

SUBTLE MISOGYNY

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Let's try this together. Pick a random 'item' song from a random Bollywood movie, ignore the 'item' girl and pay attention to the lyrics. I pick "Fevicol Se" (Dabangg 2) and I'll skip straight to the part where Kareena Kapoor is dancing to lyrics and she basically compares herself to... *tandoori chicken* waiting to be devoured. Wait. What?

Indeed, if we look past these crowd-drawing songs in Bollywood movies, we'll see appropriation of behaviour such as publicly teasing or forcing displays of affection on the lady as the way to win over her while she's been deflecting all advances. There's a vast difference between playing hard to get and not showing interest, but that line is somehow always blurred, and often sends out the message that any uninterested woman needs to be forced into seeing the love. The underlying message in all this is the channelling of subtle misogyny. Newspaper headlines occasionally make the slip, too. If a woman makes the headlines, the fact that she's a woman, is almost always spelled out explicitly. Men don't seem to need that

MISOGYNY
hard to spell
EASY TO PRACTICE



kind of labelling. In fact, examples of subtle misogyny can be found across all forms of media. Thai soap operas caused a bit of stir with their "romantic rape" – portrayal of rape

legitimised as acts of love. Whether intended or not, women are consistently dehumanised and objectified, which gives the general masses the idea that it's okay to behave that way with women.

It's important to remember that misogyny is a hate crime and it's not limited to men being the purveyor.

Female misogynists also line up in the league. The *shashuri-bou* squabbles and troubles that have entertained the serial-bingers and fuelled the gossips of the *bhabis* are classic examples. Churning out the four-lettered slur when a girl incessantly hits on your SO is one thing, but labelling all women who aren't you and have impressed guys you've fancied with the same word is stepping a bit over the line. Taylor Swift has highlighted this in her previous albums, labelling women who wear skirts shorter than her short skirts ("Better Than Revenge") and who do whatever she's not doing between the sheets ("You Belong With Me") to be lesser

human beings. Apparently this is the 'old' Taylor and the 'new & improved' Taylor is preaching that it's important to watch what you're saying. I can't wrap my head around the concept of a misogynist feminist, so I'll move on.

Let's consider these. How often do we hear people say things like "you're pretty smart for a girl"? Why is it that if women are harassed in public, the blame is put on their clothing or behaviour and they are told to accept it? A woman with a maths degree? Just someone to crack sexist jokes about. Wore a sleeveless blouse in public? Men surely can't be blamed if they're tempted by seeing bare arms. Rose up the ranks at your job? People will claim it's to be attributed to 'unethical' acts with the boss (because the boss is unlikely to be a female as well, right?). Many a times, these are just shrugged off as normal, highlighting how ingrained these are in society.

It's important for everyone to pay a little attention to being gender neutral because a little misogyny goes a long way when it comes to harming the position of women within a society. Unless you're Taylor Swift.

Source:

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/learning/learning-from-news/438117/thai-soap-operas-trigger-outcry-over-romanticising-rape>

TV SERIES REVIEW

ARMAN R. KHAN

When I first heard about a show called "The Newsroom", I thought it would be a sitcom based on the activities in a newsroom. Boy was I wrong. It is in fact a political drama based on the daily activities of its namesake. The 25 episode series, created by Aaron Sorkin for HBO, is spanned over three seasons and has just recently concluded.

Will McAvoy is the anchor of a primetime talk show, News Night, on the fictional Atlantic Cable News (ACN) who suddenly finds that his executive producer Don Keefer and most of the crew have abandoned him due to his temperamental issues. To top that off, his ex-girlfriend MacKenzie McHale is appointed the new executive producer of News Night. But soon they learn to put their differences aside and unite with the rest of the staff in their common

THE NEWSROOM

RATING : 9/10

goal to provide accurate and quality news that actually matter. Many unexpected hurdle come their way, but – as so happens in such shows – the crew overcomes them. And it's the same way they handle their business alongside subplots of love-hate relationships that form the story for every episode. The story and the characters grow comprehensively, although each episode has different central "news".

Now here's what I liked the most – the show is based on real news and real events. For instance, we see the U.S. presidential elections debated and analysed the way it actually happened. The show just gives us an insight,

albeit a fictional one, about the news-making process on a day-to-day basis. Despite the series' serious genre, you should find quite a few comical elements.

The cast is brilliant. I personally loved the growth in the character of Maggie Jordan.

You would probably dislike Don Keefer at first, but he too comes around. It is noteworthy that Jeff Daniels, who plays Will McAvoy, won the 2013 Primetime Emmy Award for 'Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series'.

Now that all the 25 episodes are out, The Newsroom is perfect for binge-watching over weekends. I would recommend it to any budding journalist and to lovers of the political drama genre.

IMDb : 8.7/10

Rotten Tomatoes : 75%