

Ajay Devgn's films released a month apart meet with completely opposite fates



Ajay Devgn is having a busy 2024. Two of his films have released in theatres in the first four months and 3-4 more films are set to release by year end. Shaitaan took the box office by surprise as it netted around Rs 146-147 crores in India and approximately Rs 215 crores worldwide. Less than a month later, Maidaan again took the box office by surprise, this time for all the wrong reasons as it opened on a disastrous note, and is projected to close its business in the vicinity of Rs 43-48 crores in India and Rs 65 crores worldwide.

The box office performance of both Ajay Devgn films are very contrasting. Why this is surprising is because the momentum that the actor got with Shaitaan had to ensure better initials for Maidaan, which didn't happen to be. While Shaitaan

was largely profitable for the producers, Maidaan has proven to be a massive loss-making venture which will be extremely difficult to come out of, unless a compromise is made on the remuneration front.

Shaitaan was made on a modest budget, is an official adaptation of the Gujarati film 'Vash' and was directed by a director who gave a dud in the form of Ganapath late last year. Maidaan was a way more expensive film, had an original screenplay and was directed by a director who last delivered a super-hit in Badhaai Ho. In short, the odds and circumstances were favouring the latter but it is the former that ended up doing much better. The final results are a separate thing but when a film with a price tag of over Rs 200 crores and featuring a bankable star fails to even take an opening,

there is introspection required.

Shaitaan made its first pop with an excellently received trailer. The film released, not too long after the trailer released. The well-received promo led to an urgency to watch the movie in theatres and once a film secures its initial audience, it inadvertently also ends up doing respectable business, unless there is total rejection on the content front.

Ajay Devgn's next release is likely to be Auron Mein Kaha Dum Tha. That will be followed by arguably the biggest Hindi release of the year, Singham Again. The year will end with Raid 2 for him. He is set to begin shooting for De De Pyaar De 2, Son Of Sardar 2 and a number of other films from June. Drishyam 2 and Shaitaan are obviously getting sequels too. In other words, our Singham is booked and busy.

Ayushmann Khurrana reveals he wasn't director's choice for Andhadhun-Article 15



Ayushmann Khurrana earned massive appreciation for his performance in 2018's cult classic Andhadhun. Directed by Sriram Raghavan, the movie was both a critical and commercial hit and earned over Rs 400 crores globally. The actor in a recent interview looked back at how he managed to sign this film and also revealed that he wasn't the first choice for it.

Not just Andhadhun but Ayushmann also wasn't the director's pick for Article 15 but according to him, it was his hustle as an outsider that took him through.

In a recent interview, He discussed the importance of 'hustle for outsiders' and shared that he 'snatched the film' from Sriram Raghavan. He shared, "I have hustled in the film. Hustling is very important for outsiders, I am still hustling." When Ayushmann came to

know that Sriram was making this Andhadhun, he directly showed up at his office and told him that he wanted it.

Sriram's response? - "I can't see you in this film". Ayushmann then revealed, "(This) is just what Anubhav Sinha told me for Article 15. He too had said 'I don't see you in this film' and I had asked him to audition me. After you become a successful actor, people don't ask you to audition. In the West, however, the biggest stars still audition."

Ayushmann said that he is 'not ashamed' of auditioning because "If you have confidence in your craft then why can't you give an audition?"

Further in the interview, the Badhaai Ho actor revealed that Sriram actually auditioned him unknowingly. Ayushmann shared, "He said, 'We'll jam on these scenes'. He was

kind of auditioning me. I was like, 'Let's do this'. I had this excitement in me. Whenever a film comes to me, I treat it as my first film. It feels like the first project, give it your all."

Ayushmann confessed that he and Tabu were very serious on the sets because they weren't told it was a dark comedy. Ayushmann revealed, "He didn't tell us the genre. I was acting like I was blind and truly something very bad had happened to me. People were then laughing when the film was on edit, I didn't understand why they were laughing. Because after going through that journey, you feel you have made a very serious film. There is a shock value, and because of that shock value people are laughing."

For the unversed, Andhadhun also starred Radhika Apte, Anil Dhawan, and Manav Vij in pivotal roles.



The film stars Siddhu Jonnalagadda and Anupama Parameswaran in lead roles.

Priyanka Chopra-backed heartbreaking documentary Women of My Billion to release on THIS date

Priyanka Chopra has not just impressed the audience with her acting skills in India and internationally but has also backed a lot of interesting content through her production house. At an event in March, Priyanka introduced the upcoming documentary, Women of My Billion. The heartbreaking story gives a glimpse into the struggles and fights of women in India. The release date of this documentary has now been announced. WOMB is set to hit the OTT space on May 3.

Today, the streaming service Amazon Prime Video announced that the upcoming documentary Women of My Billion will premiere on May 3, 2024, on their platform. The film is directed by Ajitesh Sharma and produced jointly by Priyanka Chopra's production house, Purple Pebble Pictures, and Awedacious Originals. The cast includes Srishti Bakshi, Neha Rai, Pragma Prasad, and Sangeeta Tiwari.

The OTT platform shared the trailer in their Instagram post, which tells the story through the eyes of Srishti Bakshi, a woman who goes on a walking pilgrimage from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. As she walks for 3,800 km over a span of 240 days, she meets different women and learns about their journeys, challenges, and victories.

The caption of the Instagram post reads: "Journey along one woman's 3800 km walk across India for women's safety, witness stories that need to be told and question beliefs that must be challenged. #WomenOfMyBillionOnPrime, May 3."

In a statement, Priyanka Chopra explained



the aim of the documentary. She said, "Women have borne the brunt of gender bias for far too long, enduring a silent struggle against entrenched social injustices that seek to suppress their voices. With WOMB, the aim is to transcend these struggles - to be a beacon of hope."

The actress also clarified that the film is not just meant to showcase women's hardships but also serve as a rallying appeal for unity and action. Priyanka expressed hope that the documentary would bring us closer to a society where all women are valued and given the opportunity to succeed. Speaking about what motivated her throughout her journey, Srishti said it was realizing that Indian women are

all united in their bravery to oppose abuse against them. She aimed to spread this message about bravery, independence, and self-assurance through her pilgrimage.

Srishti expressed that it was obvious that the violence in our society is caused by the actions of a minority and the silence of the majority. She concluded, "For me, the documentary serves as a call to action, urging the majority to break their silence and actively participate in addressing this critical issue."

Priyanka Chopra is set to star in the action comedy movie Heads of State alongside Idris Elba and John Cena. She is currently filming with the team of Heads of State.

Jimmy Shergill on Hrithik Roshan starrer Fighter's underperformance at box office: 'You have to be connected...'

Actor Jimmy Shergill has been preparing for the release of the web series Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond, which hit the OTT space today. It revolves around the airstrikes after the Pulwama attacks. The film Fighter, released in January 2024, was also based on the Balakot airstrikes. Jimmy has now opined why the Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone starrer underperformed at the box office.

In a recent interview with DNA, Jimmy Shergill opened up about the underperformance of Fighter. Emphasizing the importance of the connection between the story and the audience, he stated, "If you want to feel connected to the story, you should have characters that will make you feel connected. You have to be connected to the characters then automatically you will feel connected with the story."

Jimmy also stressed the importance of correct facts and attention to detail.

Santosh Singh, director of the series Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond, also reflected on Fighter's box-office performance. He said that the primary focus should



have been more on the story. Santosh expressed that if one gets that right, then everything else falls into place.

The director explained that if the story doesn't have substance, then it won't work, no matter how much money is spent on it, because the connection with the audience is missing. He concluded, "A lot of people couldn't connect (with the story of Fighter), and

connection bahut zaroori hai (connection is very important)."

In the film, Hrithik Roshan plays the role of Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania, aka Patty. The stellar cast also includes Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover, Akshay Oberoi, and Sanjeeda Shaikh. Rishabh Sawhney portrays the role of the antagonist.

Directed by Siddharth Anand,

the film premiered in cinemas on January 25, 2024. The aerial action drama revolves around the lives of Indian Air Force officers and is packed with high-octane sequences.

The show features Jimmy Shergill, Lara Dutta, Ashutosh Rana, and Ashish Vidyarthi in pivotal roles. Directed by Santosh Singh, the series can now be streamed on JioCinema.