

# Faraaz (film)

***Faraaz*** (transl.<sup>[a]</sup> *Tall*) is a 2022 Indian Hindi-language biographical action thriller film directed by Hansal Mehta and produced by T-Series and Benaras Media Works. The film supporting an ensemble cast has Juhi Babbar, Aamir Ali, Aditya Rawal, Zahan Kapoor, Jatin Sarin, Pallak Lalwani, and six newcomers Jatin Sarin, Reshham Sahaani, Ninaad Bhatt, Harshal Pawar, Sachin Lalwani including Kapoor marking their debut. Based on actual event, it depicts the Holey Artisan Bakery, July 2016 Dhaka attack that shook Bangladesh. The film premiered at the BFI London Film Festival on 15 October 2022,<sup>[3]</sup> and released in India on 3 February 2023.<sup>[4]</sup> At 69th Filmfare Awards, the film received five nominations, including Best Film (Critics) and Best Supporting Actor (Rawal), and won Best Male Debut (Rawal).<sup>[5]</sup>

## Plot

The film commences with playful banter among the five terrorist Nibras, Mubashir, Rohan, Bikash & Rajiv in Dhaka, ultimately leading them to Holey Artisan Bakery. Faraaz's family discord unfolds, but he later joins his friends at the bakery, where they get taken hostages. An unexpected attack on police officers near the bakery intensifies the situation.

Inside, tensions rise as hostages are held captive. The police attempt a standoff but face challenges without a blueprint. The government advises mission cancellation for hostage safety, triggering global news coverage. Faraaz's mother Simeen confronts RAB DG Benazir, adding to the external pressure.

Midnight arrives, tensions escalate, and a clash between Nibras and Faraaz occurs. Despite a brief truce, Rohan's attempt to leave results in his death. Nibras announces freedom for hostages, except Faraaz's friends. A heated exchange leads to Faraaz's declaration before his tragic end.

Outside, reinforcements from BAF, DB, Ansar, CID & Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit join for a final assault, ending the terrorists' reign.

### Faraaz



First look poster

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Directed by</b> | <span>Hansal Mehta</span>   |
| <b>Written by</b>  | <span>Ritesh Shah</span> <div>Kashyap Kapoor</div> <div>Raghav Kakkar</div>   |
| <b>Based on</b>    | <span>July 2016 Dhaka attack, Holey Artisan Bakery</span>   |
| <b>Produced by</b> | <span>Bhushan Kumar</span> <div>Krishan Kumar</div> <div>Anubhav Sinha</div> <div>Sahil Saigal</div> <div>Sakshi Bhatt</div> <div>Mazahir</div> <div>Mandsaurwala</div>   |
| <b>Starring</b>    | <span>Zahan Kapoor</span> <div>Juhi Babbar</div> <div>Aamir Ali</div> <div>Aditya Rawal</div> <div>Jatin Sarin</div> <div>Pallak Lalwani</div> <div>Reshham Sahaani</div> |

*the film is based on a real life event*

## Cast

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- Zahan Kapoor as Faraaz Hossain
- Juhi Babbar as Simeen, Faraaz's mother
- Aditya Rawal as Nibras
- Jatin Sarin as Mubashir
- Sachin Lalwani as Rohan
- Ninaad Shaunak Bhatt as Khairul
- Harshal Pawar as Bikash
- Godaan Kumar as Rajiv
- Pallak Lalwani<sup>[6]</sup> as Tarika
- Aamir Ali as Mr.Sen, Tarika's father
- Reshham Sahaani as Ayesha
- Abhirami Bose as Tahana
- Ashish Bhatt as Tamid Hasib Khan
- Ninaad Shaunak Bhatt as Khairul
- Abhirami Bose as Tahana
- Kaushik Chakraborty as RAB Officer Benazir
- Hadelin de Ponteves as Chef Diego
- Shivani Dubey as Fairuz
- Mann Gandhi as Rayan
- Pia Gandhi as Safa
- Aparna Ghoshal as Tullika
- Nitin Goel as Senior Inspector Farooq
- Premji Jhangiani as Dr. Mujahid
- Sneha Joshi as Ishrat
- Amit Kaushik as Dr. Salprakash
- Miles Lobo as Takomi
- Aditya Mahajan as Deputy Commissioner Mushtaq
- Pooja Mihija as Rabia
- Aneeta as Nibras' Sister
- Ruma Mondal as Fefta
- Manusudhan Naik as Nanabhal
- Rohan Roy as Manirul Islam (SWAT Officer)
- Reshham Sahaani as Ayesha
- Nida Sheikh as Sharmina
- Amir Shoeb as Zaraif
- Amit Singh as Hassnat
- Ankur Srivastava as Chef Sarkar

## Production

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Cinematography</b>       | Pratham Mehta  |
| <b>Edited by</b>            | Amitesh Mitesh Mukherjee   |
| <b>Music by</b>             | Sameer Rahat<br>Vidhya Gopal<br>Alok Ranjan<br>Srivastava<br>Khalid Ahamed           |
| <b>Production companies</b> | <u>T-Series</u><br><u>Benaras Media Works</u><br>Mahana Films                        |
| <b>Distributed by</b>       | <u>AA Films</u>  |
| <b>Release dates</b>        | 15 October 2022<br>( <u>BFI London Film Festival</u> )<br>3 February 2023<br>(India) |
| <b>Country</b>              | India  |
| <b>Languages</b>            | Hindi<br>English   |
| <b>Box office</b>           | ₹0.95 Crore <sup>[1]</sup>   |

On 5 August 2021, the director Hansal Mehta revealed his action thriller film *Faraaz*. A joint production, with Anubhav Sinha and Bhushan Kumar depicting the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in July 2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Newcomers Aditya Rawal, Zahan Kapoor, Jatin Sarin, Sachin Lalwani, Ninad Bhatt, Harshal Pawar, Palak Lalwani and Reshham Sahaani were cast in the film.<sup>[7]</sup>

The filming ended on 15 August 2021.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Release

The film premiered at the BFI London Film Festival on 15 October 2022 in 'Thrill' section.<sup>[9]</sup> It was released in India on 3 February 2023,<sup>[10]</sup> after Delhi High Court refused to grant stay for release in a suit filed by the mothers of two girls who died in the terrorist attack.<sup>[11]</sup>

## Controversy

The film has been criticized for allegedly "exploiting a horrifying tragedy for profit without asking the permission of victims family."<sup>[12][13]</sup> The film's director Mehta defends against those remarks by referring to a The Business Standard opinion article that emphasizes "artistic freedom" and "being a target of cancel culture."<sup>[14][15]</sup>

Ruba Ahmed, the mother of Abinta Kabir, who was killed in the attack, filed a writ on February 12, 2023, seeking a ban on the film for misrepresenting her daughter and Bangladesh. After hearing that writ petition, the High Court bench of Md. Khasruzzaman and Md Iqbal Kabir ordered the film to be banned from theatrical and streaming services for being misleading.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Song

The film has two songs, "Musafir ko" written and composed by Sameer Rahat; and "Khairiyat se" composed and produced by Sameer Rahat and written by Alok Ranjan Srivastava and Sameer Rahat.

## Reception

Monika Rawal Kukreja reviewing for *Hindustan Times* praised the performance of ensemble writing, "some fine performances such as: Juhi Babbar Soni as Faraaz's mother is terrific, Aditya Rawal, his brutal portrayal as the brainwashed youth that leaves you in awe, Zahan Kapoor delivers a restrained performance and emotes beautifully". Kukreja praised the lyrics of the song "Musafir ko ghar he aana hai" saying, "[the] highlight of *Faraaz* remains the soulful, moving lyrics. written and composed by Sameer Rahat. Concluding Kukreja wrote, '*Faraaz* doesn't set out to send you home with a moral lesson yet puts across its point very subtly.'<sup>[19]</sup> Dishya Sharma of News18 rated the film 3.5 stars out of 5 and wrote, "*Faraaz* is a trademark Hansal Mehta film and is not for the weak-hearted. The film is bound to leave you disturbed and empty

| ""Musafir ko""   |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Song by Sameer Rahat, Vidhya Gopal   |                                  |
| Released   | January 27, 2023 <sup>[17]</sup> |
| Length   | 4:35                             |
| Label  | T-Series                         |
| Songwriter(s)  | Sameer Rahat                     |
| Producer(s)  | Siddharth Pandit, Sameer Rahat   |
| Official video   |                                  |
| Faraaz - Song ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqZMbGCVEqc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqZMbGCVEqc</a> ) on YouTube |                                  |

| ""Khairiyat se""  |  |
|---|--|
| Song by Sameer Rahat, Alok Ranjan Srivastava, Khalid Ahamed |  |

by the end of it." <sup>[20]</sup> Renuka Vyavahare writing for *The Times of India* rated 3.5 out of 5 and wrote, "Hansal Mehta's acclaimed body of work is testament to his sensibility". Praising the performances of ensemble she wrote, "every new actor gives a sincere performance", she appreciated Aditya Rawal who, she said, "portrays every aspect of his character perfectly," and Zahan Kapoor for, "his balanced and effective titular role." For others Vyavahare said, "Newcomers Sachin Lalwani and Resham Sahaani along with Juhi Babbar play their parts with conviction." Concluding, Vyavahare opined, "As a confined space hostage thriller, *Faraaz* is adequately gripping and impactful. It, however, isn't as claustrophobic and gut-wrenching as a *Neerja* or *Hotel Mumbai*."<sup>[21]</sup> Anuj Kumar writing in *The Hindu* praised the performances of: Juhi Babbar writing, "Juhi brings out the guts and grace of the character with a deft performance", Zahan Kapoor saying, "Zahan gets the tonality of *Faraaz* right" and Aditya Rawal stating, "Aditya is a revelation as Nibras." Concluding, Kumar mentioned present scenario of "religious chauvinism" and wrote, "*Faraaz* is an ache that will gradually grow on the discerning."<sup>[22]</sup> Umesh Punwani of koimoi rated the film 2/5 and said, "*Faraaz* is a film that shouldn't have been titled *faraaz* in the first place. It doesn't revolve around *Faraaz*, it revolves solely around the attack he lost his life in & hence, it should've been named accordingly."<sup>[23]</sup>

Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* gave 2 out of 5 ratings.<sup>[24]</sup>

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Released   | January 27, 2023 <sup>[18]</sup>     |
| Length   | 3:53                                 |
| Label  | T-Series                             |
| Songwriter(s)  | Sameer Rahat, Alok Ranjan Srivastava |
| Producer(s)  | Sameer Rahat                         |
| Official video   |                                      |
| Faraaz - Song ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cz-3n4Pm99s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cz-3n4Pm99s</a> ) on YouTube |                                      |

## Accolades

| Award           | Ceremony date   | Category              | Recipients      | Result    | Ref.            |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Filmfare Awards | 28 January 2024 | Best Film (Critics)   | Hansal Mehta    | Nominated | <sup>[25]</sup> |
|                 |                 | Best Supporting Actor | Aditya Rawal    |           |                 |
|                 |                 | Best Cinematography   | Pratham Mehta   |           |                 |
|                 |                 | Best Sound Design     | Mandar Kulkarni |           |                 |
|                 |                 | Best Male Debut       | Aditya Rawal    | Won       | <sup>[26]</sup> |

## Notes

- a. refers to Faraaz Ayaz Hossain, who metaphorically stood 'tall' and refused to abandon his two friends at the time of attack.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## External links

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- *Faraaz* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15175188/>) at *IMDb*
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