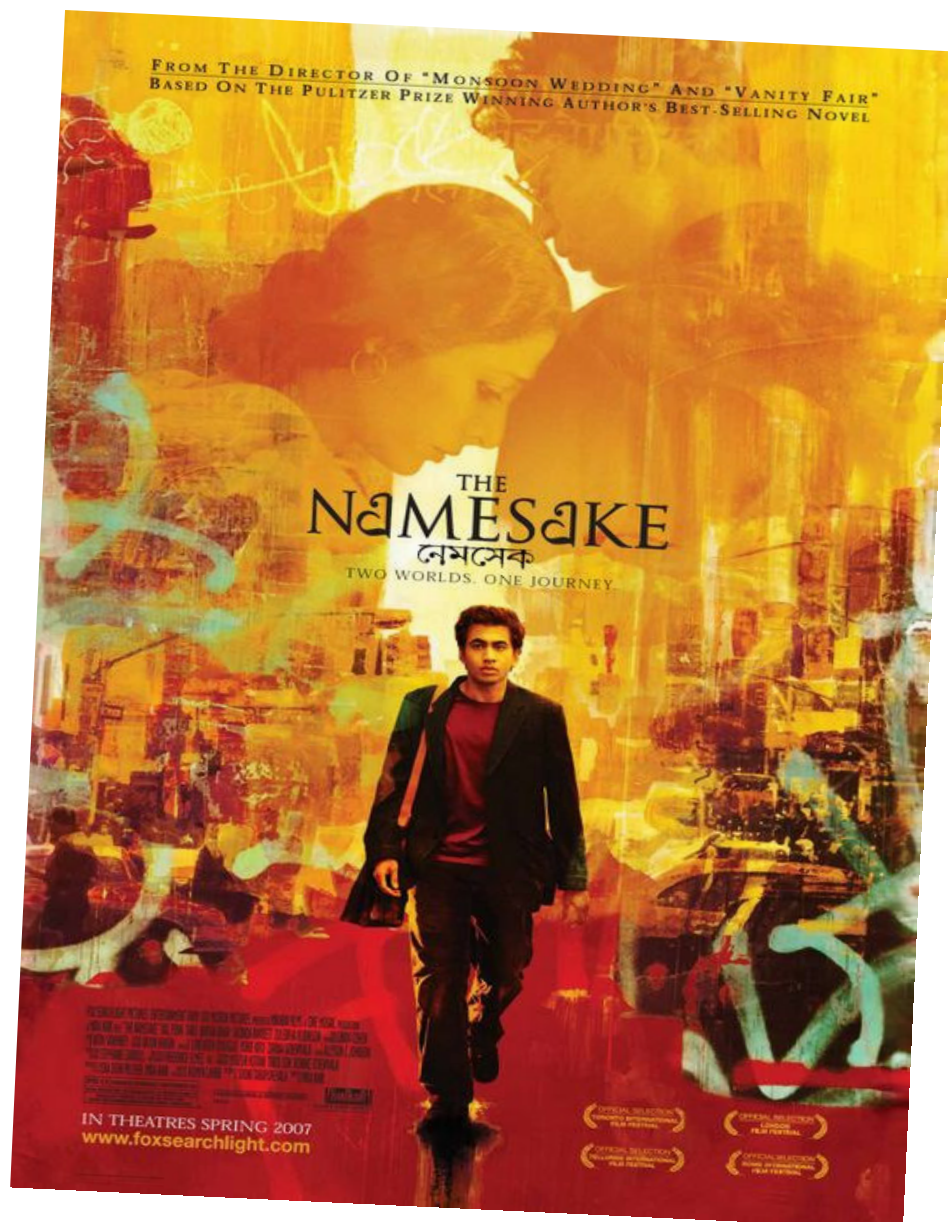


The Namesake

The Namesake is a 2007 film which was released in the United States on March 9, 2007, following screenings at film festivals in Toronto and New York City. It was directed by Mira Nair and is based upon the novel *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, who appeared in the movie. Sooni Taraporevala adapted the novel to a screenplay. The film received very positive reviews from American critics.



PLOT:

The Namesake describes the struggles between two first generation Indian immigrants, from Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal, India to the United States, **Ashima** and **Ashoke**, and their children **Gogol** and **Sonali**.

The story begins as Ashoke and Ashima leave Kolkata and settle in New York City. Through series of miscues, their son's nickname Gogol (named after the Russian author **Nikolai Gogol**), becomes his official birth name, an event which will shape many aspects of his life. The film uses Gogol's struggles over his name as a jumping off point to explore large issues of integration, cultural assimilation and identity. The film chronicles shows Gogol's cross-cultural experience and his exploration of his Indian heritage, as the story shifts between the United States and India. Gogol eventually meets and falls in love with two women, **Maxime** and **Moushumi**, while his parents struggle to understand his modern American perspectives on dating, marriage and love. As much as Gogol's experiences, the film tenderly describes the courtship and marriage of Ashima and Ashoke, and the effect of Ashoke's early death of a massive heart attack. Ashima's decision to move on with her life, selling the suburban family home, returning to Kolkata, unifies and ends the film.

Directed by	<u>Mira Nair</u>
Produced by	Mira Nair
Written by	<u>Jhumpa Lahiri</u> (novel) & <u>Sooni Taraporevala</u>
Starring	<u>Tabu</u> <u>Irrfan Khan</u> <u>Kal Penn</u> <u>Zuleikha Robinson</u> <u>Jacinda Barrett</u> Sahira Nair <u>Ruma Guha Thakurta</u>
Cinematography	<u>Frederick Elmes</u>
Editing by	Allyson C. Johnson
Distributed by	<u>Fox Searchlight Pictures</u> <u>Mirabai Films</u>
Release date(s)	<u>March 9 2007</u>
Language	<u>English</u> / <u>Bengali</u> / <u>Hindi</u>
Budget	<u>\$12 million</u>
Gross revenue	<u>\$13,569,248 (U.S.)</u>

Cast:

- Tabu as Ashima Ganguli.
- Irrfan Khan as Ashoke Ganguli.
- Kal Penn as Gogol Ganguli.
- Sahira Nair as Sonali Ganguli.
- Jacinda Barrett as Maxine Ratliffe
- Zuleikha Robinson as Moushumi Mazoomdar.
- Ruma Guha Thakurta as Ashoke's Mother.

Soundtrack:

The soundtrack has varied music, Indian, Anglo-Indian (by Nitin Sawhney), and a French piece. One British-Indian electronica piece is State of Bengal's "IC408." The ringtone from Moushumi's mobile phone is the song "Riviera Rendezvous" by Ursula 1000 from the album *Kinda' Kinky* - this is the same song that is played when Gogol and Moushumi first sleep together. The Indian classical pieces (performed on screen by Tabu) were sung by Mitali Banerjee Bhawmik, a New Jersey-based musician.

Top ten lists:

The film appeared on several critics' top ten lists of the best films of 2007--

- 6th - Peter Rainer, *The Christian Science Monitor*
- 8th - Carrie Rickey, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
- 8th - Claudia Puig, *USA Today*
- 9th - James Berardinelli.

Awards and nominations:

- **Won** - Love is Folly International Film Festival (Bulgaria) - "Golden Aphrodite" - Mira Nair
- Nominated - Casting Society of America - "Best Feature Film Casting" - Cindy Tolan
- Nominated - Gotham Awards 2007 - "Best Film" - Mira Nair & Lydia Dean Pilcher
- Nominated - Independent Spirit Award - "Best Supporting Male" - Irrfan Khan .