

Shehzada (2023 film)

Shehzada (transl. Prince) is a 2023 Indian Hindi-language action film^[4] directed by Rohit Dhawan. A remake of the 2020 Telugu-language film *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo*, it stars Kartik Aaryan in the lead role who also makes his production debut with the film. Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal, Manisha Koirala and Ronit Roy appear in key roles.

Principal photography began in October 2021 and ended in January 2023 with filming held in Mumbai, Mauritius and Delhi. The film score and soundtrack album are composed by Pritam. *Shehzada* was released theatrically on 17 February 2023.^[5] The film received negative reviews from critics and was a commercial failure.^[6]

Plot

Valmiki and Randeep start their career as clerks in the company of Aditya Jindal. Randeep, who marries Jindal's daughter Yashoda "Yashu", becomes wealthy while Valmiki remains poor. On the day of the birth of both their children, Randeep's son appears to be dead. When nurse Sulochana informs Valmiki about this, he pities Randeep and offers to exchange his baby with the dead one since the Jindals have done so much for him.

After switching them, however, Randeep's child begins to cry, having not died after all. Valmiki, sensing that his son would have a better life growing up in a rich family, prevents Sulochana from switching the babies back and accidentally pushes her off a ledge. Sulochana goes into a coma, keeping Valmiki's secret from coming out.

25 years later, Raj, raised at Jindal's house, is timid and innocent while Bantu, raised by Valmiki, is street-smart and outspoken. Valmiki, who favours his own son Raj, treats Bantu badly. Bantu gets a job at a law firm headed by Samara, who is impressed by his knowledge and quick-wittedness. Meanwhile, Raj returns from his studies abroad. Jindal sends Raj to reject Sarang, a powerful man who offers to buy their company's shares but deals with drugs. Randeep watches the deal from a restaurant where Samara has a meeting. When the client misbehaves with Samara, Bantu

Shehzada



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	 Rohit Dhawan
Screenplay by	 Rohit Dhawan
Story by	 Trivikram Srinivas
Based on	 <i>Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo</i> by Trivikram Srinivas
Produced by	 Bhushan Kumar <p> Krishan Kumar</p> <p> Aman Gill</p> <p> Allu Aravind</p> <p> S. Radha Krishna</p> <p> Kartik Aaryan</p>
Starring	 Kartik Aaryan <p> Kriti Sanon</p> <p> Paresh Rawal</p> <p> Manisha Koirala</p> <p> Ronit Roy</p>
Cinematography	 Sudeep Chatterjee <p> Sanjay F. Gupta</p>
Edited by	 Ritesh Soni

interferes. Randeep is disappointed by Raj's inability to say no to Sarang but beams at Bantu and Samara when they defend themselves against the rowdy client. Following this, Raj becomes engaged to Samara but she and Bantu have fallen in love.

Sarang attempts to kill Randeep for getting in his way. Bantu saves Randeep; at the hospital, he meets Sulochana, who has come out of her coma. She reveals Bantu's true parentage before dying. Bantu denounces Valmiki as his father. Aditya Jindal, Bantu's true grandfather, is fond of Bantu for saving Randeep and hires him.

Bantu begins to address the issues plaguing the house by patching up Randeep relationship with Yashu, which had been strained since Randeep's affair seven years ago. He also settles the dispute with Sarang and reforms the corrupt family members, Kailash and Arun. He and Samara tell Raj about their relationship; Raj calls off his marriage with Samara and confronts his parents, telling them he should be allowed to make his own decisions rather than have everything handed to him. Sarang kidnaps Yashu and threatens to kill her unless Randeep gives him money.

Bantu saves Yashu. Jindal reveals that he knew all along who Bantu was, which is why he brought him home; he had overheard the conversation between Sulochana and Bantu right before her death. Bantu unites with Randeep but asks him not to reveal the truth to Yashu, fearing she might be disheartened to know that Raj, who she dotes on so much, is not her real child. Yashu remarks that Bantu is like her son, as he saved her and the family. Yashu asks Valmiki to train Raj to be as competent as Bantu and become the CEO of their company. Bantu forgives Valmiki and mends his relationship with him.

Music by	Songs: <u>Pritam</u> Abhijit Vaghani Background Score: <u>Julius Packiam</u>
Production companies	<u>T-Series Films</u> <u>Allu Entertainment</u> <u>Haarika & Hassine Creations</u> Brat Films
Distributed by	<u>AA Films</u>
Release date	17 February 2023
Running time	145 minutes ^[1]
Country	India
Language	Hindi
Budget	₹65 crore ^[2]
Box office	<u>est.</u> ₹47.43 crore ^[3]

Cast

- Kartik Aaryan as Bantu Nanda
- Kriti Sanon as Samara Singh
- Paresh Rawal as Valmiki Upadhyay, Bantu's foster father
- Manisha Koirala as Yashoda 'Yashu' Jindal, Bantu's biological mother
- Ronit Roy as Randeep Nanda, Bantu's biological father
- Rajpal Yadav as Inspector Satish Yadav DP
- Sachin Khedekar as Aditya Jindal, Yashu's father and Bantu's biological grandfather. Khedekar reprises himself with the same role that he played in the original 2020 film.
- Debattama Saha as Nisha Upadhyay, Bantu's foster sister and Raj's biological sister
- Ankur Rathee as Raj Nanda / Raj Upadhyay, Valmiki's biological son
- Sunny Hinduja as Sarang Paul
- Vin Rana as Vikrant Paul
- Ashwin Mushran as Kailash Jindal
- Ali Asgar as Arun Jindal, Aarti's brother
- Shalini Kapoor as Aarti Jindal

- Aishwarya Narkar as Mrs Upadhyay, Bantu's foster mother
- Sharvari Lohokare as Nurse Sulochana, who swaps the kids in the first place

Production

The film was announced on 12 October 2021.^{[7][8]} Principal photography began on the next day i.e. 13 October 2021 in Mumbai.^[9] The next schedule took place in Delhi.^[10] After many sequences were shot in Mauritius, filming wrapped up on 10 January 2023.^{[11][12]}

Soundtrack

All the songs are composed by Pritam while the song "Character Dheela 2.0" from 2011 film Ready has been recreated by Abhijit Vaghani and Pritam. The lyrics are written by Kumaar, Mayur Puri, Shloke Lal and IP Singh.

The Background Score was composed by Julius Packiam.

The first single titled "Munda Sona Hoon Main" was released on 16 January 2023.^[14] The second single titled "Chedkhaniyan" was released on 24 January 2023.^[15] The third single titled "Mere Sawaal Ka" was released on 2 February 2023.^[16] The fourth single titled "Character Dheela 2.0" was released on 9 February 2023. The song, *Character Dheela 2.0*, is a remix of the same song, *Character Dheela*, from Salman Khan's *Ready* (2011).^[17]

All music is composed by Pritam except where noted

Track listing

No.	Title	Lyrics	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Munda Sona Hoon Main"	<u>Kumaar</u>	<u>Diljit Dosanjh</u> , <u>Nikhita Gandhi</u>	3:50
2.	"Chedkhaniyan"	<u>Shloke Lal</u> , <u>IP Singh</u>	<u>Arijit Singh</u> , <u>Nikhita Gandhi</u>	3:51
3.	"Mere Sawaal Ka"	<u>Shloke Lal</u>	<u>Shashwat Singh</u> , <u>Shalmali Kholgade</u>	4:15
4.	"Character Dheela 2.0" (Recreated by <u>Abhijit Vaghani</u>)	<u>Amitabh Bhattacharya</u> , <u>Ashish Pandit</u>	<u>Neeraj Shridhar</u> , <u>Style Bai</u>	2:37
5.	"Shehzada Title Track"	<u>Mayur Puri</u>	<u>Sonu Nigam</u>	3:47
6.	"Mere Sawaal Ka" (King Version)	<u>Shloke Lal</u>	<u>King</u>	3:09

<i>Shehzada</i>	
Soundtrack album by <u>Pritam</u> and <u>Abhijit Vaghani</u>	
Released	28 February 2023 ^[13]
Recorded	2022-2023
Genre	<u>Feature film soundtrack</u>
Length	21:29
Language	Hindi
Label	<u>T-Series</u>
Producer	<u>Bhushan Kumar</u>
Official audio	
Shehzada - Full Album (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQI7PqJTJo w) on <u>YouTube</u>	

Release

Theatrical

Shehzada was released on 17 February 2023.^[18] Initially the film was scheduled for theatrical release on 4 November 2022 but was delayed due to production.^{[19][20][21][22]}

Home media

The digital streaming rights of the film are acquired by Netflix in ₹40 crore.^{[23][24][25]} On the platform, the film was premiered on 14 April 2023.^[26] Goldmines Telefilms who also previously dubbed and released *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* in Hindi bought the telecast rights and aired the film on their TV channel on 24 October 2023.

Reception

Box office

As of 17 March 2023, the film has grossed ₹38.33 crore (US\$4.8 million) in India and ₹9.1 crore (US\$1.1 million) overseas for a worldwide gross collection of ₹47.43 crore (US\$5.9 million).^[3]

Critical response

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 38% based on 8 reviews.^[27]

Sukanya Verma of Rediff.com wrote: "Kartik's No Allu Arjun" and went ahead to add on that: "It's nearly not enough to make an already brainless movie a better one."^[28] Rahul Desai in this review for *Film Companion* wrote: "A Kartik Aaryan Entertainer that forgets to entertain"^[29] whereas another critic labelled Aaryan as a "Royal Bore" synonymous to the film title. Nandini Ramnath of Scroll.in stated: "Rehash of Telugu hit is catnip for Kartik Aaryan fans"^[30] Dhaval Roy of *The Times of India* gave the film 3.5 stars out of 5, stating "With campy humour and action, this is just a mass entertainer".^[31] Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV Movies* stated: "Take Kartik Aaryan Out, There Might Not Be Much Left. The obsolescence of the film's essence is difficult to shrug off."^[32]

Shalini Langer of *The Indian Express* stated: "Only Manisha Koirala and Ronit Roy come out of this Kartik Aaryan starrer with some dignity intact. That's more than can be said about the audience. It should be a crime to make such films in 21st century."^[33] Ziniya Bandhyopadhyay wrote for *India Today* that the film was a disappointment of massive proportions.^[34] In his review for *The Hindu*, Anuj wrote :Kartik Aaryan can't salvage this prince of pointless banter. It's the wrong vehicle to launch Kartik Aaryan into the universe of a mass entertainer.^[35] Pratyusha Mishra for *The Quint Magazine* called the film "A Royally Painful Massy Film"^[36] At *Firstpost*, Vinamra Mathur wrote: "The problem with the remake is it never earns the

mood it wants to create."^[37] Devesh Sharma of *Filmfare* opined: "Don't expect anything to make sense because it doesn't. The original was extremely loud and over the top, so the remake can hardly be less so."^[38] Shalini Langer of *The Indian Express* gave 0.5 out of 5 ratings.^[39]

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External links

- *Shehzada* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13130948/>) at IMDb
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