

JSB

Unembarrassed Passions

BADLAPUR, COURT, DEEPIKA PADUKONE, KAAKKA MUTTAI, KILLA, LOEV, MASAAN, NACHOMIA KUMPASAR, PIKU, QISSA, TALVAR, THITHI, TITLI

My Favorites: Indian Cinema, 2015

In Lists on December 28, 2015 at 9:39 am



The reason I really wanted to make this list is because I really think this has been a bloody incredible year for Indian films- especially when it came to debut features. I think the 'new wave' of Indian filmmakers is definitely legit now- I've been pretty bowled over by the number of fresh and distinct new cinematic voices I have seen emerge this year. These filmmakers don't carry the baggage of Bollywood, and each of them actually has something unique and significant to say about the human condition- an important ingredient I'm increasingly finding increasingly missing in films from most of our best established mainstream filmmakers- with the exception perhaps, of Vishal Bhardwaj. Also, mind you that this is an extremely limited selection- most of these are basically films from Mumbai filmmakers in Hindi or English or both. So there's possibly a plethora of incredible films from other parts of the country that I haven't even seen or heard of (please sound off in the comments section).

Since this is a personal list anyway, I'm taking the liberty of including films that may not have released theatrically yet but have premiered at film fests. Some of these films premiered last year but only released this year, but I just like the idea that all this has kind of miraculously come together in 2015. Anyway, here goes:

MY 10 FAVORITE FILMS of 2015 (in no particular order):

COURT (Chaitanya Tamhane)

KILLA (Avinash Arun)

MASAAN (Neeraj Ghaywan)

THITHI (Raam Reddy)*

KAAKKA MUTTAI (M. Manikandan)

QISSA (Anup Singh)

LOEV (Sudhanshu Saria)*

PIKU (Shoojit Sircar)

TITLI (Kanu Behl)

TALVAR (Meghna Gulzar)

Notable mentions: *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, *Hunterr*, *Nachom-ia Kumpasar*, *Asha Jaoar Majhe*

MY FAVORITE PERFORMANCES of 2015 (Lead or supporting; in no certain order):

Palomi Ghosh (NACHOM-IA KUMPASAR)*

Shivani Raghuvanshi (TITLI)

Dhruv Ganesh / Siddharth Menon / Shiv Pandit (LOEV)*

Tillotama Shome / Rasika Duggal (QISSA)

Geetanjali Kulkarni / Usha Bane (COURT)

Vicky Kaushal / Pankaj Tripathi (MASAAN)

Gulshan Devaiah (HUNTEERRR)

Radhika Apte (BADLAPUR)

Amruta Subhash / Parth Bhalerao (KILLA)

Channegowda (THITHI)

J Vignesh / V Ramesh (KAAKA MUTTAI)

Deepika Padukone (MARRY ME.)

I wanted this to be a spontaneously written list- so a lot of other work I enjoyed is definitely missing, but it was interesting for me to think of what films and performances have stuck the most with me, the ones that immediately came to my mind. Also maybe I self-consciously avoided some names that to me were too obvious- needless to say, all the films listed above are full of terrific performances from actors. So this list is definitely a work in progress- to be continued...

* : **Not released yet or in cinemas across India**

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