

The Big Sick

Cert 15

USA 2017

120 mins

Crew

Director	Michael Showalter
Writers	Emily V. Gordon & Kumail Nanjiani
Cinematographer	Brian Burgoyne
Film Editor	Robert Nassau
Original music	Michael Andrews

Cast

Kumail Nanjiani	Himself
Zoe Kazan	Emily Gardner
Holly Hunter	Beth Gardner
Ray Romano	Terry Gardner
Adeel Akhtar	Naveed
Zenobia Shroff	Sharmeen
Anupam Kher	Azmat

Synopsis

New York, the present. Kumail is a Pakistan-born aspiring comedian, who meets student Emily after one of his standup sessions.

What they thought would be just a one-night stand quickly blossoms into 'the real thing', at odds with the expectations of Kumail's traditional Muslim parents.

And then Emily is beset with a mystery illness. Kumail has to deal with not only a medical crisis, but also Emily's parents, Beth and Terry (who he's never met before), plus the emotional tug-of-war between his family obligations and his heart...



Booking Information

Distributor: Studio Canal

DVD/Blu-ray bookings: via **Filmbank**

0207 984 5957/8

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www.filmbank.co.uk

Available: November 2017



Reviews

The humour is dark and the laughs abundant in this fresh and funny romantic comedy that tackles love, dreams and arranged marriages.

Drawing from real life, actor/comedian Kumail Nanjiani and screenwriter Emily Gordon have penned an original and hilarious screenplay, filled with bittersweet truths and a subversive viewpoint. The result is a delicious, highly entertaining, laugh out loud film that explores emotions and behaviour and makes us scratch our heads at the complexity of the human condition.

...Firmly endowed with the Judd Apatow brand of humour, director Michael Showalter manages all the material perfectly, blending humour, pathos, tragedy and fun like a perfect bouquet. Much of the film's success relies on the chemistry between the two central characters, and Nanjiani and Kazan ignite sparks in each other. But all the performances are excellent - the contrast between the two families is nicely drawn. The humour is quirky and the dramatic curve unexpected as the exposition plays out; I love the scene involving the 'bag of devotion', which is both memorable and moving. The title is a clever play on words and as for the ending, it is simply delightful.

Louise Keller, Urban Cinefile, July 2017

...It's a stranger-than-fiction date movie of enormous charm and sweetness, which plunges you into a deliberate seriousness after the setup. There is a sudden stab of anxiety at the point where most romcoms begin their semi-intentional slide away from irony.

...Photos over the closing credits show Kumail and the real Emily, and it's impossible not to yearn for a documentary that might tell us more candid stuff, particularly about Kumail's parents and how they came to terms with the relationship. None of that stops this from being a hugely enjoyable, lovable comedy.

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, July 2017

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2017 to great acclaim. A relatively modest production budget of \$5 million has already resulted in box-office income of over \$52 million, one of the highest-grossing independent films of 2017.
- ☆ Kumail Nanjiani and Emily Gordon were married in 2007, four months after they met. They spent three years developing the screenplay for the film.
- ☆ Anupam Kher, who plays Kumail's father Azmat in the film, was offered the part at the suggestion of Kumail's real life father. Kher is a celebrated Hindi actor who has appeared in over 500 films, including *Bend it Like Beckham*, Ang Lee's *Lust, Caution*, and *Silver Linings Playbook*.