

MUSIC

From Assam to Punjab, Papon and The East India Company took the audience at Science City on a cross-country sonic journey at the final event of the third edition of Emami Cultural Fiesta, in association with t2, on February 22.

"I want to take you through India. The auditorium seems to have a mixed crowd, so I will take you to wherever I have travelled to. *Mujhe lagta hai ki India mein sara folk and classical hai, usse Bollywood bana hai*," said Papon, before diving into the Assamese folk song *Dinae dinae*, and then zooming off to Punjab with a more rocking version of the tune.

Bolly addicts were treated to *Moh moh ke dhaage*, *Humnava* and *Gulabi aankhein* while *Coke Studio* and *MTV Unplugged* fans lapped up *Khumaar*, *Ranjish hi sahi* and *Tokari*. "Because of *Coke Studio*, the college students in torn and faded jeans tell me: 'Papon da, let's play folk! And I am like 'yo!'" smiled Angaraag Mahanta aka (better known as) Papon. t2 pick? *Kaun mera...* only bare vocals... magic!

Text: Malancha Dasgupta

Pictures: Pabitra Das



SURPRISE GUEST

The audience was surprised when Papon stopped singing... only to smile and say: "The person who is going to be a legend, *aaj humara show dekhne aaye hain*." Enter, singer **Kaushiki Chakrabarty**. "I can't believe she is here," added Papon.



After the show Kaushiki told us: "I really liked it when he sang *Kaun mera*. He also sang one of my favourite tracks — *Ranjish hi sahi*. His conviction, commitment and bonding with folk and semi-classical music is what I really admire because as a young musician it is one of my biggest struggles to belong to an original form of music. I truly believe what he said on stage... that Bollywood music is a different genre. Folk and semi-classical are the biggest pillars of Bollywood. I like the fact that Papon sang more folk and semi-classical songs. I have always been a fan of his voice. We have interacted before on Twitter, messages and on the phone but I have never had a chance to meet him, so I was determined to make it to this show."

ORGANISER SPEAK



Every year we arrange this cultural programme. It helps us enhance the brand image of Emami. We keep the entry free, so that everyone can enjoy the programmes. — **R.S. Agarwal**, joint chairman of the Emami Group

VOICES

I was simply enthralled by his performance. It was powerful. I was requesting him to sing *Ranjish hi sahi*, so when he finally sang it, I was soooo happy. — **Lagnajita Chakraborty**, singer



I am a big Papon fan. He is so spontaneous on stage and he's always dancing! I was looking forward to his folk songs and ghazals more than Bolly numbers. Best was when he sang *Ranjish hi sahi*. — **Satrajit Sen**, producer

This was the first time I watched him live and I really enjoyed the show. His best was *Kyon*. The audience really enjoyed the performance because he kept interacting with the crowd. He has a powerful and versatile voice. — **Pallavi Chatterjee**, actress



MOH MOH TO BANA O BANA O

Moh moh ke dhaage and *Humnava* were my favourites. He was so jolly and lively on stage even though the audience was sitting. His live singing is as good as his recorded songs. — **Ekta Shah**, 26, from Bhowanipore



I heard him live for the first time and just loved his voice and personality. The ambience changed when he sang *Moh moh ke dhaage*. — **Paramita Bhattacharjee**, 30, singer

Music comes naturally to him and he connects with everyone. I enjoyed *Banao banao* the most. — **Sourav Samadder**, businessman



We all felt connected to him even if we didn't know the lyrics. His best performance was *Banao banao*. — **Barun Sarkar**, sales manager



(L-R) Sharon Kundu, Patralekha Mitra and Anusree Dey were the first to get up and match steps with *Banao banao*. The Science City audi was soon lit up with mobile phones.