

'This is a dream come true.'

Actor **AUROSIKHA DEY** participated in the Cannes Film Festival, representing the film *The Shameless*, in which she played the character Durwa. I talked to her and wanted to know about the experiences she had gained. Here are the excerpts of that conversation.



Congratulations on representing your film “The Shameless” at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Could you share your experience and your movie’s reception at the festival?

When I first heard the news from my director and producer, I was numb for a fraction of a second, searching for the perfect

expression. This is a dream come true; I feel ecstatic. It is an honour to represent my film on such a prestigious platform and present it to a global audience. I am both happy and humbled by this opportunity. I had a great time in Cannes. It was a privilege to meet many professionals worldwide, learn about new cultures and passions, and discuss ideas and filmmaking. The film was received extremely well at Cannes. The audience's reaction was incredible. They appreciated both the story and my performance in the movie. I am very humbled and honoured by the response.

Please tell me about your character in "The Shameless" and how you felt working with Anusuya.

I am thrilled to contribute to this exceptional project. My director, Konstantin Bojanov, crafted a brilliant script and meticulously outlined the character 'Durwa', which provided invaluable clarity for my preparation. As a primary cast member, Durwa introduces shades of grey and compels the audience to confront the conflict between conventional norms and individual will. She is aggressive and fiercely focused on securing her daily livelihood above all.

I had a great time working with Anusuya. I am thrilled and proud of the global adulation and appreciation the film and the entire team have received.

The Cannes Film Festival is known for its glamour and star-studded red-carpet events. Can you describe any memorable moments or interactions with fellow artists or industry professionals during the festival?

I was extremely excited to be on the Cannes red carpet and present my film. I was wearing a beautiful saree designed by Priyanka Raajiv. Right before walking on the red carpet, I was a bit nervous and jittery but also thrilled. There were so many photographers ready to take our pictures. I chatted with my co-actors, and they all shared the same feelings. It was my

day.

As an artist, how do you view the importance of platforms like Cannes in promoting diverse and thought-provoking cinema worldwide, and what impact do you hope your film will have on audiences globally?

It's an honour to represent my film on such a prestigious platform and present it to a global audience. I am both happy and humbled by this opportunity.

It's a significant achievement to showcase my work on such a grand stage. As an actor, you always aspire to reach a broader audience, allowing your work to be visible and appreciated. Being able to do so on a platform like Cannes, one of the biggest film festivals in the world, not only marks a proud moment for me as an actor but also reaffirms faith and confidence in myself.

With the success of "The Shameless" at Cannes, what are your future aspirations and goals as an actor? Are there any dream roles or collaborations you'd like to pursue in the coming years?

Both the role and the story are integral parts of any project. The role has to be significant enough that one cannot imagine the story without it. It's about the weight of the role. There are so many roles to choose from for my dream role that it is tough to select. I want to do as much work as possible with as many versatile directors in as many complex roles as possible.

India needs more of Sonu Sood and Gautam Gambhir

By Sunil Sarpal

Their names should be revered with a lot of respect and gratitude as they are the Role Models in our society.

Both resurrect the society where Administration fails in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities towards mankind, particularly down-trodden strata of society.

During Covid time, when migrant workers were rendered homeless and hapless, Sonu Sood came to their rescue and provided them with suitable transport so that they could reach their homes safely. In doing so, he had to deal with a high level of dignitaries to get permission to transport them from one state to another. He turned out the messiah for the down-trodden then.

Sonu, by profession, is an actor and plays generally the role of a villain in South movies. But for the above cause, he turned out to be a real hero in the public eye.

Gautam Gambhir, an ex Indian Cricketer is another live example whose heart beats for the poor and down-trodden. He is running 4-5 outlets where free food is supplied to the poor of society. He claims to have no such means to provide food but earn this money by playing competitive cricket.

Society these days has turned selfish and self-centered. They hardly think in terms of less privileged.

Me and mine are the buzzwords. .

Human being sans humanity is in the blood of today's man. As a result, people keep fighting for petty issues.

of Western Classical Music



I am a big fan of filmmaker Sriram Raghavan and after Andha Dhun the expectations were high. His recent film Merry Christmas did not fail to amuse me. It was a rapturous experience to see his film in theatre. Witty dialogs, on screen flirting, old world charm of Bombay (not Mumbai as he wrote in title roll) and a Hitchcockian drama in a Victorian set up is all I needed for a thorough entertainment. However, there is more to it if you see details and feel the film. The screenplay is doubtlessly taut with twists and turns every 15

minutes; there is God in details. The visuals of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings of Mumbai added a splendour. Particularly for people who like Mumbai, this movie is a treat because Bombay seeps into it as a character. With an overtone of Christmas, the choice of cityscape cannot be better than Bombay in whole of India.

I never knew Katrina Kaif has so much left in her in terms of acting and histrionics. In Bollywood and regional films of India an actress is outdated after few years being in her peak. She is generally shown and seen as a Diva and an item number. Most of the actresses are out of business before they hit mid-life. So, in that kind of background Katrina has made a comeback and what a comeback it is!! Her charm added to her free willy nature of the character and surprisingly her histrionics later on exhibited the violence and cruelty in that character. Vijay Setupathy made "Non-Acting" his acting style. His witty one liners, awkward dance and subtle expressions made my day. His method acting made it a superb watching experience. And I must mention Sanjay Kapoor, who, in a brief role, was hilarious.

The movie is a dark comedy, a Noir film where two lonely souls with chequered past and shades of grey cross paths on a Christmas night and gets locked forever. You may love or hate the ending but last 15 minutes was extraordinary. And now comes the role of Western Classical Music in creating and maintaining the mood of this film.

I have observed earlier in Andhadhun how beautifully Sriram Raghavan used Beethoven's Symphony no.5 to show the jarring visuals and rapturous moments. Similarly, the background music in "Merry Christmas" was heavily influenced by Western Classical Music. For example, during the gunshot the crescendo of Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite no 1, "In the hall of the Mountain King" superbly helped to muffle the crime. If you hear this classical music piece you will relate how the slow tempo initially is growing to a thundering crescendo eventually

within few minutes. For your reference I am pasting the Youtube link below. If you see the film you can relate to what I mean.

Similarly, to add class, Maria was playing Habanera from Carmen by Bizet. Listen to the video. Ronnie was constantly saying "Oh she is a classy woman." In India, due to a colonial hangover, anything Western means sophistication and it implies that to enjoy western classical music, Opera particularly one needs good education and sophistication, which is treasured by many. So the Habanera from Carmen is a great choice to exemplify class.

And in the end Vivaldi's Winter played for almost 10 minutes to the perfection. Starting with the Pizzicato which exemplified the sprinkling of doubt in the police officer's mind, it moves on to a rise in tempo and tone, where swiftly the hidden things expose fast climaxed with the exchange of ring between two souls with tormented past. There is anxiety, hope, romance, despair, magic realism and baffle in that last 5 minutes superbly portrayed by Vivaldi's Winter. Nowhere in Bollywood I expected Vivaldi's Winter to personify the swift changes of human behaviour amidst the movie characters. Sriram Raghavan deserves a special mention for this intelligent use of western classical music to evoke and maintain feelings in a film.

Earlier I have observed use of Western Classical Music pieces in a Satyajit Ray movie or Shyam Benegal movie. For example, Gluck's Melodie from Orpheus and Euridicce was used in "Jana Aranya" by Ray and he also borrowed Mozart's Symphony no 25 in Feluda theme in "Joy baba Felunath" or Mozart Symphony "Jupiter" and Requiem mass in songs of "Hirak Rajar Desh e". Kamaleswar Mukherjee used Beethoven Symphony 5 first movement in his "Meghe dhaka tara". Shyam Benegal films like Kalyug, Trikal or Mammo used music of Beethoven and Mozart. However, in Bollywood use of Western classical music motifs are few and far. In a refreshing take, Sriram Raghavan has used Vivaldi,

Grieg and Bizet in "Merry Christmas" to reflect and set the mood.

Overall, the movie "Merry Christmas" brings a point that "Content is King" in an industry flooded with Jawaans, Pathaans and Animal. Merry Christmas is a thoroughly entertaining movie where you have to sit on the edge not to miss the details. Particularly the edgy ending was something a movie goer will remember for a long, long time. In fact, Merry Christmas opens a new year of pure filmmaking and story telling in Bollywood

_____Biswa Prasun Chatterji.

20 □□□□□ □□□□ □□□□□ □□
□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□ □□
□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□

BOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

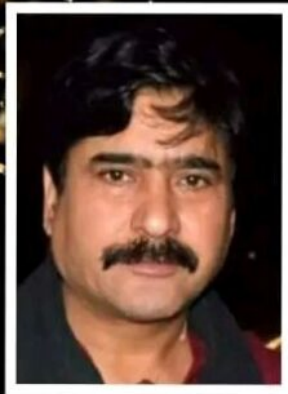
4TH SEASON

Welcome you

20 JANUARY 2024
10:00AM TO 10:00PM

VENUE:

VEDA KUNBA THEATRE: CINTAA TOWER, NEAR
KOKILABEN HOSPITAL, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI
WEST, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA



YASHPAL SHARMA
(FOUNDER)



PRATIBHA SHARMA
(FOUNDER)

OUR BIFF TEAM



RAMPAL BALHARA



**DR. ALPANA
SUHASINI**



SUNIL BENIWAL



VISHAL SHARMA



DALBIR SINGH



DR. MINAXI SINGH



**DR. TABASSUM
JAHAN**



MONICA DAWAR



SONIA SARTAJ



**DR. PRATIBHA
PHADKE GUPTA**



MAUNA SHAH

📅: 01 0000000 0000

0000000 0000000000 00000 0000000000 00 0000 000000 000000 000 0000
 00 000 000 00 000 00 000 00 000 00 000000 000 00 0000 000
 000000000 000000 0000000000 00 0000000000 00 000 00 000000 000
 20 000000 2024 00 00000 000000 00000000, 00000000 000000 000 0000 00
 000 000 00000000 000000 0000000000 00000000 000000 000 00000000000
 000000 00000000000 000000 000000 0000000000 0000000000 000000 0000000000
 00 0000000000 0 0000000 000 000000

0000 000 00 00000000 00000000000 000000 0000000000 00 0000000000 000000
 0000000000 00 00000 2020 0000 0000 0000 00 00 00000 00000000 0000 00000000

2020-2021 17-18 20 2024

2020-2021 17-18 20 2024

2020-2021 17-18 20 2024

□□
□□
□
□□
□□
□□
□□
□□
□
□□
□□
□,
□□
□□
□□
□,
□□
□□
□□
□□
□,
□□
□□
□□
(□
□□
□□
□□
) ,
□□
□□
□□
□□
□□
□
(□
□□
□□
□□
) ,
□□

00
00
00
0
'0
00
00
,
00
0
00
00
00
00
0,
00
00
0,
00
00
00
00
0
00
00
,
00
00
00
00
0
00
00
0,
00
00
00
00

00

,

00

00

00

00

00

,

00

00

0

00

00

00

,

00

00

0

00

00

00

00

00

,

00

00

00

00

0,

00

00

00

0,

00

00

00

00
00
00
,
00
00
0,
00
00
0
00
00
00
00
0
00
00
00
0,
00
00
0
00
0,
00
00
00
00
,
00
00
00
00
00
00
00
,
00
00

00
0
00
00
00
00
00
0
00
00
00
00

ASHA BHOSLE AT NINETY



Evergreen Asha Bhosle when she was younger

First Published in THE AIDEM (theaidem.com)

Asha Bhosle, the most charismatic female exponent of the Hindi film song (from the late 1940s to the early 1980s) when it became an independent art form, turned Ninety on 8th September, 2023. She has sung thousands of songs in good, bad and indifferent films, principally in Hindi, where her singing has been the leading attraction. This is indeed high compliment as she has always been compared to her elder sister Lata Mangeshkar, who, in her prime years between the late 1940s to, the early 1980s, was the most tuneful or 'Sureela' of all woman singers in Hindi films, or films from any other part of India. Asha, however won out because of her versatility and the ability to conjure up a wide range of feelings and experiences that belonged to this flesh and blood world.

Her singing at first was not so different from that of her elder sister, a style she adopted or was made to adopt by certain music directors in order to sound like her thin-voiced but extremely mellifluous elder sister Lata. Not until O.P. Nayyar (1926–2007) came along, was she able to find her musical self. He reportedly told Asha, "Tum apni awaaz main gao (sing in your own voice)". Nayyar saw to it that she did her riyaz (practise) every morning in her natural voice which was distinctly darker than her sister Lata's and intrinsically sensual. But before O.P. Nayyar came along she had sung two non-film songs that still linger in the memory: "Geet kitni gaa chuki hun is sukhi jag ke liye" and "Ambua ki dari bole...", both composed by the brilliant, mercurial table maestro Nikhil Ghosh.

Strangely enough in 1953, when Lata her elder sister was already famous, Asha was offered three solo songs by a gifted, young composer, Mohammad Zahoor Khan 'Khayyam' for Footpath, a film directed by Zia Sarhadi and Starring two powerful young performers, Dilip Kumar and Meena Kumari. It was said that Lata wanted to sing those three solos but young Khayyam stood

firm backed by his director. 'Piya aaja re', 'Kaise jadoo dala re' and 'So jaa mere pyare' sung by Asha Bhosle are still remembered along with Talat Mahmood's immortal "Sham-e-gham ki qasam".

Soon after the brilliant composer Madan Mohan, a Great Lata fan, got Asha to sing a ghazal written by Jalal Malihabadi, "Saba se ye keh do" for the film, Bank Manager. Asha's rendering had both empathy and romance. As a singer she had arrived. But the contracts for solo songs were not that many. Earlier in Sangdil, 1952, a Dilip Kumar–Madhubala starrer, a composer of genuine originality, Sajjad Hussain, had got Asha to sing a duet with Geeta Dutt, an unusual talent. "Dharti se dur gore badalon ke paar aaja". It was a haunting duet with Asha showing both vocal range and a timbre that could be called tactile. It was a voice destined to stay in the memory of the listener.

It took Asha a fairly long time to establish her identity as a truly fine soloist, despite earning respectable sums of money. Lata held sway over the film music world as a soloist, with her obviously formidable musicality and by sounding like a 'virgin'. A musical approach that seemed to fit the image of all the leading ladies who were there to shore up the moral quotient of Hindi films and were thus curtailed emotionally, leaving the male leads to indulge in their peccadillos!

It was Nayyar, whose career was in the ascendant who worked hard to project Asha as a solid, reliable soloist. In Shakti Samanta's Howrah Bridge (1957) he promoted her as the voice of Madhubala, the reigning Queen of Hindi films and its only comedian. In "Aaye meherban", Asha's sensual singing picturised on Madhubala in a Cabaret sequence, made her sparkle. Then was the snappy, melodious solo, "Ye kya ker dala tuney" that made the most recalcitrant of cynics respond to the romance in the words and the music. In the same year Nayyar repeated his success with Asha in Nazir Hussain's Tumsa Nahi Dekha. Her two duets with Mohammad Rafi were instant

hits, namely, "Aye hain dur se....", "Dekho kasam se kasam se". Around that time, Sachin Dev Burman, created a moving solo for Asha in Bimal Roy's Sujata, "Kali ghata chaye mora jiya ghabrae" mirroring the longings of an Untouchable orphan girl played by Nutan.

S.D. Burman had a falling out with Lata Mangeshkar, but ego forbade him to give in. Kala Bazar produced by Navketan and directed by Vijay Anand, had Asha singing "Sach hue sapne mere". No female singer had sung with such abandon in Hindi films before, perhaps because the Heroines, with the notable exception of Madhubala, and Geeta Bali, who died well before their time, the only two who got roles to also express the sunny side of their personalities.

S.D. Burman got Asha to sing four solos in Narendra Suri's, Lajwanti "Kuchh Din pehle...", "Chanda re chup rehna", "Gaa mere mun tu gaa" and "Koi aaya dhadkan kehti hai", are all sung with depth and feeling and picturised on Nargis, an exceptional actress. They continue to be played on the Radio and on YouTube, surprising those young listeners are who responsive to the beauty of Indian melodies that enunciate and augment the lyrics that are set to them.

Two other solos recorded almost a decade apart come to mind : "Main jab bhi akeli hoti hun" from Dharamputra (1962) composed with elegance and poise by N Dutta, and, "Mein shayad tumhare liye ajnabi hun", a haunting melody composed by O P Nayyar for Ye Raat Phir Na Ayegi.

Contemporary composers, to be sure, had been aware of Asha's potential and the expressive quality of her voice. However, they were not going to challenge the preference of film producers and financiers who were completely taken in by the virginal sweetness of Lata Mangeshkar's voice and her unassailable technique. Asha would have to prove herself in duets (and did she!) She sang with Kishore Kumar in the Dev Anand-Nutan starrer, Paying Guest. "O deewana Mastana" and

“Chod do aanchal zamana kya kahega” spring to mind after all these years with all their freshness and zing.

O.P. Nayyar had an unusual sense of melody, part Punjabi folk and part raga-based in its inspiration: this coupled with his pulsating rhythm section of tabla, dholak and occasionally, western drums, gave to many of his compositions a distinctive personality. Even when he copped melodies from the West, eg., “Hun abhi mein jawan” sung by Geeta Dutt from Aar Paar that got its mukhda or introduction from “Put the blame on me” from Gilda, a Rita Hayworth hit from Hollywood directed by Charles Vidor. The Antara clearly had Nayyar’s distinctive touch.

Asha Bhosle, and before her Geeta Dutt, had voices most suitable to his work. Much as he had admired Lata Mangeshkar’s artistry, he found her voice to be too thin for his kind of music. Asha’s voice was very flexible, had a dark, sensual colour and was responsive to lyrics to express many moods and experiences. Nayyar understood perceptively both Asha Bhosle the woman, as well as the singer who brought his compositions to life. Until they parted in amidst much acrimony, they had literally been a perfect pair of lovers for twelve years.

Asha Bhosle, a mother of three, had been unhappily married to a man of uncertain profession, Ganpatrao Bhosle, from 1949 to ’60. He died in 1966, supposedly in a taxi. O.P. Nayyar, had married Saroj Mohini when he was seventeen and she, fifteen. They had four children together. He shot to fame with “Preetam aan milo” that he composed as a teenager and was first recorded by C.H. Atma as a non-film song. On discovering Asha Bhosle, he found his muse, and the perfect female voice for his songs. Their problematic marital status as separate individuals did not prevent them from living together in a beautifully furnished flat on Worli sea-face in Bombay.

When they parted in 1972, they had recorded for the film Pran Jaye Per Vachan Na Jaye, “Chaen se humko kabhi aap ne jeene na diya”. It was a masterly composition rendered by Asha with

unfettered emotion, which, in effect, also summed up the cause of their parting. O.P. Nayyar could not find another female voice to replace her and his career faded away rapidly. He observed ruefully later, "I put all my eggs in one basket."

He regretted having side-lined a singular talent like Geeta Dutt. Asha went from success to success over the next three decades and married Rahul Dev Burman, the gifted composer son of S.D. Burman.

This digression was necessary while discussing the life of Asha Bhosle, an unusually gifted singer and a feisty woman who has navigated with unusual grit and skill through all the ups and downs in her turbulent life. For the record her depressive daughter Varsha committed suicide in 2012 and son Hemant, a composer, died of Cancer in 2015 in Scotland. Asha continues to fight on with every fibre of her being.

As late as 2001, when she sang, "Radha kaise na jaley" for A.R. Rehman in Amir Khan's, Lagaan, Asha had retained the spring, and melody in her voice, which by then had become ever so slightly girlish. She could render fast taans (there are a couple of instances in this song) with ease and accuracy. No mean achievement for a singer in her late sixties.

She is believed to have sung Ten thousand songs in eight hundred films. One can only talk of one's favourites and there are very many. There are the three from the Ashok Kumar starrer, Kalpana, (composer O.P. Nayyar), namely, "Phir bhi dil heye beqaraar", "O ji sawan mein bhi...", "Beqasi hudh se jab guzar jaye". Completely different from each other, revealing the amazing malleability of her voice, its unique melody and the sure grasp of evanescent emotion. There is the other haunting song, from Raagini, also composed by O.P. Nayyar, "Chota saa baalma" in Raga Tilang. There are a host of other Nayyar compositions as well.

"Jaaiye aap kahan jaayengi" (Film: Mera Sanam), "Meri nazrein

haseen" (Ek Musafir Ek Haseena); "'Aaj meiney jana mera dil heye diwani'" (Farishta), "Aaj koi pyaar se" (Sawan ki Ghata); "Yehi wo jaga heye" (Ye Raat Phir Na Ayegi); "Puchho na hamein hum unke liye", (Mitti Main Sona), "'Aao huzoor tumko sitaron mein le chalun'" (Kismat), and a song picturised on the 'bad girl' in a given film, "Ye heye reshmi zulfon ka andhera na ghabraeye" (Mere Sanam).

The duets that she sang for S.D. Burman with Kishore Kumar in Nau Do Gyaara, "Aankhon mein kya jee", her own solo, "Dhalki jae chunariya..." and the two duets with Mohammad Rafi, "aaja panchi akela heye" and "Kali ke roop mein chali ho dhoop main..." certainly are memorable as are the three from Ek Musafir Ek Haseena: "Main pyaar ka rahi hoon"; "aap yun hi agar humse milte rahe"; "Jawani yaar man turki", and two others from Kashmir ki Kali—"Isharon isharon mein" and "Deewana hua badal", both composed by O.P. Nayyar and yet another duet with the marvellous Mohhamad Rafi , "'Phir milogi kabhi..." from Ye Raat Phir Na Ayegi, and, much earlier a mesmerising duet from Phagun, "'Main soya akhiya meechey'".

Khayyam is the other composer who brought the best in Asha's multifarious musical personality. Two duets from Ramesh Sehgal's Phir Subah Hogi: "Who subah kabhi to aayegi", and "Yun na keeje meri gustakh nighahi ka gila", both with Mukesh, have attained immortality. Her solos in Muzzafar Ali's Umrao Jaan bring out her astonishing vocal range, the flexibility and soz (poignance) in her voice. Her songs for the tawaif (singing courtesan) Umrao in this period piece set in mid-19th century Lucknow, stay in the memory. "Dil cheez kya heye aap meri jaan lijiye"; "justu jiski thi", "Ye kya jagah heye doston" are amongst the finest songs composed in the annals of the Golden Age of Hindi film music. Asha's singing fitted Rekha's vulnerable screen-personality perfectly, just as her elder sister Lata's did on Meena Kumari playing Sahib Jaan in Kamal Amrohi's, Pakeeza.

If this article is a shade too subjective, well... it is. While

having enormous respect for Lata Mangeshkar's peerless tonal quality at her peak that lasted for thirty or so years, one could never understand her well-nigh 'abstract' handling of emotion in her songs, as if any hint of sensuality in them would disqualify her from being a great artiste. Asha Bhosle's singing was uninhibited, earthy, intrinsically musical and very much to be felt with one's entire being. That is why one remains enamoured of Asha Bhosle's singing.

Somehow, she continues to be in the limelight not just for her delectable music. At the recently concluded World Cup Final played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India was pitted against Australia in the 50-over Cricket tournament. India lost, after giving great hope to an enormous, completely partisan home crowd. Asha Bhosle, a die-hard cricket fan, like her late sister, Lata, was seated between BCCI President Jay Shah and Sharukh Khan, the superstar of Hindi cinema. An ND TV video, shows Sharukh take Ashaji's empty coffee cup, despite her reluctance, and hand it over to one of the cleaning staff. A viewer remarked, "It was the only heart-warming gesture in the whole match." Asha Bhosle's charisma cuts through generations and inspires them to acts of gallantry.

Sam Bahadur – A lackluster effort which disappoints

A review by **Sanjiva Sahai**



Sam Bahadur, the biopic by Meghna Gulzar, attempts to bring Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw to life, but it's a lacklustre effort that falls flat. Watching his interviews or listening to audio recordings would have been a more engaging tribute.

Yes, the movie falls flatter than a pancake, lacking the cinematic excellence needed to do justice to this real-life hero's valour and contributions. The screenplay and execution, akin to a deflated balloon at a celebration, fail to capture the essence of his remarkable journey. It's almost as if the scriptwriters were aiming for a snooze fest rather than a compelling tribute to the national icon.

Furthermore, the core of the narrative hinges on the war sequences. Whether lifted from dusty archives in mere snippets or presented without leaving a discernible impact, these scenes fail to contribute meaningfully to the overall theme.

The movie adopts a docudrama-like tempo, punctuated by sporadic witty moments that aim to reflect the essence of Sam's character. Unfortunately, this approach falls short of creating a consistently engaging experience, leaving viewers yearning for a more dynamic and compelling storytelling rhythm.

Vicky Kaushal nails the postures but overdoses on drama in dialogue delivery, occasionally channeling Dev Anand – a peculiar choice. His characterization is more external that misses out on the depth. The actor who moved everyone of us with Sardar Udham, stays put on the periphery. Fatima Sana Sheikh's portrayal of Indira Gandhi lacks authenticity, bordering on the amateurish. Most of the actors in the movie come and go unnoticed. In the midst of the forgettable portrayals on reel, one can't help but salute the vibrant spirit of the real Manekshaw.

Talking about my generation- having grown up inspired by the valour and vibrancy of Manekshaw, listening to his words on the radio and later on TV, the movie proves to be a disheartening disappointment.

_____ Sanjiva Sahai

Animal – Blood and Gore!

by **Neelam Mansingh**



Saw Animal last night . The film stars Ranbir Kapoor, alongside Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Rashmika Mandanna and Tripti Dimri. It's a Blood and Gore assault! Daddy is emotionally negligible so son goes berserk . A psychopath who desperately needs help but also seems beyond help . I was wondering when the law and order machinery will enter the

cinematic screen . An alternate world where violence and savagery without consequences exists and proliferates . The women are spirited but their agency gets demolished as the Protagonist calls the shots (pun intended) the father not loveing his son syndrome becomes demonic , and the father, Anil Kapur, wimps his way looking bewildered , a linear performance without nuance ! . Ranbir , Ranvijaya's misogyny despite its repulsion manages to make it watchable . The crowd clapping at cringe moments made me wonder at the new narratives in cinema . Did I like the film ? I am not sure if I can use terms liked or disliked . Am ambivalent about its intent and purpose ? Hell no ! The director is not Tarantino! Violence reached its precipice and the Neanderthal Alpha pitch is many decibels too high ! Ranbir triumphs in terms of acting chops and manages empathy, moments that make us feel his angst . Its box office bonanza augers a danger sign for society at large . Pulp fiction is a genre that can be considered exciting but this bloodied and bludgeon me .



AFWAAH – a landmark film by

Sudhir Mishra



'Afwaah' is an announcement, if one were needed, of Sudhir's arrival as perhaps the most perceptive political film makers of our time . A brilliant take on the abuse of social media in India Today, it's weaponisation to serve vested political interests, fake news and its humongous and horrific impact on society, a telling comment on the grotesque systemic and personal injustices and subversion of law of the land, the inconsequence of human lives, be it a community, be it gender, abject and impotent silence of the intelligentsia.

The film is a thrilling edge-of-the-seat ride along the journey of protagonists caught in the web of a tragicomic narrative of their own creation. Each character is a real persona you can spot in your own environment. An amazing story of how conflicting narratives recoil on their own creators in a way, nobody could have predicted or anticipated.

It is a must see film . Sudhir Mishra has arrived .

Synopsis:

Rahab Ahmed, a top notch advertising professional takes an ill fated detour through his hometown and unwittingly rescues

Nivi, a political heiress running away from her father's legacy. This fateful night becomes a journey through hell as rumors run rife and social media becomes a lethal weapon.

Afwaah is a quirky thriller that explores the power of rumours in our society. Directed by Sudhir Mishra and produced by Anubhav Sinha, the film features Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Bhumi Pednekar in lead roles. The film is set to release on May 5, 2023.

Cast:

Nawazuddin Siddiqui

Bhumi Pednekar

Sharib Hashmi

Sumit Kaul

Sumeet Vyas

Rockey Raina

TJ Bhanu

Crew:

Directed by Sudhir Mishra

Produced by Anubhav Sinha

Story by – Sudhir Mishra

Screenplay – Sudhir Mishra, Shiva Shankar Bajpai & Nisarg Mehta

Dialogues – Sudhir Mishra, Apurva Dhar Badgaiyann & Nisarg Mehta

Cinematography by Mauricio Vidal

Background music by Karel Antonín

'Aaj ye Basant' Song composed by Shamir Tandon

'Aaj ye Basant' Song Lyrics by Dr. Sagar

Edited by Atanu Mukherjee

Production Company: Benaras Mediaworks

Trailer Link:

<https://stagebuzz.in/2023/05/04/afwaah-the-sudhir-mishra-thriller-opening-5th-may/>

'AFWAAH' the Sudhir Mishra thriller opening 5th May

Rahab Ahmed, a top notch advertising professional takes an ill fated detour through his hometown and unwittingly rescues Nivi, a political heiress running away from her father's legacy. This fateful night becomes a journey through hell as rumors run rife and social media becomes a lethal weapon.

Afwaah is a quirky thriller that explores the power of rumours in our society. Directed by **Sudhir Mishra** and produced by **Anubhav Sinha**, the film features **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** and **Bhumi Pednekar** in lead roles. The film is set to release on May 5, 2023.

Look out for this space tomorrow for a detailed analysis and review of the film by Poet, Thinker, Author: Dr. **Madhup Mohta**

