

MOVIE REVIEW

TAMAS

INTRODUCTION

The film Tamas is a 1988 television film written and directed by Govind Nihalani. This movie is based upon the Hindi novel written by Bhisham Sahni. It presents a snapshot of violent period in the history of our country. Tamas main producers are Lalit M.Bijlani, Govind Nihalani and Freni Variava and starring Om Puri, Deepa Sahi, Bhisham Sahni and Surekha Sikri. This movie has won three awards including the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration and also won the prestigious ‘Sahitya Akademi Award’ in the following year, 1975.

SUMMARY

Tamas is one of the most remarkable novels that narrates all the horrors and atrocities of the 1947 partition of India. Set in the backdrop of riot-stricken Pakistan at the time of the partition of India in 1947, this movie deals with the condition of emigrant Sikh and Hindu families to India as a consequence of the partition. The novel also brings out incidents of goodness in many people across religions. It is based upon the interests aligned to disintegrate the society on the basis of religion. This movie represents one of the darkest phases of the Indian history. It can be read as an elaborate analysis of the disturbed human nature in which the director clearly explains how fragile the human mind can become in such critical situations.

BREAKDOWN

1)DIRECTION:- At its core, ‘Tamas’ is a story that follows of people from both communities(Hindu and Muslim) and it is impossible for a reasonable person to imagine that controversies between different religions can lead to a large massacre in the country. The British

policy before the partition i.e, 'Divide and Rule', which they very successfully implemented in India, was also based on the model of exploiting humanity as a part of the vulnerable attacks. In the name of religion, we can't discriminate each other from any practices.

2)Cinematography:- The cinematography for "Tamas" was done by cinematographer Virendra Saini. Virendra Saini's work on the series received critical acclaim and contributed significantly to the overall visual impact of the show. The cinematography captured the period's mood and atmosphere, effectively conveying the emotional and historical aspects of the story.

3)Dramatics:- All the characters has done a beautiful job in portraying the 1947 scenario in the movie which makes new generation to experience what was happened at the time of partition visually. Overall, "Tamas" uses various dramatic elements to tell a compelling and emotionally charged story about a pivotal moment in Indian history. It combines storytelling, performances, and cinematic techniques to create a dramatic and memorable viewing experience.

4)Story:- This movie is a perfect ten on ten because it is a rare Indian movie with perfect script writing. This masterpiece proves that despite being in a slow pace you cannot get off the screen for a minute. Script written by the director connects the people with the situation happened at the time of partition and tells us how these controversies between different communities can destroy the humanity among each other and can lead the world to break into pieces.

5)Theme:- Tamas is a political text in which the political issues and ethnic identity matter a lot. It concentrates around all the factors and reasons responsible for communal riots happening in the country. The title Tamas suggests darkness and death which highlights the real situation between different communities. The main key of the story is the loss of innocence in our country. It captures the brutal violence committed against innocent people and the novel also explores the psychological impact of the partition on the people who witnessed it. It tells us how partition had affected the identity of nation and created new boundaries between people of our own country.

This movie conveys a deep message that how hatred among people can change the scenario of the world and perception of a person.

6)Music:- Talking about music, the film is vibrant. "De Shiva Var Mohe" is a profound composition of Sikh hymn that deserves special mention. Vanraj Bhatia has composed his music very beautifully and totally all the people get connected with the music and the vibe it has in the movie. It does not include any cheap songs, only the songs respecting our country and pride of our nation. Though the music is not directly linked with the main plot of the film but it plays a significant role in conveying the dramatics approach of the movie and it also let us know that how can music contribute to the script and storytelling in a film even when it is not primary highlight.

7)Personal Opinion:- In my opinion this movie really tells us about the story of a human tragedy that showed us who we really were. This series grabbed audience by the scruff of their necks and left them in the heart of darkness. All the casts has done a great job in portraying the real life situation happened at the time of partition or can say that this movie was the coverage of the whole partition of between India and Pakistan. Hats off to Govind Nihalani, Bhishm Sahni and all other producers for creating such an amazing masterpiece. I would recommend everybody to watch this movie especially the youth of our country as they should know the past and history of their country as it gives the most realistic depiction of all the political ideologies in India. This movie is long around 5 hours but it is worth watching without any sort of interval.

8)Conclusion:- 'Tamas'(meaning darkness) beautifully captures many aspects of human life. It can be concluded that the entire movie shows us the events that were caused due to the dirty politics of some characters. Politicians can play any game to win the election and hold the power which can even lead to killing people for their benefits. Even if our understanding has evolved but we still remain as vulnerable to attacks on identity. This movie is the classical representation of the history which is not one dimensional, it takes point of view of all the communities.