

Riz Ahmed Bio

Award-winning actor and filmmaker Riz Ahmed has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama and a SAG Award for Male Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in SOUND OF METAL, currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video. He won the National Board of Review and the IFF Gotham Awards for Best Actor, as well as more than fourteen leading critics groups - the most best actor awards of 2021, to date. The film, directed by Darius Marder, is about a professional drummer's descent into unexpected hearing loss. It originally premiered at the 2019 Toronto Film Festival to career-topping performance reviews, which led to the acquisition by Amazon Films. Ahmed has also been named British/Irish Actor of the Year at the London Critics' Circle 2020 Awards for his work in Sound of Metal and Mogul Mowgli.

Mogul Mowgli marks Ahmed's production company Left Handed Films' feature film debut, co-written, starring and produced by Ahmed and directed by Bassam Tariq; the film premiered at the Berlin Film Festival where it won the Fipresci International Critics' Prize. On behalf of the film, Ahmed was named Best Debut Screenwriter at the 2020 British Independent Film Awards, and has since been nominated for a 2021 EE BAFTA Award for Outstanding British Film. Mogul Mowgli is currently streaming in the UK and Strand will release the drama in the U.S. later this year.

In early 2021, it was announced that Left Handed, Ahmed's production company, had signed a first-look TV deal with Amazon Studios. Left Handed has several projects on the horizon, including Exit West, the best-seller by Mohsin Hamid for Netflix in partnership with the Obamas' Higher Ground Productions and Joe and Anthony Russo's AGBO, as well as a modern take on Shakespeare's Hamlet, which Ahmed co-wrote.

Ahmed recently wrapped production on Amazon Studios' sci-fi thriller INVASION, a feature film in which he stars opposite Octavia Spencer, written by BAFTA-winning UK filmmaker Michael Pearce (Beast).

The critically-acclaimed actor, writer, creator, producer, musician, director and activist became one of Hollywood's most sought after artists following the explosive success of HBO's THE NIGHT OF, written and created by the legendary Steven Zaillian, for which he won an Emmy Award, and was Golden Globe and SAG nominated.

Previously, Ahmed starred in successful feature films including Disney's ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY, Jacques Audiard's THE SISTERS BROTHERS and Sony/Marvel's VENOM. He first garnered industry attention in festival favorites FOUR LIONS and NIGHTCRAWLER.

Ahmed's musical journey has spanned two decades across battle rap, techno, artistic residencies, a successful American band Swet Shop Boys, and most recently, his critically-acclaimed 2020 release "The Long Goodbye." Its 9 tracks are a breakup album like no other - these songs are about being dumped by the country you call home. Ahmed draws from hip-hop as well as the South Asian qawali tradition, to mix rap, melody and spoken word.

The short film "The Long Goodbye," directed by Aneil Karia, accompanied the album. Taking viewers on a journey that is both intimate and devastating, the 11 minute short film is an unflinching look at what may lie ahead for us in these increasingly intolerant times. It was compared to Oscar winning Parasite in its unforgettable execution by respected film critic Mark Kermode, and was raised during Prime Minister's Questions in the Houses of Parliament as required viewing for law-makers. This short, that Ahmed wrote, produced and starred in, was named British/Irish Short Film of the Year at the London Critics' Circle 2020 Awards, as well as Best British Short Film at the British Independent Film Awards.

As a vocal advocate for inclusion, Ahmed published an award-winning piece in the Nikesh Shukla; the edited collection of essays "The Good Immigrant" has been described as "essential reading." In spring 2017, he spoke at the prestigious British Parliament's House of Commons about diversity and representation. That same year, he graced the cover of TIME's 100 Most Influential People.