

REEL TALK

By: Manisha Sajnani

SARKAR RAJ

Dir: Ram Gopal Varma

Cast: Aishwarya Rai, Tanisha Mukerji, Amitabh Bachan and Abhishek Bachchan & Govind Namdeo.



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Power cannot be given, it has to be taken. That is what *Sarkar Raj* is about. It is an intense political drama and is fundamentally a study of power as it explores the traditions of development and takes a fresh look at the traditional versus modernity debate.

When Anita Rajan (*Aishwarya Rai – Bachchan*), CEO of international company, Sheppard Power Plant, brings a power plant proposal to be set up in rural Maharashtra before the Nagre's, an insightful Shankar (*Abhishek Bachchan*) is quick to realize the benefits the power plant can bring to the people. After convincing Sarkar (*Amitabh Bachchan*) who is against it for various reasons, Shankar undertakes a journey along with Anita to the villages of Maharashtra to mobilize support from the masses.

However, things are not what they seem to be and Shankar's dream project gradually becomes a political minefield. It is against this backdrop that evil forces mightier than ever, gang up together to bring down the regime of Sarkar and obliterate Sarkar's name from the political horizon. *Amitabh Bachchan* is Sarkar, Subhash Nagre, whom the people regard as their Messiah. *Abhishek Bachchan* is Shankar Nagre, a Management Graduate from the US. He has been helping his father (Sarkar) in his service to the people. *Aishwarya Rai- Bachchan* is in the role of an aggressive and highly ambitious business woman from London, who will stop at nothing to achieve her goals. She unwittingly unleashes a vicious war between the forces of tradition and progress. *Sarkar Raj* is the planned sequel to *Sarkar*. While *Sarkar* was inspired by *Francis Ford Coppola's* film *The Godfather*, the sequel is completely original.

This will be the first time the three actors are seen together in a film, since Rai's marriage to *Abhishek Bachchan*. Produced by *Praveen Nischol*, the film is expected to release in June 2008.

MERE BAAP PEHLE AAP

Dir: Priyadarshan Sharma Cast: Paresh Rawal, Om Puri, Akshaye Khanna, Rajpal Yadav, Manoj Joshi and Shobhana.

One formula that seldom fails in cinema is the story of a father and son where the father is always the enemy of the son, an enemy whom you love a lot. *Mere Baap Pehle Aap* is one of them.

It's a relationship between a father and son where the son wants the father to get married again even before he himself finds his lady love.

The story revolves around Janardhan Wishvanbhar Rane, (*Paresh Rawal*) a widower who has spent his life bringing up his two kids, Chirag (*Manoj Joshi*) and Gaurav (*Akshaye Khanna*). Now, when the duo has grown up, Gaurav takes up the responsibility of his father. Though he is the younger son, he treats his father like his son



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and is on guard with the vigilance of a disciplined parent. Gaurav meets his old college friend Sheekha (*Genelia D'souza*) who stays with her guardian Anuradha (*Shobhana*) who is also Janardhan's first love. Gaurav wants his father to get married to his lost love. Gaurav and Sheekha embark on a rib-tickling journey to arrange the father's love marriage and in the process, find soul mates in each other.

Directed by *Priyadarshan*, the comedy king, this is yet another movie which will make you laugh. The cast include his comedy gang, *Akshay Khanna, Paresh Rawal, Om Puri* and *Rajpal Yadav* along with *Genelia D'Souza*. Versatile actor *Naseruddin Shah* is the new member of the team.

According to *Akshay Khanna*, "this is a movie that will make you feel positive about life, a feel good film"

Priyadarshan is known for making remakes of *Malayalam* films and this one seems to be yet another remake of a southern hit. The music has been composed by *Vidyaasagar*, of *Hulchul* fame and the lyrics are penned by one of Bollywood's romantic writers *Sameer*. The film is expected to release in June 2008.

EK - THE POWER OF ONE

Dir: Sangeeth Sivan

Cast: Nana Patekar, Bobby Deol, Shreya Saran, Chunky Pandey, Jackie Shroff, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Preeti Bhutani.



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Nandu (*Bobby Deol*), an orphan turned assassin, is somehow wrongly accused of a politician's murder and is on the run.

During an escapade on a train, he meets Shekhar (*Pradeep*), who is homebound after fourteen years. As they talk and get to know each other, Nandu finds out all about Shekhar's joint family and the wedding of a cousin that Shekhar is going to attend.

The police catch up with Nandu on the train and shoot at him. Shekhar shields Nandu and dies on the spot. Nandu goes to Shekhar's family home in the village to return Shekhar's belongings to his family and also to break the news of Shekhar's death to them. However, it turns out that Shekhar's family mistakes Nandu for Shekhar and makes him a part of the celebration at home.

Preet (*Shriya Saran*), who is the daughter of Shekhar's grandfather's friend, is in awe of Nandu and falls in love with him. CBI Inspector Rane (*Nana Patekar*), has been given the responsibility of tracking down Shekhar's killer and is after Nandu.

Will Nandu be able to come out of the crisis a winner? Will the family get to know the truth? What is the destiny that Nandu and Preet will share? Who is the real killer?

You will have to wait and find out all about this in July, which is when the film is slated for release. Directed by *Sangeeth Sivan* and starring *Nana Patekar, Bobby Deol, Shreya Saran, Chunky Pandey, Jackie Shroff, Kulbhushan Kharbanda* and *Preeti Bhutani*, *EK – The Power of One* is a remake of a super hit Telugu film, *Athadu*.

This is an all out family film which is full of emotions and suspense. The movie is made under the banner of *K. Sera Sera Productions* and the music is composed by *Pritam*.