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Sunny Pawar: Want to be like Rajinikanth one day



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He is not a boy of many words off screen but Indian child actor, Sunny Pawar has charmed everyone — from Hollywood bigwigs at the 2017 Oscars, to former US President, Barack Obama — with his performance in the Oscar-nominated film *Lion* (2016).

"I had a great time at both the White House and the Oscars. I remember an uncle (referring to Oscars 2017 host Jimmy Kimmel) picking me up at the Oscars, and I had to say 'Lemonheads and Mike and Ikes'. I found that really exciting, and enjoyed every moment," an excited Sunny shares over the phone, adding that he is still in touch with the film's cast, actors Dev Patel and

Nicole Kidman, through emails.

However, this 11-year-old wonder has made sure that he does not end up becoming a one-hit wonder. His recent performance in the indie drama, *Chhipa*, saw him win two awards for the Best Child actor — one at the South Asian Film Festival, Dallas, US and the other was at the New York Indian film Festival.

And he says as of this moment, only two things matter to him — "enjoy karne ka aur kuch seekhne ka (Enjoy and learn more)."

Perhaps that's the reason, why he never expected to win the Best Child actor award. "I had never imagined that I could ever win an award like this. I really feel excited that I have won two of these awards," he says, adding, "I had a lot of fun while shooting for the film. When Safdar (Rahimji film director) uncle called me and

narrated the story, I really liked it. He then narrated the story to my father and he also liked it, and it was him, who encouraged me to be a part of it," says Sunny.

A "really big fan" of superstar Rajinikanth, Sunny admits that he loves acting, but he makes it a point to never put his studies on the back-burner. "Of course I love to act. I want to be like Rajinikanth one day. He is a big star, and I am a really big fan of him," he gushes.

"But education is also important. For *Chhipa*, Safdar uncle wrote a letter to my principal, who then gave me permission to miss school for a few days. After every few days of shooting, I used to get a day's break and during that, I used to go through whatever was taught in school, and finished my homework, too."

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