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Taare Zameen Par Star Cast: A Journey of Triumph and Perseverance ===== Aamir Khan Productions has given us a gift that will forever be remembered as one of the most inspirational films ever made - Taare Zameen Par. The movie, released in 2007, not only won the hearts of many but also bagged several awards at the Academy Awards. It is indeed a testament to how power of the cast could make or break a film. The movie boasts of one of the most talented young cast that we have seen on screen, with Darshheel Safary taking center stage as Ishaan Awasthi - a dyslexic child who struggles to come to terms with his disorder. His portrayal was nothing short of remarkable and touched the hearts of many. Aamir Khan's character of Ram Shankar Nikumbh, an art teacher who helps Ishaan overcome his reading disorder, is equally impressive. Aamir's performance not only helped bring the story to life but also left a lasting impact on the young audience. Tanay Chheda played Rajan, a handicapped student who becomes supportive best friend to Ishaan in the boarding school, while Sachet Engineer portrayed Yohan, Ishaan's older brother. Tisca Chopra shone as Maya Awasthi, Ishaan's mother, who sacrifices everything for her son. The cast also includes Vipin Sharma as Nandkishore Awasthi, Ishaan's father, who struggles to provide a better life and education to his children. Aamir Khan finds the perfect Ishaan in a young boy with an unassuming smile. ===== Ishaan, an 8-year-old boy from Mumbai, was believed by his parents and teachers to hate learning. However, he was actually struggling due to dyslexia, a condition that made it difficult for him to understand letters and words. Taare Zameen Par was inspired by the challenges faced by children with dyslexia. The story is based on the experiences of Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, who struggled in school but found success after meeting an attentive art teacher. ===== The film's lead actor, Darshheel Safary, played Ishaan Nandkishore Awasthi, a young boy with dyslexia. The character was inspired by the real-life experiences of children with dyslexia, and the filmmakers worked closely with them to ensure accuracy. The story follows Ishaan's journey as he navigates the challenges of school and discovers his passion for art. The film features a talented cast, including Aamir Khan as Ram Shankar Nikumbh, Ishaan's art teacher. The screenplay was developed by Amole Gupte and Deepa Bhatia over seven years. They drew inspiration from their research into dyslexia and the experiences of children who have struggled in school. Khan, who also produced the film, initially had doubts about Gupte's direction but eventually took over the role himself. This marked Khan's first experience as both actor and director. The film's success can be attributed to its portrayal of a complex issue affecting many children worldwide. The movie's message is one of hope and empowerment, encouraging viewers to appreciate individual differences. Aamir Khan credits Gupte for his involvement in the project, saying he was "guided by Amole" throughout the filming process. Taare Zameen Par: A Film About Children's Abilities The film Taare Zameen Par, directed by Aamir Khan, was a result of his dissatisfaction with the proposed ending. He convinced Gupte to rework it into something better. The working title had lost relevance after this change.[15] and Khan, along with Gupte and Bhatia, explored alternative options.[16] They eventually settled on Taare Zameen Par, which translates to Stars on the Ground[17] or Like Stars on Earth.[18] Khan believed that the title was a celebration of children's abilities and strengths. He wanted it to convey that all kids were special and wonderful, like stars in their own right. Principal photography took place over five months in India.[19] Khan spent his first two days as director blocking the opening scene: Ishaan returning home from school with fish he recently collected.[20] The scene was shot on location at a former school and Film City. The shots of Ishaan involved the gutter terrarium were filmed at a water tank at Film City.[21] The tank's water often caused problems, leading to an eight-hour filming session. Ishaan's nightmare sequence, where he gets separated from his mother at a train station, was filmed in Mumbai on a permanent railway-station set.[23] To work around the train set's immobility, production used a moving trolley to create the illusion of a departing train. The school sequences were filmed on location, with St. Xavier's School serving as Ishaan's school.[25] The production crew searched for a Mumbai school with an "oppressive" feel and eventually chose it. New Era High School served as Ishaan's boarding school, providing a change of setting for the production crew.[28] Real schoolchildren participated in the film's filming, credited by Khan as contributing to the film's success.[14] He also prioritized their needs, attending to them regularly and keeping them occupied during filming.[16] The students learned patience and cooperation through this experience and gained a better understanding of how to behave towards children like Ishaan who face problems in school.[31] A total of 1,500 children were used for wide-shots of the film's climax.The director Aamir Khan wanted to convey a message through his latest film Ishaan, which tells the story of a young boy with dyslexia. To achieve this, Khan involved his class in the making of the film, and the children's reactions were captured on camera. During one scene, Khan recited a tale while the children played around a nearby pond, capturing their spontaneous reactions. The team also filmed documentary-style footage of children from all walks of life to connect the film with real kids. The film's title sequence was its first instance in a Bollywood movie and featured claymation artist Dhimaant Vyas's work. Khan gave him free rein over the elements. The storyboarding took 1.5 months, while shooting required just 15 days. The "3 into 9" sequence, where Ishaan solves math using his imagination, was originally meant to be in 3D but ended up being a 2D animation. Khan later decided it wouldn't work and handed the project to Vaibhav Kumaresh. Ishaan's artwork was created by Gupte and Assistant Art Director Veer Nanavati drew his flipbook. The art department initially failed to create Ishaan's school notebooks, so Khan wrote them himself using his left hand. The musical sequence of "Jame Raho" introduces the family members, while the scene of "Maa" was a particular issue for the production crew due to its limited lighting schedule. They ultimately decided to have an adult sing the song instead of a child. The music trio Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, and Loy Mendonsa composed most of the film's soundtrack. Khan kept Ishaan's truancy scene, despite mixed reactions from test screenings, as he connected with it deeply.Taare Zameen Par Soundtrack Created for Emotional Touch ===== The soundtrack of Taare Zameen Par was created to be emotionally touchy and convey the feelings of the characters. The music was composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, with lyrics by Praseon Joshi, although there were some variations in the score such as "Mera Jahan" which was scored by Shailendra Barve and written by Gupte. The film's soundtrack included several notable tracks like "Maa" which won Shankar Mahadevan the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer. The song showcased a different level of energy, and the composers aimed to create an effective melody to hold center stage. Unlike other films where music is created in a studio, A.R. Rahman chose a more improvising approach for Taare Zameen Par. He and his team recorded the score at Khan's home in Panggajani to clear their heads and not be influenced by the city mindset. The soundtrack used different styles of background music to convey specific emotions. For example, a guitar played during tense moments with discordant notes. The opening scene's "Ishaan's Theme" overpowered the background noise, representing Ishaan's peaceful state, while another scene featured silent music to match the realistic and slow pace. The montage sequence in which Nikumbh teaches Ishaan became the poster's key art due to its profound storytelling potential. When released worldwide on 14 December 2007, the soundtrack achieved significant commercial success and received several accolades like National Film Awards for Best Lyrics and Best Male Playback Singer. The film initially grossed ₹150 million domestically in just three days, with a total run of \$19,779,215 at the end. It was also dubbed into regional languages to expand its audience base, achieving notable results in Tamil (Vaal Nakshatram) and Telugu, where it was scheduled for release on 12 September 2008.Taare Zameen Par was a commercially successful film that garnered widespread critical acclaim upon its release. The film's producer, Aamir Khan, had invested a significant amount of money into the project, with estimates suggesting he spent around ₹1.07 billion (US\$25.88 million) on it. The film went on to earn approximately ₹984.8 million (US\$23.82 million) in India and ₹1.35 billion (US\$32.65 million) worldwide. In response to Khan's support for the Narmada Bachao Andolan and his criticism of Chief Minister Narendra Modi, a group of activists conducted protests outside of several multiplexes in Gujarat. The INOX cinema chain eventually boycotted the film, with their operations manager stating that they were "with Gujarat" and not isolated from it. The International Dyslexia Association screened Taare Zameen Par at a conference in Seattle, Washington, where Khan noted that the audience reaction was overwhelmingly positive, with some people even crying during the film. He felt that the non-Indian audience responded positively to the film's message, which was similar to the reaction he had seen from audiences back home in India. The film was released on DVD in India in July 2008 and received widespread critical acclaim, with many praising Khan's directorial debut and the performances of the cast. The Disney version of the film was released in several regions around the world and features bonus material such as audio commentary and deleted scenes.Taare Zameen Par: A Film That Changed Lives ===== I found the movie "Taare Zameen Par" very inspiring as it brought to light many issues that I was unaware of. The way the film portrayed the struggles faced by a dyslexic child is quite heart-wrenching, and the message conveyed is really important for parents, teachers, and children alike. I appreciated the film's ability to address these sensitive topics with sensitivity and empathy. The movie not only raised awareness about dyslexia but also highlighted the need for change in how we approach education, particularly when it comes to supporting children with disabilities. The impact of the film was immense, with many parents seeking help and guidance after watching it. This is a testament to the power of cinema as an instrument of social change. The reactions from Gupte himself were particularly striking, with him receiving heartfelt letters and phone calls from grateful parents who had finally understood the importance of providing support to their children. The film's influence extended beyond the education sector, with policymakers taking note of its message and making changes accordingly. The fact that the Central Board of Secondary Education provided extra time for disabled children after just ten days of the film's release is a clear indication of the impact it had on society. Overall, "Taare Zameen Par" is more than just an inspiring story; it's a wake-up call for us all to re-examine our priorities and approach to supporting vulnerable children. The film's message of acceptance, empathy, and inclusivity resonates deeply, and its influence will undoubtedly be felt for years to come.Taare Zameen Par's positive response in various regions has been remarkable. The film's release in 2007 marked a significant milestone for Mumbai's civic body, which opened 12 classrooms for autistic students. Similarly, the education administration in Chandigarh started a course to educate teachers on supporting children with learning disabilities. The film's success in Greater China is notable, despite its limited theatrical release. Aamir Khan's popularity in the region contributed to the film's cult following online. Chinese audiences have praised the movie for tackling important issues such as education and dyslexia. In 2025, a spiritual sequel titled Sitaare Zameen Par was announced, directed by R.S. Prasanna and produced by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit. The film features Khan alongside Genelia Deshmukh and a cast of ten newcomers. Unlike its predecessor, which focused on dyslexia, Sitaare Zameen Par centers around a basketball coach who trains a team of players with intellectual disabilities. Taare Zameen Par won several awards, including the Filmfare Award for Best Film in 2008 and the National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare. The film was initially considered India's official entry for the 2009 Academy Awards Best Foreign Film but failed to make the shortlist. This led to a debate about why Indian films struggle to win Oscars. Khan expressed his disappointment at not being included in the Academy Award shortlist, stating that he doesn't make films for awards but for the audience. He argued that the film has been well-received globally and is heartening for him. The Indian media often compared Taare Zameen Par's nomination failure to other Indian films' successes, such as Slumdog Millionaire's multiple Oscar nominations and wins. Some critics argue that it's difficult to compare the two films and that Slumdog Millionaire was marketed differently than Indian films like Taare Zameen Par. Mahesh Manjrekar stated that he thought Taare Zameen Par was better than Slumdog Millionaire, but Indian movies are often underestimated by the Oscars.Like Stars on Earth was titled "Taare Zameen Par" in India, which translates to "A Star on the Ground". Bollywood Hungama. 28 January 2008. Archived from the original on 21 May 2008. Retrieved 27 July 2010. ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 16:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 40:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 56:45 ^ a b "Director's Note: Official website for Taare Zameen Par". Archived from the original on 10 April 2008. Retrieved 11 April 2008. ^ a b c d Singh, Harneet (21 May 2007). "Yes, I have directed Taare Zameen Par" - Aamir Khan". Bollywood Hungama. Archived from the original on 28 July 2010. Retrieved 11 April 2008. ^ Like Stars on Earth Bonus Disc: The Making.... 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Event occurs at approximately 16:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth Bonus Disc: The Making.... Event occurs at approximately 35:00 ^ a b c Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 1:11:30 ^ Like Stars on Earth Bonus Disc: The Making.... Event occurs at approximately 18:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 2:14:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 21:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 1:49:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 1:56:00 ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 2:35:00 ^ a b "Clay play". The Telegraph. Calcutta, India. 3 April 2008. Archived from the original on 18 January 2012. Retrieved 30 July 2010. ^ Like Stars on Earth DVD commentary. Event occurs at approximately 6:30 ^ Pillai, Varsha (18 January 2008). "Taare Zameen Par brings clay animation to Bollywood". CNN-IBN. 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Yahoo! India Movies. Archived from the original on 16 January 2008. Retrieved 27 July 2010. ^ a b c Like Stars on Earth Bonus Disc: The Making.... Event occurs at approximately 49:00 ^ "Tata Elxsi renders visual effects for the Bollywood movie Taare Zameen Par". Bollywood Hungama. 26 December 2007. Archived from the original on 15 January 2011. Retrieved 10 April 2008. ^ Like Stars on Earth Bonus Disc: The Making....Taare Zameen Par: A film with a lot of controversies. -- Taare Zameen Par is a Bollywood movie that deals with a sensitive topic of children. The film was released in 2007 and received widespread critical acclaim. It tells the story of Ishaan, a young boy who suffers from dyslexia and struggles to fit in with his peers. The movie explores themes of identity, self-acceptance, and the importance of education. The film's success can be attributed to its engaging storyline, memorable characters, and Aamir Khan's outstanding performance as the protagonist's father. The movie also features a strong supporting cast, including Darshheel Safary, Tisca Chopra, and Tanay Chheda. Taare Zameen Par was a commercial success, grossing over ₹200 crore worldwide. It won several awards, including three Filmfare Awards and four Zee Cine Awards. The movie's success also led to it being nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. The film's impact extends beyond the silver screen, as it has helped raise awareness about dyslexia and its effects on individuals and society. It has also inspired people to take action against social issues, such as bullying and discrimination. Taare Zameen Par is a heartwarming and thought-provoking movie that will leave viewers with a lasting impression. It's a testament to the power of cinema to inspire, educate, and entertain us.Slumdog bags Oscar hopes but misses out on shortlist, says DNA ===== "Govt. lauds Rahman, 'Slumdog' team". The Hindu. Chennai, India. 17 February 2009. Archived from the original on 1 September 2012. Retrieved 26 May 2010. Is Slumdog India's? AsiaOne. 13 January 2009. Archived from the original on 28 July 2010. Retrieved 26 May 2010. Gujarat says Jai Ho to Slumdog victory DNA. 24 February 2009. Archived from the original on 26 September 2012. Retrieved 22 July 2010. No more acting for me: Mahesh Manjrekar The Times of India. 26 April 2009. Archived from the original on 27 April 2009. Retrieved 26 April 2009. Aamir Khan Makes Sparkling Debut as Film Director With Taare Bloomberg News. New Delhi. 26 December 2007. Archived from the original on 12 January 2015. Taare Zameen Par, film on dyslexic child, pulls at Indian heartstrings Reuters Life. Mumbai: 24 December 2007. Archived from the original on 28 April 2011. Note: Slumdog Millionaire was nominated for 10 Oscars but did not make it to the shortlist.

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