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Dubey, Lillete
Shetty, Shefali
Seth, Roshan (1942), New Delhi, India
Dabas, Parvin
Kharbanda, Kulbhushan
Shome, Tillotama
Razdan, Soni
Dubey, Neha

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a MIRA NAIR film

monsoon WEDDING





IFC Productions presents

a Mirabai Films production of

a Mira Nair film

in association with Key Films,
Pandora Films and Paradis Films

MONSOON WEDDING



MONSOON WEDDING

An exuberant family drama set in Mira Nair's beloved Punjabi culture, where ancient tradition and dot-com modernity combine in unique and perfect harmony.

As the romantic monsoon rains loom, the extended Verma family reunites from around the globe for a last-minute arranged marriage in New Delhi. MONSOON WEDDING traces five intersecting stories, each navigating different aspects of love as they cross boundaries of class, continent and morality. The film celebrates a contemporary India never before seen on screen.

Mira Nair and the writer, Sabrina Dhawan, interweave the ancient and the modern, the old-fashioned and the irreverent, the innocent and the sexual in today's globalized Delhi. The intimate, handheld camera welcomes the viewer into the characters' lives and into Nair's own beloved Punjabi culture – robust, earthy and full of life. The audience is swept into the bacchanalian revelry of kebabs, whisky and Bollywood music that is a Punjabi wedding.

The family's hopes, anxieties and long-guarded secrets emerge amid frantic wedding preparations, and are juxtaposed with arresting montages of real-life Delhi. The relentless summer heat mirrors the story's building intensity as the city anticipates the cooling torrent of the monsoons. And when the rain comes, the cathartic downpour brings romance, revelation and liberation.

The father of the bride, LALIT VERMA (50), and his wife PIMMI (45), have endured the ups and downs of a fairly traditional marriage for years. As their daughter prepares to marry and leave home, they reach out to each other once again, finding deep comfort in the history they have shared. The bride, ADITI (24), on the rebound from an aborted love affair with her former boss, VIKRAM (42), agrees to marry HEMANT (32), an engineer from Houston. Suddenly apprehensive about becoming a housewife in Texas, Aditi re-visits her lover the day before the wedding, throwing her future into turmoil.

P.K. DUBEY (25) is the upwardly mobile Tent and Catering contractor for the elaborate wedding celebrations. A cellphone-wielding wheeler-dealer, he is a member of India's emerging urban middle class. Dubey's tough pragmatism is outdone by the innocence and virtue of the family's maid, ALICE (20). He accidentally spies on Alice as she secretly dresses in the ornaments of her mistress and finds himself falling hopelessly in love with her. Theirs is the only pure and completely unexpected love story in the film, echoed by their bizarre shared habit of eating the core of marigolds – the Indian wedding flower.



RIA (28) is the unmarried writer cousin of the bride. As she watches Aditi plunge recklessly into marriage, Ria begins to assert herself to her family, defying convention and revealing a disturbing secret she has suppressed for years.

In a story of steamy unconsummated teenage lust, AYESHA (17), another cousin of the bride, is a sexy Delhi 'babe' who meets RAHUL (19), a sophomore at the University of Sydney returning to India after five years. Surprised by Ayesha's boldness, Rahul becomes infatuated with this brazen young Indian woman who challenges all his assumptions about contemporary Indian culture.

This film is a love song to the city of Delhi and a portrait of modern, cosmopolitan India. Two-thirds of MONSOON WEDDING was shot in an affluent farm-house on the city's outskirts, the rest in locations in both the old and new cities: the exteriors of old Mughal Delhi and the gaudy charm of the wedding sari-shops of Karol Bagh juxtaposed with the chic ateliers of the city's established designer culture and its posh corporate world. The filmmakers use the mobility and economy of a hand-held camera, capturing subtle, expressive performances from a huge ensemble cast.

The cast is made up of acclaimed Indian movie stars, highly trained theatre actors from The National School of Drama, and lesser known television actors and first-timers. The principal cast includes Naseeruddin Shah, Shefali Shetty, Vijay Raaz, Roshan Seth, Lillete Dubey, Vasundhara Das, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Rajat Kapoor and Tilotama Shome.

The film is filled with music, including ghazals (traditional love songs), modern Indian pop, jazz and bhangra (Punjabi folk/pop) music, all of which help to capture the varied and joyful sounds of a Punjabi wedding. The music and dance of old and new-style Bollywood is a constant presence in Indian life. MONSOON WEDDING echoes this Bollywood spirit with its vibrant score and with Ayesha's climactic dance number the night before the wedding.

MONSOON WEDDING is a celebration of the sensual pleasures of cinema, of love at any age-anytime, and of the importance of family. It also pays affectionate tribute to a city where weighty tradition collides daily with global culture and the dot-com age, yielding an unusual and melodious harmony.



MONSOON WEDDING - CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Mira Nair (Director)

Mira Nair directed several award-winning documentaries before making her stunning feature debut, "Salaam Bombay!" "Salaam Bombay!" was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1988 and, in addition to 25 international awards, received the Camera D'Or (for best first feature) and the Prix du Publique (for most popular entry) at the Cannes Film Festival. Ms. Nair's subsequent films include "Mississippi Masala" (1991), "The Perez Family" (1995), and the art house hit "Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love" (1996). She also directed "My Own Country," about a young immigrant doctor dealing with the AIDS epidemic in the Deep South, for Showtime in 1998. In addition to MONSOON WEDDING, Ms. Nair recently completed the documentary "The Laughing Club of India," which was awarded the Special Jury Prize in the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels 2000 and will premiere in the United States on HBO. Ms. Nair is currently shooting "Hysterical Blindness," a feature for HBO starring Uma Thurman and Gena Rowlands. She was born in India and was educated at Delhi University and at Harvard.

Caroline Baron (Producer)

Caroline Baron recently co-produced "Center Stage," directed by Nicholas Hytner, and "Flawless," directed by Joel Schumacher. She also produced the miniseries "Witness to the Mob" for Tribeca Productions. Ms. Baron served as co-producer on Griffin Dunne's "Addicted to Love," starring Meg Ryan; "The Santa Clause," starring Tim Allen; and Mira Nair's "Kama Sutra." Ms. Baron's other co-producing credits include the feature films "Crossing the Bridge," "The Opposite Sex" and "Indian Summer." She is the founder and Executive Director of FilmAid International, an international relief organization that uses film to entertain and educate refugees around the world. FilmAid International is a project of the International Rescue Committee in association with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Jonathan Sehring and Caroline Kaplan (Executive Producers)

Jonathan Sehring (President IFC Entertainment) and Caroline Kaplan (Vice President, Film & Program Development, IFC Productions), InDigEnt partners and co-executive producers, have overseen award-winning television movies, series, and original documentaries for IFC and Bravo Entertainment. IFC Productions has produced or co-produced over a dozen features including: Ed Burns' "Ash Wednesday," Michael Almereyda's "Happy Here and Now," Richard Linklater's "Waking Life," Maggie Greenwald's "Songcatcher," Jim McKay's "Our Song," Karyn Kusama's "Girlfight" (winner of the Director's Prize and the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival), Brad Anderson's "Happy Accidents," Tom Gilroy's "Spring Forward," Errol Morris' "Mr. Death," and Kimberly Peirce's Academy Award-winning "Boys Don't Cry." Independent Digital Entertainment (InDigEnt), the digital initiative created by IFC Productions, director Gary Winick ("The Tic Code"), and John Sloss has already completed its first five films - Campbell Scott's "Final," Ethan Hawke's "Chelsea Walls," Bruce Wagner's "Women in Film," Richard Linklater's "Tape" and Rodrigo Garcia's "Ten Tiny Love Stories."

Sabrina Dhawan (Writer)

Sabrina Dhawan grew up in New Delhi, India, and entered Columbia University's graduate film program in New York City in 1996. Ms. Dhawan's thesis short film, "Saanjh - As Night Falls" was recently nominated for the Student Academy Award (results to be announced in May 2001). "Saanjh" also received the New Line Cinema Award for 'Most Original Film' at the Polo Ralph Lauren New Works Festival 2000 and was cited as 'Best of the Festival' at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. MONSOON WEDDING is Ms. Dhawan's first feature film.



Declan Quinn (Cinematographer)

Declan Quinn's acclaimed work as cinematographer includes "Leaving Las Vegas" (dir. Mike Figgis), "28 Days" (Betty Thomas), "Flawless" (Joel Schumacher), "One True Thing" (Carl Franklin), "Vanya on 42nd Street" (Louis Malle), "Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love" (Mira Nair), "One Night Stand" (Figgis), "The Ballad of Little Jo" (Maggie Greenwald), "Cousin Bobby" (Jonathan Demme) and "Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare" (Rachel Talalay). Mr. Quinn also photographed and executive produced "This Is My Father," directed by his brother Paul. Mr. Quinn received the Sundance Film Festival's Cinematography Award for "2 by 4," an independent film directed by Jimmy Smallhorne, and two Independent Spirit Awards for his work on "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Kama Sutra."

Stephanie Carroll (Production Designer)

Before MONSOON WEDDING, Stephanie Carroll was the production designer on "Big Eden" in Montana (dir. Tom Bezucha) and "Living in Oblivion" (Tom DiCillo). She was set decorator on numerous films including "Runaway Bride" (Garry Marshall), "Ride With The Devil" (Ang Lee), "The Ice Storm" (Lee), "Kama Sutra" and "The Perez Family" (Mira Nair), "Fresh" (Boaz Yakin), "Bad Lieutenant" (Abel Ferrara) and "Johnny Suede" (DiCillo).

Allyson C. Johnson (Editor)

Allyson C. Johnson edited Bob Giraldi's film "Dinner Rush" which premiered at MoMA's 2001 New Directors/New Films. She received an Emmy nomination for her editing of the documentary "The Who's Tommy: The Amazing Journey." Ms. Johnson was Associate Editor on Spike Lee's "Summer of Sam" and "He Got Game" and co-edited Public Enemy's music video for the film with Barry Alexander Brown.

Mychael Danna (Composer)

Mychael Danna has been scoring films since his 1987 feature debut for Atom Egoyan's "Family Viewing." His work with Egoyan has continued through six features, including "Exotica," "The Sweet Hereafter" and "Felicia's Journey." He has scored films by many acclaimed directors, including Mira Nair's "Kama Sutra," Ang Lee's "The Ice Storm" and "Ride With The Devil," Joel Schumacher's "8mm" and James Mangold's "Girl, Interrupted." More recently, Mr. Danna composed the score for "Bounce," directed by Don Roos. He has been nominated for nine Canadian film awards.

Arjun Bhasin (Costume Designer)

Arjun Bhasin was Costume Designer on "Just A Kiss," (Fisher Stevens, dir.), "Broke Even" (David Feldman), "Loving Jezebel," (Kwyn Bader), and "Dil Chahta Hai" (Farhan Akhtar). He also acted as Costume Assistant on projects including Mira Nair's "Kama Sutra," Tribeca Films' television movie "Witness To The Mob," John Turturro's "Illuminata," and Matt Reeves' "The Pallbearer."



MONSOON WEDDING – CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Naseeruddin Shah (LALIT)

A graduate of India's prestigious National School of Drama, Naseeruddin Shah is one of India's greatest actors. He has acted in over 125 Indian and international films. Mr. Shah has received four FilmFare awards (India's equivalent of the Oscar) for Best Actor and the Indian National award for Best Actor in 1980 and 1985. He was named Best Actor at the Venice Film Festival in 1985 for his performance in Gautam Ghose's "Paar.". He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 1987, the highest arts honor awarded by the Indian Government. Mr. Shah founded the Motley Theatre Company in Bombay, for which he has directed over fifty productions. He is currently touring internationally in Peter Brook's production of "Hamlet."

Vijay Raaz (DUBEY)

This is Vijay Raaz's first major role in an international film. Originally from Mathura, India, Mr. Raaz is a member of India's prestigious National School of Drama Repertory and recently moved to Bombay to begin his film career. He has also appeared in the Indian films "Jungle" and "Bhopal Express."

Lillete Dubey (PIMMI)

A respected stage actress and director, Lillete Dubey's theatre company has thrice received the Sahitya Kala Parishad Award for best play of the year. Well-known on Indian film and television, Ms. Dubey recently appeared in "Zubeidaa" directed by Shyam Benegal.

Shefali Shetty (RIA)

Shefali Shetty was highly acclaimed for her role in the Indian film "Satya," for which she received the Indian Screen Award and Filmfare Critics' Award (the Indian "Oscar") for Best Actress in 1998. MONSOON WEDDING is her first international film.

Tilotama Shome (ALICE)

Tilotama Shome is currently at Delhi University, where she is a student of Japanese folk music and Brechtian theatre. MONSOON WEDDING is Ms. Shome's first film.

Vasundhara Das (ADITI)

Vasundhara Das received great acclaim for her performance in Kamal Hasan's "Hey Ram." Ms. Das is a popular recording artist in India, currently on tour to promote her album, "Meri Jaan." MONSOON WEDDING is her second film.



Kulbhushan Kharbanda (C.L. CHADHA)

Kulbhushan Kharbanda, one of India's most famous character actors, was never formally trained in acting. He began his film career in 1975 with Shyam Benegal. Mr. Kharbanda has appeared in over 100 commercial and independent Indian films including Deepa Mehta's "Fire" and "Earth."

Roshan Seth (MOHAN RAI)

Roshan Seth is well known for his work in Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," Hanif Kureishi's "My Beautiful Laundrette," Mira Nair's "Mississippi Masala," and over 30 other international films.

Parvin Dabas (HEMANT)

A graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and H.B.Studios in New York, Mr. Dabas has acted on stage in both Off-Broadway and Indian productions. MONSOON WEDDING is his fourth film appearance, and he is currently hosting a film critique show on satellite television.

Soni Razdan (SAROJ RAI)

Soni Razdan appeared in Rohinton Mistry's "Such a Long Journey," Franco Zeffirelli's "Jesus of Nazareth" and the BBC's "Padosi." She has acted in over twenty Indian films, including Mahesh Bhatt's "Saraansh," Shyam Benegal's "Mandi," and Aparna Sen's "36 Chowringee Lane."

Neha Dubey (AYESHA)

Neha Dubey is trained in Indian classical dance and hosts a popular music count-down show. MONSOON WEDDING is her first film.



MONSOON WEDDING

Director	MIRA NAIR
Producers	CAROLINE BARON MIRA NAIR
Executive Producers	JONATHAN SEHRING CAROLINE KAPLAN
Writer	SABRINA DHAWAN
Director of Photography	DECLAN QUINN
Production Designer	STEPHANIE CARROLL
Editor	ALLYSON C. JOHNSON
Music by	MYCHAEL DANNA
Line Producers	SHERNAZ ITALIA FRENY KHODAIJI
Associate Producer	ROBYN ARONSTAM
Costume Designer	ARJUN BHASIN
Hair and Make-up Design	LUANN CLAPS
Sound Mixer	HENRI MORELLE
Sound Effects Editors	MAGDALENE VOLAITIS PAUL P. SOUCEK
Production Supervisor	JESSICA HUPPERT BERMAN

CAST:

Lalit Verma	NASEERUDDIN SHAH
Pimmi Verma	LILLETE DUBEY
Ria Verma	SHEFALI SHETTY
P.K. Dubey	VIJAY RAAZ
Alice	TILOTAMA SHOME
Aditi Verma	VASUNDHARA DAS
Hemant Rai	PARVIN DABAS
C.L. Chadha	KULBHUSHAN KHARBANDA
Shashi Chadha	KAMINI KHANNA
Tej Puri	RAJAT KAPOOR
Ayesha Verma	NEHA DUBEY
Aliya Verma	KEMAYA KIDWAI
Varun Verma	ISHAAN NAIR
Rahul Chadha	RANDEEP HOODA
Mohan Rai	ROSHAN SETH
Saroj Rai	SONI RAZDAN

119', 35mm (shot on S-16), Colour, Dolby Digital, 1:1.85

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m@nsoon WEDDING



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