

= Dor (film) =

Dor (Hindi : ??? , Urdu : ??? , English : String) is a 2006 Indian drama film written and directed by Nagesh Kukunoor that features Ayesha Takia , Gul Panag and Shreyas Talpade as the lead actors . It is a remake of the Malayalam film , Perumazhakkalam (2004) and was well received by the critics after its release on 22 September 2006 . Dor , which also released on a DVD , garnered rave reviews from critics and film buffs .

Dor , which was produced by Elahe Hiptoola , had cinematography by Sudeep Chatterjee and editing by Sanjib Datta . For a film that had Hindi as the predominant language with a sporadic use of Urdu , Salim @-@ Sulaiman composed the background score .

The story is about two women who come from different backgrounds and how fate brings them together . Meera (Ayesha Takia) , a young woman who becomes a widow shortly after marriage , is trapped by tradition . Zeenat (Gul Panag) , on the other hand , faces the daunting task of saving the life of her husband , who is on trial for murder . A bahuroopiya (Shreyas Talpade) helps her reach Meera , who holds the " string " to Zeenat 's hope . The companionship that develops between Meera and Zeenat results in redemption for both .

= = Plot = =

Zeenat (Gul Panag) is an independent Muslim woman living in Himachal Pradesh . She agrees to marry Amir Khan , her boyfriend , despite his parents ' reservations . After their marriage , her husband leaves for Saudi Arabia to begin employment .

Meera (Ayesha Takia) , a simple Rajasthani Hindu woman , has everything in her life in accordance with customs and traditions : her formative years , her recent marriage into a traditional Rajasthani family and her daily chores within the walls of her haveli . Coincidentally , her husband , Shankar , is in Saudi Arabia , his new workplace . Meera finds it tough without her husband but they manage to stay in touch . Shankar regularly sends his wages home to support his family that includes his father , Randhir Singh (Girish Karnad) , mother , Gowri Singh (Prateeksha Lonkar) , his paternal grandmother (Uttara Baokar) and Meera . One day , Meera does not find the remittance from Shankar . Time passes and when there are neither any further remittances nor any correspondence from her husband , Meera gets worried . When frantic inquiries are made , she is devastated to know that Shankar was killed in a freak accident that was allegedly caused by his Muslim roommate .

When the news of Shankar 's death reaches the Singh haveli , everyone turns somber and the ceremonies towards rendering her into a widow emotionally drains Meera . Her vivaciousness and exuberance are thrust behind her black veil . The rest of the family vents their frustration of losing their only bread @-@ winner on Meera , by blaming her for bringing bad @-@ luck to their family . Meera , being her respectful self , bears the insults silently .

On the other side , Zeenat hears that her husband has been arrested for murdering his roommate in Saudi Arabia . She is convinced that it must have been an accident , but the Saudi law is unforgiving and Amir is scheduled to be executed . An Indian officer explains to her that Saudi law permits release of a criminal if the wife of the deceased forgives the guilt . Armed only with a photograph of Shankar and Amir , Zeenat sets out to find Meera . On route , she meets a Behrupiya (Shreyas Talpade) . The bahuroopiya introduces himself and his profession as being multi @-@ faceted and multi @-@ talented in arts and mimicry . This profession requires him to keep visiting different places to perform " tricks " for his income . He turns out to be a petty con @-@ man when he hoodwinks Zeenat and steals her belongings . However , when Zeenat is in trouble , he returns to rescue her with his artistic talent . He reveals his sympathetic view when Zeenat details her plight ; he offers to help her with whatever knowledge he has . After making a lot of educated guesses , they reach Jodhpur . With local help , they identify the Singh haveli . When Zeenat directly requests the Singh family to pardon Amir 's mistake , their anger drives her away . She feels that maybe talking through and befriending Meera might help her cause . The bahuroopiya takes leave of Zeenat and wishes her the best for her efforts .

At a temple , which Meera visits as her daily ritual , Zeenat makes her first contact . Zeenat is too afraid to tell Meera the truth about the situation , and she does not reveal who she is or why she has come . Over a few weeks , they become good friends and spend most of the time together . Their friendship brings out the missing part in each of their personalities . In the process , Zeenat realizes helplessness ; this is totally new to her forthright way of thinking . Meera , on the other hand , gets a glimpse of freedom ; this brings her out of the shell of the traditions in her haveli and gives her a new perspective on her life .

In the meanwhile , the Singh haveli is under a debt to Chopra (Nagesh Kukunoor) , a local factory owner . When Randhir requests him for more time to repay it , he is given an offer ? pardoning the debt in exchange for Meera . Though initially set back by Chopra 's offer , Randhir prefers the haveli to Meera .

When the news of the imminent death sentence arrives , Zeenat is compelled to tell the truth to Meera . Meera is shocked beyond belief to hear Zeenat 's words . The fact that her friendship was based on false pretenses is what hurts her more . She immediately refuses to sign the maafinama (statement of forgiveness) . She makes it clear that she wants to hurt her husband 's murderer , even if it was an accident , because of how much she is hurting in her new , veiled life . She leaves for the haveli . Zeenat , initially , is deeply hurt from Meera 's decision but eventually accepts it as fate and decides to leave for her hometown . Meera later has a change of heart , perhaps because of her disillusionment at Randhir 's willingness to " sell " her to Chopra . She gets encouragement from her paternal grandmother and hurries towards the railway station , where she meets Zeenat and gives her the signed statement of forgiveness . Zeenat extends her hand from the train and Meera grabs it and climbs aboard , presumably running away from the only life she has ever known , as the train speeds up into the distance .

= = Cast = =

Ayesha Takia as Meera , one of the two protagonists . Coming from an orthodox Rajput family , she has to descend into a life devoid of joy .

Gul Panag as Zeenat , the other protagonist . A gutsy and determined wife who hopes to save her husband 's life and this leads her to Meera .

Shreyas Talpade as Bahuroopiya , the multi @-@ faceted personality . He plays a supportive role to Zeenat by helping her to find Meera .

Girish Karnad as Randhir Singh , father @-@ in @-@ law of Meera . Quite orthodox in their customs and traditions , he turns tough on Meera after the death of the only bread @-@ winner of their house , his son .

Nagesh Kukunoor as Chopra , a businessman . Comes up with a proposal to forgive the debt of Randhir Singh 's ancestral house at the expense of Meera .

Prateeksha Lonkar as Gowri Singh , Randhir Singh 's wife . On the pretext of tradition and customs , she exercises restraint on Meera 's freedom and choices .

Uttara Baokar as Dadima , Meera 's grandmother @-@ in @-@ law . Her grumpy nature towards Meera transforms into empathy after Shankar , Meera 's husband , is murdered . She plays a significant role in Meera 's redemption from oppression .

= = Production = =

= = = Pre @-@ production = = =

The story of Dor began when Nagesh Kukunoor was attending the International Film Festival of India in November 2005 . During the festival , he had hinted to a journalist that he began writing his next script . He confirmed this in another interview that after watching Perumazhakkalam (2005) , whose story is based on a newspaper article , at the Film Festival , he decided to make his own version of the film . After purchasing the story rights from Kamal , director of Perumazhakkalam , he

wanted to remake it in a different way . Through his story , he wanted to emphasize the protagonists ' ordeal while in isolation in the form of a visual drama . However , acknowledgments to Perumazhakkalam or its makers were not provided in the credits .

Kukunoor announced the news about film making in early March 2006 and suggested of its release in August 2006 . He conceptualized the film in thirds : the first and third for the lead characters and the second for the supporting one . However , Kukunoor said that all his films , at the core , have " the human element ? the simplicity of the basic emotions that bind us all . "

Since the backdrop of the film was to be Rajasthan , he had been there and did the necessary research so as to better portray the place and characters .

The CEO of Sahara One Motion Pictures , who produced Kukunoor 's Iqbal (2005) , while speaking about their motivation to continue the association with Kukunoor said , " we all look forward to Kukunoor 's films mainly because the subject and content is so out of the ordinary and captivating . "

= = = Locations and casting = = =

Kukunoor had not visited Rajasthan or Himachal Pradesh before , but he felt that he would find great locations there . Salooni in Chamba district is considered for shooting in Himachal Pradesh . In spite of this geographical inexperience , all went as per the plans while shooting in Rajasthan . However , minor modifications in the script were allowed for the surroundings . Though Panag had been in Rajasthan , she felt the scorching summer heat unbearable at times . She liked the only continuous shooting schedule and said that it provided consistency in look and performance . In Himachal , it was slightly different when the crew had hard time framing the mountains correctly . On seeing the captured frames , they shifted all the interior shots to outside .

Filming was completed in 37 days in several locations of Rajasthan . Since most of the old palaces in Rajasthan have been converted into hotels , the crew stayed at a palace resort called Manwar . They resided at a palace resort in Pokhran , while filming was done at Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur . Kukunoor , after completion of the shooting , said that it was his most challenging film as it involved a real @-@ life story .

Gul Panag was impressed with Kukunoor 's previous film , Rockford (1999) and her constant correspondence with him fetched her the role of Zeenat . Kukunoor felt that Panag had characteristics of someone who was lean and fit , good height , large frame , and with an appropriate skin tone . After a successful audition , she was chosen for the character that she felt was a difficult one to portray . Critiquing the actress with " I see urgency , pain but no sadness " and " I see anger and vulnerability but no guilt " , the director pushed Panag to her limits . She felt that Kukunoor was such a man of conviction that he constantly forgot to eat and this once caused him a stomach infection . Gul Panag , on the other hand , said that her role was very multi @-@ dimensional , multi @-@ layered and hence it was quite tough to play the character . She said that Kukunoor helped her in defining her character with ease and said , " Nagesh looked at the minutest detail and was an immense support to me as an actor . " However , Dor 's executive producer , Elahe Hiptoola lent her voice for Panag in the film .

It was in Socha Na Tha (2004) that Kukunoor noticed Ayesha Takia and until then he assumed her to be a glamor doll . After getting convinced about her acting skills , she was roped in for the character of Meera . Takia said that though her character emotionally drained her , it was not tough to portray and that she could learn a lot about life . She further said that , " Dor was indeed an exciting challenge for the actor in me . I am happy that it was also a very exciting role , which not many actors get to portray at such a young age . " She said that with Dor , she was not only in the film industry for glamor , but also for her acting prowess . While filming , Kukunoor bonded so well with Takia that he requested her to be his sister . Since she did not have a brother in real life , she got quite emotional with Kukunoor 's brotherly proposal . This affection eventually solemnized in the form of a rakhi symbolically .

When Kukunoor was thinking of a character full of disguises , he first came up with an old man . When the thought of a scene with the three major characters dancing in the dunes came up , he

realized that an older character could not realistically dance in the desert . He immediately felt that Shreyas Talpade , whom he knew of knowing mimicry , could be used for bahuroopiya . Kukunoor , who worked previously with Girish Karnad , said that he was the strength for the film and added that he found him a good actor and a good human being .

Talpade , who previously featured as the title character of Kukunoor 's Iqbal (2005) , observed the bahuroopiyas in Rajasthan and incorporated their dialect , accent , and their body language for his character . About Kukunoor , he said that , " though one tends to go overboard as an actor most of the times , the way he handles the character as a director , Nagesh makes you feel that it is very simple for you to delineate the character . " Through his character of a bahuroopiya , Talpade was required to perform mimicry . While he was good at mimicry in college , it was during the filming of Iqbal , Kukunoor noted this talent of his and thus Dor came into Talpade 's hands . About his co @-@ actors , he said that it was refreshing to work with Panag and Takia despite the scorching heat of 45 ° C (113 ° F) .

According to the DVD extras , Nagesh Kukunoor first wrote the screenplay in English , then had it translated to Hindi .

= = = Filming and music = = =

About the background score , Kukunoor said that " to put soaring music to give it a larger @-@ than @-@ life film image was pretty difficult " . Despite this worry , with Salim @-@ Sulaiman composing the music , he was happy with the way it was composed according to the sequence . Karsan Saquria , Sunidhi Chauhan and a Pakistani singer , Shafqat Amanat Ali Khan were among those who sang the songs . While releasing the soundtrack , Kukunoor said that Salim @-@ Sulaiman and he tried make songs that " stood out from the clutter and something that was different from the item numbers or the boring love ballads . "

= = Release and reception = =

Dor accumulated about Rs . 38 million in India at the end of 2006 .

= = = Reviews = = =

The Telegraph said in its review , " When you first watch Nagesh Kukunoor 's impressively shot Dor , you want to simply applaud it as good cinema . Whether it 's Ayesha 's award @-@ worthy performance or Shreyas ' amusing moments , the credit marks pile up in favor of the director who has made engaging cinema . " The Times of India said :

Dor makes a strong feminist statement without being strident or shouting slogans . And all along , the riveting friendship between the two polarized women and the events that bring them together , keep tugging at your heart . Shreyas Talpade proves that (his previous film) , Iqbal was no accident and Gul Panag gives one of the most convincing portrayals of her career . But , it is Ayesha Takia who simply blows your breath away . Her journey from joyous subjugation ? where she is content to dance before her husband and be at the beck and call of her in @-@ laws ? to silent emancipation is absolutely endearing .

About the technical department , The Hindu said :

" There is this one scene when the director cuts from Zeenat (Gul Panag) trying to fix her house literally from the outside , perched on a ladder , with a hammer in hand , to Meera (Ayesha Takia) inside the house and behind a veil . The play of such visual metaphors throughout gives the film a world @-@ class feel , the kind of stuff you usually see in Iranian cinema . "

Another review from The Telegraph says :

" Sudeep Chatterjee 's cinematography is excellent . He composes and constructs stylised but simple images which don 't scream for attention , but unassumingly add up to create the film 's striking overall visual design . "

While writing about the plot and the picturization , Rediff.com concluded :

" The script is engaging ; the dialogues entertaining , witty and yet quite profound . Every scene seems to have been well etched out . The character sketches are strong and the characters are inspiring but not patronizing . The script , the story and the characters take the spotlight and the sets , though picturesque add to the plot instead of overshadowing it . "

Taran Adarsh , while writing about the chances of its commercial success , said , " Dor is a well @-@ made film that caters to those with an appetite for qualitative cinema . Awards and glowing critical acclaim , yes , it has the power to win it . But , box @-@ office rewards and a mandate from the aam junta (common man) will elude it . The lethargic pacing will also go against it . "

= = = Reception and awards = = =

As per the reviews , the film could not capture much appeal at the theaters . In Kolkata , theater officials withdrew Dor from screening one week after its theatrical release . The reason cited for this withdrawal was due to many simultaneous releases such as the films Woh Lamhe and Snakes on a Plane . However , commercial success notwithstanding for these films , Dor was brought back to the screens . Following this , Dor was screened at the annual Indo @-@ American Arts Council Film Festival and the Atlanta Indo @-@ American Film Festival .

Along with nominations for cinematography , dialogues , lyrics and supporting actor (for Shreyas Talpade) , the film won the critics award for Ayesha Takia and Gul Panag at the 2007 Zee Cine Awards . At the annual Star Screen Awards , Talpade and Takia won the best actor in a comic role and critics choice for best actress awards respectively along with other nominations . At another such awards ceremony , Takia and Panag won awards for their performances . Takia further won the best actress award at the Bengal Film Journalists ' Association Awards .

= = Home media = =

= = = DVD = = =

The DVD version of the film was released on 20 October 2006 . The DVD release , which was distributed by Eros Entertainment , is available in 16 : 9 Anamorphic widescreen , Dolby Digital 5 @.@ 1 Surround , progressive 24 FPS , widescreen and NTSC format . With a runtime of 147 minutes , the DVD has a provision for English subtitles . However , some versions of the film jacket list the runtime as 63 minutes .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

The soundtrack , which was composed by Salim @-@ Sulaiman and the lyrics by Mir Ali Husain , was released on 26 August 2006 with a typical and traditional Rajasthani flavor .

One review about the soundtrack said that , " this is no ordinary album and will be preferred by musical elites . Infused with classical music and Rajasthani folk music , it is a good quality album coming out of Salim @-@ Sulaiman . But the shortcoming comes in the form that this is not the kind of music that 'll please every ear . " Another review , in a similar tone , said that the album " works only for those who are either followers of classical music or enjoy hearing songs with a Rajasthani folk music base . There is no doubt that composers good quality throughout , but overall the album caters only to a niche audience . "