

Laxman Utekar

Laxman Utekar is an Indian filmmaker, cinematographer and director known for his work in Hindi and Marathi films.

Utekar started his career as a director of photography in Hindi cinema with films such as *English Vinglish* and *Dear Zindagi*. He made his directorial debut in 2013 with *Tapaal*.^[1] He went on to direct the romantic comedy *Luka Chuppi* (2019) and the drama *Mimi* (2021).

Career

Utekar started his career as a director of photography in Hindi cinema in 2007 with *Khanna & Iyer*. He then went on to work on *English Vinglish*, *Dear Zindagi*, *Hindi Medium* and *102 Not Out*. He made his directorial debut in 2014 with Marathi film *Tapaal*. He then directed *Lalbaugchi Rani* (2016), a slice of life drama about a mentally challenged girl who gets lost in Mumbai.

Utekar first Hindi film as director was the romantic comedy *Luka Chuppi* (2019) which starred Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon as a couple in a live in relationship and the chaos ensues when their traditional families assume them to be married to each other.^[2] The film received generally positive reviews and emerged as commercial success at the box office, with a total gross collection of ₹128.86 crore (US\$16 million).^{[3][4]}

In 2021, Utekar directed and co-wrote with Rohan Shankar the drama *Mimi*. A remake of the Marathi film *Mala Aai Vhhaychy!* (2011). the film reunited him with Sanon, in the titular role of a young woman who opts to be a surrogate mother for a foreign couple. Following the non-existent theatrical releases due to COVID-19 pandemic, the film was released through the streaming services Netflix and JioCinema.^[5] The film received positive reviews from critics, with Renuka Vyahare of *The Times of India* nothing that "it picks a relevant topic and turns it into an engaging, empowering and compassionate tale on humanity and motherhood".^[6] Taran Adarsh wrote, "Mimi is a heartwarming saga, aimed at families and it will keep the audience thoroughly entertained."^[7]

Filmography

Key

†	Denotes films that have not yet been released
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Laxman Utekar



Utekar at IFFI 2013

Nationality	Indian
Occupations	Director • Cinematographer
Years active	2007–present

Year	Film	Director	Cinematographer	Language	Ref.
2007	<i>Khanna & Iyer</i>		Yes	Hindi	[8]
2009	<i>Blue</i>		Yes	Hindi	
2012	<i>English Vinglish</i>		Yes	Hindi	[8]
2014	<i>Tapaal</i>	Yes	Yes	Marathi	[9]
2016	<i>Dear Zindagi</i>		Yes	Hindi	[8]
2016	<i>Lalbaugchi Rani</i>	Yes		Marathi	[10]
2017	<i>Hindi Medium</i>		Yes	Hindi	[8]
2018	<i>102 Not Out</i>		Yes	Hindi	[8]
2019	<i>Luka Chuppi</i>	Yes		Hindi	[8]
2021	<i>Mimi</i>	Yes		Hindi	[11]
2023	<i>Zara Hatke Zara Bachke</i>	Yes		Hindi	[12]
2024	<i>Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya</i>		Yes	Hindi	
	<i>Chhava †</i>	Yes		Hindi	[13]

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3. Taran Adarsh [@taran_adarsh] (1 March 2019). "A situational comedy with a message... Relatable premise, clean humour, foot tapping music, loads of entertainment... Superb climax... Kartik Aaryan top notch, Kriti Sanon damn good. Recommended!" (https://twitter.com/taran_adarsh/status/1101346615082725376) (Tweet). Retrieved 17 April 2019 – via Twitter.
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