

'Abhay' Is Unbearably Gruesome & Insensitive

By Subhash K. Jha

Web series: "Abhay"; Cast: Kunal Kemmu; Rating: **

ZEE5's web series "Abhay" with Kunal Kemmu in the title role as an unsmiling cop from the Special Task Force who investigates impossibly complicated crime cases, is a thriller that throws away its potential by indulging in excessive gore. The makers almost seem to enjoy describing depravity in detail.

The first episode was a takeoff on the notorious Pandher case where a businessman and his househelp kidnapped scores of children, brutalised them and, hold on to your stomachs, cut them up and ate them.

This level of depravity is, according to me, not filmable. And the first episode where the cannibalistic criminal's (played by Deepak Tijori) man Friday (Gopal Singh) sat chopping up the child's corpse had me filled with revulsion, not so much at the savage act of violence as the screen delineation of it.



A poster of Zee5 Web Series 'Abhay'

Producer B.P. Singh is a crime specialist of sorts on Indian television. His "CID", said to be the longest-running show on Indian television, was avidly watched by families. From the two episodes I've seen of Singh's web series "Abhay" seems like a celebration of depravity. Little chil-

dren being tortured and killed, a woman chained to a bed and tongue-licked like a cat by a maniac, parents getting their heads bashed with a pressure cooker by their son while a 'Bhajan' plays in the background (a better choice would have been the song "Tujhe suraj kahun ya chanda

mera naam karega roshan"). In addition, the protagonist Abhay who constantly scowls as though he ate something that didn't agree with him in the morning, has his own demon (played by Iranian actress Elnaaz Norouzi) to deal with. The second episode again

based on a true-crime, has the talented Anshuman Jha as the above-mentioned 'honhar beta' who batters his parents to death and holds a girl, befriended on social media, captive in the house. Anshuman is chilling in his sociopath's avatar.

The evil glint in his eye serves as ample warning that something is not right here. Maybe he knows what we don't.

Though the denouement in both the episodes was not convincing, and the marginal characters came and delivered their lines as though auditioning for episodes of "The X Files", the overall presentation is tightly wound and engrossing.

But the violent content must be toned down, as it borders on brutal insensitivity.

While interrogative the cowering child abuser who says, "Main toh bachon ko pyar karta hoon", Kunal blurts out, "Mader..rape karta hain bachchon ka".

Watch out for the misuse of the freedom provided by the digital space. Freedom comes with great responsibility.

Tamannah Says She Will Break 'No Kissing' Rule For Hrithik

CHENNAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has a no on-screen kissing clause in her film contracts, is ready to break the policy for actor Hrithik Roshan.

In an episode of chat show "Famously Filmfare" (Tamil), Tamannaah said that if she ever gets a chance to work with Hrithik, she is ready to bend the rule for him.

"I don't kiss on-screen basically. So that's actually a part of my contract. But I keep joking with my friends, with Hrithik Roshan, yay! I would, I would," she said as she blushed away.

The "Baahubali: The Beginning" actress also recalled her first meeting with Hrithik. She said: "I am a huge Hrithik Roshan fan. I recently bumped into him and I was so stu-

pid. I was like 'Hi, I am a big fan and so nice to meet you' and then I was like okay I didn't know what else to say. And then he walked a little and looked back. He was like, 'You want a picture?' and I was like 'Yes! I want a picture.'

"So, I felt like a 16-year-old when I met him for the first time." On the work front, Tamannaah has done several Bollywood movies like "Humshakals", "Entertainment" and "Himmatwala", but she is more popular down south.

Be it the Telugu film industry or Tamil or Kannada, Tamannaah has featured in several southern films. She is currently gearing up for the release of the Telugu remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

Parineeti Urges All To Shun Use Of Plastic In Everyday Life

NEW DELHI: Actress Parineeti Chopra has urged people to eliminate the use of plastic from their daily routine.

At the final edition of Behtar India campaign here on Thursday, Parineeti, who is the brand ambassador of the initiative, spoke about the severe effects of plastic. She said: "I am an ocean lover and scuba diver. I spend a lot of time under water and I cannot explain to you the kind of visible changes that can be seen in oceans because of plastic."

"We take one plastic bottle and throw it away and we don't think about it and then that garbage goes somewhere... Unfortunately it's filling up our oceans. I come from Mumbai. We face floods every year because sanitation system gets severely affected by plastic blockage."

According to the "Namaste England" actress, a biodegradable alternative should be created for plastic.

And she also believes that bringing little changes can create a big difference. "...boond boond se sagar banta hai (each drop makes an ocean). Everyone should put some efforts to make our Earth a better place to live in. Each voice is important. "I try my best to make sure I don't use anything which is harmful for environment. Even if I see anyone in public place throwing garbage here and there, I scold them," added Parineeti.

The campaign supports the community to step forward and help itself in achieving better health, hygiene and environment standards.



Richa Extends Support To LGBTQ Community; To Inaugurate Clinic

MUMBAI: Actress Richa Chadha will inaugurate an LGBTQ medical clinic, thereby extending support to the community. Mumbai-based Humsafar Trust is coming up with a holistic LGBTQ ART centre and medical clinic.

The actress, who has been vocal with her support for the community, said in a statement: "It's great that there can be a space where people can come forward without fear of being judged, and get the mental and physical support they need."

"The Humsafar Trust has been working in this direction for so many years and they have a real sense of the common problems that need to be addressed. Now that Section 377 has been repealed, I think more such health centres should be there to help bring more inclusivity and access."

The centre is said to be India's first ever community centre to provide Anti Retroviral Therapy and holistic clinic for the LGBTQ individuals.

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