Ghost Stories (2020 film)

Ghost Stories is a 2020 Indian Hindi-language anthology horror film, consisting of four short film segments directed by Karan Johar, Dibakar Banerjee, Zoya Akhtar, and Anurag Kashyap.[2][3] It is co-produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Ashi Dua under their production banner RSVP Movies and Flying Unicorn Entertainment respectively.[4] The film features an ensemble cast, including Mrunal Thakur, Avinash Tiwary, Janhvi Kapoor, Raghuvir Yadav, Sobhita Dhulipala, Vijay Varma, and Pavail Gulati.[5] It was released on Netflix on January 1, 2020.[6]

Ghost Stories is the third of three anthology films from Johar, Banerjee, Akhtar, and Kashyap. It was preceded by *Bombay Talkies* in 2013 and *Lust Stories* in 2018, the latter also being released on Netflix.

Plot

Zoya Akhtar

Sameera (Janhvi Kapoor), a young nurse, arrives to take care of an ailing bedridden elderly lady, Mrs. Malik (Surekha Sikri) in a desolate house. The former is needy, clutching at a reluctant lover Guddu (Vijay Varma); the latter, a stunner in her time.[7] The lady's son is supposed to be taking care of the old mother for the duration between the change of nurses, but he is not around. Mrs. Malik tells Sameera that her son is sleeping in the next room, but no one is there. Later, it is revealed that her son left her alone for five days and she died of starvation three days earlier. The camera moves away from a shocked Sameera.

Anurag Kashyap

The story revolves around a pregnant woman named Neha (Sobhita Dhulipala) who babysits her late sister's child, Ansh (Zachary Braz).[8] The obsessive affection of the boy and paranoia of a childless young woman assume terrifying proportions. Neha's mental illness begins to blur the line between delusion and reality.

Dibakar Banerjee

Ghost Stories	
Official release poster	
Directed by	Karan Johar
	Dibakar Banerjee
	Zoya Akhtar
	Anurag Kashyap
Written by	Karan Johar
	Dibakar Banerjee
	Zoya Akhtar
	Isha Luthra
	Avinash Sampath
Produced by	Ronnie Screwvala
	Ashi Dua
Starring	Sobhita Dhulipala
	Mrunal Thakur
	Avinash Tiwary
	Janhvi Kapoor

A man (Sukant Goel) arrives in a small town, Bees-ghara, to find it empty, except for a young boy and a girl. He is told that everyone has been eaten[8] by the girl's father who is the councilman of Sau-ghara, the big town. At first, the man refuses to believe the person, but when he tries to go out, he encounters a zombie woman who attacks him. The boy rescues him, and back in the safe house, he decides to save the children and alert the local authorities. When he gets out and enters a school, he sees the blind principal behaving strangely. The principal suddenly runs away. The children explain that some people, in order to save themselves from getting eaten, started eating others too as the creatures do not eat those who also eat human flesh. As the man watches, the school principal screams and convulses on the ground. The girl's father, who resembles a hairy humanoid creature enters the school room. The creature's poor vision makes it unable to detect the presence of the man and the children until the girl, overcome by love for her father, goes near him, only to be killed and eaten by him. The other two, stunned, do not move for a day, and the monster leaves. The boy has an idea that they take the blood from the girl's remains and cover their faces with it so that the zombies will believe that they too are flesh-eaters and let them go. The entire town center is under surveillance by the girl's father and upon seeing the pair, he checks them personally. He grows suspicious of the boy, who in reaction, eats some of the flesh of the girl. The monster turns to the man, who remains still so as to be unseen, but gets scared and starts running, resulting in him being chased by the eaters. On his way, he falls into a pit trap. He is thrown the girl's hand so that he can demonstrate he is one of them. The man refuses to do so and screams as the girl's father pounces on him, only to wake up from what is supposedly a dream. The man is then confused as he wakes up in the same trap he fell into and runs towards Bees-ghara. Finding the place deserted and burning, he assumes the worst and cries that he failed to save the children. At the same time, a car comes, full of people who bear a striking resemblance to the eaters. The man is taken by them and they tell him that they are people of Sau-ghara and that nobody lives in Bees-ghara after they burned it down because it was a very inferior place.

	Surekha Sikri
	Raghuvir Yadav
	Gulshan Devaiah
	Pavail Gulati
	Anish Bamne
Cinematography	Sylvester Fonseca
	Tanay Satam
	Kamaljeet Negi
	Manu Anand
	Mitesh Mirchandani
	Ranjan Palit
Music by	**Score:** Peji Shahkoti **Songs:** Peji Shahkoti Madan Mohan
Production companies	RSVP Movies Flying Unicorn Entertainment
Distributed by	Netflix
Release date	1 January 2020
Running time	144 minutes[1]
Country	India
Language	Hindi

Karan Johar

Ira (Mrunal Thakur) agrees to have an arranged marriage with the handsome and wealthy Dhruv (Avinash Tiwary) who dwells in a house his grandmother built. On the first night after her wedding, she sees her husband seemingly talking to the grandmother who died 20 years ago. Each night after that, the grandmother comes to bid good night to Dhruv, who seems to be the only one who can see her.

In spite of being an adult, he enjoys playing peek-a-boo with the dead grandmother. Ira questions the maid Shanti (Heeba Shah) and learns that when Dhruv was playing peek-a-boo with her, he accidentally pushed her down the stairs. The grandmother was severely incapacitated and in terrible pain. Despite this, she would make it a point to visit Dhruv each night to wish him a good night. The conversation ends before Ira

learns the circumstances of the grandmother's passing. One night, Ira gets tired of Dhruv's attachment to his dead grandmother and storms into her room, still preserved as a shrine to her and screams at the grandmother to leave them alone. The next day, at breakfast, Shanti helps Ira stir her oatmeal. Midway through breakfast, Ira starts having severe stomach cramps and is helped to her bed by Shanti. As Ira lies writhing in pain, Shanti completes their earlier conversation, telling Ira that the grandmother had begged Shanti to put an end to her pain. Being the obedient maid that she is, she mixed highly poisonous castor seeds into her breakfast; thereby, poisoning her to death. The viewer is led to understand that Shanti did the same for Ira. Ira wakes up in a brightly lit room and sees the grandmother hovering over her. Confused, Ira asks how it is that she can now see her. She lets Ira know that this is because Ira is now in her world, implying that Ira is dead. Ira then turns her head to see other human forms while the grandmother tells her that those are the others who, like Ira, did not believe in her presence.

Cast

Zoya Akhtar

- Janhvi Kapoor as Sameera
- Surekha Sikri as Mrs. Malik
- Vijay Varma as Guddu

Anurag Kashyap

- Sobhita Dhulipala as Neha
- Sagar Arya as Neha's husband
- Zachary Braz as Ansh
- Pavail Gulati as Ansh's father

Dibakar Banerjee

- Sukant Goel as Visitor
- Aditya Shetty as Little Boy
- Eva Ameet Pardeshi as Little Girl
- Gulshan Devaiah as girl's Daddy

Karan Johar

- Mrunal Thakur as Irawati "Ira" Kapoor
- Avinash Tiwary as Dhruv
- Jyoti Subhash as Dhruv's Granny
- Kitu Gidwani as Dhruv's Mother
- Sumit Tandon as Dhruv's Father
- Namrata Chopra as Ira's Mother
- Kusha Kapila as Misha
- Shataf Figar as Ira's Father
- Heeba N Shah as Shanti

Production

In April 2019, it was announced that Anurag Kashyap, Zoya Akhtar, Dibakar Banerjee, and Karan Johar will be reuniting again after *Bombay Talkies* and *Lust Stories* for a horror film for Netflix.[9] In August, Akhtar began shooting for her segment with Vijay Varma and Janhvi Kapoor.[10] In September, Kashyap began filming for his segment with Sobhita Dhulipala and Pavail Gulati.[11] Mrunal Thakur and Avinash Tiwary have been cast for Johar's segment.[5] Karan Johar found his story through a talent agency. Line producer Shiva Korner and production manager Arun Kumar started shooting for his segment of the anthology on 1 October 2019 in Goa.[12] [13]

Soundtrack

The film score was composed and one song was guest-composed by Peji Shahkoti, while the rest of the songs were composed by Peji Shahkoti.

The lyrics were written by Shellee.

Track-List

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Madhaniya"	Asees Kaur & Deedar Kaur	
2.	"Mera Saaya"	Lata Mangeshkar	

Ghost Stories	
Soundtrack album by Peji Shahkoti	
Released	1 January 2022 (Film)
Recorded	2019
Studio	Netflix
Genre	Feature Film soundtrack
Language	Hindi
Label	Sangeet Music

Reception

Saibal Chatterjee from NDTV rated the movie 2.5 stars out of 5 and wrote "Let alone genuine jump scares, the film does not even eke out moments that could be deemed spine-chilling".[14]

Swetha Ramakrishnan rated the movie 3 stars out of on Firstpost and wrote "Dibakar Banerjee's political short film elevates an otherwise bland anthology that just isn't scary".[15]

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External links

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- *Ghost Stories* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/ghost_stories_2020) at Rotten Tomatoes

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