

INFLUENCE OF SHAKESPEARE IN BOLLYWOOD

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ABSTRACT

Shakespeare plays are pictures of the success and failures of human responses to order. These pictures are very well fascinated and displayed on Silver Screen. His plays narrate themes and are easy to translate because of the timeless universal appeal in the way the playwright handled the most complex aspects of life in simple and easy manner. This paper is an attempt to study the influence of Shakespeare in Bollywood. It shows how Shakespeare has been completely absorbed in the Indian imagination. The Bollywood director Vishal Bhardwaj's movie Maqbool released in 2004 is based on Shakespeare's adaptation of Macbeth, Omkara based on Othello. These movies achieved great success in India. The paper analyses – the ideology that governs the production of the film and the meanings that are transmitted through it.

Keywords: *Bollywood Indian Cinema, Shakespeare's adaptation.*

By the twentieth Century, Shakespeare had been adapted and translated by many writers who writes for Indian Cinema. There are many ways in which Shakespeare has influenced and has been adopted in Indian literature and culture like theme, characterization, genre and structure. His idea of showing family relationships, twin or double, women, gender, emotions, politics, law, order, disguise, supernatural and reality is also found in Indian Cinema. The world famous literary works of the Bard of Avon, have for decades inspired the Bollywood films. Adapting Shakespeare's work to Indian ethos is the latest thing in Indian Cinema. Shakespeare became the source of inspiration for the writers. It is said that Bollywood adopts Shakespearean temperament in featuring song and dance, love triangles, comedy, melodrama, star crossed lovers, angry parents, clever villain coincidences and mistaken identities.

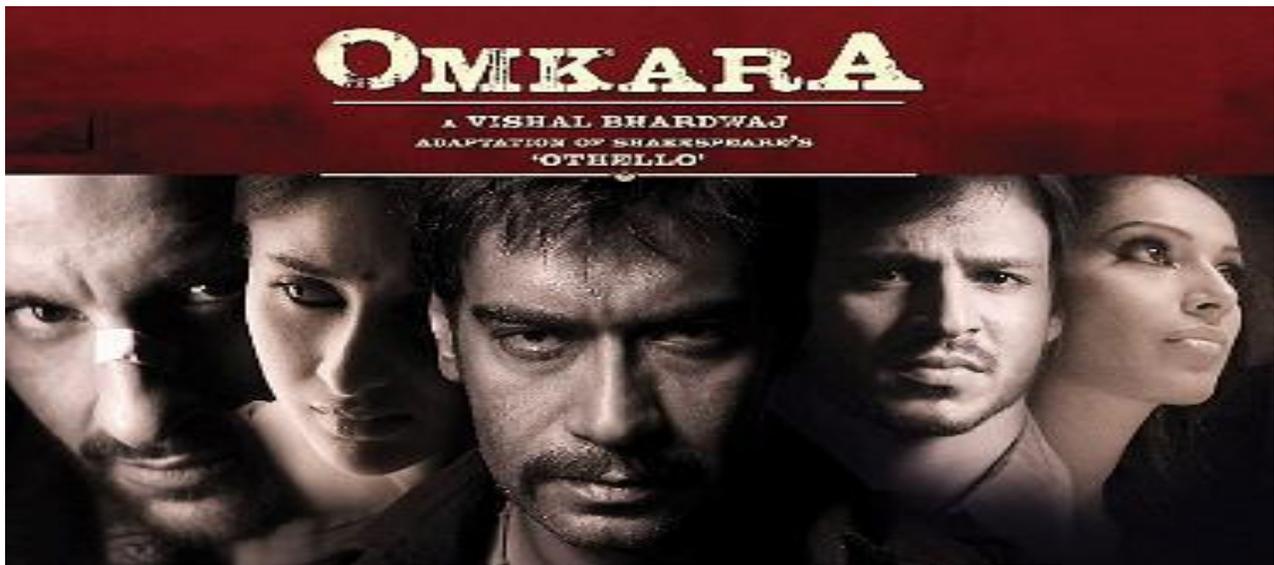
As Naseeruddin Shah once said in an interview "Every big story in Hindi films is inspired by Shakespeare in someway"

The recently released Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider, movie set in beauty of Kashmir starring Shahid Kapoor and Shradha Kapoor shows influence of Shakespeare in Hindi films. Infact, Sanjay Leela Bhansali too picked up the bard's famous story and placed it in a very unique setting in currently released Golliyon ki Rasleela Ram Leela starring Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh. Bhansali said in an interview, " For me the challenge was how to do something different with it. I couldn't make it the way Shakespeare wrote it, the execution of Shakespeare is more flirtatious. " These words express that he can't interpret Shakespeare in the same way as he had done. It shows the real capability of Shakespeare & makes us realize that his real works can't be copied in an easy way.

Maqbool, a movie influenced by Shakespeare's Macbeth is transplanted from Shakespeare's classic tale of greed and ambition to Mumbai's criminal underworld. Bollywood star Irrfan Khan stars as Macbeth and Pankaj Kapoor as a powerful crime boss Abbaji. In this movie abbaji's beautiful young mistress, Nimmi (Tabbu) convinces her lover to murder his boss. Maqbool is very loyal to Abbaji and will do anything on his command. Here two police officers – Pandit and Purohit (Om Puri and Naseeruddin Shah) enter. They predict that Maqbool will lose the battle of power. It is a masterpiece on many accounts. Firstly, it shows the set formulae of Bollywood of a hero and heroine falling in love. It is a film where the bad meets the worse. In this, fight is for self not for society which makes the film look realistic. This film is a path setter in many ways and is a winner in terms of its presentation and style.

Omkara, director Vishal Bhardwaj's, is an adaptation of Shakespeare's Othello.

In this movie as in Shakespeare's play, the same first letter as Omkara (Othello) Ishwas (Lago), Dolly (Desdomona), Indu (Emilia), Kesu (Cassio), Billo (Bianca) and so on is displayed. It is set in the rural areas of the north Indian state of U.P. Omkara or Omi (Ajay Devgan) is a political goon in love with Dolly (Kareena) a lawyer's daughter. Her father has arranged for her to marry Rajoh (Deepak Dobriyal) but she is in love with Omkara. Omi has two trusted right hand men Ishwar married to Indu (Konkana Sen) and Kesu to Billo (Bipasha). The movie provides an accurate illustration of the politics of power. Fools do not deserve power, even if they have large following.



Om shanti Om reminds us of Shakespeare's Hamlet. In this Shanti's (Deepika Padukone) character is quite strong and her condition is much worse than Ophelia's in Hamlet. *Dil Bole Hadippa* is a pure Shakespearan comedy. It actually simplifies the original Shakespearan plot and just takes from it the basic elements. Girl pretends to be a boy, meet another boy and then fall in love. In the Twelfth Night, Viola has a real life twin brother but in *Dil Bole Hadipaa!* Veera only pretends to have a twin brother named Veer but Veer is she herself. In this women's role in sports is shown beautifully.

CONCLUSION

In a nut shell Shakespeare's romantic dramas and comedies influenced & offered scope for more many stream entertainers. Bollywood's excessive love for Shakespeare also makes one wonder if the Hindi film industry is too obsessed with his classic. In the world of lights, camera and action trends change almost every Friday. However Bollywood love for Shakespeare literature never loses stream. Writer Director Romy Jaffery says " He is arguably the world's greatest writer while some of us might be unaware of other writer's like Charles Dickens but everyone has heard of Shakespeare. We have made films on Premchand and Sarat Chandra Chatterjee in the past but now clearly to no one's interest.

Thus we can say that Bollywwod bears perceptible traces of Shakespeare. His plays are like Indian epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, the common store house of inspirations for Bollywood.

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