

Sepia-tinted memories of legendary Bimal Roy will be revived today

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MUMBAI: Sepia-tinted memories of the late Bimal Roy will be revived on Thursday at a gathering of noted film personalities, cinema connoisseurs and close associates of the legendary film maker.

A product of the fabled New Theatres film company of Calcutta, Roy migrated to Mumbai after the Second World War and made films remarkable for their social relevance, technical finesse and mellifluous music. *Do Beegba Zameen* (1953), a Roy classic, has been acclaimed as a precursor to the neo-realistic trend in Indian cinema. Roy died in 1966 after having shot a few reels of *Aasra* which was later re-made as *Chaitaali* by his close aide and noted director Hrishikesh Mukherjee.

On Thursday, veteran playback singer Manna De, noted vocalists Arun Date, Chhaya Ganguly, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Nitin Mukesh will transport the gathering to the golden era of Hindi cinema with

vintage numbers from Roy's memorable films such as *Hamraabi*, *Bandini*, *Do Beegba Zameen*, *Madbumati*, *Kabuliwala*, *Parineeta*, *Sujaata*, *Devdaas* and *Parakh*, to name a few.

Roy's associates and leading cinema personalities such as Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Gulzar (he wrote his first song, *Mora goraa ang layeele*, a Lata number, for Roy's *Bandini* in 1960), Shashi Kapoor, Sunil Dutt, lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri, Sulochana, among others, will attend the function to be held on Thursday evening at St Andrew's auditorium in Bandra.

The evening has been planned to raise funds for a suitable Roy memorial in Mumbai, according to Rinki Bhattacharya, Roy's daughter and chief of the memorial committee.

An award in memory of the ace director will be given to noted cinematographer Dilip Gupta who wielded the camera for *Madumati*, Ms Bhattacharya said.