

Delhi – born thespian **Kaym** ( KMC alumnus ) **V M Badola** passes away**Kaym Vishwa Mohan Badola**

Actor , Writer and Journalist

BA Eng Hons KMC 1961

MA Eng 1963

Films : *Swades* 2004 , *Jodhaa Akbar* 2008  
and *Munna Bhai MBBS* 2003**Passed away 23.11.2020**

Google released an ad film about two elderly men, who had been friends in Lahore before the Partition separated them , being reunited by their grandchildren . The Pakistani was played by veteran actor director **M S Sathyu** .When he arrived in Delhi for the shoot, Sathyu was in for a surprise : the other actor was **Vishwa Mohan Badola** , his friend from the time they used to do theatre in Delhi in the 1970s, “ The whole film was a surprise,” says Sathyu over the phone from Bengaluru. Their embrace, towards the end of the clip captured a well of emotions from nostalgia and remorse to a yearning for peace and friendship , “ *He was a very strong and sensitive actor,*” says Sathyu , about V M , who passed away from age related illness. He was 84 .

The viral ad film was only one of V M’s several works in film, radio and stage. The 60s and 70s were marked by sociopolitical upheaval and as a journalist and a theatre practitioner , he would have long discussions about the nation with Sathyu and others. “ It was a time when a lot of theatre was being created around the Emergency and he participated in several of these . He was also a *good writer*, politically aware and opposed to autocracy” says Sathyu .

Though cinema has immortalised him in *Swades*, *Jodhaa Akbar* and *Jolly LLB* , it was on stage that the actor was honed over 60 years . **Ram Gopal Bajaj**, theatre person and former Director National School of Drama NSD in Delhi, recalls the decades since 1967, when he and a clutch of passouts of NSD , such as Om Shivpuri , did plays such as Badal Sircar’s *Evam Indrajit* in which V M played the titular character.

“ Badola was a part of our group ‘*Dishantar*’ as one of the Executive members as well as a performer in many major productions . We worked as theatre actors in Delhi together for more than 20 years. *He had a great stage presence,*” he adds .

V M was born in Delhi in 1936 and raised in Uttarakhand and Delhi before he began to attend Harcourt Butler School in Delhi . He graduated in English from Kirori Mal College. He is survived by his **wife Sushila** and three children – daughters **Alka Kaushal**, **Kalindi** , actor and RJ, and his **son , actor Varun Badola** .