

Artiste – Writer – Director *Basicolan* Rakesh Bedi's latest production 2016



Actors Anupam Kher and **Neena Gupta** (MA 1976 JDM) in scenes from the play

In Delhi's autumn, a middle-aged couple enjoys the cool breeze at Lodhi Garden. The weather gives a perfect chance for their romance to brew. But the winds change direction and the tale becomes intriguing when one realises that the man and woman are meeting to discover the truth behind their separation – which happened 35 years ago.

Directed by Rakesh Bedi, the play *Mera Woh Matlab Nahi Tha*, enacted by popular actors Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta, narrates how love gets a second chance. The narrative comprises a gamut of emotions. "When two people meet after long, they don't just share memories which make them sad, but also the times which

made them happy. All of us experience first love, at times it works out, and at times it doesn't. This play is about what transpires between the two characters when they meet in the autumn of their lives," says Bedi.

Having grown up in the by lanes of Chandni Chowk, the two are shown in love with each other in their high-school days. "Incidentally, Neenaji used to live in Chandni Chowk when in Delhi," says actor Anupam Kher. Kher too has spent his initial years as an actor here. "There are elements of nostalgia and reality associated with this play. The fact that after 60 shows the play is finally coming to its original place — Delhi, makes it special."

Though circumstances separate the two lovers in the tale, each feels let down by the other. Hence the act, presented by Teamwork Arts, is aptly titled, '*Mera Woh Matlab Nahi Tha*'.

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Basicolan : a Shaheed Bhagat Singh College alumna / alumnus

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