

Restored Umrao Jaan Set For European Premiere At London Film Fest



A newly restored print of the 1981 period musical drama "Umrao Jaan" is set for its European premiere at the Tongues on Fire UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF), which opens in London next week.

The 4K restoration of the classic tracing the journey of a Lucknow courtesan and poet, portrayed by Rekha, was undertaken by the National Film Archive of India. The UKAFF screening at the British Film Institute (BFI) IMAX will be followed by director Muzaffar Ali's reflections. It forms part of a long line-up of films and associated cinematic events connected with the South Asian experience around this year's theme of "Stories That Bind Us".

"We are proud to present a programme that celebrates bold and outstanding storytelling, sparks important and

difficult conversations and showcases extraordinary work from established and emerging filmmakers," said Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry, UKAFF founder and director in a statement.

Now in its 28th year, the annual festival also includes the UK premiere of the acclaimed Bengali film "Baksho Bondi" (Shadowbox) – directed by Tanushree Das and Saumyananda Sahi and starring Tillotama Shome. Beyond films, the 2026 lineup packs in a live music homage entitled "Magical Melodies: Tribute to the late O P Nayyar, Dharmendra and Asha Bhosle".

As part of the festival's British Asian strand, a series of screenings at the Kiln Theatre in London spotlights stories rooted in the lived experiences of South Asian communities in the UK, including British Punjabi drama 'Never Had

A Chance' by Jazz Bhalla.

"From intimate family dramas to fearless new voices in South Asian cinema, our selection captures life in all its complexity. These films remind us that storytelling is not just entertainment – it is a way of seeing each other again," said Samir Bhamra, UKAFF Creative Director.

"At a moment when division is growing louder across our societies, the festival is an invitation to come together, listen deeply and rediscover the solidarity that will carry our communities through whatever lies ahead," he said.

The festival will close on May 10 with its annual UKAFF Awards, with filmmaker Muzaffar Ali set to receive the Golden Flame Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kill 2 Confirmed, With Lakshya Reprising His Role As NSG Commando Amrit Rathod?

Lakshya gained widespread recognition following Kill's release. His role in the film made him a star, and now it looks like there is happy news for his fans. The update suggests that the actor is on board for a sequel to the 2024 action thriller. As per Variety India, Kill, one of the most violent films to come out of Bollywood, will have a sequel. The report has confirmed that the sequel will have Lakshya in the lead role, and he will be seen reprising his role of NSG commando Amrit Rathod.

The report has confirmed that Dharma Productions and Sikhya Entertainment have finalised the story for the film, and the team is planning to kick-start the shoot by September this year. While the film will feature Lakshya reprising his role, the report states that the movie will be set in a completely different timeline and setting.

The source has informed the portal that Lakshya is on board, but the sequel will not be directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat, who directed the first part of the film, as he will be busy with Sunny Deol's next, tentatively titled Parshuram.

Kill tells the story of Amrit (Lakshya), an Indian Army commando who falls in love with Tulika (Tanya Maniktala). However, things change when the pair is caught on a train hijacked by Fani (Raghav Juyal) and his gang of dacoits, who begin killing passengers. With their martial arts skills tested to the limit, Amrit and his friend Viresh embark on a dangerous rescue operation, battling vicious foes to protect the passengers.

When Lakshya spoke about Kill's sequel in an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Lakshya revealed details about a possible sequel to Kill. He



stated, "Talks are going on. But to tell you honestly, I can't say much as the film is in the working stage. So, once something concrete happens, I will be able to tell you more."

Working on Kill was not easy, and the actors faced several injuries. When asked if Lakshya was ready to undertake that intense shoot again, he said, "Bilkul! Main pagal actor hoon." He added that he enjoys it when he is pushed to work hard, even if it means getting injured or getting less sleep.

Shraddha Kapoor Gushes Over Rumoured BF Rahul Mody's Work: 'Kitna Talented Hai Uff'

Actress Shraddha Kapoor has been in the limelight for her alleged relationship with Rahul Mody for some time now.

While the two have never openly commented on their relationship status, they are often captured by the shutterbugs together.

On Sunday, Shraddha showered praises on her rumoured beau through her latest post on social media.

Taking to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle, Shraddha remarked on the latest advertisement by Rahul Mody featuring 'Saiyaara' actress Aneet Padda.

Shraddha Kapoor's Instagram story Praising Aneet, the 'Stree' actress wrote, "Cuteness + best acting ka perfect mishran = @aneetpadda (sic)"

Calling Rahul Mody "talented", Shraddha went on to write, "Aur cuteness se yaad aya, yeh writer-director kitna talented hain uff @modyrahulmody. (sic)"

The speculations of Shraddha and Rahul being in a relationship started doing the rounds back in early 2024 after the alleged lovebirds were spotted leaving a dinner date in Mumbai together.

After that, these two have been spotted together on multiple occasions. They even attended the lavish pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant together.

In June last year, Shraddha decided to make her relationship with her writer beau Instagram official.

She took to her Instagram Stories and dropped a still of herself posing for a selfie with Rahul Mody.

Twinning in white, Shraddha lovingly held Rahul's arm in the photo captioned, "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar" (Take



away my heart, but at least return my sleep)."

In addition to this, Shraddha was also seen wearing an "R" pendant in a picture.

Talking about her professional commitments, Shraddha will be headlining the biopic based on the life of the legendary Marathi folk performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar titled "Eetha".

Additionally, she will also star in the third instalment of her popular 'Stree' franchise.

Her lineup further includes "Nagin," backed by filmmaker Nikhil Dwivedi.

Emily Blunt Recalls Being Intimidated By Meryl Streep During Devil Wears Prada

There's something about revisiting early 2000s films that instantly transports you back th... e fashion, the attitude, and those unforgettable characters who quietly shaped pop culture. The Devil Wears Prada is one of those rare films that never really left the conversation. And now, as its sequel gears up for release, the cast is looking back at how it all began including the nerves that came with sharing screen space with one of the greatest actors of all time.

At a recent SiriusXM Front Row chat hosted by Andy Cohen, actor Emily Blunt opened up about her experience working on the first film alongside Meryl Streep. The conversation, also attended by Anne Hathaway and Stanley Tucci, turned nostalgic as the cast reflected on their time filming the now-iconic movie.

When asked directly whether she felt intimidated acting opposite Streep, Blunt didn't hold back. Recalling those early days on set, she admitted she was "quite scared." "I mean, on the first one, I was quite scared because I feel like you were in a zone...She was in a Miranda zone," Blunt told Streep, referring to her character Miranda Priestly.

Streep, known for her immersive approach to roles, acknowledged it with a simple response: "Oh, yeah. I was in that zone."



Blunt went on to describe how that intensity translated on set. "Not impenetrable, but we could come up and tell you a funny story, but you wouldn't do your extraordinary laugh that I normally hear," she added, hinting at how deeply Streep had embodied her character during filming.

Released in 2006, The Devil Wears Prada followed the journey of Andy Sachs, played by Anne Hathaway – a bright journalism graduate who moves to New York City hoping to build a serious writing career. With limited opportunities, she takes up a job as a junior as-

stant to Miranda Priestly, the formidable editor-in-chief of Runway magazine.

Miranda, brought to life by Streep, quickly became one of cinema's most memorable bosses – sharp, demanding, and impossible to impress. Alongside her is Emily Charlton, played by Blunt, whose dry wit and loyalty to Miranda added a distinct edge to the film's workplace dynamics.

The story is now set to continue with The Devil Wears Prada 2, which will see the return of key characters. Directed by David Frankel and written by Aline Brosh McKenna, the sequel is scheduled to release on May 1.

This time, the narrative will explore the changing landscape of the media industry. Miranda Priestly finds herself navigating the decline of traditional print publishing, a challenge that forces her into a professional clash with a familiar face – Emily Charlton, now a powerful executive in a luxury group overseeing crucial advertising budgets.

May it be red carpet gowns, travel fashion, or elaborate lehengas for festivities, Shanaya Kapoor's unmatched fashion is chic and exquisite, for every occasion.