



# Gender and Cinema

Culture and Gender Performativity

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# What is cinema?

- Why Cinema is so influential among all other art forms? What is its specialty? How cinema as a medium is different from other art forms like – say painting or poetry?
- Painting – shapes and shades – forms, figures and colours
- Poetry – words and sounds
- Cinema – a cluster of aural and visual medium involving movement - a moving aural and visual narration

# Activity 1 – Who is a Hero?

- Apart from the name of a specific hero and the usual definition that the hero is the central male character around him the story revolves what are the qualities that constitute a hero in a popular film?
- When we listen to this word hero usually we get an image of a specific hero (let us say Rajinikanth, Surya, Amitabh Bachchan, Sharuk Khan and so on. But what are the components that constitute a hero in an Indian popular film? Mainly what are the qualities or character features that make a hero in a popular Indian film? I have listed down a few for you to set you thinking on this line... Finish the list I have begun before the next class.
  1. Handsome
  2. Morally upright
  3. Brave
  4. ...

# Qualities/character features that constitute a Hero

- Handsome
- Morally upright
- Brave
- Strong – physically and also mentally strong
- Successful
- Artistic – sings, dances, plays
- Saviour – protector – people, society, nation or the earth
- Sense of humour – making people happy and help them lead a peaceful life
- Ensures peace
- Intelligent, clever
- Has a Sense of style –which makes him both unique and also a trend setter

- Able to make the heroine fall for him
- Family-oriented – respects and uphold the structure or institution called family – emotional bondage with the family  
Respect to women/womanhood
- Modern – humanist – capable of loving or caring
- Open to new relations
- Acts – moves the plot or story forward
- determining
- dominant
- honest
- confident
- someone with good grooming sense – sense of styling

# Hero as a person vs Hero as a concept

- From “Who is a hero?” to “What is a Hero?”
- Hero is not a person but a concept or a phenomenon which has all or most of the qualities that are listed in the last slide



# What is a heroine?

## □ For whom the hero falls for

- Pretty – sexy/glamorous
- Good, moralistic
- Helping, tender/kind-hearted
- Individualistic tastes
- Artistic
- Portrayed as beautiful, sensitive, dependent and timid, must be fair and must have a good sense of styling and dressing, not so strong-both physically and mentally, some one who love materialistic things, shown as some one who is reserved for hero and prioritizes hero over family, some one who is more connected to father, some one who always have to strike a balance between family and career



# Who/what is a Villain?

- Who is in opposition to Hero or his aims/qualities or dreams



# Who is a Comedian?

- Someone who is not bad as a villain but though good does not have the necessary capabilities and qualities that make a hero

# What is a Hero in a film narrative?

- From our discussion we understood that a hero is not just a person who possesses the capabilities and qualities that we listed above but also someone who acts as an axis around which, or in relation to which all the other roles like the heroine, villain, a comedian and others are defined or gain their identity in a film narrative.
- That is, all the other important roles in a film narrative gain their existence only in relation to the Hero.
- SO THE POWER OF A HERO IN A FILM NARRATIVE
  - Lies NOT JUST in the fact that he possesses the LIST OF QUALITIES AND CAPABILITIES.
  - BUT IT LIES IN THE FACT THAT **HE ENJOYS THE POWER TO DEFINE OR OFFER AN IDENTITY OR EVEN AN EXISTENCE TO OTHER ROLES.**