

Bawaal

Bawaal (transl. Commotion) is a 2023 Indian Hindi-language romantic drama film directed by Nitesh Tiwari, and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment and Earthsky Pictures. It stars Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor as a troubled married couple.^{[1][2]}

Filming took place in multiple countries from April to August 2022. Initially scheduled for a theatrical release, *Bawaal* received a streaming release on Amazon Prime Video on 21 July 2023.^[3]

At the 2023 Filmfare OTT Awards, *Bawaal* received 9 nominations, including Best Actor in a Web Original Film (Dhawan) and Best Actress in a Web Original Film (Kapoor).

Plot

Ajay Dixit is an image-conscious narcissist, who teaches history at a school in Lucknow. He hates his life of lies, despite the respect he is held in, thanks to his philosophical tendency to "fake it till you make it". He has grounded his beautiful epileptic wife Nisha, who is much more intelligent than him, since he does not want her seizures to ruin his reputation.

Ajay finds himself and his image in jeopardy when he slaps his student, Atul Raghuvanshi, in frustration over a doubt regarding World War II. Atul turns out to be the son of MLA Vishwas Raghuvanshi. Out of despair of wanting to escape the wrath of the MLA, Ajay decides to visit places across Europe he deems were important to World War II (inc. Anne Frank's house and Auschwitz). He takes Nisha along with him as his parents hope it could resolve their marital conflicts. This sets them on a journey that changes their entire perspectives and their views on interpersonal conflicts, as they cover both life and history lessons along the way.

Cast

- Varun Dhawan as Ajay Dixit
- Janhvi Kapoor as Nisha Dixit
- Manoj Pahwa as Mr. Dixit, Ajay's father
- Anjuman Saxena as Mrs. Dixit, Ajay's mother
- Mukesh Tiwari as MLA Vishwas Raghuvanshi

Bawaal



Official release poster

Directed by	Nitesh Tiwari
Written by	Nitesh Tiwari <div>Piyush Gupta</div> <div>Nikhil Mehrotra</div> <div>Shreyas Jain</div>
Story by	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
Produced by	Sajid Nadiadwala <div>Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari</div>
Starring	Varun Dhawan <div>Janhvi Kapoor</div>
Cinematography	Mitesh Mirchandani
Edited by	Charu Shree Roy
Music by	Songs: <div>Mithoon</div> <div>Tanishk Bagchi</div> <div>Akashdeep Sengupta</div> <div>Background Score:</div>

- Prateek Pachori as Bipin
- Vyas Hemang as Kalpesh
- Shashie Vermaa as Principal
- Agrim Mittal as Papon Chatterjee
- Nikhil Chawla as Atul Raghuvanshi, Vishwas's son
- Thibault Gouzarch as Thief

Production

The film title was announced along with its release date and the cast on 30 March 2022.^[4]

Filming began in April 2022, and was shot in Mumbai, Kanpur, Lucknow, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Kraków, Warsaw, Auschwitz (present-day Oświęcim) and in parts of Poland.^[5] Sajid Nadiadwala announced that the filming completed in August 2022.^{[6][7]}

Soundtrack

Soundtrack is composed by Mithoon, Tanishk Bagchi, Akashdeep Sengupta. The lyrics are written by Kausar Munir, Manoj Muntashir, Arafat Mehmood, Shloke Lal.

The first single, "Tumhe Kitna Pyaar Karte" was released on 7 July 2023.^[8] The 2nd single titled "Dil Se Dil Tak" was released on 14 July 2023.^[9] The third single titled "Dilon Ki Doriyan" was released on 18 July 2023.^[10]

Track listing

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Tumhe Kitna Pyaar Karte"	<u>Manoj Muntashir</u>	<u>Mithoon</u>	<u>Arijit Singh</u>	5:05
2.	"Dil Se Dil Tak"	<u>Kausar Munir</u>	Akashdeep Sengupta	Laqshay Kapoor, Akashdeep Sengupta, Suvarna Tiwari	5:01
3.	"Dilon Ki Doriyan"	Arafat Mehmood	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u>	<u>Vishal Mishra</u> , Zahrah S Khan, Romy	3:00
4.	"Kat Jayega"	Shloke Lal	<u>Tanishk Bagchi</u>	Romy, <u>Pravesh Mallick</u>	2:30

	Daniel B. George
Production companies	<u>Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment</u> <u>Earthsky Pictures</u>
Distributed by	<u>Amazon Prime Video</u>
Release date	21 July 2023
Running time	137 minutes
Country	India
Language	Hindi

<i>Bawaal</i>	
Soundtrack album by <u>Mithoon</u> , <u>Tanishk Bagchi</u> and Akashdeep Sengupta	
Released	23 July 2023
Recorded	2022
Genre	<u>Feature film soundtrack</u>
Length	15:36
Label	<u>T-Series</u>
Official audio	
Bawaal (Audio Jukebox) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw-DrzOOdts&pp) on <u>YouTube</u>	
Singles from <i>Bawaal</i>	
1. "Tumhe Kitna Pyaar Karte" <div>Released: 7 July 2023</div>	
2. "Dil Se Dil Tak" <div>Released: 14 July 2023</div>	
3. "Dilon Ki Doriyan" <div>Released: 18 July 2023</div>	

Release

The film premiered on 21 July 2023 on [Amazon Prime Video](#).

Reception

On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 22% of 18 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 2.5/10.^[11] [Shubhra Gupta](#) of [The Indian Express](#) gave the film 1.5 out of 5, writing, "Varun Dhawan-Janhvi Kapoor-starrer promises a lot, but keeps faltering, never quite knowing what to make of a wholly harebrained flourish in the plot."^[12] [Leaf Arbuthnot](#) of [The Guardian](#) gave the film 1 out of 5, calling the premise "serviceable" but the plot "woefully misjudged." She further wrote that "it is just a pity that rest of the film is so lacking in fun, pep, humour and charm that only its spectacularly poor taste stands out."^[13]

Amongst positive reviews, [Sukanya Verma](#) of [Rediff.com](#) gave the film 3 out of 5, writing, "Director Nitesh Tiwari has a knack for creating intriguing characters and scenarios that feel fresh yet familiar at the same time. But the underlying goal behind all their actions -- questionable or inspirational -- is rooted in wisdom."^[14]

Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Jewish human rights organisation [Simon Wiesenthal Center](#) asked Amazon to "stop monetising" *Bawaal* with immediate effect and called the film a "banal trivialisation of the suffering and systematic murder of millions of victims of the Nazi Holocaust".^{[15][16]} On 28 July 2023, [Embassy of](#)

Israel, New Delhi tweeted that the "The Israeli embassy is disturbed by the trivialization of the significance of the Holocaust in the recent movie 'Bawaal'."^[17] They also criticised the "poor choice in the utilization of some terminology in the movie."^[18]

Accolades

Year	Award ceremony	Category	Nominee / work	Result	Ref.
2023	Filmfare OTT Awards	Best Actor in a Web Original Film	<u>Varun Dhawan</u>	Nominated	[19]
		Best Actress in a Web Original Film	<u>Janhvi Kapoor</u>	Nominated	
		Best Story (Web Original Film)	<u>Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari</u>	Nominated	
		Best Original Screenplay (Web Original Film)	Nikhil Mehrotra, Shreyas Jain, Piyush Gupta, Nitesh Tiwari	Nominated	
		Best Background Music (Web Original Film)	Daniel B. George	Nominated	
		Best Production Design (Web Original Film)	Aditya Kanwar	Nominated	
		Best Cinematographer (Web Original Film)	Mitesh Mirchandani	Nominated	
		Best Editing (Web Original Film)	Charu Shree Roy	Nominated	
		Best Sound Design (Web Original Film)	Sanjay Maurya, Allwin Rego	Nominated	

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External links

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