

Roohi (2021 film)

Roohi is a 2021 Indian Hindi-language comedy horror film directed by Hardik Mehta and produced by Dinesh Vijan under the banner Maddock Films.^[4] The film is the second installment in Maddock Supernatural Universe, the first being *Stree*, and is followed by *Bhediya*. It tells the story of a ghost who abducts brides on their honeymoons. The film stars Rajkummar Rao, Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Sharma.^[5] It was announced on 29 March 2019 and filming kicked off on 14 June 2019 in Agra. The film was set to release in June 2020,^[6] but the COVID-19 pandemic in India interrupted production.^[7] The film was theatrically released in India on 11 March 2021.^[1] The film received negative reviews from the critics for its convoluted plot.^{[8][9]} Publications like *The Indian Express* named it as one of the worst Hindi films of 2021.^[10]

Plot

Bhawra Pandey and Kattanni Qureshi are from Bagadpur village, where it is customary for the girl to be abducted by the man who desires to marry her. They are tasked by their boss and kidnapping-gang leader Guniya Bhai to kidnap Roohi as part of a contract by a guy who wishes to marry her. However, a death in the family of the groom forces them to keep her in hiding in an abandoned woodwork shop so that the marriage can take place after the funeral. During their stay, Bhawra realises that Roohi is actually possessed by a demonic spirit, which is corroborated by her father. Roohi was actually supposed to be married a year ago, but the groom and his family fled after seeing she is possessed.

Bhawra falls for Roohi and tries to coax the spirit from her body; Kattanni, on the other hand, is smitten by the demonic spirit, who identifies herself as Afza, and tries to bring her forward instead of Roohi so that he can talk to her. They learn that the demon is a Mudiyapairi (a witch with backward-turned feet who is deemed to be extremely strong) and she will not leave unless she gets married along with the girl she is possessing. Guniya Bhai, fearing the police investigation behind Roohi's kidnapping, instructs them to abandon her, but they refuse, forcing him to send his henchmen to get the job done. The henchmen, while trying to assault Kattanni, get gravely injured by Afza, and report this to Guniya Bhai.

Roohi	
	
Theatrical release poster	
Directed by	<u>Hardik Mehta</u>
Written by	<u>Mrighdeep Singh Lamba</u> <u>Gautam Mehra</u>
Produced by	<u>Dinesh Vijan</u> <u>Mrighdeep Singh Lamba</u>
Starring	<u>Rajkummar Rao</u> <u>Varun Sharma</u> <u>Janhvi Kapoor</u>
Cinematography	<u>Amalendu Chaudhary</u>
Edited by	<u>Huzefa Lokhandwala</u>
Music by	Songs: <u>Sachin-Jigar</u> Score: <u>Ketan Sodha</u>
Production companies	<u>Maddock Films</u> <u>Jio Studios</u>
Distributed by	<u>Jio Studios</u>
Release date	11 March 2021 ^[1]

Bhawra finds out from an old woman that the 'Mudiyapairi' has to be tricked into marrying a man who is already married, which makes her the mistress and forces her to leave the body she is possessing. The old woman had been possessed before by the same witch, and had exorcised the spirit, but not before the enraged spirit killed her supposed husband. The henchmen are attacked by Afza (one is murdered and the other injured), so Bhawra, Roohi, and Kattanni leave for a village called Chimmattipur, where Bhawra marries a dog to trick the witch. However, the villagers chastise him for bringing a witch into their sacred village. Guniya Bhai arrives to take revenge but realizes that Afza has to get married in less than a day. Eager to rebuild his reputation, Guniya Bhai tells Afza she can marry the guy who had given the contract to abduct Roohi.

Running time	134 minutes
Country	India
Language	Hindi
Budget	₹20 <u>crore</u> ^[2]
Box office	<u>est.</u> ₹30.33 <u>crore</u> ^[3]

Bhawra and Kattanni arrive at the wedding; Kattanni, decked in Bhawra's wedding attire, convinces Afza to marry him. They are interrupted by the old lady, who tells Afza the marriage is a fraud, and deceives her into believing by showing her the video of the dog wedding. She gets confused seeing Bhawra in the groom's attire and mistaking him to be Kattanni. An enraged Afza commands Bhawra to marry him but is stopped by Roohi. Roohi then decides to marry Afza herself, thereby embracing the strength Afza had given her rather than treat her as an enemy.

Roohi and Afza accept each other and leave Bhawra and Kattanni behind. When the police arrive with Roohi's father, they are told by the old woman that Roohi has run away with herself, but the old woman disappears, indicating that she might have been helping Afza all along as she herself had married "Mudiyapairi" in the past.

Cast

- Rajkummar Rao as Bhawra Pandey
- Janhvi Kapoor as Roohi / Afza
- Varun Sharma as Kattanni Qureshi
- Alexx O'Neill as Tim
- Manav Vij as Guniya Shakeel
- Sarita Joshi as Budhiya
- Sumit Gulati as Paras
- Rajesh Jais as Roohi's father
- Gautam Mehra as Lucky Pandit
- Aadesh Bharadwaj as Riaz
- Abhinav Jain as Inspector

Release

The film was initially planned for release on 20 March 2020 but the makers later announced 17 April as new release date. However, it was further pushed to 5 June on 17 February.^[11]

On 15 February 2021, the title of the film was changed to *Roohi* from *Roohi Afzana* and it was released in India on 11 March 2021.^[1]

Home media

The film released on JioCinema on 8 April and released on Netflix the next day.

Reception

Critical response

Roohi received generally negative reviews from critics.^[9] On Rotten Tomatoes it has an approval rating of 10% based on reviews from 10 critics.^[12]

Times of India gave it a rating of 3.5 stars out of 5 and said ,"*Roohi* is an entertaining blend of laughs and thrills".^[13] Umesh Punwani of *Koimoi* gave the film a rating of 2.5/5 and stated "*Roohi* has its moments, but they're very few to label this as an entertaining product overall. The acting department shines, and the others remain to be in between from bad to moderately good".^[14] Monika Rawal Kukreja of *Hindustan Times* described *Roohi* as a "convoluted film". She praised Rao and Sharma's equation in the movie but criticised Kapoor by calling her performance average.^[15] Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* gave the film a rating of 2/5 and stated that the film "seeks to subvert genre conventions and venture into the terrain of feminist rebellion".^[16] Nandini Ramnath of *Scroll* stated that "*Roohi* is a Horror-comedy movie which has some spirit but no soul".^[17] Rohit Vats of *CNN-IBN* wrote, "Written by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba and Gautam Mehra, *Roohi* is totally about spontaneity and a solid beginning; Though both Rao and Sharma are in their favourite zone, but their back and forth and punchlines evoke laughs".^[18]

Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* gave *Roohi* a rating of 1/5 and called it a "plain horrible" movie. She further stated, "*Roohi* is missing a coherent plot and writing. All we get is one cringe-inducing sequence after the next".^[19] Trade Analyst Taran Adarsh rated the film 2/5 and called it 'Disappointing'. further he said "Nowhere close to *Stree*, Weak screenwriting, Works in bits and spurts, not in entirety, Second half + climax lacks impact. But he praised Performances of lead cast.^[20] Anupama Chopra of *Film Companion* wrote, "The film wants to juggle many balls – horror, comedy, feminist messaging, a love triangle, a bromance – but ends up dropping almost all of them".^[21] Anna M. M. Vetticad of *Firstpost* gave the film a rating of 1.5/5 and wrote, "*Roohi* is horror comedy that's dead on arrival despite sporadic humour, feminist aspirations". She praised Rao and Sharma for their comic timing but criticised the writers, the overall plot of the film and Kapoor's performance by stating, "They could have cast any other actor in her place and it would not have made an inch of a difference to the film." she further stated, "Nothing better indicates *Roohi*'s lack of commitment to its feminist goals than the irrelevance of its female star".^[22] Namrata Joshi of *The National Herald (India)* compared *Roohi* with *Stree* and stated, "While *Stree*, despite the fluff and inconsistencies, was eminently watchable, *Roohi* is unbearable to the core. There are absolutely no jump-from-the-seat moments, no chills-down-the-spine eeriness to justify the "horror" side of it. As far as comedy is concerned, there are barely any worthy gags and irreverent lines, only lame slapstick and jokes that fall flat".^[23] Roktim Rajpal from the *Deccan Herald* called *Roohi* a "Big Disappointment". He praised Rao and Sharma's performance but criticised Kapoor and stated that Kapoor failed to make an impact.^[24] Sushri

Sahu of *Mashable India* praised Rao and Sharma but criticised Kapoor and the direction of the movie by stating, "Kapoor is simply unwatchable with a flat performance without any sound direction by Hardik Mehta."^[25]

Soundtrack

The film's music was composed by Sachin–Jigar while lyrics written by Amitabh Bhattacharya, IP Singh and Jigar Saraiya.

The third song *Nadiyon Paar (Let the Music Play Again)* is remake version of the famous 2004 Shamur party song *Let The Music Play*.^{[27][28][29]}

Track listing

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Panghat"	<u>Asees Kaur</u> , <u>Divya Kumar</u> , <u>Sachin–Jigar</u> Rap: <u>Mellow D</u>	2:59
2.	"Kiston"	<u>Jubin Nautiyal</u> , <u>Sachin-Jigar</u>	2:41
3.	"Nadiyon Paar (Let the Music Play Again)" (Lyrics by <u>IP Singh</u> , <u>Jigar Saraiya</u>)	<u>Shamur</u> , <u>Rashmeet Kaur</u> , <u>IP Singh</u> , <u>Sachin-Jigar</u>	2:44
4.	"Bhootni"	<u>Mika Singh</u>	2:27
5.	"Bhauji"	<u>Divya Kumar</u>	2:26
Total length:			13:17

<i>Roohi</i>	
Soundtrack album by <u>Sachin–Jigar</u>	
Released	5 March 2021 ^[26]
Recorded	2019–20
Genre	<u>Feature film soundtrack</u>
Length	13:17
Language	Hindi
Label	<u>Sony Music India</u>
<u>Sachin–Jigar chronology</u>	
<i><u>Shakuntala Devi</u></i> (2020)	<i>Roohi</i> (2021)

Box office

Roohi earned ₹3.06 crore at the domestic box office on its opening day. On the second day, the collection declined to ₹2.25 crore. Picking up, it collected ₹3.42 crore on the third day and ₹3.85 crore on the fourth day. The total opening weekend collection of the film stood at ₹12.58 crore.^[3]

As of 2 April 2021, with a gross of ₹27.68 crore in India and ₹2.65 crore overseas, the film has a worldwide gross collection of ₹30.33 crore.^[3]

Sequel

The film was followed by the film *Bhediya*. The film will also have a direct sequel with Rajkumar Rao, Varun Sharma and Janhvi expected to return along with other characters from the Maddock Supernatural Universe.

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External links

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- *Roohi* (<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/movie/roohi-2/cast/>) at [Bollywood Hungama](#)

See also

- [Dinesh Vijan's horror-comedy universe](#)
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