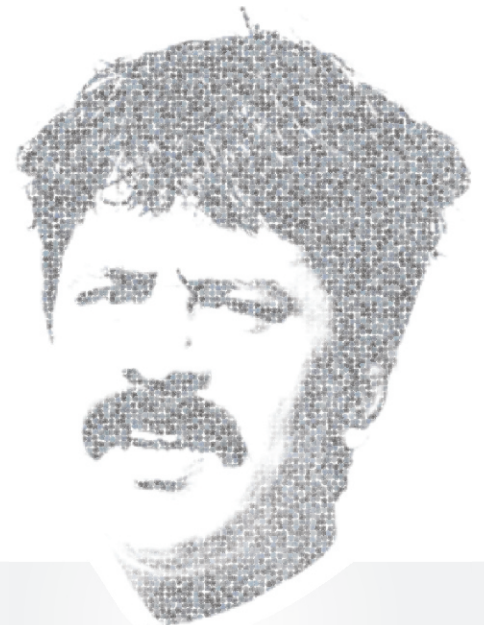
In 2010, the Maharashtra Government conferred upon him The Maharashtra Ratna Award for his role in 'Jogwa'.

In 2008, featured in Marathi film 'Urus', which won the Kalarang award.

In 2006, bagged the Rashtriya Ratna award, Hamlog award and Maharashtra Times award for his role of Inspector Bhonsale in Madhur Bhandarkar's Hindi film, 'Page 3'.

In 1996, won the Natya Gaurav and Kalnirnaya awards for Marathi drama, 'Jalali Tuzi Preet'.

Besides 'Jogwa', has appeared in several National award-winning films, like 'Mukta,' 'Bangarwadi,' 'Sarkarnama,' 'Dhyasparva', 'Chandni Bar,' 'Page 3,' 'Traffic Signal,' to mention a few.



## Career History

---

- 1980-84 Began acting in social gathering plays in New English High School, Tilak Road, Pune. Received support and encouragement from school drama teacher Mrs Bhanu.
- 1984-86 1984-86 Continued acting in school dramas of Bharti Vidyapeeth where enrolled for junior college. Took part in inter-collegiate drama competitions, became the school's cultural representative.
- 1987 Deciding to pursue acting as career, enrolled in Pune's Lalit Kala Kendra, to major in dramatic art.
- 1987 While studying, worked for Pune's Alurkar Music House for a year, the only regular job he has ever held.
- 1988 1988 Together with like-minded friends, Sanjay Pawar, Subhodh Pande and Abhay Godse, launched an Experimental Theatre platform called Parichay.
- 1988-91 1988-91 Under the aegis of Parichay, performed in numerous one-act plays which were very successful.
- 1989 1988 Won the Best Male Actor award in the prestigious state-level 'Purushottam Trophy' competition in its 25th anniversary year. The next year, won the Best Director award.
- 1990 First lead role in mainstream drama. Bagged the lead role in Theatre Academy's play 'Atireki', directed by noted writer-director Satish Alekar.  
  
The same year, Parichay-produced play, 'Kon Mhanato Takka Dilia' became a huge success in the state-level drama competition, bringing Upendra into limelight as an actor, director and scriptwriter. The play won high praise from noted drama personalities like actor Nilu Phule, writer-actor P. L. Deshpande and others.
- 1990-95 Association with German Grips Theatre Activity: Children's Theatre. His Grips play, 'Pahila Paan' was staged over 200 times.
- 1991 1988 Under the fellowship of Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, Parichay staged the play, 'Amhi Jato Amcha Gava.'
- 1991-92 Technical collaboration with late David Greaves, internationally famous mime actor/director. Did light designing for his mime show.
- 1993 First role in Marathi parallel film. Appeared in Jabbar Patel's film, 'Mukta.'

## Career History

---

- 1993-97 Directed numerous plays for five years in Industrial Drama field for Pune's Kirloskar Oil Engines.
- 1994 Co-founded with some friends Drushti Multimedia, an audio/video production company, with the primary aim of remaining in the creative field and being independent. The company, however, had to be closed down after 2/3 years, owing to increasing and pressing engagements from theatre and films.
- 1995 Featured in noted actor/director Amol Palekar's film, 'Bangarwadi' and Arun Khopkar's film, 'Katha Don Ganapatravanchi.'
- 1996 Bagged the lead role in Theatre Academy's play, 'Jalali Tuzi Preet', written by Abhiram Bhandarkar and directed by Waman Kendre .Won the 'Natya Gaurav' and 'Kalnirnaya' awards for this play.
- 1988-97 1988-1997 The Experimental Theatre movement launched through Parichay continued. During these 9 years, emerged as a versatile and competent dramatic persona: actor, director, light designer, backstage artists, stage designer etc, taking part in one-act plays, state-level drama competitions, Germany's Grips Theatre Activity, focusing Children's Theatre introduced by Dr Mohan Agashe, and producing and directing various plays.
- 1998 Appeared in Shravani Deodhar's film, 'Sarkarnama.'
- 1998-99 Directed stage-play 'Sakhi Mazi Lavni', a magnum opus about traditional lavni. Performed over 100 times across the country, the show earned critical acclaim.
- 1999 Appeared in first mainstream commercial drama, 'Doctor, Aap Bhi.'
- 1999 With a view to achieve diversity in career, shifted from Pune to Mumbai, and there first appeared in the play, 'Superhit No. 1', directed by Vinay Apte.
- 2000 Bagged a role in Amol Palekar's Marathi film, 'Kairee.'
- 2001 Featured in Amol Palekar's film, 'Dhyasparva.'
- 2003 First role in Hindi film. A small role in Madhur Bhandarkar's Hindi film, 'Chandni Bar' marked the actor's entry in Bollywood.
- 2004 Bagged a role in famed Marathi director Rajiv Patil's film, 'Savarkhed: Ek Gaav.'

## Career History

---

- 2005 First mainstream Hindi film. Featured as Inspector Bhonsale in Madhur Bhandarkar's award-winning film, 'Page 3.' Role universally lauded. Bollywood doors opened.
- 2006 Appeared in Hindi film Shiva, and in Kedar Shinde's 'Jatra: Hyalagaad Re Tyalagaad,' Rajiv Patil's 'Blind Game,' and Ashok Nanda's Hindi film, 'Rivaaz.'
- 2007 Bagged a role in Madhur Bhandarkar's Hindi film, 'Traffic Singal.' Same year, also appeared in Ram Gopal Verma's Hindi film, 'Darling', Marathi film, 'Mumbai Amuchich' by Sharad Bhandode.
- 2008 Was selected for the role of Kantilal Vora in Ram Gopal Verma's Hindi film, 'Sarkar Raj,' starring Amitabh Bacchan, Abhishek Bacchan, Aishwarya Rai. Also featured in Ram Gopal Verma's crime caper, 'Contract' and H. Kamblis's 'Pranali' and Shekhar Naik's Marathi film, 'Urus.'
- 2009 Rajiv Patil's 'Jogwa' was released, catapulting the actor to not only national but international acclaim, for his lead role of Tayappa, which earned him the National Film Award for Best Male actor, besides other awards like Shivaji Ganeshan award, Baburao Painter award, V. Shantaram award, Sanskriti Kaladarpaan award and Maharashtra Times award. The same year, also appeared in Marathi film, 'Made in China'.
- 2010 Anant Mahadevan's first Marathi film, 'Mi Sindhutai Sapkal' was released.
- 2010-11 Has completed 2 films during this period that are ready to be released: Amol Palekar's Marathi film, 'Dhoosar', starring Reema, Smita Tambe, Amruta Khanwilkar, Sachin Shinde's Marathi film, 'Mahaguru'
- 2011 Two projects are under production: Marathi film 'My Fair Lady', written by Dr. Vivek Bele, directed by Satish Rajwade and Marathi film 'Rela-re', written by Kiran Bagde, directed by Shailendra Bagde, and Ram GopalVerma's Hindi film, 'My Name is 340' directed by Surya Lokujja is in the post-production stage.

## Education

---

- 1993 Master of Arts, Mass Communications  
Pune University

## Education \_\_\_\_\_

1991 Bachelor of Arts, Drama,  
Lalit Kala Kendra, Pune University

1986-87 Junior College (12th Std)  
Bharti Vidyapeeth, Pune

## Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: 8th November 1969