

= Kakspars =

Kakspars is a 2012 Indian Marathi period drama film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar and produced by Aniruddha Deshpande and Medha Manjrekar . The film stars Sachin Khedekar , Priya Bapat , Medha Manjrekar , Savita Malpekar and Ketaki Mategaonkar . Based on a short story by Usha Datar by the same name , the film depicts the tumultuous events in a Chitpavan Brahmin family , set around 1930 ? 1950 in Konkan . The film was a commercial success and got critical acclaim for its direction , screenplay by Girish Joshi and also for the performances by its actors , especially Khedekar for his portrayal of Hari Damle as a head of the family .

In 1989 , the short story was adapted into a Marathi play Janmagaath with actor @-@ director Vinay Apte playing the lead . Apte had desires to make a film based on it . However , his attempts were not successful . Sachin Khedekar , who went to play the lead in the cinematic adaptation of the story , had seen the play and came across the story again in 2007 . Khedekar requested Girish Joshi to complete the adapted screenplay and together approached Manjrekar in 2009 to make a film on the story . Kakspars 's shooting was completed in 26 days ? from 5 to 30 December 2011 and was released on 4 May 2012 , on the occasion of centenary of Indian Cinema .

The film won several awards on release including Best Film award at Maharashtra State Film Awards , MICTA , and 11th Pune International Film Festival . It is also the first Marathi film to have a home media release in Blu @-@ ray . With the success of Kakspars , a Hindi and Tamil remake of Kakspars is also being directed by Mahesh Manjrekar with Arvind Swamy and Tisca Chopra as the leads .

= = Plot = =

Hari Damle (Sachin Khedekar) , head of a Chitpavan Brahmin family , lives in the village Torgaon in Konkan with his wife Tara (Medha Manjrekar) , their three children , his younger brother Mahadev (Abhijit Kelkar) , and his widowed aunt , Namu Aatya (Savita Malpekar) . Hari arranges the marriage of Mahadev with a pre @-@ pubescent girl , Durga (Ketaki Mategaonkar) , renamed as Uma after marriage . However , Mahadev dies before the consummation of the marriage . Hari performs death rituals (?r?ddha) for Mahadev but crows (symbolic of the spirit of the deceased in Hinduism) refuse to touch the offerings . Hari mumbles something while offering food after which crow touches the offerings .

Brahmin community in the village now expects widow Uma to have her head shaved (a ritual) . Hari opposes and does not allow any rituals to be performed for her as a widow . Hari stands behind Uma in all her difficulties which raise doubts about his intentions , including that by his wife , Tara . Years later , when Tara is diagnosed of a terminal disease , the now grown @-@ up Uma (now played by Priya Bapat) takes charge of the household . Before Tara dies , she realises her mistakes and requests Hari to marry Uma which he readily refuses .

In the meantime , Hari gets his son Sankarshan (Saksham Kulkarni) married . Once Hari finds Uma sitting outside the room of the newly married couple , listening to their playful banter . Disgusted by Uma 's behaviour , Hari starts avoiding her . Upset by this behaviour , Uma tries to talk her heart out to Hari 's friend Balwant (Sanjay Khapre) and requests him to find out the reason . Coincidentally , Hari overhears this and severs his relations with Balwant . Unaware of the reason for Hari 's changed behaviour , Uma starts staying aloof , while her health starts degrading . Worried Sankarshan requests his sister Shanti (Manava Naik) to talk to Uma . Frustrated and unknowing of what loss she had throughout her life , Uma opens her heart but situation raises more questions about her relation with Hari .

Uma decides to go on a fast and relents to none of the family member 's request to quit . Hari , left with no other option , explains his behaviour . Hari reveals to Uma that when he was performing death rituals for Mahadev and offerings were not accepted by crow for a long time , he took a vow that he would not let any other man touch Uma . Thus , he did not allow practised rituals of shaving her head to be performed and also declined Tara 's request of their marriage . When he learned through Tara that Uma has started loving him , he stopped talking to her , in spite of his love

towards Uma .

He eventually accepts that he loves Uma and would marry her , breaking his vow . Knowing the truth , Uma forgives Hari and agrees to the proposal . Hari fetches Mangala sutra but finds out that Uma is dead . He realises that Uma has sacrificed her life for his love where she did not want Hari to break his vow .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Based on a short story Kakspars written by Usha Datar , a Marathi play Janmagaath premiered on 16 December 1989 . Actor @-@ director Vinay Apte had done the role of Hari Damle in the play and Sukanya Kulkarni as Uma . Apte had tried making a film based on the story but was not successful . Sachin Khedekar had seen the play and came across the story again in 2007 . He showed the story to Girish Joshi (screenplay writer of the film) who then developed a complete adapted screenplay from the story which had a length of 4 ? 5 pages . Later , Khedekar and Joshi approached Mahesh Manjrekar in 2009 to make a film on the story . However , Manjrekar was busy with his other projects and could not plan the film . Manjrekar said that when he heard the story for the first time , he considered it to be better than other Indian love stories like Bajirao @-@ Mastani or Salim @-@ Anarkali . Manjrekar had to wait as he did not have the copyrights for the story . He said that it " took more than three years to make this film " .

= = = Casting = = =

After Manjrekar finished his projects , he decided to start Kakspars and signed Khedekar to portray the lead role of Hari Damle . The director said that there was no compulsion for him to cast Khedekar . He did it " because he was the best to pull it off . " Earlier Manjrekar had signed another actress to play the role of Tara Damle , however the actress declined to join the schedule at the last moment , thus Manjrekar was forced to look out for the alternative . His wife , Medha Manjrekar , had done a small role in his debut film Aai (1995) and also made a comeback in another film De Dhakka (2008) written by him . As Medha was working as a producer for Kakspars , Mahesh Manjrekar approached her to play the role .

Manjrekar had worked with Priya Bapat in Me Shivajiraje Bhosale Boltoy (2009) and had mentioned about Kakspars to her . He desired Bapat to play the lead role of Uma , however the film couldn 't start as planned . When Manjrekar planned for the film , he called Bapat again who got married to Umesh Kamat in the meantime . Manjrekar had seen 2011 National Award winning film Shala and was impressed with a teen @-@ aged character played by Ketaki Mategaonkar and decided to cast her as a young Uma . Savita Malpekar was cast to play the role of Khedekar 's widowed aunt . Malpekar had to shave her head to prepare for the role . Manjrekar insisted that the film cast including Savita Malpekar should shave the head for their roles and avoid wearing a prosthetic bald patch .

= = = Filming = = =

Kakspars was shot in the real locations than sets and was mainly shot in Paalshet , a village near Guhagar in Konkan . As the film 's story @-@ line was set around 1930 ? 1950 , Manjrekar was concerned about the authentic production design for the film . He appointed two production designers , Prashant Rane and Abhishek Vijaykar , who had challenges of depicting pre and post Indian independence era . Rane had worked with Manjrekar earlier for De Dhakka (2008) .

Kakspars'h shooting was completed in 26 days ; starting from 5 December 2011 till 30 December 2011 . The initial shooting scheduled started at Ranade Wada in Pune . The film also had a few scenes in and surrounding the temple but as most of the temples in Konkan region have been restored from their damages over the period of time , Manjrekar feared that the plastering done to repair the damages would not give the desired authentic feel to the film . Thus , the next schedule was shifted to Krishna Ghat , Wai , Maharashtra .

As a director , Manjrekar believed that the mansion shown in the film " plays a major character " and was certain that finding the appropriate mansion would be a difficult job . The production designing team had searched for various location across Konkan but most of the mansions had electrical wiring across which was a major obstacle for the shooting as Konkan then did not have electricity . Finally , Manjrekar was introduced to a mansion owned by Avinash Nene near Paalshet which suited the period where third and final schedule of the film was carried out .

= = Soundtrack = =

The soundtrack for the film is composed by Rahul Ranade and music director duo Ajit Parab and Sameer Mhatre , popularly known as Ajit @-@ Sameer . Poet @-@ Actor Kishor Kadam (" Saumitra ") and Mitali Joshi have written the lyrics for the songs . Being a period film set in 1930 , soundtrack mainly consists of traditional songs in the form of Ovee , a type of meterical stanza in Marathi poetry . Rahul Ranade used Vibhavari Joshi 's voice for all of his compositions except " Janma Baicha " . Joshi rendered all her songs without any musical accompaniment .

As most of the songs are in the form of Ovee , Ranade decided to use the traditional musical format . He took help of Sarojini Babar , a Marathi writer @-@ politician who had studied the songs of the period depicted in the film . Babar introduced Ranade to her sister , Kumud Pawar , who have made a collection of various traditional Ovee . For two situation songs , Ranade requested Kishor Kadam to write the lyrics .

The duo Ajit @-@ Sameer composed two theme tracks and one song (" Kuthe Paath Phiravun ") for the film 's soundtrack . A noted Hindustani classical vocalist , Rajashree Pathak , rendered the song and was appreciated for " its vocal and soulfulness " and won Best Playback Singer (Female) at 2012 Zee Gaurav Puraskar . Soundtrack also made use of " Are Sansar Sansar " , much @-@ quoted couplet from one of the poems written by a noted Marathi poetess Bahinabai Chaudhari . The song is narrated and rendered by film 's lead actors , Sachin Khedekar and Ketaki Mategaonkar respectively and is arranged by Sameer Mhatre . Before taking up acting , Mategaonkar had participated in singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Marathi L 'il Champs .

The soundtrack was released after the film 's release and was acclaimed for " bringing an authentic and subtle flavour to the period of the film . " Kishore Kadam was also appreciated for writing lyrics which suitably noted the traditions followed by women during the period .

= = Reception = =

Kakspars'h was released on 4 May 2012 which also marked a beginning of the 100th year of Indian cinema . The film received wide critical acclaim and was a commercial success . It got critical acclaim for the direction by Mahesh Manjrekar , its screenplay by Girish Joshi and for the performances by its actors , especially Sachin Khedekar for his portrayal of Hari Dada Damle as the head of the family . Ajit Reddy 's cinematography and Ajit @-@ Sameer 's music were also praised . The film was said to have brought the " best out of " the director . Manjrekar said that he " expected to it be a hit , but not expected such a landslide hit " . The film was noted to have a " strong script " and well presented " a sensitive issue . " It was called as " the best love story in Marathi films . " It was marketed as a love story , and a review in Maharashtra Times by Saumitra Pote noted that " the film has gone beyond a love story " . The film also said to have shown " the mores of the period quite accurately " . Aniruddha Bhatkhande of weekly Marathi magazine Lokprabha criticised the film in his review by saying that the actual film is a way different than the " attractive " promos . He further said that the film 's costume designs are flawed and as most of the film is shot indoor , it

gives a feeling to the viewers that they are watching a recorded theatre play .

= = = Remake = = =

With the success of Kakspars , it was reported in June 2012 that Manjrekar is planning a remake in Hindi starring Amitabh Bachchan . However , the director readily clarified that he is not planning for a remake and he did contact Bachchan for the film but not for the remake . Later in January 2014 , Manjrekar announced that a Hindi and Tamil remake of Kakspars is being directed by himself starring Arvind Swamy , Tisca Chopra , Adinath Kothare and Ketaki Mategaonkar . Swamy will be portraying Khedekar 's role whereas Chopra will be seen as Swamy 's wife , originally played by Medha Manjrekar . Mategaonkar will reprise her role from the original and Vaidehi Parshurami will be playing the older Uma . Milind Soman is reported to play Swamy 's friend and Adinath Kothare will play Mahadev 's character which was originally played by Abhijit Kelkar . Murali Sharma will be seen portraying a negative character . The veteran Bollywood actress Tanuja will be portraying the role of widowed aunt , played by Savita Malpekar in the original . The music will be composed by Ilaiyaraaja with Mategaonkar and Vibhavari Apte Joshi rendering their first Tamil song . Adinath Kothare 's wife Urmila Kanitkar will be doing a guest appearance .

= = Awards = =

The film won several awards on release .

2012 11th Pune International Film Festival

Government of Maharashtra " Sant Tukaram " Best Marathi Feature Film Award

Special Jury Award : Sachin Khedekar

2012 Maharashtra State Film Awards

2012 Marathi International Cinema and Theatre Awards (MICTA)

2012 Prabhat Film Awards

Best Actor (Male) : Sachin Khedekar (Shared with Vikram Gokhale for Anumati)

Best Background score : Ajit @-@ Sameer

2012 Screen Awards Marathi

Best Actress : Priya Bapat

2012 Zee Gaurav Puraskar

Other Awards

All India Marathi Film Federation ? Yashashree Puraskar

Majha Awards ? Medha Manjrekar