

BOLLYWOOD

by Roshni Mulchandani

2008 was one of Bollywood's most acclaimed years with fabulous Hindi flicks. If there was the critically acclaimed and publically loved **A Wednesday**, then there was the musically rocking **Rock On!** Then there was the flamboyant **Dostana**, the realistic **Fashion**, the historical **Jodha-Akbar** and the youthful **Jaane Tu...Ya Jaane Na** before the year ended on an even higher note with both the *Khans*: **Shah Rukh** and **Aamir** vying for the top spot with **Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi** and **Ghajini**. When it came down to recognizing the best of the best for 2008, for the most part the same artists were nominated and awarded with top honors. *Hrithik Roshan* bagged most of the Best Actor Awards for his performance in **Jodha-Akbar**. Ditto for *Priyanka Chopra* as the small-town girl turned supermodel in **Fashion**. As for the Best Film of the year, audiences and critics found themselves divided between a period film and a modern take on the Indian sentiments: **Jodha-Akbar** and **A Wednesday** respectively. And as the clock struck midnight on the 31st of December 2008, a new movie year for Bollywood was born. Check out CityMasala's verdict on Bollywood in 2009.

You Gotta Watch

Luck By Chance: *Javed Akhtar's* daughter, *Zoya Akhtar* makes her directorial debut with this movie that ultimately divulges deep dark secrets about Hindi cinema. Exceptional direction and fantastic performances by her brother *Farhan Akhtar* and *Konkona Sen Sharma* make **Luck By Chance** one of the most critically acclaimed films of 2009.

Dev D: In this modern adaptation of **Devdas**, *Abhay Deol* takes the lead role as the foreign-returned spoilt brat who falls victim to alcohol and drugs after a misunderstanding with his ladylove. Director *Anurag Kashyap's* execution and *Abhay's* acting with some great shots inspired by *Danny Boyle* of **Slumdog Millionaire** fame all add to the reasons why **Dev D** should be seen.

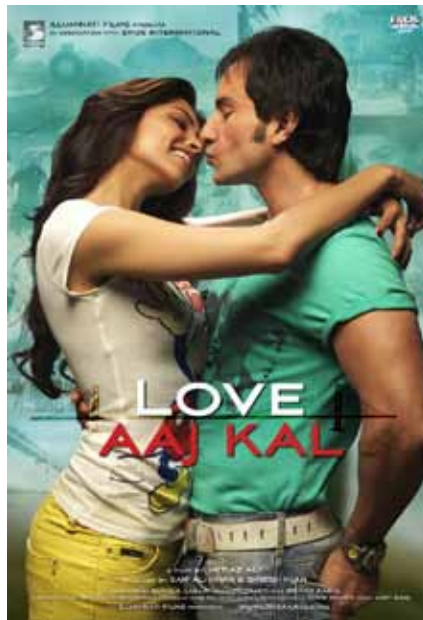
New York: Terrorism is a relatively new genre to Bollywood and *Kabir Khan* knew exactly what he was tackling with when he made **New York**. The unique selling point of the film includes the natural acting by the star cast: *John Abraham*, *Katrina Kaif* and *Neil Nitin Mukesh* amidst the backdrop of terrorism, racial prejudice and friendship.

Kaminey: It's *Shahid* versus *Shahid* in **Kaminey** which ultimately make it a top contender for 2009 adulation. The speech impaired brothers who detest one another find themselves in a real mess and needing each other more than ever in this *Vishal Bhardwaj* masterpiece. Bold and dark, this dark comedy is a real winner for this year.

Love Aaj Kal: After **Jab We Met**, *Imtiaz Ali* was back with a bang with his new offering, only this time he bid *Kareena Kapoor* adieu and took on her beau *Saif Ali Khan* instead. **LAK** depicts two love stories simultaneously; one in modern day Australia versus a more conventional love. **Love Aaj Kal** is no **Jab We Met** but has great music along with the suave *Saif* and sexy *Deepika Padukone*.

Wanted: *Salman Khan* is back and how!

Wanted has put *Sallu* back on the map as not only the most entertaining Khan but



as winner at the box office. In this full out action flick, *Salman* displays his innate talent as dancing king *Prabhudeva* directs. This one is a must watch for *Salman* fans!

Wake Up Sid: With *Ranbir Kapoor* being deemed as the next big thing, **Wake Up Sid** comes at a time when new stories and young directors are needed effective immediately! First time director *Ayan Mukherji* scores in this youthful story of a lazy boy played by *Kapoor* turned responsible as he falls in love with *Konkona Sen Sharma*. **WUS** is nothing short of a breath of fresh air!

All The Best: Diwali season saw three films fighting it out at the box office: **Blue**, **Main Aur Mrs Khanna** and **All The Best**. The last taking the cake and become the Diwali hit for 2009. *Ajay Devgan*, *Sanjay Dutt*, *Fardeen Khan*, *Bipasha Basu* and *Mughda Godse* all star in this fun comedy directed by *Rohit Shetty* of **Golmaal** fame.

You Can Avoid

Chandni Chowk to China: *Akshay Kumar*

and *Deepika Padukone* are anything but humorous in this *Nikhil Advani* directed debacle. Regarded as perhaps one of the worst films ever made, **CC2C** can be completely passed.

Victory: *Hurman Baweja* may never get it right and his performance in **Victory** proved just that by being a total waste of time and a terrible depiction of cricket in general.

Billu: *Shah Rukh Khan* may have managed to convince *Kareena Kapoor*, *Priyanka Chopra* and *Deepika Padukone* to dance in his film, but **Billu** was nothing short of a failure.

Aa Dekhen Zara & 8 x 10 Tasveer: The failure of both of these films which loosely share a similar theme: telling the future, clearly proved that while an idea may be unique, it can be executed terribly.

Kambakkht Ishq: With great hype and expectations, **Kambakkht Ishq** came and failed. Even *Akshay Kumar* and *Kareena Kapoor* couldn't save this film from sinking.

Dil Bole Hadippa: *Rani Mukherjee* was back after a hiatus only to fall flat and realize her career has come to an end. Besides the music, **Dil Bole Hadippa** has nothing else to be excited about.

What's Your Rashee: *Ashutosh Gowariker* may have presented the awarding winning **Jodha-Akbar** in 2008, his 2009 offering lacks substance. Based on a popular novel, the film starred *Priyanka Chopra* and *Hurman Baweja* whose cold chemistry once again failed.

And the year still has a few more promising movies before 2010 brings with it a Bollywoodic films. Watch out for **Kurbaan**, **De Dana Dan**, **Paa**, **Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year** and **Three Idiots**. As for 2010, Bollywood buffs have the likes of **Dance Pe Chance**, **Ishqiya**, **Rann**, **Veer**, **My Name is Khan** and many other exciting flicks. What will 2010 do for Hindi cinema? You will just have to wait to find out!