

Today, as I remember my father on his birthday, I think of how he was my 'Go to Guy' for all important decisions of my life. Today I'm about to take a very important decision and although it's been almost 3 years since he passed away, he is still my 'Go to Guy'. So here is my imaginary conversation with my father on the eve of his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

*Adi: Dad I've finished the script of the film I want to direct next, but I'm not sure if you will be happy with it.*

*Dad: Why do you feel that?*

*Adi: Because you have always wanted me to direct the biggest films of YRF and this one is not that.*

*Dad: So are you saying that it does not have the potential to be as successful as your earlier films?*

*Adi: Probably not.*

*Dad: Then why do you want to make it?*

*Adi: Because I absolutely love it. I started writing it for fun while I was writing my most ambitious script. I thought I'll give it to one of my directors and I'll just produce it. But I enjoyed writing it so much that I knew half way that I'm going to direct it myself.*

*Dad: What excites you about it?*

*Adi: It's just very different to any of the films I have directed so far. Till now all the films I have directed or written have been intense, dramatic and emotional. This one is just a light hearted romance, nothing more. It's my happiest film. My youngest film. My riskiest film.*

*Dad: It doesn't bother you that it might not do 100 cr, 200 cr type of numbers?*

*Adi: Actually Dad one of the reasons I want to make this film is to free myself of this burden. I don't want to keep trying to better my numbers, I want to keep trying to better my films. I want to make what makes me happy and I'm sure if I do that well, the numbers will follow.*

*Dad: Let me tell you a secret son. I might come across as a producer who only believes in making the biggest films, but as a filmmaker I have always backed the risk taker in me. All my life I have always been most excited making the films where I took the biggest risks. Some did well, some didn't. But all those films made me a better filmmaker and surprisingly a bigger filmmaker. So my advice to you today is what I have always told myself - Go ahead and make the film you love, but make it with conviction and make it fearlessly - 'BEFIKAR ho ke'.*

So with the blessings of my father, on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary,  
I'm announcing my next directorial venture after 7 years.

**BEFIKRE**

Those who dare to love

-Aditya Chopra