Media Analysis: Dhamaaka

## A Technical Perspective

Criterion: Sound

The sound design detracted heavily from the film. The cleanup was too strong, giving the background the same box-like, white-noise quality of poorly dubbed regional daily soaps that can be observed in a lot of today's mainstream high budget cinema.

The dialogues therefore felt consistently unrealistic & cringeworthy, as they jarred heavily against the dramatic music & miscellaneous isolated sound effects thrown in in the interest of "realism."

## Criterion: Colouring

As with sound, a similar theme can be observed in recent films shot on digital film with regard to colour correction & saturation, where the screen often feels *too* clean, & sanitised to be taken seriously. Marked exceptions from this are always made by directors who choose an atmospheric & fly on the wall approach to camerawork, & give significant weight to the sound design as well, eg. Amit Masurkar, DKM, Meghna Gulzar, etc.

Criterion: Writing

The writing was great. The humour was appreciable, the wit was quick & fast paced, the dialogues were crisp, *but*, it could not have been more apparent that none of it was executed as it was intended to. There was a crystal clear disagreement that could be seen playing out on screen between the script on paper, & the visual product, with the overbearing & on the nose nature of the film constantly undermining the irony & the subtle satire of the script. Not to mention the final act was a mess.

Criterion: Acting Acting was fine.

Criterion: Story

The story was, ofcourse, underwhelming. It was cliched & unoriginal (which makes sense, seeing as it *wasn't* original), the emotional punches were predictable to a T, the news setup made no sense, & all pretences of staying rooted to reality flew out the window as the third act arrived. The story between Arjun & his boss was interesting, & their dynamic formed the crux of the film.