

Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passes away

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Rishi Kapoor, the veteran Bollywood actor and member of the prominent Kapoor family, passed away in Mumbai.

(Photo by Amal Ks/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

New Delhi (India): Rishi Kapoor, the veteran Bollywood actor and member of the prominent Kapoor family, passed away in Mumbai on Thursday aged 67. The news of his demise was revealed by his brother, actor Randhir Kapoor, to a news agency this morning,

Kapoor had been admitted to HN Reliance hospital where he was undergoing treatment for complications related to cancer.

“He is suffering from cancer and he has some breathing problem, so he has been admitted to the hospital,” Randhir Kapoor had told PTI earlier. Rishi, who is usually active on social media, hadn’t posted anything on his social handles since April 2, though he had recently announced his next project, a remake of Hollywood film *The Intern*, also featuring Deepika Padukone.

Rishi had returned to India last September after undergoing treatment for cancer in the US for almost a year and was, in February this year, hospitalised twice due to ill health.

The third offspring of thespian Raj Kapoor, Rishi’s earliest formal role was as a child artist in his father’s *Mera Naam Joker* in 1970. He went on to act in over a 100 mainstream movies. He first attained mass popularity as a teen icon and loveable romantic in the mid-1970s, in his first movie as the main lead. *Bobby*, opposite Dimple Kapadia, catapulted him into the hearts of India’s young and went on to be a big hit. Rishi won the Filmfare Best Actor Award in 1974 for this role.

Other prominent outings included *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Laila Majnu*, *Rafoo Chakkar*, *Sargam*, *Karz*, *Prem Rog*, *Chandni*, *Heena*, *Karz*, *Bol Radha Bol*, and *Saagar*. After a brief hiatus, Rishi’s career had a second wind when he moved to character roles at the turn of the millennium.

This has been an especially cruel week for the Indian film industry as on Wednesday the supremely gifted actor Irrfan Khan had lost his battle to a rare cancer, sending the entire country into mourning. Soon after Rishi passed away, his immediate family posted a heart-warming message.

“Our dear Rishi Kapoor passed away peacefully at 8:45am IST in hospital today after a two-year battle with leukemia. The doctors and medical staff at the hospital said he kept them entertained to the last.

He remained jovial and determined to live to the fullest right through two years of treatment across two continents. Family, friends, food and films remained his focus and everyone who met him during this time was amazed at how he did not let his illness get the better of him.

He was grateful for the love of his fans that poured in from the world over. In his passing, they would all understand that he would like to be remembered with a smile and not with tears.

In this hour of personal loss, we also recognise the world is going through a very difficult and troubled time. There are numerous restrictions around movement and gathering in public. We would like to request all his fans and well-wishers and friends of the family to please respect the laws that are in force.

He would not have it any other way.â€•

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