



Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana

Director: Ratnaa Sinha
Screenplay: Kamal Pandey
Cast: Rajkumar Rao, Kriti Kharbanda
Strength: Acting
Weakness: Storyline
Runtime: 137min
Rating: 7/10

PLOT: The film starts with Aarti Shukla (Kriti Kharbanda), a small town educated girl falling in love with Satyendra, the man her parents fixed her marriage with. Sattu (Rajkumar Rao) works as a clerk in the excise department of the government. This, along with his upper-class family, impresses both Aarti and her conservative family. However, when all seems to be going well, things take a wrong turn as, on the day of the wedding, Aarti runs away due to her fear of becoming a typical housewife and losing her ambition of becoming an IAS officer.

REVIEW: Films featuring social issues seem to



have become the new trend in Bollywood. Although this movie deals with issues like bribe, dowry and gender equality, the story is pretty repetitive especially for those who have recently watched Badrinath Ki Dulhaniya. However, the film does give an insight into the life of a middle-class girl who often has to fight with both her own family and in-laws to live her dreams. It also shows how sexism is rampant in the rural parts of India through social conditioning, like where a boy simply feels superior due to his parents' constant pride of having a son and demanding an outrageous amount of dowry for simply letting their son marry a chosen girl.

The story has all the elements of a typical Bollywood film but the only difference is the performance of Rajkumar Rao. Most big-budget romantic comedies in Bollywood these days have mediocre actors playing the leads with very basic acting. However, Rajkumar Rao is an actor that will take the audience's breath away with his acting. The dull story becomes worth a watch simply because of Rajkumar Rao's amazing performance as the simple, humble government clerk who merely wants a wife. Later in the story, Rao transforms into a man that no longer believes in love and wants revenge for the social humiliation caused by Aarti; a performance that is simply remarkable. Aarti Kharbanda complements Rajkumar Rao's acting with her refreshing charm. All the supporting actors also did an amazing job of portraying life in a small town. For those who want to reminisce the 90's with a modest family drama, Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana is definitely worth a watch.

A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS

Director: Scott Moore, Jon Lucas
Cinematography: Mitchell Amundsen
Cast: Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn, Cheryl Hines
Strength: Comical aspects
Weakness: Poor storyline, Predictable plot
Runtime: 104 minutes
Rating: 6/10

PLOT: When Amy (Mila Kunis), Kiky (Kristen Bell) and Carla (Kathryn Hahn) are all over the place trying to figure out how to create the perfect Christmas for their family, their mothers decide to show up all of a sudden and double their difficulties. This is where things get a little messy, as the depreciated and oppressed ladies try to defy the compli-

cated and tiresome job of being the multi-tasking mom planning a perfect holiday for the family. However, things don't go as planned and a series of disasters take place before Christmas Eve. **REVIEW:** A Bad Moms Christmas is the sequel of the movie Bad Moms which was a big hit last year. Since Bad Moms was a massive success, the expectations were a bit high from the beginning for this sequel. However, this Christmas comedy movie somehow failed to please the audience due to its lack of innovative storyline.

The intimacy between the three friends was portrayed beautifully in the previous film, and that was something the viewers were looking forward to in

this film. Even though the actors represented their characters impeccably, the affinity between them was absent until the ending of the movie. The plot of the film was quite predictable and can be guessed within the first 30 minutes of the movie. A Bad Moms Christmas felt incomplete mainly due to the absence of an inventive storyline. Except the comical aspects, the rest of the movie seemed pretty mundane. The only good element in the film was the use of excellent humor shown by Carla (Kathryn Hahn) and her mother (Christine Baranski) which stole the show and gave the audience a good laughter.

Reviewed by Rushabah Tabassum

NOUKADUBI (2011)

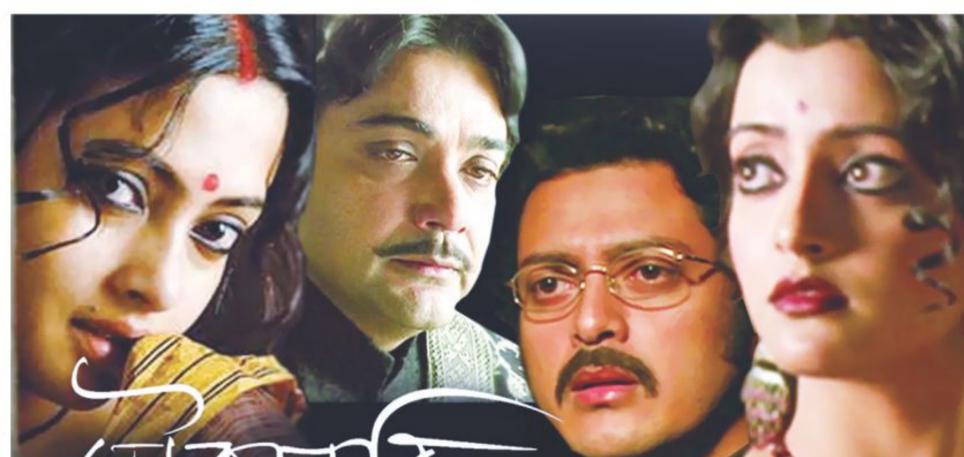
Director: Rituparno Ghosh
Screenplay: Rituparno Ghosh, Gulzar
Cast: Raima Sen, Riya Sen, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Jisshu Sengupta
Duration: 145min

PLOT: Based on the story originally written by Rabindranath Tagore, Noukadubi is a near-to-perfect portrayal of the story of four lives being intertwined by fate. The movie unfolds when the main characters Ramesh and Hemnalini are shown to be in love but as the plot progresses, like every other great love story, they face obstacles that hinder their relationship. Ramesh's father wants his son to marry a widow's daughter, who Ramesh eventually succumbs to. The story takes a surprising twist when the newlyweds get washed up ashore after a boat crash, leading to characters like Kamla and Nalinksha to step in and take the story to an entirely different turn.

REVIEW: Noukadubi is an exceptional film that not only contains a great story but brilliant direction and a lively cast. Rituparno Ghosh showed his natural knack towards filmmaking by handling a generic beginning and giving it an ending of an entirely new perspective, not failing to leave behind a lingering sense of awe. Raima Sen, as usual, put up an amazing portrayal of Hemnalini with much elegance. Even though the wood-

ness of Hemnalini's brother came off as jarring compared to the other veteran actors, the overall film stood out for its exceptional cinematography and dialogue.

Set in the 1920s, the film couldn't have had a better set representation to portray the time period. What contrasted the story more were the selec-



tion of the Tagore songs that went perfectly with the scenes and situations in the story. Even though the film's plot dates back to an old era, the relationship of Hemnalini and her father doesn't fail to grab the viewer's attention as it screams out how ahead the film was of its time. It was amazing how even in that kind of social barrier; Hemnalini's father manages to maintain a very mod-

ern relationship with his daughter.

On the other hand, Ramesh was portrayed as this man in love but unsure of what to choose in life. Even though his indecisiveness is what created the story in the first place, his character could have definitely used a bit more stability. The Bengali version of the movie is much more appreciated than

the Hindi because the dubbing makes it lose its originality even though Rituparno himself dubbed the character of Nalinksha's mother. Tagore stories are always enchanting, and if a story that leaves a lingering aftertaste like gourmet wine is appreciated, then Noukadubi is hands down a must watch.

Reviewed by Munia Islam

Reviewed by Amira Amin