

Hindi transcript:

प्रश्नकर्ता- So have you seen the film 'कल हो न हो'?

अन्जली- मैंने तो नहीं देखा, आज शाम को जा रही हूँ देखने।

सुनीता- मैंने देख लिया हाइस फिल्म को, दो बार वह भी!

अन्जली- किस खुशी में?

सुनीता- ऐसे ही। एक तो मेरी सहेली ले के गई और एक मैं दीवा को ले के गई इस फिल्म को देखने के लिए।

अन्जली- जो शख्स साढ़े-तीन घंटे का movie दो बार देखता हूँ।

सुनीता- ...उसका दिमाग थोड़ा सा पीला हुआ होगा।

अन्जली- नहीं कुछ तो गड़बड़ हूँ (सब हँसते हैं)।

सुनीता- बिलकुल।

प्रश्नकर्ता- This is an old saying...

अन्जली- कुछ तो गड़बड़ हूँ? हाँ!

सुनीता- और वह भी शाहरुख ख़ाँ को देखना!

अन्जली- आय हाय, तौबा। He is so irritating.

सुनीता- हाँ। Very, न?

अन्जली- बिलकुल बर्दाशत नहीं होता।

सुनीता- और वह भी, imagine having Punjab in New York?

अन्जली- Actually कई लोग कहते हैं कि उनको 'चमेली' सन्द नहीं आई। तो मुझे सन्द आई थी क्योंकि पहले बार sex worker को ऐसे दिखाया हूँ कि... you know that... वह attitude नहीं था कि 'हाय, मैं बेचारी, मैं गरीब, मैं exploited'... उस किस्म का...

सुनीता- 'मैं victim'...

अन्जली- हाँ, victim का attitude नहीं था। और जो राहुल बोस का role था, बहुत ही अच्छा था। कि you know पहली बार जब... जिसको sex worker से exposure नहीं हुआ और कभी ज़िदगी में सोचा भी नहीं कि sex worker के साथ कोई रिश्ता रहेगा, तो जब वह पहली बार sex worker से मिलता हूँ क्या होता है और उसके जो प्रश्न होते हैं, बहुत ही नब्रुरल तरीके से किया गया है और वह वक्षे भी बहुत अच्छे actor हैं। और ताज्जुब मुझे इस बात का हुआ कि... क्योंकि करीना को

मैंने पहले बार फिल्म में देखा है और जो टी.वी. पर देखते रहते हैं, she seems like... वह ऐसे लगता नहीं है कि वह सीरियस किस्म...

सुनीता- Commercial actress...

अन्जली- बहुत ज्यादा commercial है पर अच्छा काम किया उसने। I was quite impressed. पर राहुल बोस, of course, was fantastic। तो मुझे लगता है कि यह जो फिल्म थी सब को देखना चाहिए। और सबसे बड़ी खूबियत इस फिल्म में है कि बहुत लम्बी फिल्म नहीं है। नहीं तो हिन्दी फिल्म और लम्बा न होना मुश्किल ही होता है।

सुनीता- नहीं उसमें एक बात मुझे लगती है। मैंने तो फिल्म देखा नहीं लेकिन उसके जो छोटे-से... अंजली- Cuts.

सुनीता- ...excerpts देखे हैं, promo...promos देखे हैं... promos... उसमें यह definitely नज़र में आ जाता है कि जो divide हम करते हैं between अच्छी महिला और बुरी महिला, वह निकाल के एक महिला के ऊपर focus है। So she's not divided into a good woman or a bad woman, which is what HIV/AIDS suffers from, you know...

अन्जली- हाँ, जरूर। कि जो लोग infect होते हैं, they deserve to be infected...

सुनीता- ...yeah, they deserve to be infected...

अन्जली- ...क्योंकि वे गलत काम कर रहे हैं।

सुनीता- और वह dignity की जो बात है मुझे लगता है बहुत बढ़िया है।

अन्जली- नहीं अच्छी फिल्म थी।

English translation:

(The following conversation takes place between two women – Anjali (A) and Sunita (S), and a man – the interviewer – who stays long enough to initiate the conversation.)

Interviewer: So, have you seen the film *Kal ho na ho*?

A: I haven't seen it; I'm going to see it this evening.

S: I have seen the film, and that too, twice!

A: What on earth for*?

(*Literally: "to celebrate what?")

S: Just because. A girlfriend took me along once, and then I took Diva to see this film, too.

A: An individual who watches a three-and-a-half-hour long movie twice...

S: ...must have some screws loose.

A: No? Something's wrong there. (Everyone laughs.)

S: Absolutely.

Interviewer: This is an old saying...

A: Something's wrong, no? Yes!

S: And then to watch Shahrukh Khan!

A: Oh, good grief. He is so irritating.

S: Yes. Isn't he very?

A: Can't stand him.

S: And, then, imagine having Punjab in New York?

A: Actually, some people say that they didn't like *Chameli*. But I liked it because for the first time they showed a sex-worker* in a way... you know, that... the attitude 'Oh, unfortunate me – I'm poor, I'm exploited' was missing... that sort of...

(*It is probably more natural to say 'prostitute' when one is speaking English. The Hindi equivalent of the word is वेश्या – it is a term with crude connotations, perhaps cruder than 'prostitute'. The term 'sex-worker' does the job, but avoids the connotations of either term.)

S: 'I'm a victim'...

A: Yes, the victim-attitude was missing. And Rahul Bose's character was done very well indeed. You know, when for the first time... someone who has had no contact with a sex-worker, and didn't ever think that he would have relations with a sex-worker... so, what goes on when such a person meets with a sex-worker for the first time, what sort of questions arise in his mind – these have been dealt with in a very natural way, and in any case [Rahul Bose] is a very good actor. And I was surprised by the fact that... because I saw Kareena (Kapoor) for the first time in a film and when one sees her on T.V., she seems like... she doesn't appear to be a serious type...

S: A commercial actress*...

(*The speaker has in mind a female star in a commercial Bollywood production.)

A: She's very commercial. But she has done good work. I was quite impressed. But Rahul Bose, of course, was fantastic. So I think that this film should be seen by everyone. And the best thing about the film is that it isn't too long. Otherwise, a not-too-long Hindi film is a difficult proposition.

S: No; one thing that I felt about it... I haven't seen the film, but [I did see] bits of it...

A: Cuts (clips).

S: ...I've seen excerpts – promo...promos...promos. You can definitely see that there is no classification of women into good and bad – that has been avoided, and the focus is on a [subject who is a] woman. So she's not [classified as either] a good woman or a bad woman, which is what HIV/AIDS [patient has to suffer] from, you know...

A: Yes, of course. That those who are infected deserve to be infected...

S: ...yeah, they deserve to be infected...

A: ...because they are doing something wrong.

S: And that thing about dignity is, I think, very fine.

A: No; it was a good film.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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