What is up y'all!?

Happy Sunday! I hope everyone had an amazing and wonderful week! I'm here with another instance of Cavalcade goodness for you guys. Honestly, I'm just a little tired while writing this because my sleep schedule is resetting itself. I'm on a scheduled sleep cycle reset at the moment, haha! It's kind of peculiar how you can regulate your own circadian rhythms if given the opportunity. But at the same time there are instances where people can get so enmeshed in moments that stretch into the days and weeks that they can lose all sense of this designed by humanity (or to be more precise, some humans from awhile back who seemingly got the best of us, hahaha!) calendar all of us organize ourselves with. Well, with that said hah. As always, the links to the Cavalcade Archive, MRC Sign Up Form, and Cavalcade Categories can be found below! And as always and actually factually true is that any feedback or recommendations is always amazing! On to the Cavalcade!

The Big Bull (link to the trailer), a 2021 Hindi Bollywood movie released to Indian movie theaters last October and to the Asia-specific Disney+ hotstar streaming service this April, is quite an interesting film for a foreign viewer. It lacks much of the cultural peculiarities/affectations that sometimes make Bollywood films a little inaccessible to western audiences. The film has a few scenes with songs and montages but is more of a straightforward drama with an interwoven cast of characters who work for and against each other over a period of several years and where the plot keeps the viewer guessing and the narrative tension at a decently pitched level.

This film centers around the life of a stock broker in Mumbai and the stock market crash he helped to cause in 1992 and the aftermath. The film is a highly fictionalized tale based on a real person and real events but you can't find anything in this film that actually says anything that meaningful regarding the real India or the actual person who is infamous for the 1992 crash. However, *The Big Bull* is still an entertaining film. Almost like an Indian *Wolf of Wall Street.* And a film that gives a foreign viewer (in a really generalized and atmospheric way) maybe just a tad bit more of an understanding of what India is like as a nation.

The protagonist and anti-hero of *The Big Bull* is Hemant Shah (played by Abishek Bachan). The film casts him at the beginning of the narrative as a lowly underdog stock sub-broker working for a licensed member of the Bombay (now Mumbai) Stock Exchange. In order to pay back debts caused by a bad stock bet his brother made and to try and get a car and a house so he can marry a girl he is seeing, Hemant decides to start taking some informed risks in the stock market. And from there, through sheer determination and intelligence (not to mention some very underhanded and fraudulent tactics) he slowly transforms into a man of the people, a raging bull of the Indian stock market, taking everyone along with him on an exuberant ride of profits and windfalls.

Obviously, this all eventually came crashing down. But the story of how he managed to manipulate the stock market, and to find himself the monetary capital to do it with, is a somewhat interesting one, and one that the film engagingly puts to screen. The film explains these schemes in a mostly coherent manner, in a way any lay person could probably understand with enough thought.

What is most interesting about this film however is how it tries to find a way for the people of India to believe in something together. The idea that this man was a stock market guru and that if you followed his investments you too could gain some of the riches and security that India's most well off and elite possess. The film does a good job of explaining to the viewer the economic logic Hemant Shah used to convince people that what he was doing was sensible, the so called "replacement cost theory." In actuality this theory is not sound at all, and the film doesn't explain that to the viewer because that would be a little more complicated. But the film does have some tantalizing scenes where it shows how Hemant Shah used this theory to inspire people, albeit temporarily.

India is a nation of over 1.5 billion people. And only a miniscule number of them are invested in the stock market either today or in 1992. India in many ways is a place where economic inequality seems incredibly entrenched even if the actual economy itself is terribly dynamic. Just last year the nation sent millions and millions of it's own citizens on a long march from urban centers back to rural villages in an exodus over fear of the Corona Virus, a state of affairs that saddened me greatly and spoke to how far the nation still has to go if they want all their citizens to live even somewhat comparable lives.

Will India find a way to actually inspire it's people to believe in a common India that is veritably legitimate instead of fraudulent? Who knows, but the tale told in *The Big Bull* demonstrates how difficult it is to create any type of mass economic inspiration in a place like India, the dearth of real actors of good will, and the incredible yearning and desire from the citizens of India of all castes and all peoples (from poor to rich) to believe that there could actually be a way to create a more prosperous, happier, more united India.

The kicker to this film review is that I'm not sure how you could watch this film hahaha. You could try signing up for a Disney+ hotstar membership if you can, I don't know if you will be able to from your locality. In any case, this film in the future might appear on some other streaming services or online video sites to rent, so if you see this film available on some streaming site in the future, might be a good watch!

Well that's all for this week's Cavalcade! Hope everyone has a splendid and amazing week! Much more next week and much more after that!

Peace Y'all!

-Nandhish

Movie Review Cavalcade - Archive
Movie Review Cavalcade Sign Up Form
Cavalcade Categories!