

By: Kavita Trivedi

SAAWARIYA

Dir: Sanjay Leela Bansali **Cast:** Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Rani Mukherjee and Sonam Kapoor.



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After the stupendous success of the critically acclaimed 2006 mega hit *Black*, talented and versatile director Sanjay Leela Bhansali returns with another sure-fire hit and casts newcomers Ranbir Kapoor, son of veteran actors Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor, and Sonam Kapoor, daughter of superstar Anil Kapoor, in this eagerly anticipated romantic masterpiece.

Based on Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky's highly praised novel *White Nights*, the story revolves around three generations Raj (Ranbir) and Sakina (Sonam), Iman (Salman) and Gulab (Rani) and Raj and Sonam's grandparents (Zohra Segal and Begum Para).

Raj (Ranbir) is a shy, talented artist and a dreamer. After arriving in a picturesque town, he believes he has found his ultimate dream. His fate, however, soon paints a very different picture after he bumps into a beautiful Muslim girl, Sakina (Sonam). Her quiet and mysterious demeanour intrigues Raj and after eventually falling for her, he soon finds himself trying to win her heart.

After an unexpected revelation about Sakina's life, Raj is unable to accept her haunted past. With their friendship pulled into a whirlwind of desire, madness and romance, their journey together soon makes them realise the fragility of the human heart.

Full of rich colors, substance and strong supporting roles by Rani Mukherjee and Salman Khan, the plot is well executed with crisp direction by Bhansali- the mastermind of artistic cinema.

With excellent cinematography and a melodious musical score provided by Monty Sharma, *Saawariya* is expected to repeat the success of *Devdas* and *Black*.

Recommended !!!!

BHOOL BHULAIYAA

Dir: Priyadarshan **Cast:** Akshay Kumar, Shiney Ahuja, Vidya Balan, Amisha Patel, Manoj Joshi & Paresh Rawal.

Badri (Manoj Joshi) is the head of a Brahmin family, whose hereditary palace is believed to be haunted. One day newlyweds, Siddharth (Shiney) and Avni (Vidya), son and daughter-in-law of Badri's older brother, arrive from America to celebrate their honeymoon. Things start to go haywire in the night when Avni opens a forbidden room which has been kept locked for years.

With a series of supernatural events occurring, the blame is squarely placed on Badri's adopted daughter Radha (Amisha). A harassed and troubled Siddharth calls upon his friend and psychiatrist, Aditya (Akshay), to solve the mystery.

Reputable director Priyadarshan is renowned for his slapstick comedy capers. With his latest release, he attempts to combine comedy with suspense and mild horror and does not disappoint.



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Paresh Rawal is in top form as the wary and overly superstitious uncle Batuk and provides all the necessary frills and laughter, never leaving a dull moment in any frame.

The film's narrative picks up pace after the arrival of Akshay Kumar whose comical timing is spot on. He gives a strong performance and oozes charm and confidence.

Shiney Ahuja also gives a good performance but is somewhat overshadowed by Akshay's presence. Amisha Patel makes a reasonably good effort in her supporting role, but it is Vidya Balan who really grabs your attention with a stellar performance that will make you grip the edge of your seat.

Composer Pritam produces a memorable musical score, which is energetic, fresh and blends in well with the film's theme with the groovy *Teri Aankhen Bhool Bhulaiyaa* being the most popular.

A comical fast paced suspense full of thrills and creepy moments- Worth Watching.

Highly recommended.

AAJA NACHLE

Dir: Anil Mehta **Cast:** Madhuri Dixit, Akshay Khanna, Konkana Sen Sharma, Kunal Kapoor & Ranvir Shorey.



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It has been five years since Madhuri Dixit mesmerized audiences with her stellar performance in the 2002 blockbuster *Devdas*. The beautifully gifted actress dons her dancing shoes once again in her eagerly awaited comeback release, *Aaja Nachle*.

Dia (Madhuri) is a theatre actress who vows to improve society with her love and passion for dancing. Her journey takes her back to her roots as she travels through big cities and remote towns where she attempts to rekindle lost relationships and to revive the theatre where she learnt the lessons of life and love. Her story unravels as she faces challenges but moves on to beat the obstacles and people standing against her in an attempt to save her beloved theatre.

Director Anil Mehta collaborates with Yash Raj Films and captures the essence of this song and dance musical and believes it is perhaps a wise choice for the actress to launch her comeback following her award winning performance in the 1997 Aditya Chopra musical *Dil To Pagal Hai*.

Akshay Khanna and Kunal Kapoor- both still riding high after the success of *Gandhi My Father* and *Rang De Basanti* respectively, play pivotal characters and are joined by the talented aspiring actress Konkana Sen Sharma in a strong supporting role.

Composer duo Salim-Sulaiman are on demand to meet expectations following the power packed *Jhoom Barabar Jhoom* soundtrack and do justice. The title track *Aaja Nachle* has Madhuri Dixit written all over it with the gutsy vocals of *Sunidhi Chauhan* and its catchy melody and beats - definitely a crowd pleaser for all those Madhuri fans.

A colourful dance spectacle and one of the most eagerly awaited releases of the year.

A must see!!