

POWER THOUGHTS: COMPROMISE

For someone like Rahul Nath who took the leap last year and went on to make and release a movie like FOREIGN, there is no surprise that the critics have been making a huge anticipation for the next installment COMPROMISE, which to save any confusion has no connection with the former. The film comes from the powerhouse NIK/NAK who have previously helmed quality cinema tied in with controversial storylines, so one would expect COMPROMISE to follow suit. No need to panic, the expectations are met

Set amidst a broken and beaten down family, the movie is about how you would survive, if there was no one there to help you, not even your parents. Karthik (Rahul Nath) is awaiting the arrival of his younger brother Ameet (Pritesh Shah), who after some major trouble has spent time in jail and is about to come home. The reception is ice cold on Ameet's part and the kind Uncle (Laksh Singh) is attempting to make everyone laugh given any opportunity, with repeating the same joke at any chance. Meanwhile, the middle sibling Shalini, (Layla Alizada) is busy sleeping around with men like Larry (Ethan Flower) and unfortunately comes across her old flame Rishi (Baldeep Singh) who announces to her that he is marrying a doctor and before Shalini gets a piece in, Rishi's mother Shanta (Rashmi Rutsagi) and her sidekick Kamini (Mona Sishodia) vomit out abuse of the most unpleasant kind.

Meanwhile back home, Karthik is trying to get himself together as he finally realizes that his brother hates him and before he can shed a tear, Shalini enters and vents out her frustration on the mess up that is their younger sibling. All becomes havoc when Ameet goes to attack Shalini and Karthik steps in to save the day. In the spur of the moment, Karthik, gets distracted as he is forced to go to work and tells Shalini to sort out the situation.

Shalini takes the chance and asks Ameet to explain the incident that led him up in jail and simultaneously older brother Karthik has become trapped by a power socialite Anup (Bahram Khosraviani) who has offered to pay him a substantial amount of money, if he sleeps with him. As Ameet begins his story, we come to know that he was involved in a robbery with Carlos (Steven Navarro) and stabbed Carlos in a heated argument, but he tells Shalini that he was raped, when in fact nothing of the sort has happened. Meanwhile, because of the desperation of money, Karthik goes to Anup's room, only to realize it is a huge mistake and before he can leave, Anup rapes and verbally abuses him

Karthik returns home only to find the situation was worse than when he left. Attempting to recover from his rape, he accidentally finds a gun in Ameet's room and events leading up reveal to him that Shalini has been sleeping around for money.

Though the story is complex and there are a lot of characters to process, COMPROMISE shines in the screenplay that allows it for the audience to understand each and every character. Be it Karthik's desperation to keep the family together, Shalini's pain of having to lead the life that she has, knowing she had the chance with an eligible bachelor like Rishi, or even Ameet's revenge and hatred from the life that he has been given, you can strangely see the understanding behind each of these characters. What impressed me the most was the impact that the supporting cast has, even those in the shortest roles

Rahul Nath has handled the execution with the utmost maturity, being sensitive about each scene, be it where Shalini hides her emotions from Rishi, Karthik silently cries because of the abuse he has suffered or for me the strongest of all where the elder brother discovers that his younger sister is a prostitute. Dialogues too are poignant when needed and unintentionally hilarious to the hilt when needed (*the uncle keeps on saying "I am going to get fat"; when in reality he is not fat at all*)

And it's not just the scenes on paper and their execution, it's the strength in the technical department too that makes the movie a complete package. Editor Beth Mcmillan has observed a very different type of cut for the film, which goes gradual without frenetic cuts and yet never seems to lose pace. The rules of editing have been tightly observed, and yet the movie doesn't suddenly get fast when needed or vice versa – in fact the movie remains consistent throughout its duration and that's what makes it a good edit. But the victory comes with the combination of the two brothers stories that gives the audience member a worthy moment of cinema and makes you realize COMPROMISE is in a league of its own, when it comes to the editing

Music by Noah Potter makes you appreciate it even more as you watch the film. It is stunning and melds well with each and every scene, but more of worthy note here is the vocals by Madhu Bhide, who conveys the pain and troubles each character goes through

Performance wise, it is difficult to single out an actor who outshines the rest, because everyone here comes up with a performance that's memorable. Rahul Nath as Karthik excels, and the pain in his eyes and restraint has been well placed out. His transformation from an individual trying to keep it together to someone who has lost control is superb. Layla Alizada is brilliant. Be it in her dialogue delivery or the painful emotions she attempts to hide. Watch both in the final scene, the chemistry is intense and the sadness heartfelt. Pritesh Shah works well in his speech of his alleged rape and handles a very complex character with ease. Laksh Singh is a natural and makes use of his repetitive line throughout the movie. Baldeep Singh gives us many character traits, from a happy go lucky guy, to someone who is abiding by society rules. Rashmi Rutsagi and Mona Sishodia are both amazing in their stints. Ethan Flower gives a great variety in delivery

Bahram Khosraviani, outshines giving a great performance of a rarely seen character on screen. He looks great and delivers extremely well, especially after he has carried out his abuse. Watch the ease with which he speaks after the rape, it will be very, very disturbing. And for the other achiever, Steven Navarro, he looks and breathes every ounce of Carlos. Great facial expressions and an instant psychotic behavior make it fully aware that this actor has a great career ahead of him

Overall, this one's a film that truly deserves to be seen by one and all, 'cause if there's any film that teaches you to appreciate your life, no matter how bad, THIS is it. Rahul Nath made have changed lanes for his story telling, but the potency and the aggression with which COMPROMISE is shown, one can only expect that Nath will deliver at any costs and that the delivery will be priceless!

