

Gul Makai

Gul Makai is a 2020 Indian biographical drama film directed by H.E. Amjad Khan and written by Bhaswati Chakrabarty, Produced under the banner of Tekno Films and Pen Studios. The film is based on the life of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate.^[2]

Debutante Reem Shaikh played the role of Malala.^[3] The film also features the late Om Puri in his final acting role, Divya Dutta, Atul Kulkarni, Mukesh Rishi and Pankaj Tripathi. The film, shot in Hindi and Urdu, was released on 31 January 2020.^[4]

Plot

Gul Makai accounts for the courageous journey and struggle of 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, starting from her humble upbringing in the Swat Valley in northwestern Pakistan to her becoming the champion of free education for all women. When Swat Valley was seized by Taliban gunmen in 2009, Malala spoke out for the rights of girls, especially the right to receive a complete education. She started blogging on the BBC Urdu website under the pseudonym **Gul Makai**, against the oppression faced by them in the Swat Valley. As she continued her activism, gaining worldwide recognition and support, she was hunted down and shot by a Taliban gunman as part of the organization's violent opposition to girls' education.

Cast

- Reem Shaikh as Malala Yousafzai
- Atul Kulkarni as Ziauddin Yousafzai
- Divya Dutta as Toor Pekai Yousafzai
- Om Puri as General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani
- Arif Zakaria as Sufi Muhammad
- Mukesh Rishi as Maulana Fazlullah
- Abhimanyu Singh as Hakimullah Mehsud
- Pankaj Tripathi as Baitullah Mehsud
- Sharib Hashmi as Ataullah Khan
- Kamlesh Gill as Malala's grandmother
- Chandrashekhar Dutta as Muslim Khan
- Ajay Chourey as Musa Khankhel
- Sayyed Irshad Ali Khan as Capt. Najam Riaz Raja

<i>Gul Makai</i>	
	
Directed by	H.E. Amjad khan
Written by	Bhaswati Chakrabarty
Screenplay by	Bhaswati Chakrabarty
Produced by	Sanjay Singhla Preeti Vijay Jaju
Starring	<u>Reem Shaikh</u> <u>Atul Kulkarni</u> <u>Divya Dutta</u> <u>Om Puri</u> <u>Arif Zakaria</u>
Cinematography	Madhu Rao Javed Ethesham
Edited by	Praveen Angre
Music by	Amar Mohile
Production company	Tekno Films
Distributed by	<u>Pen India Limited</u>
Release date	31 January 2020
Running time	130 minutes ^[1]

- Ganesh Yadav as Gen. Sanaullah Khan

Country	India
Languages	Hindi
	Urdu

Production

H.E. Amjad Khan, who is a Permanent Intergovernmental Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, also Goodwill Ambassador IIMSAM-UN-ECOSOC, decided to make a film on Malala's life and struggle in 2012, right after the assassination attempt on her by Taliban gunmen.^[5] He announced the film in late 2012. Then writer Bhaswati Chakrabarty, spent the next 4 years researching and writing the script.

To cast the right girl for the role of Malala, several hundred actresses were auditioned. Finally, the director announced a newcomer for the role, 16-year-old Bangladeshi student from Dhaka named Fatima Sheikh.^{[6][7]} Although no photographs showing Fatima Sheikh's face or other details about her were released to ensure her safety and security, her identity got leaked. Her family started receiving threats from religious extremists, who also threw stones at their house in Dhaka. Fatima Sheikh's family decided to back out due to the pressure. The search for Malala continued and finally Indian television child actress Reem Shaikh was cast for the role of Malala.^[8] Veteran Bollywood actors like Om Puri, Divya Dutta, Mukesh Rishi and Arif Zakaria were cast in other important roles. According to the director, physical resemblance with the real-life person was given special consideration while casting all of the characters.^[9]

The film went into production in late 2016. The first schedule of the film was filmed at locations in Bhuj (Gujarat) and Mumbai.^[10] The 2nd schedule of the film which was to be shot in Kashmir was deferred due to the strained circumstances there.^[11] As the conditions got back to normal in Kashmir, the shoot resumed in January 2018 amidst tight security in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir.^{[12][13][14]} The shooting wrapped up by end of January 2018^[15] and the film has been in post-production since then. The film has been edited by the National Award-winning editor, Praveen Angre. The film has gone through extensive VFX work to re-create Swat Valley landscape and war scenes between the Taliban and Pakistani Army.

Soundtrack

The background score for the film has been composed by Amar Mohile. The title song was written by Bhaswati Chakrabarty and the remaining songs were written and composed by H.E. Amjad Khan.

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Maula Mere"	<u>Kailash Kher</u>	7:22
2.	"Gudda Guddi"	<u>Azmat Hussain</u>	5:23
3.	"Haq Maula"	H.E. Amjad Khan, <u>Piyush Mishra</u>	7:19
Total length:			20:04

References

- "Gul Makai (2019)" (<https://bbfc.co.uk/releases/gul-makai-2020>). *British Board of Film Classification*. Retrieved 29 January 2020.

<i>Gul Makai</i>	
Soundtrack album by H.E. Amjad Khan	
Released	23 January 2020
Genre	<u>Filmi Soundtrack</u>
Length	20:04
Language	Hindi
Label	Tekno Music
Producer	Sanjay Singla Preeti Vijay Jaju
<div> <div>External audio</div> <div>  Gul Makai (https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/gul-makai-original-motion-picture-soundtrack/1495955706) on iTunes </div> </div>	

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5. "'Radio Mullah' sent hit squad after Malala Yousafzai | The Express Tribune" (<https://tribune.com.pk/story/450639/radio-mullah-sent-hit-squad-after-malala-yousafzai/>). *The Express Tribune*. 12 October 2012. Retrieved 2 July 2018.
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9. "Gul Makai's First Poster Has Reem Shaikh Bearing A Strong Resemblance With Malala Yousafzai" (<http://www.india.com/showbiz/gul-makai-first-poster-out-reem-shaikh-bears-an-uncanny-resemblance-with-malala-yousafzai-2444756/>). *India.com*. 2 September 2017. Retrieved 2 July 2018.
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External links

- *Gul Makai* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8176312/>) at IMDb

- *Gul Makai* (<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/movie/gul-makai/cast/>) at Bollywood Hungama
 - *Gul Makai* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/gul_makai) at Rotten Tomatoes
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