RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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How Bollywood Turned Rape Into Romance and Comedy

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The authors argue that Bollywood has used sexual violence for spectacle, framed it as a route to romance or marriage, and turned it into a joke. They cite actors' accounts of pressure to include rape scenes, plots such as Benaam Badsha and Tyagi, and the reuse of a familiar plea from rape scenes in Liger's song Aafat.



A still from a song from Liger

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In Aafat, two brief scenes have the woman feign resistance and plead to be spared before the song returns to flirtation.
- Ranjeet recalled that distributors asked filmmakers to insert rape scenes featuring him to draw viewers, showing how openly such scenes were treated as a selling point.
- Aa Gale Lag Jaa presents sex with a woman in her sleep as a means of saving her from the cold and has her thank the man afterwards.
- The authors argue that plots rewarding stalking or rape with romance declined, while the item number kept sexual objectification alive in a different form.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in August 2022. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.