

Maska (2020 film)

Maska is a 2020 Indian Hindi-language drama film written and directed by Neeraj Udhwani.^[3] It stars Manisha Koirala, Javed Jaffrey, Nikita Dutta, Prit Kamani and debutant Shirley Setia.^[4] The film follows a guy who sets out to fulfil his dream of becoming an actor until he meets a girl who helps him discover the reality.^[5] *Maska* was released on Netflix on 27 March 2020.^[6]

Plot

Rumi Irani is the successor of Rustom Irani, his father, who used to run the Rustom Cafe, in South Mumbai. His mother, Diana Irani, runs the cafe with basic menus. After the death of his father, Diana is hopeful of Rumi taking over the business and revamping it, when he completes his undergraduate studies. One day, he wins the Mr. Feroz Shah Bag award, alongside Persis Mistry, who wins the Ms. Feroz Shah Bag Award. There, he develops a passion for becoming an actor. He enrolls himself in an acting school and starts a relationship with his fellow acting peer, Mallika, a Punjabi divorcee.

On their graduation day, Rumi does not get the Best Actor award that he had anticipated of winning. Whereas, Mallika receives the Best Actress award. She convinces Rumi into a live-in relationship, and Rumi takes her to introduce his mother, who immediately disapproves her, for being a divorcee. She also tells him that he would not have her blessing, if he wishes to proceed with the relationship. In desperation, Rumi sells his father's watch and flees with the money.

He starts living in Andheri, with Mallika, and starts giving auditions. His acting, not being up to the mark, is rejected everywhere. Meanwhile, Mallika gets the lead role in a web series. Fed up, Rumi is about to get over his dream, when he learns about a director, who does not have funds for a film he wants to make. Anybody who brings him enough funds, will be the main lead for the film. Desperate of landing the lead role, Rumi decides to sell his father's cafe. Meanwhile, Persis is making a coffee table book on the Irani cafes of Mumbai. She spends time with Rumi, as she does her research and writing, in his cafe. She eventually falls in love with him and asks him to take her virginity. Hesitating, he decides to accept her proposal. Later, they make love at his cafe.

<i>Maska</i>	
	
Release poster	
Directed by	Neeraj Udhwani
Written by	Ishita Moitra Neeraj Udhwani
Produced by	<u>Seher Latif</u> Shivani Saran
Starring	<u>Manisha Koirala</u> <u>Javed Jaffrey</u> <u>Nikita Dutta</u> <u>Shirley Setia</u> Prit Kamani
Cinematography	Eeshit Narain
Edited by	Farooq Hundekar
Music by	Akshay Raheja Mikey McCleary Ketan Sodha
Production company	Mutant Films ^[1]

When the day of the sale of the cafe arrives, Diana gets to know about why he came back from Andheri. She signs the papers, transferring the power of the attorney to him, allowing him to sell the cafe, legally. At the time of the deal, he changes his mind and decides to give up his dream of acting, as it was only a delusion. He breaks up with Mallika and reconciles with Persis. Later, along with Diana, the both of them are seen celebrating the centenary of the cafe with [Boman Irani](#), as their chief guest.

Distributed by	Netflix
Release date	27 March 2020
Running time	112 minutes ^[2]
Country	India
Language	Hindi

Cast

- [Manisha Koirala](#) as Diana Irani
- [Nikita Dutta](#) as Mallika Chopra
- [Javed Jaffrey](#) as Rustom Irani
- Prit Kamani as Rumi Irani
- [Shirley Setia](#) as Persis Mistry
- [Boman Irani](#) as himself^[7]
- [Cyrus Sahukar](#) as Cyrus
- [Abhishek Banerjee](#) (actor) as Casting director Abhishek

Soundtrack

The soundtrack album is composed by Akshay Raheja, [Mikey McCleary](#) and Ketan Sodha with lyrics written by IP Singh, [Mikey McCleary](#), [Shirley Setia](#), [Jonita Gandhi](#) and Neeraj Udhwani.^[8]

Track listing

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Majja Ma Re Tu"	IP Singh	Akshay Raheja	IP Singh	01:32
2.	"Down on the Street"	Mikey McCleary , Enkore	Mikey McCleary	Mikey McCleary , Enkore	03:07
3.	"I Wanna Hang With You"	IP Singh, Shirley Setia	Akshay Raheja	IP Singh, Shirley Setia	02:15
4.	"Chuney Chuney"	Jonita Gandhi	Ketan Sodha	Jonita Gandhi	03:11
5.	"Back To You"	Neeraj Udhwani	Mikey McCleary	Mikey McCleary, Neeraj Udhwani	02:44
Total length:					12:51

<i>Maska</i>	
Soundtrack album by Akshay Raheja, Mikey McCleary and Ketan Sodha	
Released	16 March 2020
Genre	Feature film soundtrack
Length	12:51
Language	Hindi
Label	Netflix

Critical reception

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 17% of 6 critics' reviews are positive.^[9] [The Indian Express](#)'s [Shubhra Gupta](#) in her two star review said "The best parts of Maska are filled with food, the cooking and eating of it: the textures of baking fresh bread, the buttery ooze of the maska, the other classic

dishes you may find in an Irani establishment, and the golden lights that fill up the kitchen."^[10] Rohan Naahar writing for *Hindustan Times* stated "The film has such an endearing charm that it becomes virtually impossible to hold a grudge against it, even when you realise that *Maska* (like the hundreds of chefs who've tried to mimic Manish Mehrotra's *Daulat Ki Chaat*) is essentially scene-for-scene rip-off of the 2009 film *Today's Special*, starring Aasif Mandvi and Naseeruddin Shah."^[11]

Vibha Maru of *India Today* wrote "*Maska* is an age-old-story told in the most colourful way. Manisha and Jaaved's shoulders bear the burden of the entire film. Watch the film for them, they will make you miss your parents a little less and get through this time in quarantine."^[12] *The Hindu's* Namrata Joshi wrote "In these home-bound times, the film does leave you feeling nostalgic for old Mumbai houses you used to encounter on walks. Most of all, it ignites a craving for those soft buns slathered with mounds of butter and the extra sweet tea at Irani cafés. And also those small cups of Bournvita, tea and coffee sold on cycle-carts late into the night and the wee hours of the morning in a city that never sleeps. Rather never used to sleep. Hope it soon wakes up again."^[13] *The New Indian Express's* Sudhir Srinivasan stated "Given its deceptively interesting beginnings, you'd never guess how low *Maska* would go on to fall. The conflict is straightforward and one milked for decades in our cinema."^[7]

References

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9. "*Maska*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/maska_2020). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved 10 September 2022.
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11. "Maska movie review: Netflix and Manisha Koirala offer dollop of good-natured fun during dark times | Bollywood" (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/bollywood/maska-movie-review-netflix-and-manisha-koirala-offer-dollop-of-good-natured-fun-during-dark-times/story-YCmf8D1Ncxju6c4xMxBPqL.html>). Hindustan Times. 27 March 2020. Retrieved 10 September 2022.
12. "Maska Movie Review: Manisha Koirala and Jaaved Jaferi are butter on this otherwise dry toast - Binge Watch News" (<https://www.indiatoday.in/binge-watch/story/maska-movie-review-manisha-koirala-and-jaaved-jaferi-are-butter-on-this-otherwise-dry-toast-1661059-2020-03-29>). Indiatoday.in. 29 March 2020. Retrieved 10 September 2022.
13. Joshi, Namrata (28 March 2020). "'Maska' movie review: Saccharine sweet and cloyingly safe" (<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/maska-movie-review-saccharine-sweet-and-cloyingly-safe/article31190495.ece>). *The Hindu*.

External links

- *Maska* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11953628/>) at IMDb
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