

PRESS KIT: NOT TODAY

Original Title of the Film: Not Today

English Title of the film: Nor Today.

Year of production: 2020

Duration: 91 minutes

Director: Aditya Kripalani

Production House: Mumba Devi Motion Pictures.

LOGLINE:

A 24 year old from a very traditional Muslim family in Mumbai, goes to work secretly as a suicide prevention counsellor and on her first day, encounters a 52 year old man standing atop a high-rise about to jump. In trying to bring him down, she discovers that he has been a Suicide Prevention Counsellor for 15 years.

SYNOPSIS:

Aliah Rupawala, is a 24 year old Bohri Muslim girl from a very traditional family. She secretly becomes a Suicide Prevention Counsellor and on her first day she encounters a 52 year old man about to jump from the terrace of a high-rise. As she begins to try to bring him down, she is forced to confront why she became a Suicide Prevention Counsellor in the first place, and also share a lot of herself to get him to share and open up. Going all in, to save him, she begins to deal with and release the loneliness and grief in herself to be able to do the same in the caller.

And in doing so, ends up healing not just her own heart, but also the heart of the man who has called, a man who has himself been a Suicide Prevention Counsellor for 15 years.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Writer/ Director, Aditya Kripalani is a script writing graduate from the Film and Television Institute of India. He's been credited as the Script Consultant on multiple award-winning films like 'Tahaan', and 'Jogwa'. Since 2008 he's written 3 bestselling novels, 'Back Seat', 'Front Seat' and 'Tikli and Laxmi Bomb'. His third novel, became his first feature film, which he wrote, directed and produced. Along with being screened at a lot of film festivals, the film has won many awards like Best Film award at the 9th Berlin Independent Film Festival, 2018; Best Film - Gender Equality award at the 20th UK Asian Film Festival, 2018 and Best feature at the New Jersey Indian & International Film festival, 2018 etc . The film is currently streaming on Netflix

In 2018, Aditya wrote his second film, 'The Incessant Fear of Rape', (Netflix which he also directed and produced. This film was also screened at various national and international Film festivals like Kala Ghoda Art festival in Mumbai and the 21st UK Asian Film Festival in London, UK, Garden State Film Festival, New Jersey. , Split Film Festival, Croatia.

In 2019, Aditya's third feature film, 'Devi Aur Hero' (The Goddess and the Hero) screened at the 25th Kolkata International Film festival, 2019 and won Best film award in the NETPAC Category.

Aditya Kripalani has also been a writer and Creative Director in advertising in India, Singapore & Malaysia with wins at Cannes, the Korean Ad Stars and the Malaysian Kancil awards over the years.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

About 6 years I met someone through a friend who used to work in Suicide Prevention. Whether people killing themselves is alright is something that has forever been debatable. But when someone takes it upon themselves to try to convince people who call in, to not end their lives, they go through a tremendous amount of anguish, guilt, anger, pain and grief themselves. Because unlike the job of a regular counsellor, for a Suicide Prevention Counsellor, not succeeding doesn't mean an unhappy client, it means the death of the client. And this made me want to explore the mind of a Suicide Prevention Counsellor and a young one at that, one who is dealing with her first day as an SPC. And her first dangerous call.

Added to that I also wanted to explore Suicide Prevention in a city like Mumbai where the condition of these centres is ridiculously bad. People sit around one large table and almost whisper into a call.

I chose to see the film, with a dark subject, in warm tones, to make the subject of suicide accessible and relatable, not taboo. I've also chosen to allow the city into the film constantly. For suicide always exists in a context, not devoid of it, and so the city constantly comes into perspective in everything you see and experience in the film.

I didn't want to create anything in the city, but allow the city to function as it is and just shoot a film within it, quietly, without anyone taking notice, as if the story in the film was actually happening amidst the city on a regular day. And the film visually and in audio, feels like that.

Also the noise and madness of the city is always a part of this one call between caller and counsellor. It was important for me that the city keeps coming into this call, almost like a person. Since the loneliness of the metropolis is a big part of this film. We've also shot the film in sync sound, to bring in the real soundscape of the city of Mumbai. Along with this, we have also brought in each and every mode of public transport available in Mumbai, from the rickshaws, to the taxis, the Ubers, to the metro, to the local trains. We see these modes of transport one by one as a rite of passage, as the counsellor makes her metaphorical journey into the mind of the caller. And with each part of the journey, the film opens up visually some more.

From being claustrophobic, to being open and at ease, the speed of the film and visual world of the film also changes, as the caller eases out in his mind, and so also the Counsellor in hers.

FILMOGRAPHY

Tahaan (2008/ Fiction/Feature/97 minutes) as Script Consultant

Jogwa (2009/Fiction/Feature/114 minutes) as Script Consultant

Tikli and Laxmi Bomb (2017/Fiction/Feature/151 minutes) as Writer, Director, Producer, Composer and Scuffles.

Totta Pataaka Item Maal (2018/Fiction/Feature/107 minutes) as Writer, Director, Producer and Action Director

The Goddess and the Hero (2019/Fiction/Feature/117 minutes) as Writer, Director, Producer and Action Director

Not Today (2020/ Fiction/Feature 91 minutes) as Writer, Director, Producer

CAST

Aliah Rupawala: Rucha Inamdar (Rucha Inamdar is an actress, known for Operation Parindey (2020), Bhikari (2017) and Criminal Justice (2019)

Ashwin Mathur: Harsh Chhaya (Khajoor Pe Atke (2018), Astitva Ek Prem Kahani (2002) and Har Har Byomkesh (2015).)

CREW:

STORY, SCREENPLAY, DIALOGUES: Aditya Kripalani

DIRECTED BY Aditya Kripalani

PRODUCERS: Aditya Kripalani, Sweta Chhabria Kripalani.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Aditi Sharma

EDITOR: Rachita Singh.

COSTUME: Shraddha Gupta

MAKE UP: Maheleqa Mohseni

SOUND DESIGNERS: Nilesh Jatwa

MUSIC: Aditi Ramesh, Aliyah Qureshi

SOME REVIEWS ABOUT THE FILM

We would like to share some reviews about the film:

“Not Today cleverly takes a morbid topic and makes it into a feel good tale. Also is there anything Harsh Chhaya can't do??? Loved every frame and every tear.” - **Sumukhi Suresh: Pushpavalli (Amazon Prime)** (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8379179/>
<https://www.instagram.com/sumukhisuresh/>)

“Stunning performances by Harsh Chhaya as a depressed man who has lost all hope and Rucha Inamdar as a caring counselor on call keep you completely hooked. Director Aditya Kripalani has delicately handled this sensitive issue through his craft in this remarkable film, 'Not Today'” - **Gajraj Rao: Badhaai Ho (Disney. Hotstar) Talvar (Netflix), Black Friday (Netflix)** (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0710549/> <https://www.instagram.com/gajrajrao/>)

“Not today is a heart warming attempt to talk to you about those who need to be spoken to. It enables you to help someone who might need you . To me this is the maker’s attempt to share all that he knows about suicide prevention with as many people as possible so that help reaches more and more people. Harsh Chhaya outdoes himself scene after scene! Rucha convinces you that humans are empathetic enough to go out of their way to help another human in need . Aaliya , is living life in one if the most graceful ways of being sentient! They say artists and animals sense upcoming natural calamities and react a certain way before it has arrived . For this film to have been shot in the very beginning of 2020 for me is a testimony to the fact that Aditya as an artist could foresee the need for this awareness on mental health and empathy . By the time it has gotten ready it is more relevant than ever ! Warmest of the wishes from my heart go out to Aditya , Shweta , Harsh and Rucha !” - **Geetika Vidya: Soni (Netflix), Thappad (Amazon Prime) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9447832/> <https://www.instagram.com/geetikavidya/>)**

“Not today had made me a part of its world ryt from the first scene.. brilliant performances from Rucha, Harsh and Vibha. The film has its own pace which gave me time to retrospect as I was with the journey of the characters. Very real, and gives you hope. Indeed an experience!!” - **Nehha Pendse: Gour Hari Dastaan (Netflix), Natsamrat (Netflix), June (upcoming) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1429271/> <https://www.instagram.com/nehhapendse/>)**

“आज के वक्त की एक ज़रूरी और संवेदनशील फ़िल्म है, NOT TODAY ”
("NOT TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE FILM IN TODAY'S TIME") - **Vineet Kumar Singh: Bard of Blood (Netflix), Betaal (Netflix), Mukkabaaz (Amazon Prime) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1277547/> https://www.instagram.com/vineet_ksofficial/)**

“Probably the first Indian film that talks about suicide and suicide prevention centers. I have seen films where usually these "taboo topics" are mere sub-plots but never the main story. I think the way Aditya Kriplani executed the story and its characters is very mature, very relatable and said in simple words through simple, ordinary people we see, or maybe unsee, in our daily lives. A well made film. The film has two main characters who never really meet, yet are connected. As an audience I am engaged in their journey throughout the film and completely invested in what they are saying. The film made me think, feel and left me gutted as well. Well shot, well edited and absolutely fantastic performances by Ruchaa and Harsh Chhaya. “ - **Shweta Basu Prasad: Serious Men (Netflix), TheTashkent Files. (Zee 5), Iqbal (Amazon Prime) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1284108/> <https://www.instagram.com/shwetabasuprasad11/>)**

“And just like that a saviour drops in..to save..to just hold on..this looming loneliness we all feel on the journey of life.. the helplessness it brings..regardless of what we may have faced..so so relatable..life and us as people are so beautifully fragile ”- **Siddharth Menon: Betaal (Netflix), Made in Heaven (Amazon) Chhappad Phaad ke (Disney Hotstar), Loev (Netflix) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5913962/> <https://instagram.com/sidmenon1>)**

“Not today very boldly peeks into a world we've all pushed under the carpet....our inner demons....things we feel and can't face in our day to day lives....it gives us hope to hold on to someone, a voice perhaps that will say to us "Not Today". I recon feeling this feeling at a point of time in my life when I couldn't reach out to anyone and felt the world was against me and then decided to reach out to someone close to me who said to me, don't do it..... I can't imagine what it would've been for my family if I hadn't made that call..

It's a personal film and breaks your heart but eventually life triumphs. I took a long time to write this because it takes me back into a space that I had forgotten because I'm so much happier now and it only shows that "this too shall pass" is the ultimate truth.

The actors in Not Today shine through their performance. The woman on the other line, also on her first day at the job listening patiently and the older man wanting to commit suicide speaking his heart

out and eventually both feeling the same feeling



I wish this story reaches millions touching everyone's lives since this is the need and conversation of the hour and I sincerely hope everyone can understand and relate to this and say to themselves, 'Not Today.' - **Aahaana Kumra - Lipstick under my burkha (Netflix), Betaal (Netflix), Khuda Haafiz. (Disney Hotstar), Call my agent (Applause) Marzi (Voot)**
(<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3933547/> <https://instagram.com/aahanakumra>)

"A very important film for the times we live in. With some mind blowing performances. Not to be missed. Not today." - **Rohit Mittal: Autohead (Netflix), Megalopolis (Mubi)**
(<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6149183/> <https://www.instagram.com/rohitmittal2607/>)

'It's a disturbing subject and yet left me with powerful imagery, Rucha Inamdar's performance was special.' - **Kalki Koechlin: Dev D (Netflix), Margarita with a Straw (Netflix), Zindagi Milegi Na Dobarra (Netflix), Gully Boy (Amazon Prime), That Girl in Yellow Boots (Netflix).**
(<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3202701/> <https://www.instagram.com/kalkikanmani/>)

NOT TODAY is an essential, unique and extremely relevant film in today's times. There are films that one merely views for entertainment, and then there are films that go right into your soul and make you think. Be it about life, society or a certain type of mentality. NOT TODAY takes you right back into your childhood, into the facets and incidents of your life that have been buried into the depths of your soul. Incidents that have personally affected you, be it in your childhood or in your youth. Incidents that have remained unresolved because you were unable to find a solution to them, and have thus kept piling on until they have reached their breaking point. In some cases, these lead to problems that we knowingly try to ignore, and in some cases, it may lead us to finding a solution to them if we're lucky to have a friend by our side.

NOT TODAY, in its truest form, is that friend. One that listens and cares, selflessly. One that's always there. Akin to a therapy session, almost. It is an unconventional, and a supremely wonderful film, and what especially stands out is the way it has been written and shot. Aditya Kripalani has done a brilliant job as the film's writer and director, and the performances in the film are bound to blow you away. Rucha Inamdar has portrayed her role with such finesse and softness, and Harsh Chhaya's performance has left me speechless. I've been watching his work even before I had stepped into the world of acting, and his command over his character is one to especially watch out for. The undertones and calmness he brings to the film truly make him an incredibly natural actor.

This is a film that should reach the masses because it is an important film. It has been more than a month since I last watched it, and I am still reeling from it. I can still feel Rucha and Harsh's characters around me, it feels as though they never left me. That's how touching the film was! Aditya Kripalani, please keep making films, keep making them, keep practising them, you are a very important filmmaker." - **Jitendra Joshi: Sacred Games, Betaal (Netflix)**
(<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1241555/> <https://www.instagram.com/jitendrajoshi27/>)

I have just watched a film called 'Not Today', which I truly enjoyed. This is a very relevant film, made on a topic we seldom talk about - Mental Health. A crisis that has plagued our society and this

film very poignantly tackles the topic. The performances in this film, namely by Rucha and Harsh, are spectacular. As you watch the film, you go deeper and deeper, into the lives of the characters. This is a difficult film, and the direction, screenplay, and performances make the film a worthy watch! I found this to be an exquisite watch. Harsh Chhaya is an excellent actor, but it was my first time watching Rucha Inamdar perform, and she simply blew me away. I have watched Aditya Kripalani's work earlier, and he has made some lovely films in the past. This is a brilliant film and a must-watch. My best wishes to the team of NOT TODAY. Thank You. - **Kumud Mishra: Ram Singh Charlie (Sony Liv), Rockstar (Amazon Prime), Tandav (Amazon Prime)** (<https://m.imdb.com/name/nm1122912/> <https://instagram.com/kumudkmishra>)

'Not Today' addresses mental health issues through emotional heartwarming storytelling that emphasises the strength of communication. Aditya Kriplani has dealt with this delicate issue very emotionally and effectively.

'Not today' is a film about hope. It is a film about not giving up. It is about loving life a bit more than usual. It is a film about just being there for someone, when they need it the most.

I loved the way the film has been shot. There are only two characters communicating with each other through mobile screens, but their life journeys are portrayed in quite intense and intriguing manner in the film. 'Not Today' has a strong and captivating visual narrative.

Harsh Chaya has always been my favourite actor and his performance is fabulous. Rucha Inamdar has played the character with extreme honesty and maturity, making it very relatable. She has won my heart! - **Priya Bapat: City of Dreams (Hotstar), Aamhi Doghi (Amazon), Happy Journey (Amazon), Munnabhai MBBS (Netflix /Amazon), Pimpal (Netflix)** (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4967520/> <https://www.instagram.com/priyabapat/>)

Not Today. The word itself has hope, determination and wait associated with it. This wait can be for better or for worse but the anticipation in it makes it worthwhile. The film speaks of the same. It celebrates the end and the beginning of life and what it may be if we still hold on to it.

I am a fan of Aditya's work and I absolutely love the real and rawness of the characters and the way he portrays them on screen. This film in particular deals with the most difficult of emotions that any human feels or can endure. It's about taking one's own life and saving it, all together. It's about facing your own demons, learning to let go of some, learning to live with some but most importantly accepting the fact that grief is all we have, it's our constant, it's with grief that we share our most intimate relationship, we are our strongest and our most vulnerable self in pain and grief.

Two people from different faith, stature, belief, age, background, somehow come together and become one. They share their joys, their pain and cling on to each other as if they are their last hope, rather the only hope they have left. It is in misery that we humans find each other, find our lost selves, come alive.

Not Today is a cinema but it's also a slice of our lives. What we are, what we could have been, what we can be.

The actors are phenomenal, Harsh Chhaya has been my favourite forever. I love the fact that there is no BGM in the film, it's just the ambient sound that we hear. Isn't that what happens in our daily lives?! In our most dark days it's the ambiance that fill up our ears and give us company. I love the long slow shots showing the characters from a distance. Their anxious selves with their flustered hands and feet spoke more than words ever can.

I lived with the characters for the duration of the film consumed by their little joys and their immense misery. I guess I am still living with them. This film is an extraordinary one but you have to have the sensitivity to live with it, using the word 'live' because this will stay in your mind and heart for long. - **Swastika Mukherjee: Dil Bechara (Hotstar), Detective Byomkesh Bakshi (Netflix), Pataal Lok (Amazon), Black Widows (Zee5) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3054665/>) <https://www.instagram.com/swastikamukherjee13/>)**

We are living in tricky times. Which is why a film like Not Today becomes all the more crucial. Aditya Kripalani raises the delicate issue of mental health with a lot of maturity, vulnerability and fearlessness. With a story based in one night, this film navigates through many ups and downs keeping the idea of 'suicide' at its core while keeping the narrative on-the-edge. It has some beautiful and refreshing performances by Harsh Chhaya and Rucha Inamdar as the main lead. The current scenarios in the society make it even more crucial to raise issues like these with such sensitivity. An emotional story at heart, Aditya takes us on a beautifully crafted ride. - **Shlok Sharma: Haraamkhor (Netflix), Zoo (Netflix), Producer - Cargo (Netflix) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2396167/>) <https://www.instagram.com/shloksharma/>)**

'Not Today' is a lovely little glimpse into a conversation of two complete strangers on a dark, lonely night. As we eavesdrop on this conversation, the realisation dawns that each person in this busy, bustling city has so much going on inside them which they never share with anyone. The city goes on living and running around them as they speak almost metaphorically reflecting their internal chaos. And as they speak and empty themselves, the city goes quieter. The film portrays compelling performances by its two leads, Rucha Inamdar and Harsh Chhaya. The simple approach by director Aditya Kripalani, never taking the focus away from what is being said is the most perfect way this story could have been told. The film offers a warm shoulder to lean upon. It's a conversation that is a must watch and its a conversation that one must have. - **Vishal Furia (Director): Criminal Justice (Hotstar), Lapachhapi (Zee5), The Missing Stone (MXPlayer) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7954017/>) https://www.instagram.com/furia_vishal/)**

Articles about NOT TODAY

Mid Day

<https://www.mid-day.com/articles/aditya-kripalani-opens-up-on-working-on-his-third-film-not-today/22799208>

The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/entertainment/hindi/2020/feb/26/aditya-kripalanis-next-not--today-about-suicide-prevention-2108943.html>

DT Next.

<https://www.dtnext.in/News/Cinema/2020/02/26081010/1217135/Aditya-Kripalani-to-make-film-based-on-suicide-prevention.vpf>

The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/aditya-kripalani-interview-a-natural-storyteller/article19480337.ece>

The India Print

<https://www.theindiaprint.com/entertainment-news-english/aditya-kripalani-exposes-on-performing-on-his-fourth-film-not-today-21155>

Social Ketchup

<https://www.socialketchup.in/ketchuptalks-aditya-kripalani-filmmaker/>

Lastely.com

<https://www.latestly.com/entertainment/bollywood/not-today-aditya-kripalanis-upcoming-film-is-based-on-the-essential-subject-of-suicide-prevention-1561875.html>

DIRECTORS' PAST WORK:

2017 - Tikli and Laxmi Bomb - streaming on Netflix globally

2018 - 'Tottaa Pataaka Item Maal' (The Incessant Fear of Rape) - streaming on Netflix globally

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Devi Aur Hero (The Goddess and the Hero) screened at the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival and won the award for best film in the NETPAC Category.

'Tottaa Pataaka Item Maal' (The Incessant Fear of Rape) screened at the below festivals:

- 21st UK Asian Film Festival, UK - April 2019
- 17th Garden State Film Festival, New Jersey - March 2019
- 20th Kala Ghoda Film Festival, Mumbai – Feb 2019
- Split Film Festival, Croatia, September, 2019

'Tikli and Laxmi Bomb' has screened and won awards at the below festivals:

Wins:

1. Berlin Independent Film Festival, February 2018 : Winner Best Feature Award
2. UK Asian Film Festival, March 2018: Winner Best Film - Gender equality
3. New Jersey Indian & International Film Festival, June 2018 : Winner Best Film - Festival choice award & Best Female Actor award.
4. Out of the Can Film Festival, UK, July 2018 : Best Non-English Speaking Film & Best Supporting Actor.
5. Jaipur International Film Festival, January 2018: Winner Best Debutante Actress award

Official Selection

6. Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, August, 2018: Official Selection & Australia Premiere
7. Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati, Ohio, Sep 2018 : Official Selection & Ohio Premiere

8. Not Just Bollywood, Manchester, UK, Sep 2018 : Closing Film
9. Split Film Festival, Croatia, Oct 2018 – Official Selection & Croatia Premiere
10. Federation of Film Society of India, National Film Festival, 2018: Only Hindi Film selected
11. Kolkata International Film Festival, October 2017: Indian Premiere
12. New Zealand Asia Pacific Film Festival, October 2017: Official Selection and only film from India
13. Calcutta International Cult Film Festival, August 2017: Official selection in the following categories.