

Film Review: RRR

Rise, Roar, Revolt or Regressive, Racial and Rancid?

A film directed, financed and styled by the Rajamouli family, RRR is a 67 million USD budget mainstream film that is not entirely original but is surely of an Indian savoury palate. Borrowed ingredients with an interesting cut-and-paste Photoshop recipe, psychedelically reheated and garnished with ripe Indian spices that became a bestseller like "KurKure" - Teda hai par Mera hai!

An emotional appeal, a over-exaggerated cry of a patriotic war, in field of masterful special effects take us on an unimaginable visual journey of magnitude Rajnikant³! Beware, there are several deja vu, borrowed and memory re-coils in this film's reels. That's why Rajamouli's kurkure crunchies are a bit rancid!

RRR's filmy vision is made relevant through the stringing spun of context and undercurrents of Hindu mythology. On the one hand, traditional Hindus movie goers will appreciate the flooding references of characters, context, plots, religious chantings around their revered deities who are fighting guns and cannons with Stone Age weapons. However, this theme is too aggressive, regressive, racial, on the other hand, for non-believers. For them it is exploitation of the sacred and religious cow.

To be more contemporary RRR uses contemporary political narratives, i.e., "Ram Rajya" and "Hindu Rashtra" and marketing of "Brand India".

It is dangerous how RRR subliminally manipulates affirmation into militarization and normalization of violence in the name of patriotism and political goals. This reduces entire visual magnanimity to a racist and politico-religious propaganda. In this light of a lustfully violent, regressive and racist resentment, the commercial success of RRR brings Indian collective consciousness under a bad patina.

That's why I walked out of the RRR movie unimpressed, thinking it deserved another "R". Not "R" for Restricted, Ravishing, Royal, Rebel or Refreshing or Rhapsodic, but simply an "R" for Refusal to watch this film... Of course, this is the opinion of a wacky movie buff, the religious patriot movie watchers may disagree!

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Supporting document*

BASIS/ JUSTIFICATIVE OBSERVATIONS

Partial list of plots and scenes that recoils past movie experiences:

1. Film starts with shout of “Malli”, same in movie “Pholan Devi” by Shekhar Kapoor
2. Fighting the British Empire, Film encashes on emotions of India’s freedom struggle and evokes dejavu or similar genre emotions of movies “Lagaan” and “Bajrangi Bhaijaan”.
3. Bullwhip Beating Scene was cheap imitation of scene from movie – “Passion of Christ”
4. Michelangelo’s painting of hands touching, creation of Adam painting is used.
5. Overuse of Idea of Prometheus, that he was trying to help humanity hence he is punished!
6. “One pound bullet” dialogue reminds “Ek Chutki Sindoor” from film - Om Shanti Om
7. Emphasis on mystical Tribal Anti-dotes pushes the Ayurveda’s Promotional envelope.

Plots/Scenes that propagate violence and religion for patriotic and political goals:

8. Ajay Devgan’s mission of “Weapon in every hand”, which becomes life motto of his son Further, Death of Ajay Devgan – Suicide Bomber is also glorification of violence.
9. While in jail, actor irrelevantly recites a Sanskrit mantra/ Vedic shloka, in protest?
10. Use of flag in “saving drowning boy” scene. If a boy was of Chinese origin, saving him would be less courageous? Less humanitarian? Or anti-national/ anti-heroism/anti-religious?

End of Document, 07th Feb, 2023