

Article Details

MOVIE REVIEW: WHAT'S YOUR RAASHEE?

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WHAT'S YOUR RAASHEE? HOPES TO PLEASE THE PLANETS



Ashutosh Gowariker's *What's your Raashee?* opens with a promising premise. An adaptation of Kimball Ravenswood, a novel by Madhu Rye, the film sets out to find a solution to a young man's dilemma. Yogesh Patel (Harman Baweja), a Chicago based NRI needs to find himself a perfect bride in a limited time span of just ten days in Mumbai to get a family inheritance. To tackle this overwhelming task he comes up with an overtly simple theory that all girls can be categorized into twelve different types based on their zodiac signs. Hence he decides to meet one girl from each astrological sign.

This plot also inspired, Mr. Yogi, a popular television series in India in the late eighties. Given Gowariker's stature as a director and the resultant expectation, *What's Your Raashee?* doesn't quite measure up. Even though Priyanka tries her best to distinguish between the twelve characters with body language, voice modulation and varied hair styles, the differences between the characters get confusing. Harman Baweja's performance is an unexpected surprise as he does justice to his character as a seemingly confused youngster seeking lady love. He is also realistic as a Gujarati boy despite his strong Punjabi roots.

Yogesh Patel meets one girl after the other starting with an Aries girl, Anjali who pretends to be cool and contemporary but her awkwardness becomes apparent in just a little while. Yogesh is amused yet compassionate. The second girl, Sanjana is an Aquarius and seems a lot like Priyanka in real life. Yogesh is certainly blown away but it so turns out that she already has a boy friend. The third girl is a bubbly Gemini who is a student and a dance enthusiast. Coincidentally, some girls share Yogesh's interest for music however there is always some snag that stops him from pursuing further. Either it is an over domineering personality like in the case of the entrepreneurial Libran or the successful Leo performer who instantly rejects him to the spiritual Sagittarian who suddenly turns into a seductress. As he progresses with the journey it becomes more and more puzzling as to who he is going to end up with.



Chopra's endeavour might get her into the Guinness Book of World Records for playing twelve parts but will do little for the commercial success of the film. The decision to cast the same actress for all the roles may be one of the problems along with the script. The sub plot doesn't propel the film forward and is rather distracting and predictable. The background musical score also doesn't add to the excitement of Yogesh Patel's bride hunting process. The moments of good humor are lost in the songs which crop up one after the other. The film could have been edited to keep the momentum of a good plot going rather than stretching it to 211 minutes.

For a Bollywood masala movie seeking audience the songs, outfits and hair-dos might be an attraction. *What's Your Raashee?* had a gala world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2009. The film opens in theatres on September 25.