

## *Vishal Bhardwaj* the sportsman who turned music composer to woo his collegemate



In his own words

**I did BA Pass, which we used to call the ‘royal course’ at that time.**

Students from sports quota, aspiring artists, basically those who didn’t want to study, opted for it ! .

I had come from Meerut, and being from a small town, college was a totally new world for me. I met so many musicians and learned music here. I’d have never become a composer or a filmmaker had I not studied here. College also brought newfound freedom. But to the aspirants, I want to say that *this freedom and liberty come with responsibilities*. And hey outstation students, don’t ever feel like a misfit. Always remember that it is the people from outside who make it big. Even in films, people who’ve come from outside Bombay have done better. I came from a small town, but never felt lonely because **I stayed in the college hostel and everyone immediately became family, including the hostel staff**. I remember living on bun-anda, roaming around till 4 in the morning . Unlike most guys, we never hung out around Miranda House, because the girls in our college were so pretty. **Rekha** (wife, singer Rekha Bhardwaj) **was my senior and just to woo her, I became a composer**. But, she was not the first one I tried to woo. I had many heartbreaks before that!

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*alumnus Vishal BA and alumna Rekha (a well – known singer).  
Vishal’s films include Awardwinning*

Maachis	1996	Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent
Godmother	1999	National Film Award for Best Music Direction
The Blue Umbrella	2005	National Film Award for Best Children's Film
Omkara	2006	National Film Award – Special Jury Award Nomination—Filmfare Award for Best Director
Ishqiya	2010	National Film Award for Best Music Direction Nominated—Filmfare Award for Best Director
Haider	2014	National Film Award for Best Screenplay National Film Award for Best Music Direction Nomination—Filmfare Award for Best Director

I loved the campus so much that even after graduating, I kept coming back. In fact, I made Imtiaz Ali (filmmaker, Hindu college graduate), who was many years my junior, have his first drink. He still remembers .