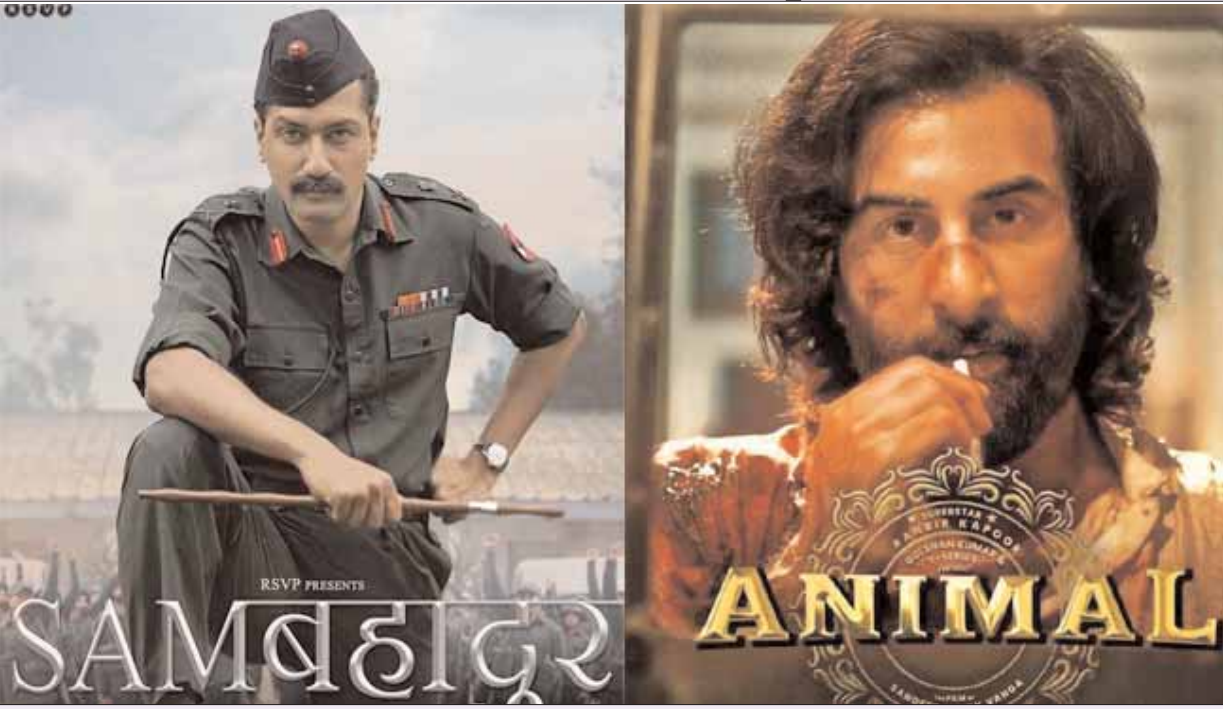


Vicky Kaushal reflects on Sam Bahadur’s box office clash with Ranbir Kapoor’s Animal



Vicky Kaushal received widespread acclaim for his remarkable portrayal of India’s first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw, in the 2023 film Sam Bahadur. Premiering on December 1, the movie encountered competition at the box office with the Ranbir Kapoor starrer crime thriller, Animal. Reflecting on this clash, Vicky shared insights into his film’s performance, likening the situation to a test match.

In a recent interview with The Week Magazine, Vicky Kaushal was questioned about his film Sam Bahadur, which clashed with Ranbir Kapoor’s Animal at the box office, and whether it met his expectations. In response, Vicky articulated, “With Sam, we always knew it was a Test match; we knew it was not the quintessential masala film that Animal

was?it had the shock value and one knew it would create waves at the box office.”

He elaborated that they were aware of the necessity for time and word-of-mouth promotion for Sam Bahadur to resonate with audiences. According to Vicky, its success depended on people’s connection with the story, regardless of its release timing. Regarding the response, Vicky observed a gradual increase in discussions surrounding the film as weeks passed. He expressed delight in witnessing the movie’s screenings continuing into January, indicating sustained interest and engagement from audiences, which brought him immense joy.

The biographical war drama Sam Bahadur featured Vicky Kaushal in the titular role, with Sanya Malho-

tra portraying Sam Manekshaw’s wife, Silloo Manekshaw, and Fatima Sana Shaikh embodying former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Directed by Meghna Gulzar, the film was produced by Ronnie Screwvala.

On the other hand, Animal, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, delved into the tumultuous relationship between a father and a son. Led by Ranbir Kapoor, the star-studded cast included Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Rashmika Mandanna, Triptii Dimri, Shakti Kapoor, Prem Chopra, and more.

Interestingly, Vicky and Ranbir are slated to join forces for an upcoming project, Love & War, under the direction of Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Adding to the anticipation, the film will also star Alia Bhatt in a pivotal role.

Ajay Devgn starrer scores well in Second Weekend, Crossed 100 crore in India



Shaistaan scored a very good second weekend of Rs. 24 crore nett at the Indian box office. The drop from the first weekend was a little over 55 per cent, though since the film benefitted from the holiday on its first day, the real value drop is closer to 50 per cent, which is a very good hold.

The film also crossed Rs. 100 crore nett mark yesterday, for a total of Rs. 104 crore in ten days. The film is targeting a Rs. 150 crore finish though that will depend on how well it holds in the fourth week against competition from The Crew and Godzilla x Kong. The film did face competition from new releases this week in the form of Yodha, Bastar and Kung Fu Panda 4 but none of those pose any serious threat to it, with Shaistaan outgrossing them

comfortably.

The second week of the film is expected to be Rs. 35 crore plus, which will be the second best of the year, less than 10 per cent short of Fighter. The difference between the two films in the first week was nearly 40 per cent. From the third week, Shaistaan should be able to catch or even exceed Fighter.

Shaistaan is a supernatural horror thriller directed by Vikas Bahl and produced by Devgn Films, Jio Studios and Panorama Studios. It is the remake of the 2023 Gujarati film Vash.

The film stars Ajay Devgn, R. Madhavan, Jyothika, Janki Bodiwala and Anngad Raaj.

The Rs 100-crore club entry makes Shaistaan the third Hindi movie to do so in the same year, af-

ter Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone’s Fighter and Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon-starrer Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya. Shaistaan has also clinched the third spot among the highest-grossing films of 2024 while continuing to generate box office revenue at an impressive run rate.

This is Ajay Devgn’s third consecutive film to hit the century mark, after Drishyam 2 and Bholaa. This is south actor Jyothika’s very first Rs 100 crore film, who marked her Bollywood comeback after more than two decades.

While for R Madhavan, it is his third film in the prestigious club. Director Vikas Bahl also scored his second Rs100 crore grosser after 2019’s Hrithik-starrer Super 30 (2019).



Actor Vijay Varma cutely waited at the door as his ladylove Tamannaah Bhatia posed for single pics for the paps.

Yodha actor Sidharth Malhotra pleasantly surprises fans with his visit to Mumbai theatre

After playing a RAW agent in Mission Majnu last year, Sidharth Malhotra is back with another action thriller film Yodha. Released theatrically a couple of days ago, the Sagar Ambre and Pushkar Ojha film is doing steady business at the box office. Since his fans are making great efforts to make his movie a commercial success by watching the film in cinema halls, the actor decided to surprise some of them by paying a visit to a theatre in Mumbai.

A while ago, a video of handsome hunk Sidharth Malhotra went viral in which he can be seen surrounded by a crowd of excited fans. The clip is from a Mumbai theatre where the actor paid a special visit to the audience watching his film, Yodha. After the movie concluded, Sid graced the cinemagoers with his presence. They quickly rushed to the Bollywood star to click selfies with him.

The admirers of the Kapoor & Sons actor can be heard rooting for him and shouting the film’s name with admiration and love. Sid looked dapper in his army green-hued t-shirt which he paired with a denim jacket and pants. He was sweet enough to



click pictures with all the people around him patiently.

While everyone was showering love on Sid’s performance in Yodha, his wife, actress Kiara Advani, also praised his performance in the film. Taking to her Instagram stories, she shared a screengrab of Sid from the movie and called it ‘outstand-

ing.’ In her long review, she penned, “@sidmalhotra you’ve made us all SO proud! Your BEST. One of the best in this genre, #Sagar #Pushkar I can’t believe this is your first. @dishapatani, @raashiikhanna Watch out for these two Lady Yodhas. To the entire cast and crew of the film, Take a bow!”

Debutant directors Sagar Ambre and Pushkar Ojha joined hands with producers Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, and Apoorva Mehta to come up with this acting flick. While Sid is leading the pack, he is joined by Raashii Khanna, Disha Patani, Ronit Roy, Tanuj Virwani, and many others.

Sobhita Dhulipala opens up on debut Hollywood project Monkey Man: 'Dream to be part of Dev Patel’s vision'

Sobhita Dhulipala is one of the most promising actresses in the film industry. She has been making headlines as she embarks on her Hollywood journey in the upcoming film Monkey Man, co-starring Dev Patel. In a new interview, Sobhita talked about her debut Hollywood project Monkey Man, and expressed her excitement for the same.

During an event, Sobhita Dhulipala had an interview with PTI where she talked about her Hollywood debut movie Monkey Man. Sharing her excitement, the actress said, “It’s my first time working in a new industry, it’s Hollywood. So that is super exciting for me.”

She further added, “Mine is not a big part but at the end of the day, it is a dream to be a part of Dev Patel’s vision.”

Taking to Instagram earlier in January 2024, Anurag Kashyap, Sobhita’s first director (Raman Raghav 2.0), gave a shoutout to Monkey Man by sharing the film’s trailer on his Instagram story. He wrote, “Finally. This looks so good.” He tagged Sobhita Dhulipala, Sikandar Kher, and Makarand Deshpande in his story. Replying to him, Sobhita took a trip down memory lane and shared that she auditioned for the role in Monkey Man in 2016, just a day before she left for the Cannes Film Festival.

“Thank you Sir! Trivia: I auditioned for Monkey Man in 2016. It was a day before we (Anurag and Sobhita) left for the Cannes Film Festival with Raman Raghav 2.0 (My



debut). Been a beautiful ride. Thank you for the vibes and wonder,” read Sobhita’s reply.

Helmed by Dev Patel, the film was completed in 2021 and then sold to an OTT platform for reportedly 30 million dollars. The film marks Dev’s directorial debut and stars Sharlto Copley, Pitobash, Sikandar Kher, Vipin Sharma, Ashwini Kalsekar, Adithi Kalkunte and Makarand Deshpande in sup-

porting roles.

The trailer for Monkey Man was released on January 27. It portrays a man’s quest for vengeance against the corrupt leaders who murdered his mother and continue to victimize the poor, powerless people. The film is inspired by the legend of Hanuman.

Meanwhile, Monkey Man is slated to release in the United States on April 5.