

Dhol Movie review

Sunday, 23 September 2007

Cast: Tusshar Kapoor, Sharman Joshi, Kunal Khemu, Rajpal Yadav, Tanushree Dutta, Om Puri

Director: Priyadarshan

Rating: *

Over the last few years, Priyadarshan has had a hopscotch mix of hits and misses — Dhol would fall in the latter category; a comedy so lacking in energy, it could be the work of a nervous debutant, not a veteran of 60 odd films.

Like many recent comedies, this one too relies on the dubious charms of its four doltish heroes (Tusshar Kapoor, Sharman Joshi, Kunal Khemu and Rajpal Yadav), who keep getting taunted and slapped by assorted relatives and their shrewish landlady, tired of their freeloading. Why is it supposed to be cute or funny to watch grown men behave like half-wits is something our gag-writers will have to answer!

These four decide that the only way to get rich without an effort is to marry a rich girl, and they decide on Ritu (Tanushree Dutta) next door — the kind who walks around her room in a towel, with the blinds up, so the ‘boys’ can get a good look!. (Complete review down)

Since this film is lifted from the 80s productions In Harihar Nagar and Parda Hai Parda, belongs to the time when social etiquette was different, the ‘boys’ obviously can’t just go across the street and introduce themselves as neighbours, they have to come up with all kinds of devious schemes to attract Ritu and endear themselves to her grandparents (Om Puri-Farida Dadi). All their efforts fail, and so they pretend to be the friends of Ritu’s dead brother.

The film abruptly turns into a mystery — why did the brother die, who killed him, who was Sophie, who’s the mysterious Jai, and what is the dhol, which a gangster called Zicomo (Murli Sharma) is desperate to find. The comedy was laboured and boring, the thriller section is crashingly dull (it’s not amusing watching people get tortured), so you wait for the inevitable Priyadarshan ending which will gather the entire cast (even the extras) for a community brawl. Even if you are not affronted by the sexism and voyeurism of the film, the awful performances, limp humour and punch-less lines will do you in. This Dhol is all noise and very little entertainment.