

= Waiting (2015 film) =

Waiting is a 2015 Indian comedy drama film co-written and directed by Anu Menon . Produced by Priti Gupta and Manish Mundra under the banner of Ishka Films and Drishyam Films , the film stars Naseeruddin Shah and Kalki Koechlin in lead roles . Waiting revolves around the relationship between two people from different walks of life , who befriend each other in a hospital , while nursing their respective comatose spouses . Rajat Kapoor , Suhasini Maniratnam , Arjun Mathur , Ratnabali Bhattacharjee and Rajeev Ravindranathan play supporting roles in the film .

Development began in June 2014 , when Menon signed Koechlin and Shah for an upcoming untitled project . Principal photography began in November 2014 in the coastal town of Kochi . Neha Parti was the director of photography , and Mickey McCleary composed the film score , which was released in May 2016 , under the label of Zee Music Company . The lyrics were written by Manoj Muntashir and Ankur Tewari . Nitin Baid and Apurva Asrani edited the film , and Atika Chohan wrote the dialogues . The film had its world premiere at the Dubai International Film Festival on 11 December 2015 to positive reviews from critics .

Waiting was also screened at the closing gala of the London Asian Film Festival , where Menon won the Best Director Award , and at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles . The film had released theatrically on 27 May 2016 , with A certification from the censor board . Upon release in India , Waiting was well received by critics with particular praise for the performances of both Koechlin and Shah . The film , however , was an average grosser at the box office , collecting a total of ₹ 39 million (US \$ 580 ,000) during its theatrical run .

= = Plot = =

Shiv Kumar (Naseeruddin Shah) , an elderly psychology professor , arrives at a hotel in Kochi to visit his comatose wife Pankaja (Suhasini Maniratnam) . Tara Kapoor Desphande (Kalki Koechlin) , a young advertising agent , arrives at the same hospital during the night after being delivered the news of a car accident , which involved her husband , Rajat Deshpande (Arjun Mathur) . She is consoled by Rajat 's eccentric co-worker Girish (Rajeev Ravindranathan) , but she dismisses him abruptly . Tara is deeply disturbed to see Rajat breathing on a ventilator , and leaves immediately .

While at the waiting lounge Tara approaches Shiv believing him to be a doctor and asks for his advice . He reveals that his wife had a stroke eighth months ago while he was out watching a cricket match . The two bond over their similar situation . Girish later drops Tara and gives her Rajat 's bag . Tara finds his watch in it and puts it on . The next day Tara is angered on reading an intimate message on Rajat 's phone from a colleague Sheetal , who is later revealed to be a man . Shiv witnesses the whole misunderstanding and the two share a light moment . He later visits Tara in her hotel room where Tara lashes out about her friends and followers on social media for having abandoned . Tara commends Shiv for his composure and calm nature , which leads him explaining the five stages of grief to her .

Tara finds her resort in Shiv , her wiser more experienced counterpart . The two start spending most of their spare time together despite being completely opposite in nature , simultaneously coping up with their respective grief . Shiv takes Tara to the temple as a part of his coping mechanism and she takes him lingerie shopping as a part of hers . Dr. Nirupam Malhotra (Rajat Kapoor) , Rajat 's doctor tells Tara that he has a hematoma in his brain and a surgery might help him recover , but it carries the risk of partial paralysis . Tara is torn between making a decision as she believes Rajat wouldn 't want to live life being paralysed , and seeks advice from Shiv who is already angered by Dr. Malhotra 's negative approach towards Pankaja 's case . He dismisses him as a pawn of the hospital board and the insurance companies who care just about the money and not the patients . The two get into a heated argument and Shiv angrily lashes out at Tara for not giving Rajat a chance at life with Tara calling herself a realist , dismisses Shiv for being selfish and making his wife go through all the pain for his own sake .

Tara 's best friend Ishita (Ratnabali Bhattacharjee) arrives at Kochi and advises her to start

chanting prayers , and to inform Rajat 's estranged parents . Tara despite being an atheist chants Namu My?h? Renge Ky? , when she is alone with Rajat . Shiv desperately attempts to convince Dr. Malhotra to perform a spinal decompression on his wife but he disregards Shiv 's research and refuses to proceed with surgery . Tara discusses surgery with Ishita and decides to not go ahead with it which further angers Dr. Malhotra . Ishita leaves to aid her ailing son , and Tara realises that she is no longer her priority as was the case prior to her marriage . Shiv and Tara finally make up and later the night smoke a joint and later dance together back at Shiv 's house , much to the amusement of his neighbours . They later get upset thinking about their spouses and discuss love and what it meant to them , before falling asleep in the living room .

The next morning , Tara leaves early and later decides to inform Rajat 's mother . Girish brings Tara the required insurance papers and she thanks him saying that he was always there for her and she never acknowledged it . She then decides to go ahead with the surgery after all . Rajat is taken to surgery and Tara holds his hand up until they arrive at the OR . Shiv , on the other hand decides to take Panakja off the ventilator and let his wife make the final call , Panakja tries to breathe on her own as the viewers are treated with the flashbacks of the heydays of both the couples . Tara takes a seat at the waiting lounge , and is joined by Shiv who sits next to her as the camera pans out .

= = Cast = =

Naseeruddin Shah as Shiv Kumar
Kalki Koechlin as Tara Deshpande
Arjun Mathur as Rajat Deshpande
Rajat Kapoor as Dr. Nirupam Malhotra
Suhasini Maniratnam as Pankaja
Rajeev Ravindranathan as Girish
Ratnabali Bhattacharjee as Ishita
Marin Babu as Nurse Prema

= = Production = =

= = = Development and casting = = =

Made on a modest budget , Waiting was produced by Priti Gupta of Ishka Films and Manish Mundra of Drishyam Films . The film was directed by Anu Menon , her second directorial after romantic comedy London , Paris , New York (2012) . Menon also co -@-@ wrote the script along with James Ruzicka . The director of photography for the film was the cinematographer Neha Parti Martyani , who had been previously associated with films including My Name is Khan and Yamla Pagla Deewana among others . The film 's dialogue was written by Atika Chohan , and Prajakta Ghate essayed the role of the film 's production designer .

Pre @-@ production work began in July 2014 , when the film was picked up for production . Menon , inspired by one of her own personal experience , started working in the story for the film along with Ruzicka . She termed the scripting process to be extremely difficult as they had to figure out , " what it means to be associated with a comatose patient , both emotionally and medically " . Menon later revealed that she had began working on the script years before the actual production for the film began , and that it took her several years to complete it . She wanted an entirely different setting for the film and decided to set the story in Kerala .

Entertainment website Bollywood Hungama reported that Kalki Koechlin was set to star in Menon 's upcoming film . It was reported that , Koechlin will be playing the role of Tara Deshpande , a young and brash social media @-@ savvy . Koechlin 's That Girl in Yellow Boots co @-@ star Naseeruddin Shah joined the cast after he was approached by Menon , who sent him the script of the film in an e @-@ mail . Shah sent a confirmatory e @-@ mail to Menon accepting the part in the film . It was later revealed that he would play the role of Shiv Kumar , a retired philosophy professor .

To prepare for the role , Koechlin practised the dialect in which her character spoke , a mixture of Hindi and English . She also dyed her hair black for the role , as Menon wanted her to look more " earthy " . Koechlin in an interview with Gulf News said she loved the film 's vibe and compared it to the American drama Lost In Translation ?

South Indian actress Suhasini Maniratnam made her debut in Hindi cinema , where she plays the role of Shah 's character 's wife . Menon talked about her experience of working with Manirathnam saying , " With her experience , she also helped me with a few difficult scenes behind the camera . " Arjun Mathur played the role of Rajat Deshpande , Tara 's husband and Rajat Kapoor played Dr. Niruapm Malhotra , a doctor at the Kochi Hospital . Ratnabali Bhattachajee , Rajeev Ravindranathan and Marin Babu played supporting roles in the film . The rest of the supporting cast for the film consisted mainly of Malyali actors including Dinesh Nair and Krishna Sankar , who were signed up with the help of the local casting agent Gautam Pisharody .

= = = Filming and post @-@ production = = =

Principal photography for Waiting began in November 2014 in the coastal town of Kochi , Kerala . The shoot for the entire film was completed in one schedule in a duration of around 30 days . On the shooting experience , Menon said , " The experience was beautiful though there were many challenges as we were predominantly an all @-@ woman crew . " In an interview with The Hindu , Koechlin said that before the actual shoot began , she probed Menon several times as she wanted to be better adept with her character . She added , " We would discuss a particular scene and then she [Menon] would redraft it " , and also shared her experience on working with Shah calling it " fun " .

The team of editors for Waiting was headed by Apurva Asrani and Nitin Baid , and the sound mixing was done by London @-@ based sound engineer Roland Heap , with assistance from Mandar Kamalapurkar and Udit Daseja . Shiji Pattna was the art director for the film , and the marketing department was headed by Parull Gosain . The editing process for the film took place in March 2015 .

Menon talked about the film prior to its release to The National saying that the story of the film was close to her heart as it was inspired by one of her own personal experience . On working with Koechlin and Shah she said , " He (Shah) was punctual and always prepared , he gave his best performance in the first take . Kalki allows herself to be vulnerable . She is more porous and chilled out . In a way , there was a nice energy between them . Both of them were organised , committed and non demanding . " She added that , " It ? s a very gentle and poignant film with no melodrama . It would make the audiences want to reach out to the leading characters and help them find their answers . "

= = Soundtrack and reception = =

The film 's music was composed by Mikey McCleary , with Kavita Seth , Nikhil D 'Souza , Anushka Mnachanda , Vishal Dadlani and McCleary serving as vocalists for the album . The lyrics for the album were written by McCleary , Koechlin Manoj Muntashir , and Ankur Tewari . The first song of the album " Tu Hai Toh Main Hoon " was released on YouTube on 4 May 2016 . The music was launched under the label of Zee Music Company . The soundtrack of the film was well received by critics . The track " Tu Hai Toh Main Hoon " was released to positive response from critics and audiences . The second track " Zara Zara " was released on 12 May , and RadioMusic.com deemed it " worth falling in love all over again " . Manavi Kapoor of Business Standard in her review wrote , " " Zara zara " and " Tu Hai Toh Main Hun " are haunting and perfectly capture the poignant tone of the film . " A reviewer in Koimoi wrote , " Music finds its place in the situations and is quite aptly presented " . In their music review Bollywood Life gave the album 3 @.@ 5 stars out of 5 and wrote , " Waiting may lack the quintessential massy numbers , but this is one music album that has a soul . This is something most of the soundtracks lack these days . "

= = Release = =

= = = Marketing and release = = =

Waiting had its world premiere on 11 December 2015 at the 12th edition of the Dubai International Film Festival . At the release of the film executive producer Priti Gupta founder of Ishka Films said , " It is an endearing and beautiful movie for not just Indian [s] , but the world audience , as it is essentially about the universal human circumstances , which are deftly portrayed in a tender yet humorous way . " Manish Mundra , founder of Drishyam Films added , " Dubai is one of the biggest overseas markets for Hindi cinema [...] We are honoured to have Waiting screen there . " The film was also screened at the closing gala of the London Asian Film Festival , and at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles .

Menon talked about the challenges of promoting an independent film and attracting viewers saying , " The distribution is first weekend collection driven [...] Those depending on a buzz created by word of mouth are at a disadvantage " . The film had a special screening prior to its theatrical release which was attended by the cast and crew of the film and other Bollywood celebrities including Gulshan Devaiah , Radhika Apte , Huma Qureshi , Rajkummar Rao and Adil Hussain .

The official trailer was released on 21 April 2016 , one day after the release of a motion poster for the film , revealing the first look . The poster featured Koechlin and Shah with a smile . The trailer was well received by critics and audiences . The film had its theatrical release on 27 May 2016 in India .

= = = Box office = = =

The film had a poor opening at the box office as the morning vacancy varied between 2 @-@ 3 % in multiplexes . The film managed to collect a mere ? 2 @.@ 5 million (US \$ 37 @,@ 000) on its opening day . The film was released alongside other indie films including Veerappan and Phobia , both of which also had a relatively poor opening . However , Waiting showed good growth over the day with the best occupancy among the aforementioned films . The numbers grew as Waiting collected ? 4 @.@ 8 million (US \$ 71 @,@ 000) and ? 5 @.@ 5 million (US \$ 82 @,@ 000) on its second and third day respectively , bringing the first weekend collections to a total of ? 35 million (US \$ 520 @,@ 000) . The film carried on with steady numbers through the first and the second week collecting ? 35 million (US \$ 520 @,@ 000) . Waiting collected a total of around ? 40 million (US \$ 590 @,@ 000) in its entire theatrical run at the box office .

= = Reception = =

= = = India = = =

The film opened to largely positive reviews in India . Saibal Chatterjee of NDTV gave the film the highest praise and deemed it " a well @-@ chiselled marvel " saying : " Waiting is at once heart @-@ wrenching and uplifting [...] marked by deep philosophical undertones , but it is never unduly ponderous . " . A reviewer writing for The New Indian Express too spoke highly of the film saying , " Not since Ritesh Batra ' s The Lunchbox have I seen an indie film addressing itself to the ageless issue of human desolation and individual grief with such warmth , dignity , grace , honesty and humour . " Namrata Joshi writing for The Hindu called the script " dignified " and " without any false notes " and added , " Waiting manages to stand on its own emotional ground [...] The people , situations , relationships , feelings are layered , warm and humorous , ringing true in their complexities . " Mohar Basu of The Times of India called the film " thought @-@ provoking " writing , " Menon has whipped up a warm tale about love , loss and surviving life ' s catastrophic blows , with such simplicity " .

Kunal Guha of the Mumbai Mirror lauded the film 's direction and cinematography saying , " Menon has the tenacity of a Sofia Coppola to produce frames where not much happens but one is unable to look away " , and concluded by saying that , " The film deserves a watch for being one that doesn 't try too hard and for its approach to an extreme situation . " Rohit Bhatnagar of Deccan Chronicle while also praising the technical expertise saying , " Neha Parti Matiyani beautifully captures the beautiful city of Kochi . " called the film " unmissable " saying , " ' Waiting ' is a refreshing subject that is engaging enough right up till its open ended climax . " Shubhra Gupta writing for The Indian Express thought that the film was " too explanatory , too talky " , and that " the most effective moments in the film occur when the two leads are allowed to fall silent , to just be in that moment , to loosen up " . While lauding the film 's treatment of the subject matter Gupta described Waiting as , " a film about life , lasting love and impending loss which explores a zone Bollywood doesn 't bother with " .

The performances of the leading pair of Koechlin and Shah were chiefly praised by several critics . Guha in his review remarked " this film belongs to Kalki , who impresses by managing to wordlessly convey her character 's state of mind in every scene " , and Chatterjee offering a similar observation wrote that Koechlin , " provides the ideal foil , adding immensely to the emotional depth of the tale and heightening the conflict between two unlike poles " . The latter also remarked , " Waiting is elevated several notches by the two central performances . " In her review for Rediff.com Sukanya Verma called the film " absolutely riveting " , and also lauded Koechlin saying , " There 's something stunningly unhindered about Kalki and her aura . She uses this quality in the most mesmerizing fashion to create a woman we sympathise with and wish well for " .

Surabhi Redkar in her review for Koimoi highlighting the " stellar performances " from the pair said , " Koechlin wins you over with her highly expressive performance . " and added , " Shah does a great job as the otherwise calm Shiv " . In his review for Firstpost Anna Vetticad said that leading pair " shine in a lovely film " noting that chemistry between them was " unmistakable " . He concluded by saying , " [Waiting] is both sad and amusing , believable , well acted and very well told " . Sweta Kaushal of Hindustan Times summed up his review by writing , " Packaged with Naseeruddin as the adorable old man struggling to understand a younger generation and Kalki as the charming young , energetic woman , Waiting is a delight . "

= = = Overseas = = =

The film received positive reviews from critics at the Dubai International Film Festival who praised the narrative of the story , Menon 's direction , and the performances of the lead pairing of Koechlin and Shah . Gautaman Bhaskaran of Hindustan Times called the film a " is a tragic , witty affair " and praised the humour with which the contrast between Shiv and Tara was presented . Fionnuala Halligan of Screen International praised the cinematography and praised Neha Parti Mtiyani 's " dignified lenswork " and in her review wrote , " Waiting simmers in its locales without being brash or boastful ; the colours of India are there , glowing at the sidelines " She also lauded Koechlin 's and Shah 's performances saying that the film " benefits greatly from Koechlin 's appeal [...] , she has an expressive face to match her talent " and added that Shah 's presence " lends the film its grace @-@ notes " . Deborah Young of The Hollywood Reporter also gave a positive review calling the film " A tender , often humorous tale with sparkling performances " . She further praised the lead duo saying , " Koechlin does an exceptional job navigating the shoals of this as a kooky drama queen " and added that , " Shah , brings great feeling and complexity to the role of the wise , tolerant Shiv . "

= = Accolades = =