

= Vishal Bhardwaj =

Vishal Bhardwaj (born 4 August 1965) is an Indian film director , screenwriter , producer , music composer and playback singer . He is known for his work in Hindi cinema , and is the recipient of a Filmfare Award and seven National Film Awards in four categories .

Bhardwaj made his debut as a music composer with the children 's film Abhay (The Fearless) (1995) , and received wider recognition with his compositions in Gulzar 's Maachis (1996) . He received the Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent for the latter . He went on to compose music for the films Satya (1998) and Godmother (1999) . For the latter , he garnered the National Film Award for Best Music Direction . Bhardwaj made his directorial debut with the children 's film Makdee (2002) , for which he also composed the music . He garnered critical acclaim and several accolades for writing and directing the Indian adaptations of three tragedies by William Shakespeare : Maqbool (2003) from Macbeth , Omkara (2006) from Othello , and Haider (2014) from Hamlet . He has also directed the caper thriller Kameneey , the black comedy 7 Khoon Maaf (2011) , and the satire Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola (2013) .

In addition , Bhardwaj produces films under his banner VB Pictures . He has co -@-@ written and produced the films Ishqiya (2010) , its sequel Dedh Ishqiya (2014) , and the semi @-@ biographical thriller Talvar (2015) , among others . He has composed the musical score for each of his directorial and production ventures , and frequently collaborates with the lyricist Gulzar . He is married to playback singer Rekha Bhardwaj .

= = Personal life = =

Bhardwaj was born on 4 August 1965 , in Chandpur village , near Bijnor , Uttar Pradesh . His mother Satya Bhardwaj , was a homemaker , and father Ram Bhardwaj , was a sugarcane inspector . His father also wrote poetry and lyrics for Hindi films . He and his family lived in Najibabad until he completed class fifth in school . They later moved to Meerut , where he used to play cricket for the states under @-@ 19 team . He could not pursue cricket because the day before a tournament , his thumb broke during a practise session . He had an elder brother , who struggled for years in Mumbai to become a film producer and later died of a heart attack . He composed a song at the age of seventeen . After hearing it , his father discussed it with music director Usha Khanna . She used it for the film Yaar Kasam (1985) . Bhardwaj later moved to Delhi to pursue his graduation at the Hindu College , University of Delhi . He met his wife and playback singer Rekha Bhardwaj during the college annual function ; where she was a year senior to him . He is also an avid tennis player .

= = Career = =

Bhardwaj started playing harmonium for friends who were ghazal singers . After few years , he took up a job with a music company called CBS in Delhi . He later came to Mumbai to become a music composer , he took to directing films only to create the opportunity to compose music . His interest in film direction kindled after watching Quentin Tarantino 's Pulp Fiction (1994) , and Krzysztof Kie?lowski 's television series The Decalogue , during a film festival in Thiruvananthapuram .

= = = Music composer = = =

In 1995 , Bhardwaj made his debut as a music composer for the children 's film Abhay (The Fearless) . He then went on to compose music for Fauji (1995) , and Sanshodhan (1996) . In 1996 , he served as the music director for Gulzar 's Maachis (1996) , for which he received the Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent . The film depicted the transformation of boys into terrorists during the Punjab insurgency in Punjab in the 1980s . The soundtrack composed by Bhardwaj became an anthem for the politically restive college youth at that time . He later collaborated with him on TV serials such as Alice in Wonderland and Gubbare . His further projects included Betaabi (1997) , Tunnu Ki Tina (1997) , Satya (1998) and Hu Tu Tu (1999) . At the

46th National Film Awards , Bhardwaj received the National Film Award for Best Music Direction for his critically acclaimed score in Godmother (1999) . In 2010 , he composed the music for his production venture Ishqiya , which garnered him his second National Film Award for Best Music Direction . He also composed music for Jungle Book Sh?nen Mowgli , the Hindi dubbed version of the anime adaptation of Rudyard Kipling 's original collection of stories , The Jungle Book . Apart from feature films , Bhardwaj has provided music for music albums such as : Sunset Point (2000) , Ishqa Ishqa (2002) and Barse Barse (2011) . He frequently collaborates with Gulzar .

= = = Writer and director = = =

Bhardwaj made his directorial debut with the horror film Makdee (2002) , starring Shabana Azmi , Makarand Deshpande and Shweta Prasad . The film tells the story of twin young girls and an alleged witch in a mansion . It was screened in the Critics ' Week (Spotlight on India) section at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival .

Bhardwaj had read a short version of William Shakespeare 's Macbeth and wanted to turn it into a gangster film . He had seen Akira Kurosawa 's Throne of Blood (1957) , which was also inspired by Macbeth . It inspired Bhardwaj to make it into a feature film . He then started working with Abbas Tyrewala to adapt the play . Bhardwaj then came up with its film adaptation Maqbool (2003) , starring Pankaj Kapur , Irrfan Khan and Tabu ; it was set against the backdrop of Mumbai underworld . The film was screened at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival and at the 2003 Toronto Film Festival . Sita Menon of Rediff.com in her review called it " .. a visual gallery that is an intelligent blend of dark , tragic overtones and comic , satirical undertones . " CNN @-@ IBN listed Maqbool as " one of the 100 greatest Indian films of all time " in a 2013 list . In 2010 , Film critic Raja Sen mentioned it in " The Top 75 Hindi Films of the Decade " list .

In 2006 , Bhardwaj again adapted Shakespeare 's tragedy Othello , as Omkara . Set against the backdrop of the political system in Uttar Pradesh , the film had Ajay Devgan as the titular character . It premiered at the 6th Marrakech International Film Festival , and was screened at the Cairo International Film Festival . At the 54th National Film Awards , Bhardwaj received the Special Jury Award for the film . Omkara met with critical acclaim , but was a box @-@ office disappointment . It however opened to positive box @-@ office response in North America and the United Kingdom .

Bhardwaj 's next project was the children 's film , The Blue Umbrella (2005) , based on Ruskin Bond 's novel of the same name . It won the National Film Award for Best Children 's Film in 2005 . His followup was Blood Brothers (2007) , a short @-@ film on HIV / AIDS , with a run time of 13 minutes . It tells the story of a young man who , after finding out that he is HIV positive , allows his life to fall apart . It was a part of the ' AIDS JaaGo ' , a series of four short films , directed by Mira Nair , Santosh Sivan , and Farhan Akhtar in a joint initiative by Nair and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation . The series premiered at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival . The same year , he also served as a writer for Sanjay Gupta 's anthology film , Dus Kahaniyaan .

In 2009 , Bhardwaj came up with the Caper thriller Kaminey , starring Shahid Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra . The film follows the rivalry between identical twins , one with a lisp and one with a stammer . The story was bought by him from a Kenyan writer . It opened to generally positive reviews . Anupama Chopra gave a rating of 4 out of 5 and wrote " Kaminey is the best Bollywood film I 've seen this year . It 's an audacious , original rollercoaster ride . Written and directed by Vishal Bhardwaj , Kaminey requires patience and attention but the pay off is more than worth it . " Kaminey was also a financial success earning over ? 700 million (US \$ 10 million) worldwide .

7 Khoon Maaf (2011) , a film based on the Ruskin Bond 's short story , Susanna 's Seven Husbands , was Bhardwaj 's next directorial venture . The story revolves around Susanna Anna @-@ Marie Johannes (played by Priyanka Chopra) who murders her seven husbands in an unending quest for love . The film was written collaboratively by Bhardwaj , Bond and American writer Matthew Robbins . It released on 18 February 2011 and met with mixed to positive reviews . Zee News in its four out of five star review mentioned : " Vishal Bhardwaj does it again . The maverick filmmaker has once again woven magic with his latest blockbuster Saat Khoon Maaf " .

In 2013 , Bhardwaj directed Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola , a political satire set in the rustic

surroundings of a village in Haryana . It starred Anushka Sharma and Imran Khan in the lead roles , with Pankaj Kapur and Shabana Azmi in supporting ones . Bhardwaj also choreographed a song " Oye boy Charlie " in the film . The film received mixed reviews from critics , and underperformed at the box office .

In 2014 , Bhardwaj made his stage debut with the opera ' A Flowering Tree ? . It was based on a classic folk tale by Kannada writer and scholar A. K. Ramanujan . He completed his William Shakespeare 's trilogy with Haider (2014) , based on the tragedy Hamlet . Set during the Kashmir conflict of 1995 , the film starred Shahid Kapoor in the titular role , for which he along with Bhardwaj charged no money . Haider garnered critical acclaim , though was controversial among Hindu nationalists for its portrayal of the conflict in Kashmir . CNN @-@ IBN 's Rajeev Masand called it " .. an elegant , thrilling film that casts a brave , unflinching eye on the Kashmir struggle . " At the 62nd National Film Awards , Bhardwaj won the Best Music Director and Best Screenplay (Dialogues) award . It also received nominations for Best Film and Best Director at the 60th Filmfare Awards .

As of November 2015 , Bhardwaj is filming Rangoon , a romantic drama set during World War II , starring Kangana Ranaut , Saif Ali Khan and Shahid Kapoor .

= = = Producer = = =

Bhardwaj has been producing his own films under his banner VB Pictures . In 2010 , he produced the black comedy Ishqiya . Starring Vidya Balan , Naseeruddin Shah and Arshad Warsi ; the film was directed by debutant Abhishek Chaubey . Chaubey had earlier assisted and co @-@ wrote several of Bhardwaj 's film . The film was an average grosser at the box @-@ office . He teamed up with Ekta Kapoor 's Balaji Motion Pictures to produce the supernatural thriller Ek Thi Daayan (2013) . Dealing with the themes of witchcraft , the film was based on ' Mobius Trips ' , a short story written by Konkona Sen Sharma 's father . It received mixed reviews from critics , but proved to be a profitable venture at the box @-@ office .

His next production venture was Dedh Ishqiya , a sequel to the 2010 film Ishqiya . Starring Madhuri Dixit , Naseeruddin Shah , Huma Qureshi and Arshad Warsi ; the film was a critical and commercial success with earning ? 270 million (US \$ 4 @. @ 1 million) in India and abroad . In 2015 , Bhardwaj wrote and co @-@ produced Meghna Gulzar 's crime drama Talvar . The film was based on the 2008 Noida double murder case , and starred Irrfan Khan , Konkana Sen Sharma and Neeraj Kabi . Talvar premiered at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival , and was released in India on 2 October 2015 , to positive reviews from critics .

= = = Playback singer = = =

Apart from composing music , Bhardwaj has also lend his voice for various songs for films like Omkara , No Smoking (2007) , U Me Aur Hum (2008) , Kaminey , Striker (2010) , 7 Khoon Maaf , Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola and Haider .

= = Craft and style = =

Bhardwaj 's film are often twisted with portrayal of character 's with grey shades . He also frequently adapts short stories and plays in films . The Blue Umbrella and 7 Khoon Maaf were adapted from Ruskin Bond 's short stories . Maqbool , Omkara and Haider were adaptation 's of William Shakespear 's tragedies . Some of Bhardwaj 's films often takes clue from real @-@ life incidents . The Kashmir conflict was shown in Haider , the Mumbai underworld in Maqbool , and Talvar being based on the 2008 Noida double murder case . Bhardwaj frequently collaborates with writer @-@ lyricist Gulzar and calls him his " father " and " mentor " . Most of the treatment of his film 's are like documentaries . Haider was co @-@ written by journalist @-@ writer Bhasharat Peer , who was an eye witness of the Kashmir conflict . He evolves his script till the filming .

Bhardwaj is influenced by the film @-@ making styles of Satyajit Ray , Ritwik Ghatak , Akira Kurosawa and Krzysztof Kie?lowski . Kieslowski 's The Decalogue (1989) inspired him to become

a film @-@ maker . Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah says : " I think he makes interesting films , even though I haven't liked all his works . But even his poor work is more interesting than a lot of people's so @-@ called good work . ?

= = Awards and nominations = =

In 1996 , Bhardwaj won the Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent for Maachis . He later won the National Film Award for Best Music Direction for Godmother . He then went on to win two consecutive awards : The Blue Umbrella , which won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film , and National Film Award ? Special Jury Award for Omkara . Bhardwaj got two Filmfare nominations for Kamney in Best Director and Best Music Director categories . He won his second National Film Award for Best Music Direction , for his production venture Ishqiya . At the 62nd National Film Awards , Bhardwaj won the Best Music Director and Best Screenplay (Dialogues) award for Haider . In 2016 , Bhardwaj was awarded with Yash Bharti award by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for his contribution in the field of cinema . He also received the National Film Award for Best Screenplay for writing Talvar . Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy ? Maqbool , Omkara and Haider ? was screened as part of an event marking William Shakespeare's 400th death anniversary co @-@ hosted by the British Film Institute in London .

= = Filmography = =