

Anuparna Roy's 'Lovers in the Blue' Night wins NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at Venice Film Festival



Anuparna Roy's *Lovers in the Blue* won the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, where the film competed in the Orizzonti section.

The filmmaker made her Venice debut in 2025 with her first feature, *Songs of Forgotten Trees*, for which she won the Orizzonti Award for Best Director. With *Lovers in the Blue*, Roy returns to Venice a year later and leaves with her second award at the festival.

The NETPAC jury recognised the film for its sensitive portrayal of marginalised lives in Mumbai, describing it as a "delicately sensitive vision of the intersecting lives of migrant workers" and praising Roy's "confident voice" and the film's "cohesively nuanced" exploration of displacement, urban survival, hidden desire, gender, love. The film is in Hindi, Sylheti Bengali and Marathi. Set against Mumbai's restless underbelly, *Lovers in the Blue* brings together four lives shaped by migration, loneliness and survival — a closeted husband and his unhappy wife who works in a bar; a lonely man involved in sex work; and a petty criminal navigating fleeting desires. Their lives intersect to form an intimate portrait of people living on the margins of a city that never quite allows them to belong.

Anuparna Roy, director, says, "Winning the NETPAC Award means a lot to me because this film comes from a very personal place. These are characters and lives that are often pushed to the margins or looked at without really being seen. I wanted to approach them with tenderness, dignity and honesty. To receive this recognition at Venice, a

"It is not as dramatic as a typical daily soap": Ashmita Bakshi on 108 Base Hospital – Uri

For actress Ashmita Bakshi, the concept of the show *108 Base Hospital – Uri*, drew her attention and she took up the role. Sharing more of her reasons for taking up this show she says,

My role is that of a nurse who is also a Major in the Army. *108 Base Hospital – Uri* is inspired by a real hospital in Srinagar called 92 BH Srinagar. The show is based on the lives of Army doctors, nurses and officers working in such a hospital. I play one of those two nurses, while Smita Bansal plays the senior nurse.

Doctors and nurses work together to treat these patients, so nurses are a very important part of the hospital. So, even though there are only two nurses in the show, our characters have an important role to play."

When asked about the preparation for her role as Anitha Solanki, she says, "Playing a nurse was quite different from the roles I have done before, so we had to prepare properly. Just like doctors have a certain protocol and body language, nurses also have their own way of conducting themselves. We had to learn how nurses speak to doctors, how they interact with patients and how they behave inside an operation theatre. We also had to understand which instrument is used for what, how it is handed over to the doctor and how quickly you have to respond during an operation. Before the shoot, the production house brought in a doctor who trained and guided us."



She adds, "The doctor was also present during the initial shoot to make sure we were doing everything correctly. We learnt about the responsibilities of a nurse and the different surgical instruments. Since I am playing an Army Major, I also had to bring a certain body language to the character. Your shoulders and back have to be upright, and you have to look alert and disciplined. At the same time, inside the operation theatre, you have to be very quick and precise. Everything had to become natural before we started shooting."



Kim Kardashian oozing hotness in white bikini
Fans just can't keep calm when Kim flaunts her tones figure in super stylish bikinis on social media.

Venice Film Festival: Penélope Cruz-Javier Bardem, Brooklyn Beckham-Nicola Peltz and more bring romance to the red carpet

The Venice Film Festival may be about the cinema, but the stars know how to serve up a little romance on the side. This year's red carpets brought an irresistible parade of famous pairs — from *Formula 1* glamour to Hollywood royalty, with plenty of hand-holding, coy smiles and stolen kisses along the way.

There was Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem, bringing their real-life chemistry to the premiere of *Bunker*; Robert Pattinson and Suki Waterhouse, beaming as they supported *Primer*; and George and Amal Clooney, effortlessly proving that some couples simply get better with time.

Call it the Venice effect: great cinema, spectacular fashion — and couples who know exactly how to make the cameras linger.

Formula 1 star Carlos Sainz and model Rebecca Donaldson traded the racetrack for the red carpet, arriving hand-in-hand for Venice's opening ceremony. A rather glamorous pit stop for the Ferrari driver and his fashion-world girlfriend.

Hollywood's Spanish power couple brought the sweet nothings — and serious chemistry — to the carpet. They're in Venice for Florian Zeller's *Bunker*, in which they play a married couple caught in a crisis. The film received a thunderous 16-minute standing ovation.

Actor Robert Pattinson and singer-actress Suki Waterhouse were beaming from ear to ear as they arrived for *Primer*, Pattinson's Venice competition film. He plays a fictionalised version of TV host Chris Hansen; she was there cheering him on — and looking every bit the rock-star partner.

Putting family rift with Beckhams to side, Brooklyn Beckham and Nicola Peltz painted the town red. She with her coy smile, and he affectionately tucking her hair back and the duo with camera-ready kiss. Nicola was in Venice to receive a *Rising Star* award for her growing work in film, with Brooklyn by her side.



Armaan Malik hits back at troll calling him ungrateful to Salman Khan: 'If we don't fight for our right, no one will'

Eleven years after *Main Hoon Hero Tera* became one of Salman Khan's most recognisable numbers, the song's composer found his name missing from the celebration.

When Salman Khan Films posted a reel marking Hero's 11th anniversary, composer Amaal Mallik noticed something was off. The creators of the song, himself and the lyricist had not been mentioned anywhere. He went straight to the comments. "I love the audacity you have shown by leaving out the composer and the lyricist. A song created with the pain, blood, sweat and tears of a music composer and his lyricist is being celebrated without the creators being respected or even mentioned. Don't delete my comment, let Salman sir see it so that he knows you guys screwed up," he wrote.

The post was quietly updated to include his handle. But by then the internet had already moved on to a different argument — calling the brothers ungrateful to Salman Khan given the support he had given them over the years.

Armaan Malik did not let that pass. "Please go create an original song, write it or sing it, then watch your name be conveniently left out where it belongs. I'd be curious to hear how that feels. I've always been grateful for my beginnings, but I also know how hard it has been to reach where I've reached. If we don't fight for our right, no one will," he replied.

He later made clear what actually mattered to him. "I was genuinely only concerned for the credits for my brother and the lyricist. Without them, the song is nothing," he said.

