

# Anubhav Sinha Slams Social Media Trolls Over 'Mulk'

MUMBAI: Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha, who is being accused of running propaganda to garner support and sympathy for Muslims through his upcoming film "Mulk", has hit out at trolls, saying the movie is not funded by either underworld kingpin Dawood Ibrahim, the Congress or the RSS, and neither is it about Hindus or Muslims.

In a Twitter post, Sinha who has directed the movie, articulated his thoughts about the negative comments that he has been receiving against the film, a courtroom drama about restoring

the honour of a Muslim family accused of treason.

Sinha has slammed trolls for how they are "lost under heaps and heaps of hate posts that you write every day, every hour for four years now" and without having "a name or a face".

He explained: "'Mulk'... No it is not funded by Dawood Ibrahim. You can ask him. Not even Congress. You can ask Rahul (Gandhi). Not even the RSS. You can check with Mohan Bhagwatji. It is funded by Mr Deepak Mukut and his father Kamal Mukut, a veteran in this business.



"No... Every post of mine is not about 'Mulk'. We are spending crore of rupees promoting the film, we spent even more making it. These tweets are just a very minor part of the campaign and like I said, we do have a life. And a voice, so outside of our work we do talk."

He said reading posts from trolls makes him smile, and he "feels bad". "Sometimes you do end up hurting us but mostly not because we know it is not your voice. In fact, it is not even you. It is just your fingers and your eyes being grossly underutilised by

your masters. It is your master's instructions and we give a damn about them."

Sinha took the opportunity also to plug in the film, which features Rishi Kapoor, Taapsee Pannu, Neena Gupta, Manoj Pahwa, Kumud Mishra, Ashutosh Rana, Prachee Shah Paandya, Vartika Singh, Ashrut Jain and Indraneil Sengupta.

"'Mulk' is a very nice film. It is not doing what you think it is doing. It is not about your masters. Hindus or Muslims. It is about you and it is about me and mostly it is about us."

# 'Karwaan' Takes Us On Twisted Journey Of Life, Death

Film: "Karwaan"; Director: Akarsh Khurana; Cast: Irrfan Khan, Dulquer Salman and Mithila Palkar; Rating: \*\*\*1/2

Life's like that. It takes some weird twists and turns to finally put you on the right road. Of course, the "right" is often the wrong for some of us.

In a sequence that would have been profoundly amusing if it were not so tragic, a beautiful lady (Amala Akinneni, if you must know) looks at two coffins and tells Dulquer, "The right one is your father".

"So far," sighs Dulquer, "the right one was the wrong one for me." Well, ha ha to that.

Excavating humour from the innards of mortality is never easy. Writer-director Akarsh Khurana attempts the near-impossible and comes up with a film that never offends, even when it poses some serious problems of pacing.

You know that the film is looking for ways to keep the journey going when there are unnecessary detours on the way. And why not? Dulquer's Avinash is a repressed, unhappy 10-5 geek who hates his bullying boss (Adhaar Khurana) and wants nothing more, nothing less, than to break out of his executive dungeon and... Well, just shoot pictures with an actual



camera, not its digital doppelgangers.

Here, I must say "Karwaan" seems inspired by the Netflix film "Kodachrome" where the estranged father and son (played by Ed Harris and Jason Sudeikis) take off on a road trip with a nurse after the father is discovered to be terminally ill.

The father in "Karwaan" (played by the ever-dignified impassively formidable Akarsh Khurana) is dead when the film opens. He is also dead-set during his lifetime against his son's chosen career as a photographer. In a flashback, we see the patri-

arch sneer, "Learn to play the dhol along with photography you can offer yourself as a wedding package." The repressed photographer-son's discussions on digital-versus-actual with the spunky Tanya (sparkling debutante Mithala Palkar) were also heard in "Kodachrome".

Small world. But Akarsh Khurana brings his own unique worldview to the trope-centric tale of estrangement and reconciliation. While Dulquer Salman's Repressed Executive and Mithila Palkar's Rebellious Collegian were seen repeatedly on-screen in various avatars, Irrfan's Shau-

kat, a Muslim wheel dealer who wears his bigotry and benignity on his sleeve with no apology and very little grace, is a unique entity. Likeable in his scumming because he doesn't hide it.

Irrfan is the only actor in the world who can order a girl to cover her legs before she gets into his car, without looking like a progeny of Osama bin Laden. He has a great deal of fun with his role even when the road trip goes abysmally off-track.

At one point, the three protagonists gatecrash into wedding and what follows is not at all amusing, although it is meant to

be. Elsewhere, Irrfan's Shaukat makes fun of a tourist couple in Hindi, not funny at all.

In my favourite Shaukat/Irrfan moment, he woos a burqa-clad woman (Donna Munshi) with Majrooh Sultanpuri's lyrics "Kitna pyara wada hai inn matwali aankhon ka" from Nasir Husain's "Caravan".

I've often wondered why that musical blockbuster didn't spell its title as "Karwaan". Speaking of music, the songs in this "Karwaan" (the one where Irrfan recalls the old "Caravan") pop up like pop-outs in a children's storybook. They just don't fit. And they annoy.

The dialogues and situations too seem often too representational to fit into the authentic ambience that cinematographer Avinash Arun accentuates with such casual diligence. At one point during the journey, Tanya (Mithila) decides to get a pregnancy-test kit only so that Dulquer can debate with her on the changing value system of a society that has gone from Kodak to Instagram in a click. "Karwaan" has much that is wrong with it. But it also has plenty that pleases, a warmth and an empathy for the misfits that makes it a very endearing road trip, albeit with irrelevant deviations.

## Acting Has Made Me Beautiful: Rao

MUMBAI: National Award-winning actor Rajkumar Rao feels that acting has finally made him beautiful as well.

The actor has received many awards for his work in films like "Bareilly Ki Barfi", "Newton" and "Shahid".

On Wednesday, he bagged 'Man of the Moment' award at the Vogue Beauty Awards 2018.

Excited about it, Rajkumar said in a statement: "While I won several awards

last year and this year for acting, I think acting has finally made me beautiful as well with this Vogue Beauty Award."

"It means a lot. I would like to dedicate this award to my parents for all the support, encouragement and all the hardships that they have faced to make me who I am," he added.

Rajkumar has films "Fanny Khan", "Stree" and "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga" in his kitty.

## Google Doodle Honours Memory Of Meena Kumari



New Delhi, Aug 1 (IANS) The beautiful face and expressive eyes of Meena Kumari have been captured in a Google doodle devoted to the late legendary actress Meena Kumari for her 85th birth anniversary on Wednesday.

"As shown in the doodle, Meena Kumari captivated audiences with her beautiful, expressive eyes," according to the official Google Doodle page.

Born in 1933, Meena Kumari grew up on camera, lighting up the silver screen from the age of four when she was known as Baby Meena. She became a formidable actor in Indian cinema, appearing in more than 90 films during her 38-year career.

She portrayed strong yet vulnerable women who made their own way through life, although they were often devastated by romance. This gave her the epithet 'Tragedy Queen'. She came to be known for sailing through complex emotions on-screen with ease.

Some of her memorable films include "Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam", "Pakeezah", "Mere Apne", "Aarti", "Baiju Bawra", "Parineeta", "Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai", "Foot Path", "Dil Ek Mandir" and "Kaalj". Meena Kumari was not only an iconic star of Hindi cinema, she was also a poet of great flair and delicacy.

She died in 1972 due to liver cirrhosis.

## 'Badan Pe Sitare' Recreated For Rafi's Death Anniversary

MUMBAI: On Mohammed Rafi's 38th death anniversary on Tuesday, actor Anil Kapoor unveiled the recreated version of the iconic song "Badan pe sitare", sung by Sonu Nigam. The original song, picturised on actress Vyjayanthimala and late veteran actor Shammi Kapoor, featured in the 1969 film "Prince". Its new version finds a place in Anil-starrer "Fanny Khan".

Anil tweeted: "One of my all-time favourite songs 'Badan pe sitare' recreated and sung by my friend Sonu Nigam as our tribute to the greatest 'Fanny Khan' of all time Mohammad Rafi sahab."

"Fanny Khan" is the Hindi adaptation of the Dutch film "Everybody's Famous". Co-produced by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and directed by Atul Manjrekar, the film also features Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Divya Dutta and Rajkumar Rao, with Pihu Sand playing a key role.

The film is about an aspiring singer. Rafi died in 1980 following a heart attack. He continues to be a celebrated target of evergreen numbers like "Chaudhvin ka chand ho", "Kya hua tera vaada", "Aadmi musafir hai" and "Maine poocha chand se" and several others.

<p>416.742.3456</p> <p>1530 Albion Rd. Etobicoke</p>	<p>416.299.3456</p> <p>1571 Sandhurst Circle, Scarborough</p>	<p>905.707.3456</p> <p>115 York Blvd, Richmond Hill</p>
<p>MULK</p> <p>3RD AUG</p>	<p>Fanny Khan</p>	<p>SAHEB BIBI AUR GANGSTER 3</p> <p>27th JULY</p>
<p>albioncinema.com</p> <p>newwoodsidecinemas.com</p> <p>yorkcinemas.ca</p>	<p>416.742.1765</p> <p>416.299.1045</p> <p>905.707.3456</p>	