

**Alia Bhatt** (/ˈɑːliə ˈbʌt/; born 15 March 1993) is a British actress of Indian descent who predominantly works in Hindi films.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Known for her portrayals of women in troubling circumstances, she has received several accolades, including a National Film Award and six Filmfare Awards. One of India's highest-paid actresses, *Time* magazine honoured her with the Time100 Impact Award in 2022 and named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2024.

Born into the Bhatt family, she is the daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actress Soni Razdan. After making her acting debut as a child in the 1999 thriller *Sangharsh*, she played her first leading role in Karan Johar's teen film *Student of the Year* (2012). She won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress for playing a kidnapping victim in the road drama *Highway* (2014), and went on to establish herself with starring roles in several romantic films produced by Johar's studio Dharma Productions.

Bhatt won Filmfare Awards for Best Actress for playing a victim of drug abuse in the crime drama *Uda Punjab* (2016), an undercover spy in the thriller *Raazi* (2018), a possessive girlfriend in the musical drama *Gully Boy* (2019), and the titular prostitute in the biopic *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022). The last of these also earned her the National Film Award for Best Actress. She expanded to film production with the black comedy *Darlings* (2022), and had her biggest commercial success in the fantasy film *Brahmāstra: Part One – Shiva* (2022) and the romantic comedy *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (2023). The last of these earned her a record-tying fifth Best Actress award at Filmfare.

In addition to acting, Bhatt has launched her own sustainable clothing brand, Ed-a-Mamma, an ecological initiative, CoExist, and a production company, Eternal Sunshine Productions. She supports various charities, and is an investor and prominent brand endorser. She has sung seven of her film songs, including the single "Samjhawan Unplugged" in 2014. Bhatt is married to the actor Ranbir Kapoor, with whom she has a daughter.

## Early life and background

Alia Bhatt



Bhatt at the 2022 Berlinale

<b>Born</b>	15 March 1993 <div>India</div>
<b>Citizenship</b>	British
<b>Occupation</b>	Actress
<b>Years<span> </span>active</b>	2012–present
<b>Works</b>	<span>Full list</span>
<b>Spouse</b>	<span>Ranbir Kapoor</span> ( <span>m.</span> <span> </span> 2022)
<b>Children</b>	1
<b>Parents</b>	<span>Mahesh Bhatt</span> (father) <div><span>Soni Razdan</span> (mother)</div>
<b>Relatives</b>	<span>Bhatt family</span> <div><span>Kapoor family</span> (by marriage)</div>
<b>Awards</b>	<span>Full list</span>

Alia Bhatt was born on 15 March 1993<sup>[3][4]</sup> in India.<sup>[5][6]</sup> She was born into the Bhatt family<sup>[7]</sup> to Indian film director Mahesh Bhatt and British actress Soni Razdan. Her father is of Gujarati descent<sup>[8][9]</sup> and her mother is of Kashmiri Pandit and British German ancestry.<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup> She holds British citizenship.<sup>[1]</sup> She has an elder sister, Shaheen,<sup>[14]</sup> and two half-siblings, Pooja and Rahul Bhatt. Actor Emraan Hashmi and director Mohit Suri are her paternal cousins, while producer Mukesh Bhatt is her uncle.<sup>[15][16]</sup> She was educated at the Jamnabai Narsee School but dropped out of her twelfth grade to pursue acting.<sup>[17][18]</sup>

Describing her childhood, Bhatt has said, "I had a rather grounded and modest upbringing. I didn't get the pleasures that people assume I would've got because I am Mahesh Bhatt's daughter."<sup>[19]</sup> Growing up, she did not share a close bond with her father; Razdan has said that she raised her children mostly as a single parent as her husband did not take much interest in their lives.<sup>[20]</sup> Bhatt has said that as a child, she "didn't miss him as such because I did not really have him", adding that they developed a closer bond only when she became an actress.<sup>[21]</sup>

Bhatt aspired to act from a young age, and has said that she first realised her interest while rehearsing for the school choir in kindergarten.<sup>[22][23]</sup> She soon began dance lessons at Shiamak Davar's institute.<sup>[22]</sup> Her first acting role was at age five in her father's production venture Sangharsh (1999), in which she briefly played the younger version of Preity Zinta's character.<sup>[24]</sup> Talking about her experience, she later remarked, "I don't remember much of the shoot. I would go to the sets only for the food".<sup>[22]</sup> At age nine, she auditioned for a role in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film Black (2005), but did not get the part.<sup>[25]</sup> Three years later, Bhansali cast a then-12-year old Bhatt opposite a then-20-year old Ranbir Kapoor to make their debuts in his film Balika Vadhu, but the film was shelved.<sup>[26]</sup>

## Career

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### Early work (2012–2015)

Bhatt had her first leading role in 2012 with Karan Johar's teen film Student of the Year, alongside newcomers Sidharth Malhotra and Varun Dhawan.<sup>[27]</sup> She auditioned alongside 500 girls and was cast by Johar on the condition that she lose 16 kg (35 lb), which she did in three months.<sup>[23][28]</sup> She played a sophisticated teenage girl involved in a love triangle. Anupama Chopra of Hindustan Times mentioned similarities between her character and Kareena Kapoor's role in Johar's Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham... (2001), but noted that her performance was "without the killer attitude".<sup>[29]</sup> Lisa Tsering of The Hollywood Reporter dismissed her as "a washout. Not only is she inelegant in the dance numbers, but her expressions are limited; and the digital retouching of her face throughout the film is a distraction".<sup>[30]</sup> The film grossed ₹960 million (US\$12 million) at the box office, becoming a commercial success.<sup>[31]</sup>



Bhatt at an event for Student of the Year in 2012

Dismayed by the critical response to Student of the Year, Bhatt was keen to play a better role. She found it in Imtiaz Ali's road film Highway (2014), in which she starred as a young woman from a wealthy family who, after being abducted, develops Stockholm syndrome towards her captor (played by Randeep Hooda).<sup>[22]</sup> She took diction lessons to improve her Hindi, and was challenged by the emotional and physical requirements of the part.<sup>[32]</sup> Ali shot the film sequentially and several scenes were improvised on set based on Bhatt's reactions.<sup>[33]</sup> She has said

that several aspects of her character's journey mirrored her own, as it was the first time she experienced situations that were different from her own privileged upbringing.<sup>[22]</sup> Ronnie Scheib of *Variety* took note of her "endearingly cockeyed perf" and commended her for "bringing an underlying sadness and wistful intelligence" to her part.<sup>[34]</sup> The film underperformed at the box office,<sup>[35]</sup> though Bhatt won the *Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress* and also gained a *Best Actress* nomination at the ceremony.<sup>[36]</sup> She next appeared in *Vikas Bahl's* short film on women's safety, entitled *Going Home*.<sup>[37]</sup>

Continuing her collaboration with Johar's company, *Dharma Productions*, Bhatt starred in the romantic films *2 States* and *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania* (both 2014).<sup>[38]</sup> The former was an adaptation of *Chetan Bhagat's* novel of the same name, and is about two management students who have trouble convincing their parents of their relationship. For her role as a headstrong *Tamil* girl, she learnt to speak her lines in *Tamil* with help from a tutor.<sup>[39]</sup> *Shubhra Gupta* of *The Indian Express* was appreciative of Bhatt, labelling her a "surprise" and "easy and fresh and natural".<sup>[40]</sup> She played a *Punjabi* girl who has an affair before her wedding, in *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania*, directed by *Shashank Khaitan*, which was described as a tribute to *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995) by Johar.<sup>[41]</sup> Writing for *India Today*, *Rohit Khilnani* thought that Bhatt had pitched in "one of her best performances so far", though *Nandini Ramnath* of *Mint* found her lacking in subtlety, writing that she was "more comfortable acting out her feelings through dialogue and actions".<sup>[42][43]</sup> Both films were commercially successful, each earning over ₹1 billion (US\$13 million) worldwide.<sup>[31]</sup> Her accomplishments in 2014 established her career.<sup>[44][45][46]</sup>

Bhatt reunited with *Bahl* for the romantic comedy *Shaandaar*. Released in 2015, the film features *Shahid Kapoor* and Bhatt as insomniacs who fall in love during a *destination wedding*.<sup>[47]</sup> *Kunal Guha* of *Mumbai Mirror* criticised the film and wrote that Bhatt "socks life into her character but fails to pump any into this film".<sup>[48]</sup> The film did not perform well commercially.<sup>[49]</sup>

## Career progression (2016–2021)



Bhatt at an event for *Udta Punjab* in 2016

Bhatt began 2016 with a supporting role in *Shakun Batra's* ensemble drama *Kapoor & Sons*, starring alongside *Malhotra* and *Fawad Khan*, which was a critical and commercial success.<sup>[50]</sup> She next took on the part of a poor *Bihari* migrant in *Udta Punjab* (2016), a crime drama about *substance abuse* from writer-director *Abhishek Chaubey*. The intense role marked a departure from the mostly light-hearted parts she had played before, and in preparation, she watched documentaries on drug abuse and learned to speak a *Bihari* dialect.<sup>[51]</sup> The film generated controversy when the *Central Board of Film Certification* deemed that it represented *Punjab* in a negative light and demanded *extensive censorship* before its release.<sup>[52]</sup> The *Bombay High Court* later cleared the film for exhibition with one scene cut.<sup>[53]</sup> Bhatt's performance was critically acclaimed.<sup>[54]</sup> *Raja Sen* of *Rediff.com* wrote that she "commits to her accent and deals with the film's most unsavoury section, and is stunning during an incendiary speech that elevates the entire film to a whole other level."<sup>[55]</sup> She next played a

troubled young woman who consults with a therapist (played by *Shah Rukh Khan*) in *Gauri Shinde's* coming-of-age film *Dear Zindagi* (2016). Writing for *IndieWire*, *Anisha Jhaveri* commended her for providing millennial angst with "a three-dimensionality".<sup>[56]</sup> *Udta Punjab* and *Dear Zindagi* gained Bhatt awards attention; for the former, she won the *Screen Award* and the *Filmfare Award for Best Actress*, and for the latter, she received an additional *Best Actress* nomination at *Filmfare*.<sup>[57][58][59]</sup>

The series of successful films continued with her next project—the romantic comedy *Badrinath Ki Dulhania* (2017)—which reunited her with Khaitan and Dhawan.<sup>[60]</sup> It tells the story of an independent young woman (Bhatt) who refuses to conform to patriarchal expectations from her chauvinistic fiancée (Dhawan). Rachel Saltz of *The New York Times* took note of the film's statement on gender equality and wrote, "Without ever falling into the clichés of spunky Bollywood heroine, [Bhatt] effortlessly embodies that admirable thing: a modern woman."<sup>[61]</sup> She received another Filmfare nomination for Best Actress.<sup>[62]</sup> Meghna Gulzar's espionage thriller *Raazi* (2018) starred Bhatt as Sehmat Khan, a Kashmiri spy married to a Pakistani army officer. Set during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the film is an adaptation of Harinder Sikka's novel *Calling Sehmat*.<sup>[63][64]</sup> Anna M. M. Vetticad of *Firstpost* found Bhatt to be "stupendous" in the role, adding that "the young star once again displaying the maturity and confidence of a veteran on camera".<sup>[65]</sup> *Raazi* proved to be one of the highest-grossing female-led Hindi films, and its success led *Box Office India* to credit Bhatt as the most successful contemporary actress of Hindi cinema.<sup>[66][67]</sup> She won another Best Actress award at Filmfare.<sup>[68]</sup>

Bhatt launched her own production company named Eternal Sunshine Productions in early 2019.<sup>[69]</sup> Her first appearance that year was opposite Ranveer Singh in Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy*, a musical inspired by the life of the street rappers Divine and Naezy.<sup>[70]</sup> She attended acting workshops to learn a ghetto dialect to enable her to improvise on set.<sup>[71]</sup> The film premiered at the 69th Berlin International Film Festival.<sup>[72]</sup> Writing for *Screen International*, Lee Marshall opined that "it's Bhatt's sharp performance that carries most successfully the mix of wry humour, romance and social comment that *Gully Boy* essays".<sup>[73]</sup> With global earnings of over ₹2.37 billion (US\$30 million), the film emerged as Bhatt's highest-grossing release to that point.<sup>[74]</sup> *Gully Boy* won a record 13 Filmfare Awards, and Bhatt was awarded with her career's third Best Actress trophy.<sup>[75]</sup>

The ensemble period drama *Kalank* (2019) marked Bhatt's biggest-budget film to that point.<sup>[76]</sup> Set in the 1940s prior to the partition of India, it featured Dhawan and her as star-crossed lovers. She watched the films *Mughal-e-Azam* (1960) and *Umrao Jaan* (1981) to learn the body language of women from the era; to better her Urdu-speaking skills, she watched the Pakistani television series *Zindagi Gulzar Hai*.<sup>[77]</sup> Shubhra Gupta bemoaned that she was "watchable, if increasingly, exasperatingly familiar".<sup>[78]</sup> The film did not perform well at the box office.<sup>[79]</sup> Bhatt next starred in *Sadak 2* (2020), a sequel to her father's crime film *Sadak* (1991), which due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India could not be released theatrically and instead streamed on Disney+ Hotstar.<sup>[80]</sup> The death of Sushant Singh Rajput sparked a debate on nepotism in the Hindi film industry; his fans blamed Bhatt for being one of the beneficiaries of nepotism and for once speaking dismissively of Rajput on Johar's chat show *Koffee with Karan*.<sup>[81]</sup> This led to vote brigading on the film's trailer on YouTube, on which it became the second most-disliked video.<sup>[82][83]</sup> The film received negative reviews, and Pallabi Dey Purkayastha of *The Times of India* dismissed Bhatt's performance "by her own high standards" to be "strictly average".<sup>[84][85]</sup>

## Established actress (2022–present)

The year 2022 was key for Bhatt.<sup>[86][87][88]</sup> She portrayed the titular prostitute in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's biopic *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022), which premiered at the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival.<sup>[89]</sup> In preparation, she studied the work of actress Meena Kumari, and watched films about prostitution such as *Mandi* (1983) and *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005).<sup>[90]</sup> Commenting on media speculation that she had been miscast in such an assertive part, Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* opined that "the actress puts all doubts to rest with a marvellously lively performance".<sup>[91]</sup> Additionally, Stutee Ghosh of *The Quint* commended her for playing the part with a "rare mix of innocence and jaw clenching seething anger".<sup>[92]</sup> It emerged as her



third release to gross over ₹2 billion (US\$25 million) worldwide.<sup>[74]</sup> *The Guardian* featured her portrayal in their listing of the best big-screen performances of all time,<sup>[93]</sup> and she was awarded with her fourth Best Actress award at Filmfare in addition to the National Film Award for Best Actress (shared with Kriti Sanon for *Mimi*).<sup>[94][95]</sup> Cultural professor Rachel Dwyer noted, "Meena Kumari was a heroine of the post-Independence cinema [just as] Alia Bhatt is of today's post-Bollywood".<sup>[96]</sup>

In the same year, Bhatt took on a brief role in the Telugu-language period film *RRR*, starring N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and Ram Charan. Even though she learnt to speak her lines in the language, a dubbing artist eventually voiced her lines.<sup>[97]</sup> It emerged as the third highest-grossing Indian film of all time.<sup>[98]</sup> She next starred as a victim of domestic abuse in the Netflix black comedy film *Darlings*, which marked her first production venture under her company Eternal Sunshine Productions.<sup>[99]</sup> Namrata Joshi found her to be "perfectly at home in the role of an ordinary Mumbai chawl girl".<sup>[100]</sup> The film became the most watched Indian film globally in its opening weekend on Netflix,<sup>[101]</sup> and won her the Filmfare OTT Award for Best Actress in a Web Original Film.<sup>[102]</sup> In her final release of 2022, Bhatt starred opposite Ranbir Kapoor in Ayan Mukerji's fantasy film *Brahmāstra: Part One – Shiva*. The first part in a planned trilogy, the film took five years to film.<sup>[103]</sup> Made on a production and marketing budget of around ₹4 billion (US\$50 million), the film is one of the most expensive Indian films.<sup>[103][104]</sup> Simon Abrams of the *TheWrap* bemoaned that Bhatt had been underused in a poorly written part, and disliked her chemistry with Kapoor.<sup>[105]</sup> It earned ₹4.31 billion (US\$54 million) to rank as the highest-grossing Hindi film of 2022.<sup>[106][107]</sup>



Bhatt promoting *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022), for which she won the National Film Award for Best Actress

Bhatt reunited with Johar for his directorial, the romantic comedy *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (2023), co-starring Ranveer Singh.<sup>[108]</sup> Filming and release were delayed by a few months due to her pregnancy.<sup>[109]</sup> Praising her look in the film, *WION*'s Shomini Sen believed that Bhatt had improved upon a predictable character, but preferred the meatier role of Singh.<sup>[110]</sup> Earning over ₹3.5 billion (US\$44 million) worldwide, it emerged as one of the year's highest-grossing Hindi films.<sup>[111]</sup> She won her fifth Best Actress award at Filmfare, tying the record for most wins in the category with Nutan and Kajol.<sup>[112][113]</sup> Bhatt expanded to American cinema in the same year with *Heart of Stone*, a Netflix spy film co-starring Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan. Playing a villainous computer hacker, she performed her career's first action sequences whilst pregnant.<sup>[114][115]</sup> Critics panned the film;<sup>[116]</sup> IndieWire's Kate Erbland wrote that Bhatt "sells a role that is thinly written to the point of insult".<sup>[117]</sup>

Bhatt attached herself as an executive producer on the crime drama series *Poacher* for its streaming release on Amazon Prime Video in 2024, after it premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival.<sup>[118]</sup> She will continue her collaborations with Dharma Productions with *Jigra*, a thriller which she will also co-produce under Eternal Sunshine.<sup>[119]</sup>

## Other work

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### Singing and stage performances

Bhatt has performed playback singing for the song "SooHa Saaha" in *Highway* (2014). A. R. Rahman, the composer of the film, invited her to his music school to undergo training.<sup>[120]</sup> In 2014, she sang the unplugged version of the song "Samjhawan", for the composers Sharib-Toshi, in *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania*.<sup>[121]</sup> In 2016, she sang an alternate version of the song "Ikk Kudi", for the soundtrack of *Udta Punjab*, with her co-star Dosanjh.<sup>[122]</sup>

Bhatt has performed on stage at the Filmfare, Screen and Stardust award ceremonies, and has also participated in a stage show in Hong Kong alongside Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra.<sup>[123]</sup> In 2013, she performed at a charity event with Dhawan, Malhotra, Aditya Roy Kapur, Shraddha Kapoor and Huma Qureshi to raise funds for the flood-affected victims of Uttarakhand.<sup>[124]</sup> In August 2016, she performed in various cities of America for the "Dream Team 2016" tour, alongside Johar, the actors Dhawan, Malhotra, Roy Kapur, Katrina Kaif, Parineeti Chopra, and the singer Badshah.<sup>[125]</sup>

## Philanthropy

Bhatt supports various causes and charitable organisations. She took part in a campaign for PETA in 2013 to raise awareness on homeless animals.<sup>[126]</sup> In 2021, PETA India named her as the Person of the Year for her work in support of an animal-friendly fashion industry and her advocacy for dogs and cats.<sup>[127][128]</sup> She joined a charity fundraiser in 2015 organised by Cuddles Foundation for cancer-stricken children, and in 2017, she walked the ramp to support the cause.<sup>[129][130]</sup> Also in 2017, she launched an ecological initiative named CoExist to raise awareness about the welfare of street animals.<sup>[131]</sup> The initiative launched a denim donation drive that year, to make dog collars from discarded denims.<sup>[132]</sup> Bhatt collaborated with Facebook for a campaign named Find Your Green, to campaign for environmentalism.<sup>[133]</sup>

In 2018, Bhatt joined Aamir Khan's Paani Foundation; she visited Latur, a village in Maharashtra, and helped Khan with on-ground watershed management work.<sup>[134]</sup> She also launched an initiative named Mi Wardrobe is Su Wardrobe (MiSu), through which she auctioned clothes from her personal wardrobe to provide electricity to a village in Karnataka.<sup>[135]</sup> Bhatt collaborated with the Indian arm of the NGO ActionAid in 2021 to provide essentials to underprivileged communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>[136]</sup> In 2022, she became the first actress from India to partner with the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group for their "I'm a Fan" campaign, through which she raised funds for the Salaam Bombay Foundation, which helps underprivileged adolescents.<sup>[137]</sup> Under MiSu, Bhatt sold the saris she wore in her film *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (2023) to raise funds for women's healthcare.<sup>[138]</sup> The following year, she hosted a charity gala in London for the Salaam Bombay Foundation.<sup>[139]</sup>

## Entrepreneurship

Bhatt designed her own clothing line for women in 2014 for the online fashion portal Jabong.com and in 2018, she launched her own line of handbags for VIP Industries.<sup>[140][141][142]</sup> She is also an investor in the beauty company Nykaa and in India's first biomaterial startup Phool.co.<sup>[143]</sup> In 2022, she launched her own sustainable maternity and children's clothing brand, named Ed-a-Mamma.<sup>[144][145]</sup> For helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature, Ed-a-Mamma was awarded the PETA India's Vegan Fashion Award for

Best Vegan Kidswear Brand in 2021.<sup>[146]</sup> As of July 2023, the company has an estimated valuation of ₹1.5 billion (US\$19 million).<sup>[147]</sup> In September that year, Reliance Retail acquired a majority stake of 51% in the company.<sup>[148]</sup>

## Personal life

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Bhatt has frequently combated negative attention, including online trolling, for being a beneficiary of nepotism within the Hindi film industry. When asked about how she deals with it, she has said, "Of course, I felt bad. But feeling bad is a small price to pay for the work that you are respected and loved for."<sup>[149]</sup> This criticism has extended to Johar, who often praises her publicly and casts her in most of his productions; their critics believe that this favouritism comes at the cost of opportunities for other actresses. Johar defended his admiration of Bhatt by saying that he feels parental towards her.<sup>[38][150][151]</sup>

During an appearance on Johar's talk show *Koffee with Karan* in 2014, Bhatt incorrectly named Prithviraj Chavan as the President of India. This led to widespread trolling of Bhatt's IQ, which journalist Malavika Sangghvi described as an extension of the dumb blonde stereotype.<sup>[22][152]</sup> Bhatt countered this by acting in a satirical YouTube video for All India Bakchod, named *Alia Bhatt - Genius of the Year*.<sup>[153]</sup> Sangghvi noted that by making fun of herself, Bhatt had "managed to counter all her critics and, in fact, endear herself to them".<sup>[152]</sup>



Bhatt and her husband Ranbir Kapoor, pictured in 2021

Early in her career, Bhatt was reluctant to discuss her personal life, stating that she would never publicly talk about her relationships.<sup>[154]</sup> Despite media speculation, she did not speak about dating actor Sidharth Malhotra, but spoke fondly about their bond in 2019, after they had broken up.<sup>[155]</sup> In 2018, Ranbir Kapoor, her co-star in *Brahmāstra*, revealed that he and Bhatt were dating.<sup>[156]</sup> They married on 14 April 2022 in a traditional Hindu ceremony at their apartment in Mumbai.<sup>[157]</sup> On 6 November that year, she gave birth to their daughter.<sup>[158][159]</sup> As of 2022, Bhatt lives primarily in Mumbai, and also has a home in London.<sup>[160]</sup> In 2023, she called out two paparazzi photographers for invading her privacy by clicking pictures of her in her living room from an adjoining building.<sup>[161]</sup>

## Media image and artistry

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The writer Sucharita Tyagi describes Bhatt's personality as "funny, endearing, silly and unapologetic".<sup>[162]</sup> The journalist Raja Sen, in 2022, described Bhatt as "petite compared to her contemporaries" and wrote that "she embraces her girlishness and diminutive size because she likes astonishing those who may write her off as too young to play a certain character, or too small to take over a screen".<sup>[163]</sup> Suhani Singh of *India Today* has said that despite her petite frame, she "can appear larger than life on screen".<sup>[164]</sup>

Laura Zornosa of *Time* magazine believes that Bhatt specialises in playing "fiercely tenacious lead roles",<sup>[87]</sup> while Liz Kang of *CNN* has identified a theme of "dynamic, unconventional female characters in troubling circumstances".<sup>[165]</sup> Journalist Ishita Sengupta, writing for *Frontline* noted that she has "played women who have opinions, ambition, independence, and intent. But more crucially, they have the space to be unlikeable."<sup>[166]</sup> Ranjita Ganesan of Rediff.com opined that she is "known for her moving portrayals of



Bhatt in 2023

breakdowns".<sup>[167]</sup> Bhatt relies on instinct and spontaneity in her performances.<sup>[149]</sup> Her directors, Meghna Gulzar and Shakun Batra believe that she prepares extensively for a part, but according to Gulzar, she internalises her character and ultimately "act[s] from her gut".<sup>[143]</sup> Bhatt has said that she does not deconstruct her craft, believing that "I'd become a machine rather than a human being", adding that she chooses contrasting projects to "satisfy my extremely impatient, monotony-abhorring kind of brain".<sup>[167][168]</sup> Analysing Bhatt's career trend, Ganesan believed that unlike her contemporaries, she quickly emerged as a bankable star.<sup>[167]</sup> Trade journalist Joginder Tuteja calculated that by 2022, she had a "track record of 13 hits out of 15 releases".<sup>[169]</sup> Box Office India ranked Bhatt as the most successful Hindi film actress in both their 2018 and 2023 reports.<sup>[67][170]</sup> In 2023, journalist Rajeev Masand named her one of Hindi cinema's best actresses of all time.<sup>[171]</sup>

*Forbes Asia* has featured Bhatt in their 30 Under 30 list of 2017 and in their 100 Digital Stars list of 2020.<sup>[172][173]</sup> She has appeared in *Forbes India*'s Celebrity 100 list since 2014, peaking at the eighth position in 2019.<sup>[174][175]</sup> That year, the magazine estimated her annual income to be ₹592 million (US\$7.4 million) and listed her as the highest-paid actress in the country.<sup>[176]</sup> In 2018 and 2019, the Indian edition of *GQ* featured her among the nation's 50 most influential young people and credited her for "striking a balance between big-budget, all-star blowouts and more script-oriented films".<sup>[177][178]</sup> Bhatt was listed in first place in *The Times of India*'s "50 Most Desirable Women" list of 2018, and she was named the "Sexiest Asian Woman" by the UK magazine *Eastern Eye* in 2019.<sup>[179][180]</sup> Also in 2018, the market research firm YouGov named her India's ninth most influential celebrity.<sup>[181]</sup> The magazine *Femina* has featured her in listings of women achievers in 2019 and 2021.<sup>[182][183]</sup> From 2022 to 2024, she was featured in *The Indian Express*'s listing of the most powerful Indians, and she was featured in a similar list by *India Today* in 2023.<sup>[184][185][186][187]</sup> Also in 2022, *Time* magazine awarded her with the TIME100 Impact Award.<sup>[87]</sup> *Variety* featured her in their listing of the Impactful International Women of 2023.<sup>[188]</sup> In the same year, the British newspaper *Financial Times* featured her among the 25 most influential women and *Business Today* featured her in their listing of the most powerful women in business.<sup>[189][190]</sup> She was also featured by the Indian edition of *Hello!* magazine in their 100 most influential list.<sup>[191]</sup> In 2024, *Time* named Bhatt as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.<sup>[192]</sup>

In 2020, Bhatt was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.<sup>[193]</sup> In 2023, she was named the first Indian global ambassador for the luxury brand Gucci.<sup>[194]</sup> As ambassador, she attended Gucci's fashion shows in Seoul and at the Milan Fashion Week.<sup>[168]</sup> Bhatt is the celebrity endorser for a number of other brands and products, including Coca-Cola, Garnier and Maybelline.<sup>[195][196][197]</sup> Bhatt's brand value was estimated by Duff & Phelps to be US\$36.5 million in 2018, the eighth-highest among Indian celebrities.<sup>[198]</sup> With a brand value of US\$68.1 million, she held the seventh position for the next two years. In 2021, she peaked at the fourth position with a consistent brand value of US\$68.1 million, and in 2022, she retained her position at number four with an increased brand value of US\$102.9 million (up by 51%).<sup>[199][200]</sup> As of October 2023, she is the third most-followed Indian actress on Instagram.<sup>[201]</sup>

## Works and awards

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Bhatt won the National Film Award for Best Actress for *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022).<sup>[95]</sup> She received the Filmfare Award for Best Actress a record-tying five times for her roles in *Udta Punjab* (2016), *Raazi* (2018), *Gully Boy* (2019), *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022) and *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (2023), in addition to the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress for *Highway* (2014).<sup>[202]</sup> She has also won the Filmfare OTT Award for Best Actress in a Web Original Film for *Darlings* (2022).<sup>[102]</sup>

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- Alia Bhatt (<https://www.instagram.com/aliaabhatt/>) on  Instagram

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