

Arjun Rampal: I would relive my days at Hindu all over again if I could

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Arjun Rampal ... spent several years in the Nation's **Capital during his childhood and college days**. "It's always wonderful to come to Delhi although I prefer to be here in the winter definitely. It's always great since I have many friends here." "It is like a second home to me," says Arjun, adding "**My grandparents were here**. I spent a lot of my childhood here. I used to come here often for my winter vacations, not the summer vacations. So, I have lots of fond memories from the city from my childhood."

Of course, Arjun also knows Delhi by virtue of spending three years at Hindu College. However, his time at the college preceded one of the college's quirkiest traditions – the **Virgin Tree** puja on Valentine's Day. When we ask him about it, he seems **clueless**. "That must be something new. This is actually the first time I'm hearing about it," says the actor. Although he does have an explanation as to why he might have missed the excitement around it if it did happen during his days at Hindu.

His **days at Hindu College gave Arjun some of the fondest memories he has**. He says, "I had such a great experience at Hindu. I still have friends from there. I was **with Imtiaz (Ali)** recently and it's always great to catch up with them again. **I would love to relive all of that all over again if I had the chance, and only in that college**. I remember going to **Ridge Road** and eating **bun omelette** and then going back and studying for the exams the next day. I remember the cold hitting us on the bike. I remember chipping in for rickshaw fare to come all the way into the main city just to watch a movie at Priya or Chanakya."

We met Arjun at the launch of a mind **sports league**, where he is an investor and **brand ambassador**. ... he **despises** Delhi's jugaad and intimidation culture at parties. He says, "The one word you hear at lines outside any party venue in Delhi is 'you don't know who I am'. ... Partying

happens when you take a break and go out to enjoy yourself. It should not involve these ego clashes.”

Why did people go to Switzerland or Mauritius to shoot? Because there was certain subsidy the filmmaker got. “The reason they did that was to promote their own places. **Switzerland’s tourism** went up by leaps and bounds **after Yash ji (Yash Chopra)** shot all his films there. So, when you have to promote your own places within the country, it’s a good way of doing that. And there are such beautiful areas in India which are totally unexplored. The government is encouraging that now and it shows.”