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Bollywood Beauty Kajal Agarwal Stars in *Singham*.



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Indian Movie Star Ajay Devgn Brings *Singham* to Life in the Title Role.

# Police Gazette Movie Review: "SINGHAM" A Bollywood Camp Classic for the Ages

With Ajay Devgn, Kajal Agarwal  
Directed by Rohit Shetty  
Five *Police Gazette* medals



Our call centers weren't enough; now they want to take over our action-movie genre. Antoine Fuqua, Guy Ritchie, John Woo, Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez, Sam Raimi, and all the other top-level action directors will have to make room for another member in their club. His name is Rohit Shetty; and he comes from India.

Shetty has been working in the Indian movie mill since the 90s, but has emerged as that country's premier action and stunt director. In *Singham*, which came out in India in 2011, Shetty pulls out all the stops. The movie utilizes all the latest technology available to today's movie magicians in the service of a finished product that makes the camp 1960s *Batman* TV series look like *Dragnet*. The story is basically *Walking Tall*—a small-town lawman uses street justice when regular justice fails against powerful criminals who try to take over the town. But *Singham* makes *Walking Tall* look like "Standing Still." Everything from intense action sequences to character interactions is completely over the top. But like the best camp, in its outrageous unbelievability, it's still believable. Your willing-suspension-of-disbelief cup runneth over because everything that's going on is such incredible fun. And, except for the

ending, it all works—even the musical numbers!

The highlight of the movie is its action sequences, which are some of the cleverest and best ever on film. When Shetty wants to push a Hollywood cliché into overdrive, he does so with great glee and gusto. But it's when he wants to avoid the cliché that his true genius emerges. The scene, for example, when Singham shoots out the tire of an SUV bearing down on him at high speed, and the SUV skids and rolls—still straight at him—your typical Hollywood action hero would leap out of the way just at the last split second. Not Singham. What he does should go down in history as the best action bit yet filmed, and is the cherry on this already delicious sundae.

This movie would unreservedly get five *Police Gazette* medals—our top rating—if it stopped after two hours. However, it runs over two hours twenty minutes, and the final 20 minutes are disappointingly anticlimactic. The end almost seems like the movie makers had so much fun getting to that point that they forgot to work on how to wrap the whole thing up. So five *Police Gazette* medals it is; just turn it off when it hits the two-hour mark.

*Singham* is available on DVD and to Netflix subscribers. It is also in Hindi with English subtitles. However, Hollywood producers are being remiss in their duties if they don't lure Rohit Shetty over to this side of the Pacific. His eye for what the action genre is supposed to be about is truly refreshing.

Special thanks to the *Police Gazette's* Culture Editor for bringing this movie to our attention.