

Aamir Khan

AAMIR KHAN is one of India's most famous Bollywood stars. His new TV series, Satyamev Jayate, explores India's biggest social challenges and has been seen by hundreds of millions of people in his country and across Asia. Khan was recently selected as one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people.

Aamir Khan, born in 1965 to Zeenat and Tahir Hussain Khan, belongs to the family of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, legendary freedom fighter and President of the Indian National Congress for the 11 years leading to the independence of India in 1947.

Both his father Tahir Hussain Khan and uncle Nasir Hussain Khan were film makers for over four decades, and so, having grown up with films being made around him the world of film making was a natural choice for Khan. After high school he worked as an apprentice for four years to his uncle Nasir, one of the most successful film makers of his time.

Khan made his acting debut in 1988 with Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, a film produced by his uncle Nasir and directed by his cousin Mansoor Khan. The film was a huge success, catapulting Khan into overnight stardom.

In his 25-year career, Khan has acted in 45 films, and has established himself as one of the most bankable stars in mainstream Indian cinema. By selecting unusual stories, he has consistently been challenging himself, and by hitting the bullseye at the boxoffice with each experiment, he has been redefining the rules of mainstream Indian cinema.

In 2001 he turned producer with the acclaimed and hugely successful Lagaan (2001). The film went on to be nominated at the Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film category in 2002.

In 2006, he starred in Rang De Basanti which was nominated for a BAFTA in the Best Foreign Language Film category, and several of his films have been sent as India's entry to the Academy Awards.

He made his directorial debut in 2007 with Taare Zameen Par (2007), the story of the struggles of a dyslexic boy. Taare Zameen Par went on to be a huge success and was instrumental in changing attitudes towards childcare and education in India.

His film 3 Idiots (2009), which dealt once again with education, went on to make box-office history breaking every box office record and becoming one of India's highest grossing films, breaking Khan's own previous box office record of Ghajini in (2008). His reputation as 'Bollywood's most dependable star' has remained intact despite the risks he has often taken by making very challenging and unusual films as producer and actor, like Peepli Live, Delhi Belly and Dhobi Ghat (Mumbai Diaries).

But his most challenging, influential and successful venture so far has been his TV show Satyamev Jayate (Truth Alone Prevails), which tackles social issues like female foeticide,

healthcare, child sexual abuse and alcoholism among others. The show, which has an estimated viewership of 800 million, made an unprecedented impact on the nation, triggering crucial conversations and enabling real change on the ground. The show captured the interest of audiences across the world, and Aamir was featured on the cover of TIME magazine in the September 2012 titled 'Khan-Quest' which talked about the impact and success of the show. TIME magazine then went on to feature him in their list as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in April 2013.

Aamir has been honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri (India's fourth highest civilian award) in 2003 and the Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian award) in 2010, for his contribution towards the arts. He is part of the government-organised IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign to raise awareness about malnutrition, and in 2011 was appointed as National Brand Ambassador of UNICEF to promote child nutrition. He has been a strong proponent of humanitarian and social causes, and been an especially vocal advocate on education and nutrition.

The second season of Satyamev Jayate is slated to go on air early 2014, and his upcoming films are Dhoom 3 and P.K.