

A Different Evening
International Film Club at Ahmedabad University
(In Memory of Prof. Niranjana Bhagat)

Date: **July 12, 2019, Friday.**

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Ahmedabad University Auditorium,
GICT Building, Near M G Science College.



Name of the Film: **Hotel Mumbai**

(Written by John Collee and Anthony Maras)

Also known as: Atentado ao Hotel Taj Mahal

Year of Release: March 29, 2019 (USA) (Yet to be released in India)

Director: **Anthony Maras** (15 international awards + 4 nominations)

Cinematography: Nick Remy Matthews

Music: Volker Bertelmann

Genre: True Story, Drama, Thriller

Duration: 2 Hours 03 Minutes

Awards: (2 awards + 1 nomination) (Being a very recent release, more yet to come...)

Actors:

Dev Patel (Oscar Nomination + 19 Awards + 38 Nominations)

Armie Hammer (Golden Globe Nomination + 9 Awards + 37 Nominations)

Anupam Kher (15 Awards + 17 Nominations)

Nazanin Boniadi (2 Nominations)

Audio Language: **English, Hindi, Persian** Subtitles: **English**

Colour: Colour

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 High Definition (720p)

About the film:

November 26, 2008. A group of 12 young men arrives on a small inflatable raft, each of them with a huge backpack and a mobile phone with an earpiece. The leader of the group calling from an unknown place outside India, known as "Bhaaijaan", gives these men minute-to-minute instructions. They break off into pairs for the Victoria Terminus, the Leopold Cafe, and the Taj Mahal Palace hotel. Terror arrives from several directions.

A gripping true story of humanity and heroism, the film vividly recounts the 2008 terrorist attack at The Taj Hotel, Mumbai. Among the dedicated hotel staff are Hemant Oberoi, the renowned chef and Arjun, a waiter - who along with others, choose to risk their lives to protect their guests. As the world watches on, a desperate visiting couple struggles in the hotel to make unthinkable sacrifices to protect their newly born child.

It's a story about ordinary people binding together in a gruelling fight for survival. A story that celebrates humanity's highest ideals - compassion, courage, resilience and an unwavering desire to live. Most of the characters are taken from real life. Some who died in the attack and some who survived. However, the film focuses more on the unsung events of the history. The heroic stand taken by anonymous staff members and local policemen. Vulnerability and unpardonably delayed response of a vast democratic nation in terms of its internal security. A typical decision paralysis at the top in the hour of crisis. There is an excellent "take-away" for the audience. The film also deals with actual footage of the events without allowing the audience to realize the same. The film's end text specifically mentions the involvement of Pakistan. The end leaves us gasping whether it is the end or the beginning.

Trivia about the Film:

The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Canada on 7th September 2018 and received a standing ovation.

Many of the dialogues in the film are taken verbatim, from original transcripts of intercepted mobile phone calls forming part of official police records, between the terrorists and their handler during the siege. A copy of video confession from the post-siege trial of the only surviving gunman was made available to the director. This film is based on hundreds of hours of interviews with survivors and witnesses. A memorial monument in 2010 was erected in the lobby at the Taj Palace Hotel to commemorate the victims and fatalities from the 2008 siege.

Tagline: Terror has no name, no schedule, no destination... and no specific target.