

3 IDIOTS

Cast *3 Idiots* is a 2009 Indian comedy-drama film co-written (with Abhijat Joshi) and directed by Rajkumar Hirani. Starring Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor, Boman Irani and Omi Vaidya, the film follows the friendship of three students at an Indian engineering college and is a satire about the social pressures under an Indian education system.

Plot Farhan Qureshi (R. Madhavan) and Raju Rastogi (Sharman Joshi) begin their college year in the prestigious Imperial College of Engineering (ICE) in Delhi. They are joined by Ranchoddas Chanchad (Aamir Khan), known as "Rancho" as their roommate. While Farhan chose to pursue engineering over his passion for photography to appease his father, Raju has taken the course to end his family's poverty. Rancho, on the other hand, is genuinely interested in science and engineering. He believes in hands on learning and tends to give unorthodox answers in class, coming into conflict with professors, in particular with the institution's director, Viru Sahastrabudde (Boman Irani), whom the ICE community nicknames as "Virus", and whose traditional and strict philosophies on education contrast sharply with Rancho's carefree love of learning. Meanwhile, Chatur (Omi Vaidya), nicknamed "Silencer", is an arrogant Ugandan Tamil student with little knowledge of Hindi, who is obsessed with topping the exams.

Sometime later, the trio find out that a student named Joy Lobo (Ali Fazal) hung himself. His suicide was caused by depression after Virus tells Joy's father that he will be unable to graduate due to the delay in his submission of an assignment. Joy had actually taken longer as he wanted to perfect his breakthrough drone design of a quad-copter. Rancho criticizes Virus' method of teaching and tries to show him how much pressure engineers face when they study, angering him further. Rancho visits his friends' families and later the trio then gatecrash a wedding to eat good food. They meet and befriend Pia (Kareena Kapoor), who turns out to be Virus' daughter and a residency student at the city's hospital. When Virus spots the trio, he summons Farhan and Raju on the next working day and threatens them of consequences of being friends with Rancho by comparing their family's income. He tells them that Rancho comes from a very rich family and does not need to worry about getting good grades and making a career. Affected, Raju moves out to Chatur's room. During the Teachers Day celebration, Chatur is humiliated when he delivers a Hindi speech modified by Rancho and as a result bets Rancho that ten years later, they would see who is more successful. Sometime later, Rancho saves Raju's dying father with the help of Pia. Raju reconciles with his friends while Pia falls in love with Rancho.

One night during their senior year, the three friends drunkenly break into the Sahastrabudde residence so that Rancho can propose to Pia. As the three friends escape, Virus recognizes Raju and threatens to expel him unless he writes a letter implicating Rancho in the break-in. Unwilling to betray Rancho or disappoint his family, Raju unsuccessfully attempts suicide and ends up in a coma. With intensive care and support from his friends, Raju recovers in time for a corporate job interview. Meanwhile, Rancho and Pia post Farhan's letter to his favourite photographer Andre Istvan, who offers him a position as assistant. After advice from Rancho, he communicates his dream to his father, who though reluctant at first, gives his blessings for the sake of his son's happiness. Raju also succeeds in getting the corporate job.

Infuriated by Rancho's influence, Virus sets a difficult final exam to fail Raju. Pia tries to help the trio by revealing to them the location of the exam paper, but Virus finds out and expels them. Pia confronts Virus about her brother who committed suicide because he couldn't meet Virus' expectation of clearing the engineering exam. That same night, Virus' pregnant elder daughter Mona goes into labour during a heavy storm which cuts off all traffic and electricity. Rancho and

the other students use their engineering knowledge to make a medical machine on spot and deliver the baby with the help of Pia over video call. A grateful Virus finally acknowledges Rancho as an extraordinary student, and revokes their expulsion. On graduation day, Rancho suddenly disappears shortly after the ceremony ends.

Ten years later, Farhan is a successful wildlife photographer while Raju is married and settled with his family in a comfortable lifestyle with a corporate job and Chatur is the vice president of a reputed corporation in the United States. Neither of them have heard from Rancho ever since graduation. Arriving at Shimla, they meet a man who turns out to be the real Ranchoddas Chanchad (Javed Jaffrey). From him, they learn that the Rancho they knew was actually "Chhote", an orphaned servant to the Chanchad family. Ranchoddas' father arranged for Chhote to attend ICE in his son's name, so that his son could take credit for the degree. Ranchoddas provides Chhote's address in Ladakh, where he is a schoolteacher. On the way, they pass Manali and rescue Pia from marrying her materialistic fiancée Suhas. Chatur meanwhile is in a hurry to crack a business deal with world-renowned scientist and businessman with 400 patents to his name, Phunsukh Wangdu.

Upon arrival in Ladakh, the four find the village school, witnessing young students' inventions that resemble Rancho's own college projects. Raju, Farhan and Pia then happily reunite with Rancho and Pia and Rancho kiss each other, but Chatur insults Rancho and asks him to sign a statement that he is the least successful one. Without comment, Rancho does so. As Chatur walks away in triumph, Rancho reveals himself to be Phunsukh Wangdu, much to his friends' and Pia's surprise. Learning this, a horrified Chatur accepts his defeat and begs him to sign the contract while Pia and her three friends run away laughing.

Reviews *"Despite Aamir Khan's charismatic performance, this initially amusing comedy gets sadly lost in a melodramatic second half full of ludicrous situations and unnecessary revelations, with a pathetic climax that believes that hugs and laughs are enough to solve everything."*

"Even though there are no high-octane action sequences, it is captivating as well as being funny and many lessons there to be found. Though definitely good, the ending is simply too good to be true. Nevertheless, it is a fine film with a lot of heart, a lot of soul and everything else."

"Despite its flaws, 3 Idiots conveys a powerful message about how valuable your friends can be when they push you toward reaching your own highest potential. Cinematography employed here is top-notch and world class."

"Keeping aside the emotional whiplash, 3 Idiots will be meaningful for anyone who has ever struggled to find their bliss. Dialogues are massy and are the highlight in the film. Screenplay is stitched into the runtime with such elegance backed by adrenaline pumping plot."

"Watch 3 idiots for Amir Khan's incredible acting, intelligent and highly energetic screenplay & direction (Rajkumar Hirani has done it yet again!) amazing chemistry among actors, some of the best comedy scenes coming from Indian cinema after a long time and a heartwarming story which keeps you spell bound right till the end. I would rate it as among the best from Amir Khan (which obviously means among the very best from Bollywood.)"