



MOVIE REVIEW

Mohandas

A compelling tale about a young man in small-town MP struggling to reclaim his job and identity stolen by a crook

NAMRATA JOSHI

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Starring: Sonali Kulkarni, Nakul Vaid, Aditya Srivastava, Sharbani Basu, Sushant Singh

Directed by Mazhar Kamran

Rating: ***

***Must See ***Good ** Watchable *Avoidable

Hindi litterateur Uday Prakash's *Mohandas* is a compelling tale about a young man in small-town MP struggling to reclaim his job and identity, stolen by a crook. Mazhar Kamran turns it into a simple, sincere and persuasive film. The identity theft angle is not a thriller like Sandra Bullock's *The Net*. Instead, it brings forth the social, economic and political inequities and exploitation, how those who inhabit the fringes are pushed further to the margins, physically and metaphorically. It chronicles the misuse of power and blatant manipulation of a feeble administration and judiciary. It does not get overly didactic but leaves you with deep cynicism. Some peripheral characters, played by unknown talented actors, are delightfully genuine—be it the corrupt Brahmin patwari or the enterprising local journalist. But, Nakul and Sharbani, in the lead roles of *Mohandas* and his wife, are disappointing. They look too slick and smooth for the rough world, virtually as though they have been transplanted from outside.

High Fives

Bollywood

1. Kaminey
2. Life Partner
3. Kisaan
4. Quick Gun Murugun (dubbed)
5. Daddy Cool

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AMOL PALEKAR

Amol Palekar

The actor-filmmaker returns with a new Marathi film, 'Big Pictures' *Samaantar*

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SHYE BEN TZUR

Song Of Moses

Shye Ben Tzur, Indian in spirit, songwriter in Hebrew and the world's first Jewish qawwal

AIMEE GINSBURG

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Once Upon A Bard

The role of Valmiki has transformed a hardened convict into a gentle soul, much like the sage himself

DOLA MITRA

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Dude Ascending A Stair

Vibrant, eclectic, democratic—the India Art Summit catches fire

MADHU JAIN

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Sikandar

This story could have resulted in a powerful film but stops short. Feels way too manipulative.

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- 4. Quick Gun Murugun (dubbed)
- 5. Daddy Cool

Hollywood

- 1. The Final Destination
- 2. Inglourious Basterds
- 3. Halloween II
- 4. District 9
- 5. G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra

Rock

- 1. New Divide (Linkin Park)
- 2. The Fixer (Pearl Jam)
- 3. Sound of Madness (Shinedown)
- 4. Use Somebody (Kings of Leon)
- 5. Panic Switch (Silversum Pickups)

Courtesy: *Film Information*

JAISHREE MISHRA

Jaishree Mishra

On the launch of *Secrets and Lies*, which targets the international popular fiction market

SHEELA REDDY
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Chennai Corner

With "superstar" Rajnikanth vacillating about politics, the man many see as his inheritor – Illayathalpathi (young general) Vijay – has been making sure-footed political moves.

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Takes potshots at our not-so-perfect film icons and caricaturises Bollywood in a loud, sloppy and grating way.
Namrata Joshi



VISHAL BHARDWAJ

Krzysztof... In Meerut

Vishal Bhardwaj's films involve him at every level. How does he keep pushing Bollywood's boundaries?

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TUSHAR GANDHI

Tushar Gandhi

The great grandson of the Mahatma on his first appearance in a Hindi film, *Road to Sangam*

SNIGDHA HASAN
MAGAZINE | AUG 31, 2009



Kaminey

A smart caper—giddy, furiously paced, brash and great fun for most parts save the rather contrived feelgood end.

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