

Liger (film)

Liger - Saala Crossbreed is a 2022 Indian Hindi-language sports action film written and directed by Puri Jagannadh. The film is produced in the Hindi film industry, and is shot simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, the film is produced by Dharma Productions and Puri Connects. The film stars Vijay Deverakonda as the titular MMA fighter “Liger” with stammering problem alongside Ananya Panday as his love interest, Ramya Krishna and Ronit Roy in pivotal roles, with American boxer Mike Tyson playing an extended cameo appearance. The film was Deverakonda and Pandey's debut in Hindi and Telugu respectively.

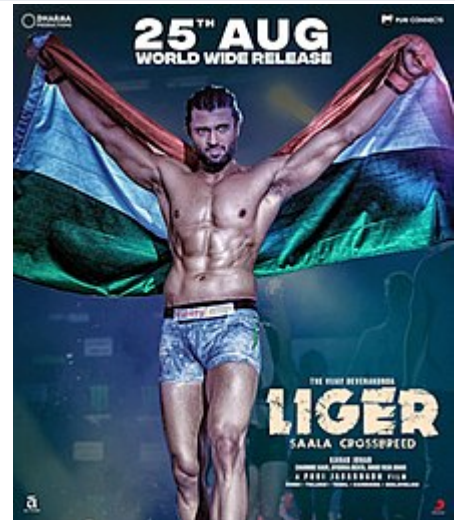
The film was announced in 2019, and the title *Liger* was announced in January 2021. *Liger* marks the debut for Deverakonda in Hindi cinema and Panday in Telugu cinema. The songs are composed by Tanishk Bagchi, Sunil Kashyap, Jaani, DJ Chetas, Lijo George and Vikram Montrose. Principal photography began in January 2020 and suffered production delays after March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Filming resumed in February 2021 and after some other shooting suspensions in the pandemic, *Liger* was wrapped up in February 2022.

Liger was released theatrically on 25 August 2022 and was a critical and commercial failure.^{[4][5][6]} The film became a box office disaster, with an estimated box office gross of ₹60.80 crore (US\$7.6 million) against a budget of ₹90 crore (US\$11 million).

Plot

After his father, *Lion* Balam Agarwal's death, in the MMA National Championship, Sashwath Agarwal aka Liger and his mother Balamani move to Mumbai from Karimnagar. Balamani is determined to turn Liger into a MMA champion and takes him to a coach named Christopher, who trains him. While Liger is on his way to perfection in the sport, he meets a rich young woman, Tanya, and falls in love with her. After learning from her brother Sanju that Liger has a stammering problem, Tanya, apparently embarrassed, leaves him. Liger wins the national championship after getting motivated by the rejection. He moves on to participate in the International Championship, sponsored by Sanju and Tanya's father.

Liger



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Puri Jagannadh</u>
Written by	<u>Puri Jagannadh</u>
Produced by	<u>Puri Jagannadh</u> <u>Charmme Kaur</u> <u>Karan Johar</u> <u>Apoorva Mehta</u> <u>Hiroo Yash Johar</u>
Starring	<u>Vijay</u> <u>Deverakonda</u> <u>Mike Tyson</u> <u>Ananya Panday</u> <u>Ramya Krishna</u> <u>Ronit Roy</u>
Cinematography	<u>Vishnu Sarma</u>
Edited by	<u>Junaid Siddiqui</u>
Music by	<u>Vikram</u> <u>Montrose</u> <u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> <u>Lijo George-DJ Chetas</u>

Liger wins every match and moves on to the finals. However, Tanya is kidnapped days before the finals. Upon getting to know of this, Liger confronts Tanya's father. He reveals that he borrowed money from a gangster to set up his business, and remains helpless, as he could not repay the money back to him. After her father reveals that Tanya broke up with Liger so he could focus on his sport and career after his mother chastised her for being a distraction, Liger decides to save Tanya by himself, which ultimately causes him to miss the final match. He stumbles upon the kidnapper, who happens to be Mark Anderson, his lifelong role model and legendary MMA fighter.

Anderson challenges him to a fight to get Tanya back. The fight is live streamed at the MMA final. When Liger is on the verge of losing, he remembers the advice that his mother gave him and defeats Anderson. Impressed by his skills, Anderson takes a picture with Liger and Tanya, and lets them go. As a result of the successful fight, the MMA jury declares the fight between Anderson and Liger as the final match. Liger becomes a MMA World Champion.

	<u>Sunil Kashyap</u> <u>Jaani</u>
Production companies	<u>Dharma Productions</u> <u>Puri Connects</u>
Distributed by	<u>AA Films</u>
Release date	25 August 2022
Running time	138 minutes ^[1]
Country	India
Languages	Hindi Telugu
Budget	₹90 crore ^[2]
Box office	est. ₹60.80 crore ^[3]

Cast

- Vijay Deverakonda as Sashwath Agarwal alias Liger, Tanya's love interest and Balram–Balamani's son
 - Master Harsh Roshan as young Liger
- Mike Tyson as Mark Anderson (extended cameo appearance)
- Ananya Panday as Tanya Panday, Liger's love interest and Sanju's younger sister
- Ramya Krishna as Balamani Agarwal, Liger's mother and Balram's wife
- Ronit Roy as Christopher, Liger's MMA coach
- Vishu Reddy as Sanju Panday, Tanya's elder brother
- Ali as Ali Bhai
- Chunky Panday as Mr. Panday, a businessman and Tanya & Sanju's father
- Makarand Deshpande as Mallesh, a local thug
- Getup Srinu as Ganapath, Liger's MMA friend
- Temper Vamsi as Shankar, Liger's MMA Friend

Production

Pre-production

Vijay Deverakonda who plays a MMA Fighter with a stutter, underwent a dramatic physical transformation for his role and went to Thailand for martial arts training.^[7] After Janhvi Kapoor refused the offer due to dates issues, Ananya Panday was cast opposite Deverakonda.^[8] The film's score is composed by Mani Sharma.^[9] Composer Tanishk Bagchi is also signed for the film.^[10] In September 2021, boxer Mike Tyson was signed for an extended cameo, thus making his acting debut in Indian cinema.^{[11][12]}

Filming

Filming began on 20 January 2020 in Mumbai, with the tentative title *Fighter*.^[13] 40 days of shoot was completed when production was halted in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India.^[14] The filming resumed in February 2021. The second schedule was shot in Hyderabad.^[15] The filming was delayed again in April 2021 due to the second wave of the COVID-19 lockdown. The cast and crew resumed the shoot in September 2021.^[16] In November 2021, the cast and crew went to Las Vegas to shoot the portions with Mike Tyson.^[17] The filming was completed in February 2022.^[18]

Soundtrack

The music rights are sold to Sony Music India. The first single titled "The Liger Hunt Theme" was released on 9 May 2022, on the occasion of Vijay Deverakonda's birthday.^[19] The second single titled "Akdi Pakdi" was released on 11 July 2022.^[20] The third single titled "Waat Laga Denge" sung by Vijay Deverakonda was released on 29 July 2022.^[21] The fourth single titled "Aafat" was released on 6 August 2022.^[22] The fifth single titled "Coka 2.0" was released on 12 August 2022.^[23]

Liger	
Soundtrack album by <u>Vikram Montrose</u> , <u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> , <u>Lijo George-DJ Chetas</u> , <u>Sunil Kashyap</u> , <u>Jaani</u>	
Recorded	2021-2022
Genre	<u>Feature film</u> <u>soundtrack</u>
Length	22:06
Language	Hindi Telugu
Label	<u>Sony Music India</u>
Producer	<u>Vikram Montrose</u> <u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> <u>Lijo George-DJ Chetas</u> <u>Sunil Kashyap</u> <u>Jaani</u>
Singles from <i>Liger</i>	
1. "The Liger Hunt Theme" Released: 9 May 2022	
2. "Akdi Pakdi" Released: 11 July 2022	
3. "Waat Laga Denge" Released: 29 July 2022	

4. "Aafat"
Released: 6 August 2022
5. "Coka 2.0"
Released: 12 August 2022
6. "Attack"
Released: 20 August 2022
7. "Manchali"
Released: 27 August 2022
8. "Mera Banega Tu"
Released: 30 August 2022

Hindi

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"The Liger Hunt Theme"	Farhad Bhiwandiwalla, Shekhar Astitwa, Vikram Montrose	<u>Vikram Montrose</u>	Farhad Bhiwandiwalla	1:31
2.	"Akdi Pakdi"	<u>Mohsin Shaikh, Azeem Dayani</u>	Lijo George-DJ Chetas, <u>Sunil Kashyap</u>	<u>Dev Negi, Pawni Pandey, Lijo George</u>	3:50
3.	"Waat Laga Denge"	Puri Jagannaadh	Sunil Kashyap	<u>Vijay Deverakonda</u>	1:26
4.	"Aafat"	<u>Rashmi Virag</u>	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u>	Zara S Khan, Tanishk Bagchi	2:43
5.	"Coka 2.0"	<u>Jaani, Lijo George</u>	Jaani, Lijo George - DJ Chetas	<u>Sukhe, Lisa Mishra</u>	2:46
6.	"Attack"	Farhad Bhiwandiwalla	Vikram Montrose	Farhad Bhiwandiwalla	3:09
7.	"Manchali"	Farhad Bhiwandiwalla	Tanishk Bagchi	Zahrah S Khan, Farhad Bhiwandiwalla	2:29
8.	"Mera Banega Tu"	<u>Kunaal Vermaa</u>	Tanishk Bagchi	Lakshay Kapoor	4:07
Total length:					22:06

Telugu

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"The Liger Hunt Theme"	<u>Bhaskarabhatla</u>	Vikram Montrose	<u>Vedala Hemachandra</u>	1:31
2.	"Akdi Pakdi"	Bhaskarabhatla, Mohsin Shaikh, Azeem Dayani	Lijo George-DJ Chetas, Sunil Kashyap	<u>Anurag Kulkarni, Ramya Behara</u>	3:50
3.	"Waat Laga Denge"	Puri Jagannaadh	Sunil Kashyap	Vijay Deverakonda	1:26
4.	"Aafat"	Bhaskarabhatla	Tanishk Bagchi	<u>Simha, Sravana Bhargavi</u>	2:43
5.	"Coka 2.0"	Bhaskarabhatla	Jaani, Lijo George-DJ Chetas	<u>Ram Miriyala, Geetha Madhuri</u>	2:46
6.	"Attack"	Bhaskarabhatla	Vikram Montrose	Anurag Kulkarni	3:09

7.	"Manchali"	Bhaskarabhatla	Tanishk Bagchi	Shanmukha Priya, Raghuram	2:29
8.	"Kalalo Kooda"	Bhaskarabhatla	Tanishk Bagchi	Sid Sriram, Sagar, Vaishnavi Kovvuri	4:07
Total length:					22:06

Tamil

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"The Liger Hunt Theme"	Sagar	Vikram Montrose	Vedala Hemachandra	1:42
2.	"Akdi Pakdi"	Sagar, Mohsin Shaikh, Azeem Dayani	Lijo George-DJ Chetas, Sunil Kashyap	Sagar, Vaishnavi Kovvuri	3:50
3.	"Waat Laga Denge"	Puri Jagannaadh	Sunil Kashyap	Vijay Deverakonda	1:26
4.	"Aafat"	Sagar	Tanishk Bagchi	Deepak Blue, Haripriya	2:43
5.	"Coka 2.0"	Sagar	Jaani, Lijo George-DJ Chetas	Ram Miriyala, Geetha Madhuri	2:46
6.	"Attack"	Sagar	Vikram Montrose	Anurag Kulkarni	3:09
7.	"Manchali"	Sagar	Tanishk Bagchi	Vaishnavi Kovvuri, Raghuram	2:29
8.	"En Vaanathil Vandha"	Sagar	Tanishk Bagchi	Sid Sriram, Sagar, Vaishnavi Kovvuri	4:07
Total length:					22:06

Malayalam

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"The Liger Hunt Theme"	Siju Thuravoor	Vikram Montrose	Anvar Sadath	1:42
2.	"Akdi Pakdi"	Siju Thuravoor, Mohsin Shaikh, Azeem Dayani	Lijo George-DJ Chetas, Sunil Kashyap	Vishnuvardhan, Syama	3:50
3.	"Waat Laga Denge"	Puri Jagannaadh	Sunil Kashyap	Vijay Deverakonda	1:26
4.	"Aafat"	Siju Thuravoor	Tanishk Bagchi	Manzoor Ibrahim, Jyotsna Radhakrishnan	2:43
5.	"Coka 2.0"	Siju Thuravoor	Jaani, Lijo George-DJ Chetas	Vishnuvardhan, Anila Rajeev	2:46
6.	"Attack"	Siju Thuravoor	Vikram Montrose	Sam Shiva	3:09
7.	"Manchali"	Siju Thuravoor	Tanishk Bagchi	Priya Jerson, Vipin Xavier	2:29
8.	"Ennil Alinjole"	Siju Thuravoor	Tanishk Bagchi	Vidhu Prathap	4:07
Total length:					22:06

Kannada

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
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1. "The Liger Hunt Theme"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Vikram Montrose	Santhosh Venky	1:42
2. "Akdi Pakdi"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura, Mohsin Shaikh, Azeem Dayani	Lijo George-DJ Chetas, Sunil Kashyap	Santhosh Venky, Sangeetha Ravindranath	3:50
3. "Waat Laga Denge"	Puri Jagannaadh	Sunil Kashyap	Vijay Deverakonda	1:26
4. "Aafat"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Tanishk Bagchi	Santhosh Venky, Divya Ramachandra	2:43
5. "Coka 2.0"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Jaani, Lijo George-DJ Chetas	Aniruddha Sastry, Sangeetha Rajeev	2:46
6. "Attack"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Vikram Montrose	Vyasaraj Sosale	3:09
7. "Manchali"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Tanishk Bagchi	Santhosh Venky, Divya Ramachandra	2:29
8. "Nannava Neenendu"	Varadaraj Chikkaballapura	Tanishk Bagchi	Santhosh Venky, Sangeetha Ravindranath	4:07
Total length:				22:06

Release

Theatrical

Liger was released on 25 August 2022 in Hindi and Telugu along with dubbed versions in Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.^{[24][25]} Earlier in January 2021, the film's release date of 9 September 2021 was announced.^[26] But due to production delays caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the film was postponed.^[27] The current release date was announced in December 2021.^{[28][29]}

The film's worldwide theatrical rights were valued at ₹81 crore, the highest for any Deverakonda film.^[30]

Home media

The satellite rights of the film have been acquired by Star India Network, while the digital rights for streaming have been acquired by Disney+ Hotstar.^[31] The film was digitally streamed on Disney+ Hotstar from 22 September 2022 in Telugu and dubbed versions of Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada languages.^[32] The Hindi version premiered on 21 October 2022.^[33]

Distribution

AA Films and Sri Karthikeya Cinemas has acquired All India distribution rights while Sarigama Cinemas and Phars Film Co acquired overseas distribution rights.

Reception

Critical reception

Liger received negative reviews from critics.^{[4][5][6][34]} Neeshita Nyayapati of *The Times Of India* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote, "It's ironic that *Liger* is asked to focus multiple times in the film, but the script itself lacks the same focus".^[35] Janani K of *India Today* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote, "*Liger* is a convoluted sports drama with a lacklustre story. In other words, *Liger* is a wasted opportunity".^[36] Arvind V of *Pinkvilla* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote, "The performances are mixed at best. Vijay Deverakonda is measured and earnest".^[37] Sonil Dedhia of *News 18* rated the film 1.5 out of 5 stars and wrote, "*Liger* seems so long that by the end, I started feeling why did I get into this *Aafat*". She also called Deverakonda's performance as repetitive and tiresome.^[38] Sudhir Srinivasan of *The New Indian Express* rated the film 1.5 out of 5 stars and called it 'a crossbreed between cringe and cliché'. He added, "The kicks and punches in Puri Jagannadh's weakly written *Liger* seem directed at us".^[39] A reviewer for *Bollywood Hungama* rated the film 1.5 out of 5 stars and wrote, "On the whole, *Liger* fails to impress due to its silly and bizarre narrative and poor writing. At the box office, it will have a tough time attracting the audience to cinemas".^[40]

Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and wrote, "There's nothing new or fresh about the ingredients that go into the making of this *Liger*. The plot is filled with all kinds of outlandish situations, and the treatment is jaded".^[41] Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and wrote, "*Liger* is massive mess of a movie that Vijay Deverakonda's newfangled physique and action chops cannot salvage".^[42] Sukanya Verma of *Rediff.com* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and wrote, "Director Puri Jagannadh's off-putting humour and ridiculous ambitions ensure *Liger* is a dead duck from the word go".^[43] Suresh Bishnoi of cinereveal.com rated the film 1.5 out of 5 stars and wrote, "The film presents a fine example of action choreography, but casting, acting and direction is so sick".^[44] Stutee Ghosh of *The Quint* rated the film 1 out of 5 stars and called the film 'a disappointment of colossal portions'.^[45] Sanyukta Thakare of *Mashable India* rated the film 0.5 out of 5 stars and said, "0.5 is for the longest fight montage I have even seen, also only good part of the movie".^[46] Anna M.M. Vetticad of *Firstpost* rated the film 0.1 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Liger* overflows with the signature tackiness of Puri Jagannadh's films and the misogyny that Vijay Deverakonda has proudly worn on his sleeve since he struck box-office gold with Arjun Reddy".^[47]

Sanjukta Sharma of *Moneycontrol* noted in her review, "Devarakonda has the swagger of a testosterone bomb but has no consistence in his impersonation of either the lover or the fighter. *Liger* is an example of how cringe-worthy big Bollywood can get to resuscitate ticket sales. This attempt is out-and-out a lost case of such desperation".^[48] Monika Rawal Kukreja of *Hindustan Times* wrote in her review, "Puri Jagannadh's *Liger* is extremely flawed and below average for the hype it created". She added that the film is devoid of any coherent plot, performances, or action that does not involve the hero strutting in slow-motion.^[49] Shomini Sen of *WION* in her review noted, "Lots of mindless action sequences, arbitrary songs

and a story that lacks logic- 'Liger' feels like an ordeal to sit through".^[50] Aditi Chavan of *First India* wrote in her review, "Overall, Liger is a meme-worthy asinine film that does not do justice as Vijay's Hindi debut."^[51]

Box office

Liger grossed ₹23.12 crore worldwide on its opening day including ₹15.3 crore from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with a distributor share of ₹13.45 crore including ₹2.56 crore from overseas market.^[52] On second day it collected ₹7.7 crore worldwide, on third and fourth day it collected ₹6.55 crore and ₹5.24 crore respectively. So on the weekend it collected India net ₹35.44 crore and ₹48.5 crore worldwide gross. and on fifth day it collected ₹1.5 crore.

Liger performed poorly at the box office. Latha Srinivasan of *Firstpost* attributed the film's failure to over-hyped promotions and audience expectations.^[53] Writing for *Hindustan Times*, Abhimanyu Mathur stated that the film's team tried to manufacture a pan-Indian success by casting actors from Hindi film industry and failed.^[54]

In October 2022, *News18 Telugu* reported that the film has collected a total worldwide gross of ₹60.80 crore with a distributors' share of ₹28.20 crore. Thus, the film incurred a total loss of ₹61.80 crore.^[55]

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