



Home / Entertainment / Others / Pakistan makes Cannes Film Festival debut...

Advertisement

OTHERS

### Pakistan makes Cannes Film Festival debut with Joyland, a love story that subverts age-old, unkind traditions

Pakistani movie Joyland marks the nation's debut at the Cannes Film Festival. It tells the story of a married cis-man and the trans woman he falls for.



PHOTOS

Explore Search

Games E-Paper Sign in

Saturday, May 28, 2022 New Delhi 33°C



Start 15 Days Free Trial **Subscribe**

Home Latest India World Cities Entertainment Cricket Lifestyle Astrology Editorials



A still from Joyland.

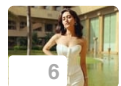
Published on May 27, 2022 09:27 PM IST

By [Gautaman Bhaskaran](#)

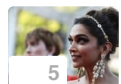
Joyland, reportedly the first ever Pakistani work at the Cannes Film Festival, has a huge resemblance to Bollywood fare, and not surprisingly so. For, Karachi was the centre of Hindi and Urdu cinema before the Indian subcontinent was divided. Saim Sadiq's debut feature, Joyland,



Meet Panchayat 2's Rinky aka Saanvika, who stumbled into acting accidentally



Deepika Padukone at Cannes Film Festival: All the best red carpet looks



which was part of the 12-day event's Un Certain Regard meant for experimental cinema, does have a lot of freshness as far as performances and settings go. There is a natural ease with which the actors play out their parts, and Lahore's lower middle-class ambiance infuses a touch of lovely authenticity. And it is bold for a Pakistani work that traces a love story between a trans-woman and a married man with a couple of intimate scenes thrown in. **(Also read: At Cannes 2022, Iran's Holy Spider raises unholy smoke in theatre and outside)**

Advertisement

Considered a 'sin', it becomes a path to liberation which comes with a painful heartbreak and a tragic death. Examining the underlying tension in a family, which is firmly entrenched in the laws of patriarchy with an elderly father firmly in the saddle of the household of two sons, their wives and children, Sadiq (whose 2019 short Darling won a prize at Venice), nudges us towards a storm. The clouds get dark and ominous as the scenes flit by.

A little into Joyland, we do see murmurs of protest and even a streak of defiance that come from the younger daughter-in-law, Mumtaz (Rasti Farooq), who is terribly unhappy at having to quit her job, when her husband Ali Junejo's Haider lands one. In fact, it is his story that the director places at the centre, to lead us into a couple of alleys. His work involves being a background prop to a trans dancer, Biba, essayed by Alina Khan with steely courage, fighting a society that is terribly unkind to her. But when Haider begins to respect her and even love her for what she is, Biba's harsh exterior melts, and hope fills her heart.

Advertisement

**Anil Kapoor, Harsh Vardhan Kapoor, Fatima Sana Shaikh celebrate Thar success**



[View All >](#)

Advertisement

**[ MOST POPULAR ]**

**Aly Goni shares video of fans cheering for Johnny Depp outside courtroom, says he'd be 'trolled to death' in India**



**Karan Johar's birthday party venue was no less than a grand film set. See inside pics of decor, graffiti and quotes**



**Ram Gopal Varma, Pooja Bhatt react to Aryan Khan getting clean chit from NCB: 'Subjecting innocent people to harassment'**



**Pratik Gandhi says Bollywood directors hesitated to cast him in lead roles, told him he was 'not a saleable face'**



[View All >](#)

Advertisement

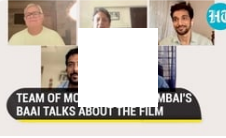
RELATED STORIES



Cannes Film Festival:



Karan Johar announces his first action film on ... trolls'



The team of Modern Love Mumbai's Baai talks about... success



D  
s  
lc

The film mocks at age-old traditions; Haider happily plays house-husband taking care of his three little nieces and helping his sister-in-law with chores, including cooking. Sadiq's screenplay gently navigates through these in a complex plot of lies. What emerges is a compelling human drama in which gender roles and narrow thinking are challenged. The walls of Haider's home begin to crumble, laying bare family secrets that have remained buried for years. Contrasting this is the sweet and subtle romance (with bits of daring passion) between Bibi and Haider captured in the shadows of the night or the red glow of backstage lighting through the lens of Joe Saade. A melancholic sense of love is created with long silences.

Sadiq distracts us now and then with lighter and really novel moments. When power fails while Mumtaz is getting a bride ready at the parlour, the girls there switch on their mobile phone lights to get the job done. The scene would be repeated during Biba's erotic stage show, when members of the audience keep the dancers going by shining their phone torches. There are moments of lyricism as Haider glides through the night on a scooter, carrying a giant wooden promotional image of Biba. But beyond these, Joyland is a haunting critique of a punishing social system which refuses to accept change or love in all it forms.

Advertisement

Advertisement

SHARE THIS ARTICLE ON

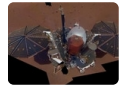
TOPICS

TRENDING

Cow falls asleep on woman's shoulder, she sits still without moving. Watch



Nasa shares InSight Mars Lander's 'final selfie'. Post goes viral



Man gets a haircut, dog initially fails to recognise him. Watch how she reacts



Golden retriever dog aces the 'leave it' challenge. Ending is hilarious



View All >

VIDEOS

Cannes Film Festival Cannes

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



SS Rajamouli's 'insane' RRR gets praise from Eternals



Drone industry turnover may reach ₹15,000 cr by 2026:



Crash Landing on You's Hyun Bin to join 'Madame Tussauds

Subscribe to our best newsletters

HT City Enter Email Address Subscribe

You May Like

Get a free Public Speaking Class for your Child!

Exclusively for Ages 4-14

PlanetSpark

Learn More

Inspiring Street Children To Achieve Their Dreams

In Jakarta, this non profit is empowering marginalised children through sports and alternative education. Find out how you can support their ...


Our Better World

Learn More


Mahindra Holidays - Cash Machine Geared Up For Growth: Dolat

Close Story


MORE FROM THIS SECTION




Amrita Arora reacts to social media comment... and wiser'



Meera Chopra: Sourcing clothes for Cannes festival was



Akshay Kumar's 4 am gym session with Kapil Sharma turns



B1 ph in

TRENDING TOPICS TO FOLLOW

Amitabh Bachchan Kangana Ranaut Alia Bhatt Kar

R Madhavan on directing and acting in Rocketry I Aur Batao



The team of Modern Love Mumbai's Baai talks about the film's success



'My Chapter in G-23 Over': Kapil Sibal on Cong exit, political future



Moses Ingram on Star Wars debut & seeing Darth Vader return on Obi-Wan Kenobi



View All >

