

Ek Villain Returns

Ek Villain Returns (transl. One Villain Returns) is a 2022 Indian Hindi-language action thriller film directed by Mohit Suri and a sequel to his 2014 film *Ek Villain*. The film stars John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani and Tara Sutaria.^{[5][6][7][8][9]}

Ek Villain Returns was released theatrically on 29 July 2022 to mixed reviews from critics and ends as a Average.^{[10][11]}

Plot

A masked intruder barges into an apartment complex, where he attacks and kills a singer named Aarvi Malhotra. The cops, headed by ex-CBI officer and DCP Aditya Rathore, deduce that the attack was orchestrated by Gautam Mehra, who is the son of businessman Divesh Mehra.

Past: Gautam is a rich spoilt brat, who is berated by Divesh for having created a commotion at his ex-girlfriend Siya's wedding. The commotion video has been made into a rap song by singer Aarvi. Gautam is ousted from the business and his house. Pretending to be in love with her, Gautam helps her scare away her rival Q/Kiran. Aarvi falls for Gautam and reveals that her biological father Balkrishnan Shastri, a popular singer, had an extramarital affair with her mother, but never accepted either of them. Her main goal is to make her father accept her as his daughter by becoming a famous singer and later reject him. Gautam leaks Aarvi's childhood photos, implying that he was out to get even with her for humiliating him. Shastri publicly rejects his daughter, where Aarvi gets heartbroken. Three months later, Gautam gets attacked by Siya's husband Aditya and Aarvi takes care of him, where he realizes his love for her. Gautam pleads with her to give him a second chance, but Aarvi leaves him with a heavy heart.

Present: Gautam gets arrested, but manages to escape from the cops. Ganesan surmises that Gautam hasn't killed Aarvi. The cops interrogate Bhairav Purohit, whom Aarvi had called on the day she was murdered, but he denies committing the crime and there is no evidence either. Ganesan determines a pattern that the killer only targets young girls with one-sided lovers after discovering that 18 girls have been murdered with a similar modus operandi in the past 6 months. The ensuing circumstances motivate Ganesan to

Ek Villain Returns	
	
Theatrical release poster	
Directed by	Mohit Suri
Written by	Mohit Suri <p>Aseem Arrora</p>
Story by	Mohit Suri
Produced by	Shobha Kapoor <p>Ekta Kapoor</p> <p>Bhushan Kumar</p> <p>Krishan Kumar</p>
Starring	John Abraham <p>Arjun Kapoor</p> <p>Disha Patani</p> <p>Tara Sutaria</p>
Cinematography	Vikas Sivaraman
Edited by	Devendera Murdeshwar
Music by	Score: <p>Raju Singh</p> <p>Songs: <p>Ankit Tiwari</p></p>

conclude that Gautam is not the serial killer, where it is later revealed that the serial killer is actually Bhairav; Gautam fights him but is unable to see his face, which allows Bhairav to escape.

Past: Bhairav is a cab driver who works part-time as a zookeeper along with his widower friend Keshav, who has a son Yash, but ignores him for random girls which he brings to the zoo. Bhairav meets Rasika Mapuskar, a retail salesgirl at a mall, falls deeply in love with her and harbors plans for marriage. One day, Rasika injures a group of rogues that were eve-teasing her, which reveals her dark side to Bhairav. Bhairav decides to propose to Rasika, but he witnesses her getting intimate with her married manager Atul and gets heartbroken. Rasika subsequently instigates him to kill girls who don't reciprocate the feelings of their respective boyfriends. Bhairav is mentally tormented and starts murdering dozens of girls. On the day Aarvi leaves Gautam, she turns out to be traveling in Bhairav's cab, where Bhairav misunderstands that she has dumped Gautam and attacks her.

	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> <u>Kaushik-Guddu</u>
Production companies	<u>T-Series</u> <u>Balaji Motion Pictures</u>
Distributed by	<u>AA Films</u>
Release date	29 July 2022
Running time	128:54 min:sec ^[1]
Country	India
Language	Hindi
Budget	₹62–₹80 crore ^{[2][3]}
Box office	<u>est.</u> ₹68.64 crore ^[4]

Present: Gautam learns about Bhairav's zoo address and leaves to confront him. Ganesan is killed by Bhairav, who reveals that Aarvi is alive. Aarvi tries to escape the zoo where she had been kept by Bhairav, but he catches her and locks her in an underground cage. Just as Gautam and Bhairav are about to fight, the police come and detain Bhairav. They interrogate Yash, who frames Keshav in an attempt to defend Bhairav. The police also investigate the crime scene, where a girl's dead body is found inside the freezer, though it is not Aarvi. Outside the station, Gautam sees Bhairav and Rasika hugging.

Later that evening, Bhairav and Rasika return to the zoo and attend to Aarvi's cage, where Aarvi regains consciousness and stabs Bhairav with a glass shard that she found there. Rasika bursts into laughter while Bhairav attacks Aarvi. Gautam arrives to save her and a fight ensues between the guys. Bhairav hits Gautam and demands Rasika's reaction, but Gautam begins laughing and asks where "Rasika" is. It is revealed that Bhairav actually has schizophrenia and was hallucinating Rasika all along. Bhairav then reminisces that Rasika told him how Atul was planning to ditch his family for her. Bhairav inadvertently killed Rasika by breaking her back while begging her not to leave him. The body, which the cops found in the freezer, is revealed to be Rasika which Bhairav kept for himself. Realizing his mistake, Bhairav walks inside the cage of the tiger only to meet the same fate as his victims. Aarvi reunites with Gautam and is seen singing at her concert with the support of her fans and Gautam.

During a mid-credits scene, at a mental asylum, Rakesh Mahadkar, who has survived the accident and became paraplegic meets Bhairav, who has severe wounds on his body due to the tiger attack. Rakesh recites his promise from the prequel and Bhairav wakes up just before the screen cuts to black.

Cast

- John Abraham as Bhairav Purohit
- Arjun Kapoor as Gautam Mehra
- Disha Patani as Rasika Mapuskar
- J. D. Chakravarthy as ACP V. K. Ganesan
- Karishma Sharma as Siya, Gautam's ex-girlfriend

- Kaizaad Kotwal as Siya's Father
- Elena Roxana Maria Fernandes as Qiran
- Shaad Randhawa as ex-CBI officer DCP Aditya Rathore
- Prasad Jawade as Ashu Bhoir
- Bharat Dabholkar as Divesh Mehra, Gautam's father
- Ivan Rodrigues as Thapar
- Digvijay Rohildas as Keshav Rane, Bhairav's friend
- Neha Shitole as Chetna
- Satish Nakodi as Satish
- Riteish Deshmukh as Rakesh Mahadkar (archive footage and cameo in mid-credits scene)^[12]
- Badshah as himself in a cameo appearance in the song "Shaamat"

Production

Casting

Aditya Roy Kapur was originally signed for the role portrayed by Arjun Kapoor, but later backed out due to creative differences with director Mohit Suri. Then, Kartik Aaryan was approached but he could not accept the offer due to date clashes with his Dhamaka.^{[13][14]}

Filming

Principal photography began on 1 March 2021.^{[15][16]} Abraham finished shooting in October 2021.^[17] The entire film was wrapped up on 24 March 2022.^{[18][19]}

Soundtrack

The songs are composed by Ankit Tiwari, Tanishk Bagchi, and Kaushik-Guddu. The lyrics are written by Manoj Muntashir, Kunaal Vermaa, Tanishk Bagchi and Prince Dubey. The film score is composed by Raju Singh.

The first song "Galliyan Returns" was recreated from the track Galliyan for the 2014 film Ek Villain which was sung by Ankit Tiwari and written by Manoj Muntashir.^[21] The second single named "Dil" was released on 8 July 2022.^[22] The third single titled "Shaamat" was released on 16 July 2022 with Tara Sutaria making her singing debut.^[23] The fourth single titled "Naa Tere Bin" was released on 22 July 2022.^[24]

Track listing

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Galliyan Returns"	<u>Manoj Muntashir</u>	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u>	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u>	5:50
2.	"Dil"	<u>Kunaal Vermaa</u>	<u>Kaushik-Guddu</u>	<u>Raghav Chaitanya</u>	5:09

<i>Ek Villain Returns</i>	
<u>Soundtrack album by <u>Ankit Tiwari</u>, <u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> and <u>Kaushik-Guddu</u></u>	
Released	30 June 2022 ^[20]
Recorded	2021-2022
Genre	<u>Feature film soundtrack</u>
Length	33:28
Language	Hindi
Label	<u>T-Series</u>
Producer	<u>Bhushan Kumar</u>

3. "Shaamat"	Prince Dubey	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u>	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u> , <u>Tara Sutaria</u>	5:34
4. "Naa Tere Bin"	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u>	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u>	Altamash Faridi	6:11
5. "Dil" (Shreya's Version)	<u>Kunaal Vermaa</u>	<u>Kaushik-Guddu</u>	<u>Shreya Ghoshal</u>	5:10
6. "Shaamat" (Ankit Tiwari's Version)	Prince Dubey	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u>	<u>Ankit Tiwari</u>	5:34
Total length:				33:28

Reception

Box office

Ek Villain Returns earned ₹7.05 crores at the domestic box office on its opening day. On the second day, the film collected ₹7.47 crore. On the third day, the film collected ₹9.02 crore, taking a total domestic weekend collection to ₹23.54 crore.^[4]

As of 18 August 2022, the film grossed ₹49.63 crore (US\$6.2 million) in India and ₹19.01 crore (US\$2.4 million) overseas, for a worldwide gross collection of ₹68.64 crore (US\$8.6 million).^[4]



Kapoor, Abraham, Patani and Sutaria at a promotional event for the film

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 0% of 6 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 1.7/10.^[25]

Ek Villain Returns received mixed reviews from critics.^[11] A critic for Bollywood Hungama rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "*EK VILLAIN RETURNS* is the epitome of supreme music, amazing visuals and thrilling moments".^[26] Shweta Keshri of India Today rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "The gripping plot of *Ek Villain Returns* is the winner with an engaging storyline. Mohit Suri, who did a good job with the first film of the Ek Villain franchise, brings a masala entertainer with massy dialogues, thrilling moments and good performances in the sequel".^[27] Rohit Bhatnagar of The Free Press Journal rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ek Villain Returns has surely returned but not with the vibe of the earlier one. Enjoy this film to experience a stylish thriller that copes well with the mass appeal".^[28] Rachana Dubey of The Times of India rated the film 2.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Ek Villain Returns* dishes out plenty of twists and turns but doesn't make you emotionally cheer for any of the characters or the story, though you wish the situation was different".^[29] Nandini Ramnath of Scroll.in rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote "Heads are bludgeoned and the blood flows throughout *Ek Villain Returns*, but there's nothing

more frightening than the valourisation of misogyny".^[30] Avinash Lohana of *Pinkvilla* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Ek Villain Returns* was a promising entertainer, but it is the overall story that proves to be a bummer".^[31]

Sonil Dedhia of *News 18* rated the film 1.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Ek Villain Returns* kicks in only after the interval, and then it becomes the film it should have been from the get-go. The first half is a waste, even if it tries hard to get the audience invested into the characters who say dialogues which are straight out of '80s Bollywood".^[32] Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and wrote "Disha Patani, Tara Sutaria, Arjun Kapoor, John Abraham-starrer has a disjointed plot and pedestrian performances, which makes *Ek Villain* look like a better film".^[33] Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and wrote "Arjun Kapoor and John Abraham outdo each other in matching the vacuity of the film. As for Tara Sutaria and Disha Patani, the less said the better".^[34] Anna M.M. Vetticad of *Firstpost* rated the film 0.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "John Abraham barely alters his expression throughout *Ek Villain Returns*. His co-stars do the best they can in what can only be described as dismal circumstances".^[35] Sukanya Vema of *Rediff* rated the film 0.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Ek Villain Returns* falls back on the popularity of the Galliyan track to boost its appeal".^[36]

Release

Theatrical

The film was released in theatres worldwide on 29 July 2022.^[37]

Home media

The digital streaming rights of the film was sold to *Netflix*. The film started streaming digitally on Netflix from 9 September 2022.^{[38][39]}

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