



# THE NAMESAKE, A FILM PREVIEW

Associated Content, Denver, CO

## **A Mirabai Films & Cine Mosaic Production**

Banner: UTV Motion Pictures,

Producers: Mira Nair and Lydia Dean Pilcher

Director: Mira Nair

Screenplay: Sooni Taraporevala

Novel: Jhumpa Lahiri

### Cast:

Tabu ... Ashima Ganguli

Irfan Khan ... Ashoke Ganguli

Kal Penn ... Gogol Ganguli

Sahira Nair ... Sonia Ganguli

Zuleikha Robinson ... Moushumi Mazoomdar

Jacinda Barrett ... Maxine Ratliff

Jhumpa Lahiri ... Aunt Jhumpa

The greatest journeys ... are the ones that bring you home.

Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri is looking forward to her New York Bestseller 'The Namesake' taking on new life as a film, directed by Mira Nair. Lahiri will also be making a fleeting guest appearance as Aunt Jhumpa. Kal Penn (of 'Harold and Kumar' fame) will be taking on his first dramatic role as Gogol Ganguli. Termed as a comedy/drama/romance, 'The Namesake' follows the story of this Bengali family from their early beginnings in Calcutta to their life as Americans.

Life as a first generation American Born Confused Desi (ABCD) is difficult for Gogol and his sister Sonia (Sahira Nair of 'Monsoon Wedding' fame). The film explores the clash of cultures and tangled ties between two generations and two different worlds. The story behind Gogol's namesake and how he stumbles through life trying his best to define himself in spite of it all, makes up this deeply moving drama, which Nair has taken from the exquisitely written novel and adapted it powerfully, yet empathetically onto celluloid.

Filled with conflicting loyalties, comic detours and heart-wrenching love affairs, Gogol's life takes him from a childhood of Bengali traditions to the life he etches out for himself as an American and back again. Celebrations and tragedies line his path of self-acceptance. Especially moving is the scene where his father tells the poignant tale of the event, which dictated the only option for the name he chose for his son and why it means so much to him. When a wide-eyed Gogol hears the story for the first time, he asks with slight trepidation, "Do I remind you of that night?" His father lovingly tells him, "You remind me of everything that followed. Everyday since then has been a gift."

Jacinda Barrett ('Ladder 49' fame) plays Gogol's American girlfriend Maxine Ratliff, Zuleikha Robinson ('The Merchant of Venice' fame) his Bengali girlfriend Moushumi Mazoomdar. Tabu and Irfan Khan brilliantly take on the roles of Gogol's parents Ashima and Ashoke Ganguli, who struggle to understand their son's choices to be with his American friends rather than his own family and his insistent desire and determination to change his name.

The Namesake will be showcased at the 31st Toronto International Film Festival, along with Karan Johar's 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna' and Yash Chopra's 'Kabul Express' on September 7-16 and released in select theaters this November. Don't miss it!