**THE UNSETTLING DEPICTION OF MISOGYNY IN SANDEEP REDDY’S ANIMAL**

Sandeep Reddy’s Animal featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna, released on December first, has been met with success at the box office, but it has left audiences unsettled. Despite Ranbir's commendable performance, the portrayal of misogyny in the movie has sparked criticism. The film delves into male chauvinism and toxicity, pushing the boundaries to a point where it has raised eyebrows among the audience.

In the 21st century, the glorification of violent masculinity and the violation of women's dignity persist in films. The objectification of women remains a contentious issue, perpetuating outdated norms. In a recent interview with Baradwaj, the director Sandeep Reddy defended his film, stating that only 10 - 20 ‘jokers’ find it misogynistic. He went further to suggest that if a husband cannot exert control over his wife, including intimate aspects, what purpose does marriage serve?

Despite the modern era we live in, such perspectives contribute to the continued demeaning of women. This not only impacts societal attitudes but also emboldens upcoming directors to create content that objectifies women. The reinforcement of gender roles in films further solidifies stereotypes and influences how society perceives these roles. 'Animal' stands as an example that could potentially contribute to normalizing unequal power dynamics and impede progress towards gender equality.

Addressing these issues within the realm of filmmaking is crucial. It is not merely an artistic choice but a societal responsibility to foster a more inclusive and equitable environment. Films have the power to shape perspectives, and allowing narratives that perpetuate misogyny hampers efforts towards building a society that values and respects all genders equally.

As audiences, critics, and industry insiders, it is essential to engage in conversations that challenge such portrayals. By holding filmmakers accountable and advocating for responsible storytelling, we can contribute to a cultural shift that rejects the normalization of toxic masculinity and supports the journey towards a more progressive and respectful society.