



BRIDE ON BOARD

Bride-to-be Amy Jackson celebrated her bachelorette party with her friends on a private jet in France. She wore a chic white suit, sun hat and netted white gloves.

Shoot-ready

Salman Khan will soon begin filming his next film *Sikandar*. The film marks the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film is set to release next Eid.

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These actresses in bold, cunning and menacing avatars have redefined how we see women villains on the big screen

When **terror** has a pretty face



THE DARK RECESS: Parul Gulati – *Silence 2*
Parul Gulati made a striking impression with her role in the thriller, *Silence*. Known for her work in web series and television, Parul's transition to a dark and complex character was amazing. Her portrayal of a cunning and manipulative antagonist showcased her ability to dive deep into the psyche of her character, delivering a performance that was both chilling and captivating.

In an industry often dominated by heroic narratives, a select few female actors have turned the tables, bringing depth, nuance, and unforgettable charisma to their villainous roles. These performances not only challenge the stereotypes of female characters in cinema but also showcase the extraordinary range and talent of these actresses.

Here's a closer look at some remarkable performances where leading ladies have owned the screen as the antagonists.

MEET THE SORCESS

Mouni Roy – *Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva*
Mouni Roy's role as the dark sorceress Junoon in *Brahmastra* marked a significant departure from her earlier roles. Known for her work in television, Roy embraced the challenge of playing a powerful and sinister villain with remarkable ease. Her portrayal of Junoon, a character driven by ambition and darkness, was both visually and emotionally impactful.

RUTHLESS & VULNERABLE

Vidya Balan – *Ishqiya* & *Neeyat*
Vidya Balan is known for her unconventional roles, and her performances in *Ishqiya* and *Neeyat* are perfect examples of her fearless approach to acting. In *Ishqiya*, Bal-

an played Krishna, a widow with a mysterious and dangerous side. Her nuanced performance brought a blend of vulnerability and ruthlessness, making Krishna an unforgettable character. In *Neeyat*, Vidya stepped into the shoes of a cunning and calculating villain with aplomb.

MASTER OF THE GAME

Tabu – *Andhadhun* & *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*
Tabu has long been celebrated for her versatility, and her roles in *Andhadhun* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* have solidified her status as a masterful villain. In *Andhadhun*, she played Simi, a morally ambiguous character whose actions drove the film's suspenseful plot.

In *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, Tabu took on a dual role, showcasing her exceptional range. Her portrayal of the vengeful spirit Manjulika was a tour de force. She blended horror and empathy in a way that few could achieve. Her performance was both haunting and poignant.

COMIC & CHARISMATIC

Richa Chadha – *Fukrey*
Richa Chadha's portrayal of Bholi Punjaban in the *Fukrey* film series is a testament to her incredible acting prowess. As the tough and



street-smart antagonist, Richa brought a blend of humour and menace to the role, making Bholi Punjaban a memorable character. Her performance was marked by a perfect balance of comedic timing and ruthless determination, endearing her to audiences while also keeping them on edge. Richa's charismatic performance was a key factor in the success all three parts of *Fukrey*. — Dharam Pal

SECRET WEAPON

Konkona Sen Sharma – *Killer Soup*
Konkona Sen Sharma's performance in *Killer Soup* was a masterclass in understated menace. Known for her critically acclaimed roles in independent cinema, Sharma brought a quiet but terrifying presence to her character. Her portrayal of a seemingly benign individual who hides a dark and deadly secret was both chilling and compelling.

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GIRL DAD

Varun Dhawan welcomed his first born, a baby girl, with wife, Natasha Dalal on June 3. On the occasion of Father's Day, he posted an adorable first glimpse of his baby girl.

He is seen holding his daughter's hand. He wrote, "Happy Father's Day. My father taught me that the best way to celebrate this day is by going out there and working for your family, so I'll be doing just that. Couldn't be happier to be a girl dad." — IANS

'It means the world'

Emilia Clarke on starring in *GOT* and the love she receives for it even today

Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke recalled starring in the iconic series in which she portrayed Daenerys Targaryen. She shared that it, 'means the world' and fans have showered so much love and appreciation to the series that she feels more attached to it.

She said, "The more distance I have from *GOT*, the more I can quantify it. When I started, I didn't know what I was doing. Now, as more and more time goes between it and me doing it, the more I'm like, that was incredibly special and that was incredibly rare." The fantasy drama ran for eight seasons from 2011 to 2019. —ANI



MOVIE REVIEW

Sonam shines in this rom-com

Film: **KUDI HARYANE VAL DI**
Director: Rakesh Dhawan
Cast: Ammy Virk, Sonam Bajwa, Yashpal Sharma, Yograj Singh, Ajay Hooda, Hardeep Gill, Honey Mattu, Seema Kaushal, Mahabir Bhullar and Manpreet Dolly
Rating: ★★☆☆

SHEETAL

Punjabi cinema has become inclusive and the latest theatrical offering, *Kudi Haryane Val Di*, is an example. With Ammy Virk and Sonam Bajwa as his lead actors, writer-director Rakesh Dhawan shifts his focus on the villages of Haryana. The director-actor duo, Rakesh and Ammy, earlier gave a hit film, *Aaja Mexico Chaliye* (2022).

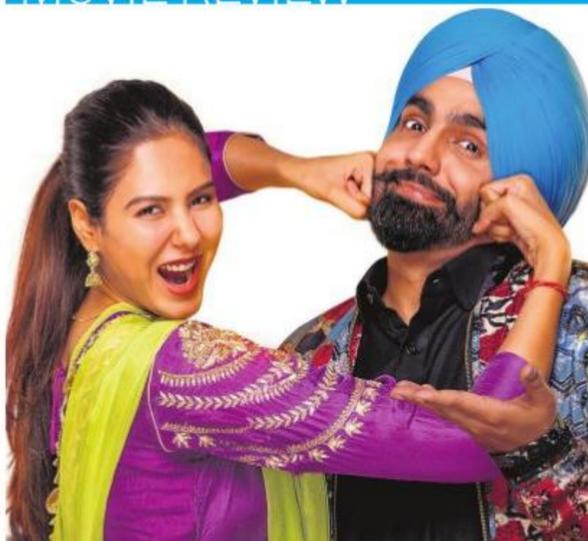
In *Kudi Haryane Val Di*,

Ammy plays Shivjot, who comes from a family of pehalwans but has never stepped inside an akhada. Destiny plays its part and he is forced to accompany his father's students to Haryana for a wrestling match. There he meets Neelam (Sonam), a daughter of a pehalwan (Yashpal Sharma), and promptly falls in love with her. There's no love story without obstacles and here we have many. This comedy of error sticks initially but drags on after some time and we can't help but wait for the interval. The story is predictable and the screenplay is a tad too lengthy. The subplot involving Yograj Singh is supposed to provide us with comic relief but unfortunately, it doesn't. The director's effort to give us a climax along the lines of popular comedy films such as *Hera Pheri* and *Hungama* falls flat.

Kudos to Sonam Bajwa for nailing the

Haryana girl Neelam's character. To play a daughter to veteran actor Yashpal Sharma, who is a true-bred Haryanvi, needs proper homework, especially with diction and dialect, and Sonam does a convincing job. Ammy plays his usual self, a Punjabi munda who wears his heart on his sleeve. He chases his girl and wins our hearts while doing that. Ammy with his punches and comic timing stands out from the rest. There are moments that evoke genuine laughter.

The background music does nothing to enhance the viewing experience. Even the songs are average — rather forgettable, except for one song which is filmed on Sonam in a Haryanvi folk dress. Sonam has definitely earned some Haryanvi fans with this one. It's a one-time watch, for the effort of the director and the actors to bring something new.



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