

Chapter – 4

What is wrong with Indian Films?

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This essay has been taken from his book Our Films, Their Films

Cinema as an art form

- Cinema is most potent and versatile art form.
- It combines the features of poetry, music, painting, drama, architecture, etc
- It also combines the cold logic of science.

Film production in India

- First short film was produced in 1907.
- First feature film was produced in 1913.
- Film production in India is quantitatively second only to Hollywood.
- The quality of the Indian films is not the same as that of Hollywood.
- Indian cinema is by and large imitative and adaptative.
- Storyline, technical applications, clichés, music etc are all imitative of Hollywood films.

Should we imitate Hollywood?

- We should not imitate Hollywood because our life and society do not resemble theirs.
- Adapting their techniques, styles, stories makes our films look un-Indian, unnatural.
- The raw material of the cinema should be life itself.
- The film makers may learn from Indian painting, music and poetry and keep their eyes and ears open to life.
- The hope for the Indian cinema reside in a drastic simplification of style and content.

Growing Maturity of Indian films

- Indian films have matured in recent years.
- They no longer suffer from certain basic weaknesses pointed out till a few years back:
 - Production without adequate planning
 - At times production without a shooting script
 - Fondness for complex plots and counterplots
 - Sandwiching songs in the most unlyrical situations,

Questions

Now, on the basis of your understanding of this chapter, try to answer the following questions:

1. What is the most dominant influence on Indian films?
2. Films are the mirrors of the society.
3. Do you think Indian films have certain basic weaknesses?