

[CHANGE LANGUAGE](#) English

[WATCH LIVE TV](#)

[DOWNLOAD NEWS18 APP](#)

[FOLLOW US ON](#)

Trending Topics : #BiggBossOTT #Coronavirus #Afghanistan #IndvsEn

[Latest](#)
[Lifestyle](#)
[Movies](#)
[Bigg Boss OTT](#)
[Cricket](#)
[Business](#)
[Education-Career](#)
[Explainers](#)
[India Positive](#)
[Influential Leaders of New India](#)

Pataudi Trophy • 3rd Test • 25 - 29 Aug,
• Headingley, Leeds

IND 78/10 (40.4) RR 1.91 **278/10** (99.3) RR 2.79 **ENG 432/10** (132.2) RR 3.26

HOME » NEWS » MOVIES » **THE EMPIRE REVIEW: MUGHAL EMPEROR BABUR'S LIFE RETOLD BUT IN MESSY MANNER**

3-MIN READ

The Empire Review: Mughal Emperor Babur's Life Retold But in Messy Manner



Empire's main player, Kunal Kapoor as Babur, struggles in vain to infuse his character with power and punch, tempered though with a rare kind of humanism.

- NEWS18.COM
- LAST UPDATED: AUGUST 28, 2021, 12:02 IST
- FOLLOW US ON: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Telegram](#) [Google News](#)

GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN

[HOME](#)
[CORONAVIRUS](#)
[POLITICS](#)
[INDIA](#)
[ENTERTAINMENT](#)
[TECH](#)
[AUTO](#)
[BUZZ](#)
[OPINION](#)
[VIDEOS](#)
[PHOTOS](#)
[TRACKER](#)

Kunal Kapoor in Empire.

The Empire

Director: Mitakshara Kumar

Cast: Kunal Kapoor, Shabana Azmi, Rahul Dev, Dino Morea, Shabana Azmi, Drashti Dhami

At eight episodes, The Empire, helmed by Mitakshara Kumar and created by Nikhil Advani and Emmay Entertainment, is too ponderous, too preachy to hold attention. The non-linear form adds to the chaotic manner in which the series retells Emperor Babur's life, fraught with battles, palace intrigues, jealousies, treachery, marriage of convenience and a fight between his two sons (Humayun and Kamran) when he is on his death bed. Most of us with a basic knowledge of Indian history would know all of this, including the fact that Babur was merely 14 when his father died leaving the kingdom of Ferghana to the boy.

RELATED NEWS

Stay motivated every step of the

APPLE WATCH SE

Starting from ₹279

Inclusive of ₹200

*T&C apply. Computed on Apple Watch SE GPS, 38mm (40mm)

LIVE TV

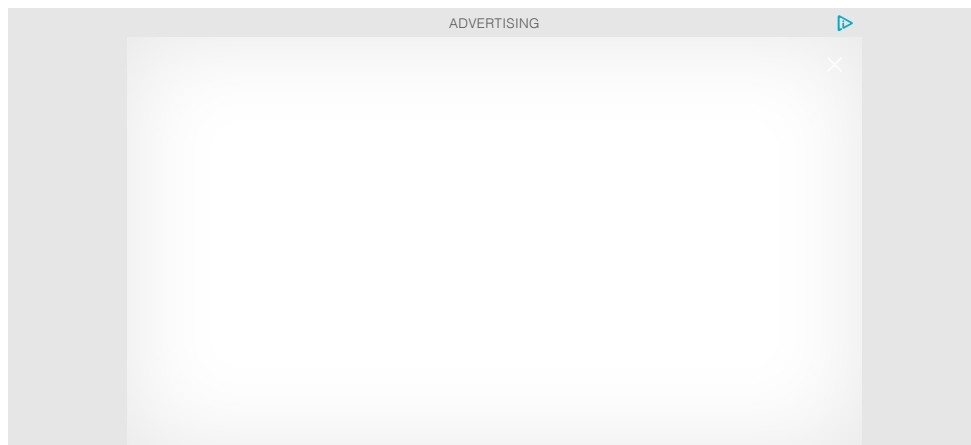


Shabana Azmi Says Nikkhil Advani's The Empire Gives 'Far More Visibility' to Female Characters



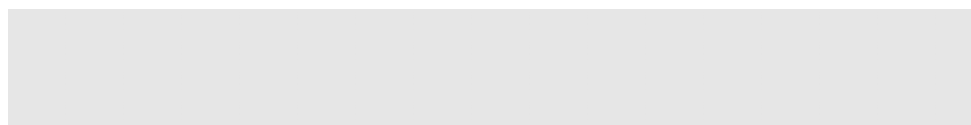
Shabana Azmi Feels Javed Akhtar and Farhan Akhtar Could be 'Twins' with This Throwback Pic

Babur's biggest hurdle comes in the form of Shaibani Khan (Dino Morea), who is obsessed with taking control of Ferghana and neighbouring Samarkand, and his vile ways are no match for the the Emperor. Khan even gets Babur's sister, Khanzada Begum (Drashti Dhami), and they actually marry in a barter arrangement.



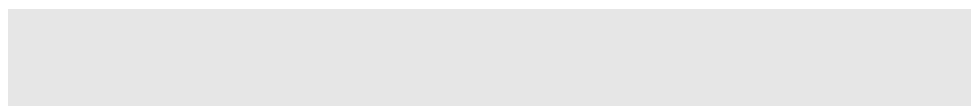
But the twist, when it comes, reveals clearly that two women were the brain behind Babur: Khanzada and Babur's paternal grandmother, Aisan Daulat Begum (Shabana Azmi). The episodes convey that here was an emperor who was not strong-willed enough to carry out the business of the State. Often, he let his heart rule, sometimes putting his head on the block or nearly. He was no marauding conqueror. "Have I unleashed a lust for power that will consume our children," he asks his first wife – one of the many signs of his humanness. And this comes as a refreshing whiff of breeze at a time when innumerable debates on Babur, who set foot on this land centuries ago, are trying to obliterate his memory.

History of course lends itself to fascinating interpretations, and both Kumar and the novel by Alex Rutherford (a pen name used by Diana Preston and her husband, Michael Preston) which has been the inspiration for the series, may have taken liberties on how they chose to narrate the story. I have no quarrel with this.



But what disappointed me was that the work coming from a director who has been associated with the likes of Rohan Sippy (Bluff Master, 2005) and Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Bajirao Mastani and Padmavat) is patchy and technically shoddy. The sets look as if they have been made of plastic and cardboard, the battles do not reflect state-of-the art computer graphics.

There is nothing much either to talk about about casting; the best pick among the lot is Azmi, who as Aisan Daulat was not just clever, but shrewd enough to nudge the boy king towards a path of glory. But that did not happen initially; Babur lost both Ferghana (which he inherits) and Samarkand time and again before he finally looked towards Hindustan, a dream his father had and which the son ultimately realised. With the aid of his grandmother and trusted lieutenant, Wazir Khan (Rahul Dev), Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the Battle of Panipat and clinched Delhi – laying the foundation for the Moghul empire in India.



Stay motivated every step of the way

APPLE WATCH SE

Starting from ₹279

HDFC BANK Inclusive of ₹200 HDFC Bank Card

[Know more](#)

*T&C apply. Computed on Apple Watch SE GPS, 38mm (40mm)

MORE NEWS



Shabana Azmi Advani's The Empire Gives 'Far More Visibility' to Female Characters



Shabana Azmi Feels Javed Akhtar and Farhan Akhtar Could be 'Twins' with This Throwback Pic



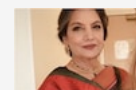
News as it happens the latest news



Dia Mirza's Eid Features Shabana Azmi, Tanvi Azmi



Swara Bhasker Qorma: Bollywood Normalise Being Single



Shabana Azmi Police to Take Action Against Online Scammers

Sadly, the main player, Kunal Kapoor as Babur, struggles in vain to infuse his character with power and punch, tempered though with a rare kind of humanism. He just cannot rise up to all these, and a miscast of this sort pulls down The Empire, which falls back on – or so it would seem – rich costumes and lovely visuals.

[PHOTOGALLERY](#)

Streaming now on Disney+Hotstar.

(Gautaman Bhaskaran is a movie critic and an author)

Read all the [Latest News](#), [Breaking News](#) and [Afghanistan News](#) here

- TAGS KUNAL KAPOOR | SHABANA AZMI |
- FIRST PUBLISHED: AUGUST 28, 2021, 10:44 IST

10
PHOTOS Deepika Padukone Rings In Crop Top And Latex Pants,

PROMOTED CONTENT

Recommended by **Outbrain** | ▶

New Launch Offer: Get 15% Off on Duroflex Antibacterial Bedsheet...
Duroflex

India's Tastiest Muesli from Yogabar
Yoga Bar

Get Home an LG OLED TV & Celebrate Immersive Viewing...
LG India

You will be breached, so modernize your data protection
TechBeacon

PROMOTED CONTENT

10
PHOTOS Nia Sharma Looks Smoking Outfit, Check Out The Diva

Open free demat & trading a/c and enjoy zero AMC
Bajaj Demat

Free Racing Games
Best free games|Gamezop

A developer's guide to attacker motivation in the supply chain
TechBeacon

Celebrate With Everyone Grow your student base | Get your coaching app
Dell Classplus App

Manage your savings & investme
Instant account opening. Paperle
Niyox

Breathe in Tech. Breathe out Ide:
Ideas2IT

TRENDING TOPICS

↗ Narendra Modi	↗ Coronavirus	↗ India vs England
↗ Malaika Arora	↗ Bigg Boss OTT	↗ Afghanistan
↗ Tokyo Paralympics	↗ Salman Khan	↗ Indian Railways
↗ Disha Patani	↗ Virat Kohli	↗ Health Hacks
↗ Kareena Kapoor Khan	↗ Political Whispers	↗ Let's Talk Sex
	↗ Gold Price Today	

HOT ON SOCIAL

BJP vs Mamata Banerjee	Amit Shah's Formula 23 for Bengal	Suez Canal
		Ram Charan
Bihar Edu Min's Gaffe	UK Ban on Petrol, Diesel Cars	K'taka IPS Officer Trolled
		SRK's Delhi Home
Tandav Controversy	Pope Francis	PUBG Mobile India
Formula One	Taimur Ali Khan	Suryakumar Yadav
Goldman Sachs	YouTube Rewind	

POPULAR CATEGORIES

▶ Latest	▶ India	▶ World	▶ Politics	▶ Entertainment
▶ Tech	▶ Auto	▶ Buzz	▶ Videos	▶ Photos
▶ Opinion	▶ Health	▶ Explainers	▶ Movies	▶ Cricket News
▶ Lifestyle	▶ Business	▶ Education-Career		

LIVE TV

CNN NEWS18 

LANGUAGE SITES

Hindi News	Marathi News	Gujarati News
Bengali News	Tamil News	Telugu News
Kannada News	Malayalam News	Punjabi News
Urdu News	Assam News	Odia News

Network18 Group Sites

TopperLearning	CricketNext	Moneycontrol
Firstpost	CNBCTV18	History India
MTV India	Clear Study Doubts	Education Franchisee Opportunity
CAprep18		

NEWS 18

About Us

Cookie Policy

Disclaimer
Sitemap

Contact Us

Complaint
RedressalAdvertise
with Us

CNN name, logo and all associated elements ® and © 2020 Cable News Network LP, LLLP, A Time Warner Company. All rights reserved. CNN and the CNN logo are registered marks of Cable News Network, LP LLLP, displayed with permission. Use of the CNN name and/or logo on or as part of NEWS18.com does not derogate from the intellectual property rights of Cable News Network in respect of them. © Copyright Network18 Media and Investments Ltd 2020. All rights reserved.

