

Peepli Live

India 2010

Directed by
Anusha Rizvi**Cinematography**
Shanker Raman**Screenplay**
Anusha Rizvi**Producers**
Aamir Khan & Kiran Rao**Cast**
Omhar Das Manikpuri
Nathadas Manikpuri
Raghuvir Yadav
Budhia Manikpuri
Shalini Vatsa
Dhaniya N. Manikpuri
Farrukh Jaffar
Mrs Manikpuri
Malaika Shenoy
Nandita Malik

95 min Subtitles

We hope you've all enjoyed the Easter break. Welcome back!

A peppy screwball comedy with elements of social satire, *Peepli Live* suggests a rural Indian take on Billy Wilder's *Ace in the Hole*. Debuting writer-director Anusha Rizvi manages to wrest a lively feature out of a gravely serious issue, capturing the desperation of India's village farmers, as well as the nation's shift from agriculture to industrialization, without losing sight of the entertainment principle. En route to a surprise finale that's quite moving, *Peepli Live* benefits from bouncy soundtrack music, energetic cutting and a strong sense of place. Production values throughout are immensely appealing. Whether or not India's first-ever Sundance entry can capitalize on the international success of *Slumdog Millionaire*, it deserves a long life in distribution.

Rob Nelson, Variety

Armando Iannucci could not have done it better: a reporter with a sad face plastered on interviews an elderly woman: "Look at Indian motherhood, with a ravaged heart," he implores. The camera cuts to the cantankerous old dear puffing on a reefer. There is a deadly serious message about India's rural/urban divide in first-timer director Anusha Rizvi's satirical gem, but it also happens to have a juicily vulgar streak. Rizvi is a former journalist and is savage on the sham compassion of the media and political elite. She closes on a scene of genuine and forceful poignancy. If anything you'd have to describe *Peepli Live* as the anti-*Slumdog Millionaire*.

Cath Clarke, The Guardian

Peepli Live is directed by Anusha Rizvi, but its producer and patron is legendary India superstar Aamir Khan. That Khan has taken up this issue in any context is notable, and will be noted by Indian natives and expatriates. That it takes a movie star to make a film about such a horrible circumstance is yet another tragedy. Khan is not so much a star in the west, which suggests that the ongoing tragedy of Indian farmer suicides will not be truly noted in the west for some time to come. Satire or drama, the loss of these Indian farmers remains dangerously invisible.

Tim Cogshell, Box Office Magazine

Our next screening...

A Screaming Man (Chad)

Tue 1 May 2012

Dir: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun
Political drama from the director of *Abouna*. Winner of 2010 Cannes Jury prize.

I'm not sure whether the usual audiences weaned on Bollywood fare may take to a film that's a social commentary on some of the biggest problems facing the country, but *Peepli Live* should find its legs in the more patient, appreciative film festival circuit.

A Nutshell Review



Voting for *Dogtooth*: A-13 B-19 C-8 D-3 E-7 Att. 53 Rating: 64.0%