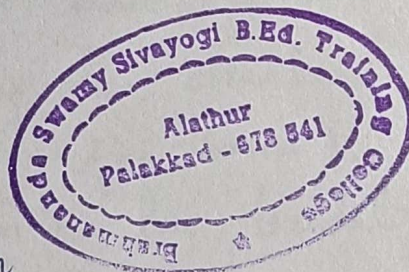


THEORETICAL BASES OF TEACHING ENGLISH

FILM REVIEW ON
"DARLINGS"

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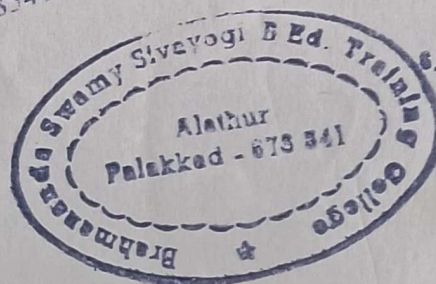
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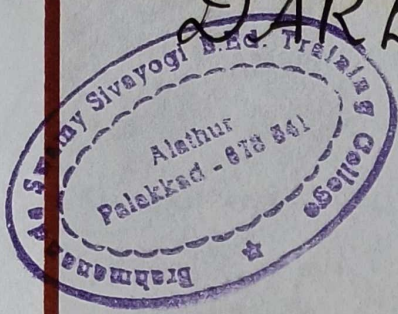


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"DARLINGS" - FILM REVIEW



People are drawn to films for a variety of reasons - some for a precious few hours of escapism; others to find out some new truths about the world we live in. Black comedies have become a delicious new genre in Bollywood, especially for astute filmmakers to effectively portray scathing critiques of social evils that are a dime a dozen in India's conservative society. Netflix's latest Hindi movie "Darlings" takes the issue of marital abuse head on, delivering a delightful deranged quirky comedy where every performance stands out.

Alia Bhatt stars as ~~"Badi"~~ "Badru" a seemingly timid housewife who is consistently manhandled by her drunkard husband "Hamza" (a sensational Vijay Varma). Sick and tired of seeing her son-in-law brutalize her daughter, Badru's mother "Shamshu" (the always dependable Shefali Shah) schemes with her business partner "Zulfi" (Bollywood's very own Roshan Mathew) on ways to get

Bachchan to finally admit her predicament and leave her abusive spouse. The hair-brained schemes and plans concocted by the mother-daughter duo and their bungling execution is a joy to behold as Alia and Shefali delivered sub-tickling comedy effortlessly.

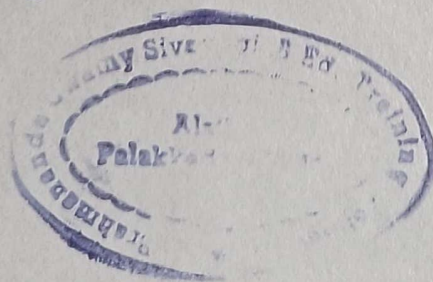
"Daalings" is a brave attempt at the relatively under-explored genre in Bollywood. This film is a quirky social thriller that eventually almost reduces to a well-made public service film on domestic violence. Made with an activist's gaze, the film wants women to punch past the abuse rather than negotiate with the scorpion, a euphemism used for the abusive husband in the film. Women, however, are conditioned to believe that they would rather be in a volatile, toxic relationship than be the object of society's peering eyes. Strangely, being in an abusive marriage is still more respectable than being in none. Debutante director Jasmint .K. Reen who has co-written this film along with Parveez Sheikh takes a closer look at patriarchy and domestic violence amid the social-psychological milieu of the lower middle class. Set in Mumbai, where the rich and not so privileged co-exist and

resilience rides high, two-women - mother and daughter, find their own heaven in hell. They find ways to being their own sunshine even as dark clouds hover around them. They laugh in the face of adversity and make merry with whatever little they have.

Even as Hamza habitually beats up Badru black and blue in a drunken state or driven by unrecalled fox rage, she devotedly makes an omelette for him the next morning. He apologises to his 'darlings' and she happily forgives him., the cycle continues. She reminds herself that theirs is a love marriage after all and these arguments and such abuse must be common across.

However, a tragic incident forces her to recalibrate her life decisions and her views on her life decisions and her views on her manipulative husband. "Darlings" isn't quite a dark comedy or a twisted suspense thriller. Told in a linear simplistic fashion, the film is about an abuser exploiting his partner over a man versus woman battle. The climax feels amorally conflicted and leaves room for thought. The irony of a beauty parlour lady drawing a mehendi on a blushing bride, while

being being to an abusive marriage next door or a handcuffed thanga being asked to peel veggies by a suddenly hardened wife and more such nuances are finely captured. The camaraderie between the mother and daughter sets the tone of this film - whether its heart-wrenching, emotional scenes - or tougher scenes made light with subtle humour. They slip into the skin of their character effortlessly, feed off each other's energy as actors and take you along with their story. Despite being let down by the men in their lives, they choose to not look at themselves as victims and that is the highlight of this darling domestic drama that sheds light on the male privilege, physical-emotional abuse and intimidation. There are several reasons to watch this film, but Shefali and Alia's brilliant performances top the list. "Darlings" is a definite must watch film.



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