

VOICE ENTERTAINMENT

Sameera Assails Trollers

Actress Sameera Reddy, who is expecting her second child with her husband Akshai Varde, has given trolls a befitting reply saying that everyone cannot be like actress Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Sameera said: "I want to ask one thing to the trollers..."

Where have you come from? You have come out of a mother only, was your mom very hot when you came out? It is shameful because it is such a natural process and it is so beautiful and amazing.

"There are sexy ones like Kareena who come out looking hot and then there are people like me who take time (to get back in shape) and it took me time with the first baby and maybe it will take me time with the second baby too," she added.

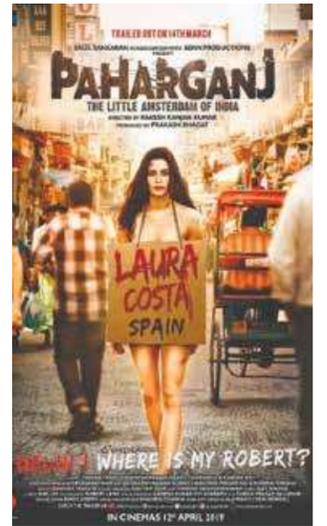
Sameera was attending the red carpet of the 11th edition of Times Auto Awards 2019.



'Paharganj' To Release In April

MUMBAI: "Paharganj - The Little Amsterdam of India", a film around Delhi's famous spot for foreign tourists, is all set to release on April 12.

The makers on Tuesday released the first official poster of the film, in which Spanish actress



Lorena Franco can be seen standing naked with a placard hanging her on body stating, "LAURA COSTA SPAIN". It depicts mystery, struggle and search.

Lorena will play the title role of Laura Costa who reaches Paharganj in search of her lost love. The movie is produced by Prakash Bhagat and presented by Salil Sankaran in association with a Delhi-based production house, SENN Productions.

Singers Mohit Chauhan, Shalmali Kholgade and Kavita Seth have sung songs in the movie. "Gandhi to Hitler" fame director Rakesh Ranjan Kumar will helm "Paharganj-The Little Amsterdam of India".

'Delhi Crime' Will Take Us Back To Nirbhaya Rape Case Again

MUMBAI: Did the gruesome, ghastly, inhuman events of December 16, 2012 change our perception of rape and rapists forever? Years later, we are still grappling with the sheer savagery of the crime that those "men" (for the want of a better definition) perpetrated on a girl who just wanted to get home after a movie ("Life Of Pi" it was).

Many films have been attempted on the subject. But the one that I remember most vividly is Deepa Mehta's "Anatomy Of Violence" in 2018, which attempted to humanize the rapists, showed us most effectively why migrants and poor wage earners in large cities are so sex-starved.

I don't think audiences in India were ready to see the "other" side of the Nirbhaya case. The film was labeled "pro-rapists" by some. The new stunning digital film "Delhi Crime", on Nirbhaya -- the name given to her by the media which means fearless -- is



also by an Indo-Canadian filmmaker named Richie Mehta.

It is impossible to take your eyes away from the trailer of "Delhi Crime" as the ever-compelling Shefali Shah takes centre stage as police officer Vartika Chaturvedi. In less than two minutes, Shefali made me feel horribly guilty for all the Nirbhayas of our country who are still wondering what they did to deserve this?

"Delhi Crime" tries to answer a very pertinent question about the law and order situation in the cit-

ies. Why are the perpetrators not afraid of punishment? Weren't Nirbhaya's rapists sure they would get away with it.

The storyline sucks you in by the sheer force of strength displayed in the narrative through performances, especially by Shefali, as also other stalwarts of the performing arts such as Adil Hussain, Rasika Dugal and Rajesh Tailang. This series promises to shake us up, remind us of what the motion picture is supposed to do. It moves.

'Aunty' Comment On Social Media Upsets Kareena

MUMBAI: After being called an "aunty" on social media, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan seems to be upset with netizens for constantly targeting celebrities on social media.

In the trailer of an upcoming web series, celebrities like Sonakshi Sinha, Karan Johar, Sonam Kapoor Ahuja and Kapil Sharma are seen chatting with its host and actor Arbaaz Khan. In the over two-minute long video, among various things, Arbaaz is seen showing a comment to Kareena. It reads "You are an aunty now.. don't act like a teenager".

After reading it, she is seen smiling. Later in the video, Kareena seems to be angry. She says: "Celebrities, actors, actresses do not have any feelings. We have to just take everything."

Despite not being on social media, Kareena is not immune to trolls and online critics. This is not the first time that she has been trolled or been judged on the Internet.



On the work front, Kareena is currently shooting for her upcoming film "Good News" for which she reportedly sported a baby bump.

"I strongly believe that 'content is queen' and I would like to see more and more women in the industry make a name for themselves and open windows for fellow women in the process," added the filmmaker.

"Village Rockstars", an Assamese movie, was selected as India's official entry to the Oscars 2019.

Sex Workers Ask Bollywood Not To Stereotype Them

NEW DELHI: "Main pehle ek mahila hu aur uske baad ek sex worker (I am a woman first and then a sex worker)." Kiran Ramchandra Deshmukh, 40, says with pride, in the hope that the world treats women like her with equality, dignity and respect.

Kiran, a sex worker for over 20 years in Maharashtra, notes how the world of showbiz has portrayed sex workers over the years and isn't impressed by the stereotyping.

She takes offence at the dialogue "Aurat maa hoti hai, bahen hoti hai, patni hoti hai, dost hoti hai... aur jab woh kuch nahi hoti, toh tawaif hoti hai (woman is a mother, a sister, a wife, a friend. When she is nothing,

she is a prostitute) from the 2002 film "Devdas".

"According to the dialogue, we don't even deserve to be called women? That's not fair. I can proudly say that I am a woman," Kiran told IANS.

Renuka, another sex worker, has urged filmmakers not to show them as "use and throw" objects -- as it happened in Salman Khan's movie "Chori Chori Chupke Chupke" on surrogacy.

Indian filmmakers have time and again delved into the life of women sex workers. "Mughal-e-Azam", "Mausam", "Mandi", "Devdas", "Chandni Bar", "Laaga Chunari Mein Daag: Journey of a woman", "Dev D" and

"Begum Jaan" are movies that have delved into their world, but sex workers and activists say these films do not reflect the real world.

Social activist and lawyer Aarthi Pai says mainstream cinema has done a lot of damage to "the identity of sex workers".

"There has been some niche cinema which has attempted to show sex workers in a much more positive light, but most of the movies have shown them in dangerous type of stereotyping. This stereotype of sex workers hanging out in verandahs and showing their breasts, chewing betel is one which dominates public imagination. Sex workers are of different types and they

have different realities. Unfortunately, great injustice is done to them through the movies."

Kiran said it is a reality that not everyone is forced into sex work. "Many women like me are willingly doing it to earn our livelihood. Even we have the right to say 'No'."

Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, whose deft handling of a story of a bar dancer won a National Award, says "They are also humans. They are being discriminated in our society. People are not willing to give them a house... They are a part of our society and we should accept them with open arms."

Author Anurag Garg, who also works for NGO Kat-Katha, feels

movies usually depict sex workers' lives on a "surface level".

"In most of the movies, a lot of glamour is attached to sex workers. They are mostly seen in loud make-up and depicted as women who are always ready for sex. But there is more beyond that."

Most recently, Tabrez Noorani's "Love Sonia" took a deep dive into the world of human trafficking. It ended with giving a ray of hope, keeping with the larger aim to galvanise support for organisations that work for rescuing trafficked women.

Actress Richa Chadha, who played a brothel owner in the film, told IANS: "Bollywood is as responsible as society is, in stereotyping sex workers..."