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NORTH AMERICAN Newsline

Robin Raina awarded South Asian Personality of the Year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

New York

AT the inaugural of South Asian Excellence Awards at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on May 10, Robin Raina, businessman and philanthropist, was given the South Asian Personality of the Year Award. The event was organized by Sony Entertainment Television Asia.

Raina is the chairman of the board, president and CEO of Ebix Inc. as well as the founder and president of the Robin Raina Foundation, which carries out one of the largest private charity initiatives in the Indian subcontinent. The foundation has helped in building 6,000 homes for the underprivileged, free of cost.

The South Asian Excellence Awards was developed to honor the accomplishments and excellence of South Asian Americans in multiple categories. The show featured the crème de la crème of the South Asian community.

With a full house of over 450 esteemed audience members, the event was a huge success and attracted some of the industry's best. Celebrity guests in attendance included tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, Bollywood actress Pooja Batra, musician Mira Veda, American Idol sensation Sanjaya Malakar, Daily Show's Aasif Mandvi, Hollywood actress Janina Gavankar and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz.

The host of the evening was Nitin Ganatra, the British actor famous for his roles in *Bride and Prejudice* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Later at the function, there were



From left: Robin Raina, winner of the South Asian Personality of the Year Award, former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz and Michael Fung, senior vice-president of Wal-Mart, at the first annual South Asian Excellence Awards held at the Waldorf-Astoria on May 10



From left: Robin Raina and Rajan Singh, EVP of Sony Entertainment Television Asia



From left: Kunal Dasgupta, CEO Sony Entertainment Television Asia, Lena Khan, winner of the Entertainment Achiever of the Year Award and Pooja Batra, Bollywood actress at the event



From left: Arti Kumar Caprihan, marketing director of Western Union, Shafi Saxena, winner of the Business Achiever of the Year Award and Vijay Amritraj, international tennis legend

performances by The Dhol Foundation, the NYC Bhangra Dancers, music sensation Raghav Sachar, Indian Idol 3 winner Prashant Tamang and Jamaican reggae group, Chaka Demus & Pliers, famous for their hit *Murder She Wrote*.

The other categories included entertainment, science, technology, social service, performing and visual arts, business, literature and sports, as well as a special award given to a young achiever demonstrating outstanding excellence in their field.

Rajan Singh, executive vice-president of Sony Entertainment Television Asia, said, "These annual awards are set to become one of the most high profile and respected events of its kind in the US. The winners have all come from various

The winners are:

- South Asian Personality of the Year Award Sponsored by Wal-Mart and Sam's Club: Robin Raina
- Young Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Nationwide Insurance: Farah Taslima and Ishan Mandani
- Science Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Air India: Dr Anil Kaul
- Performing and Visual Arts Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Malani Jewelers: Shazia Sikander
- Social Service Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Raja Foods: Purvi Shah
- Sports Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Raza Communications: Mohini Bhardwaj
- Business Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Western Union: Safi Saxena
- Technology and IT Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Mpingi: Dr S. Somasegar
- Entertainment Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Sony Entertainment Television: Lena Khan
- Literature Achiever of the Year Award Sponsored by Tilda: Bapsi Sidhwa

backgrounds and professions, yet they all share a sole vision, the vision to excel. The winners of this evening's accolades symbolize the talents of today's South Asian American community and serve as an inspiration for the achievers of tomorrow."

For more information about the South Asian Excellence Awards, please visit www.saea.tv. For press enquiries email Willow@Masala.com or call (732) 257-9600.