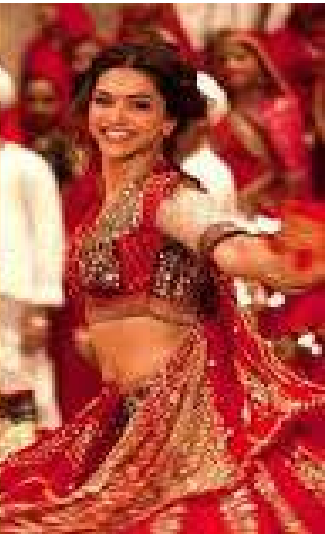
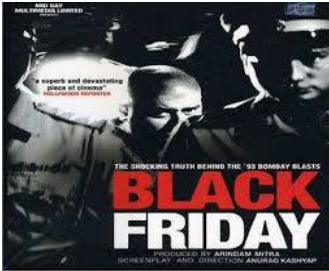
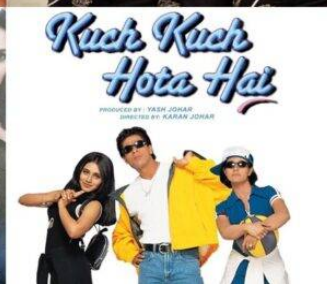
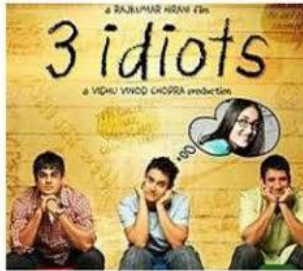
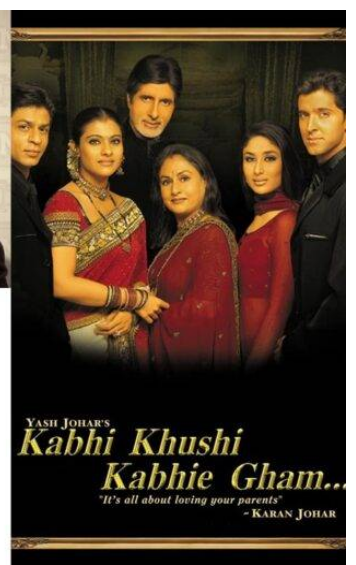
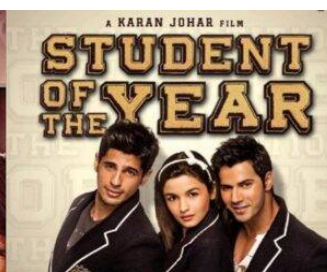


HOW TO READ A FILM







FEW QUESTIONS.....

What makes Rajkumari Hirani's films distinct from Karan Johar's films?

What makes Karan Johar's films distinct from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's films?


How is Sanjay Leela Bhansali's filmography different from that of Anurag Kashyap's?

The films are distinct because every film maker uses elements and materials that make a film different.

These materials and elements are what we term as **The Language of Films**.

The **language of film** includes:

1. Sound
2. Moving Images
3. Editing
4. Camera Angle
5. Music
6. Sets
7. Special Effects
8. Pacing
9. The conditions of production



“Reading a film is basically understanding the language of films. Reading a film involves understanding the story we see unfold on screen and acknowledging the formal elements that make up the film language.”

APPROACHES TO READ A FILM:

Semiotic

Narrative
Structure

Contextual

Mise-en-
Scene

SEMIOTIC APPROACH:

Semiotic approach includes analyzing the meaning behind signs and symbols in a frame or in scene. It typically involves metaphors, analogies, and symbolism.

It can be the simplest of things.

For example how characters appear on screen:



Mogambo
(Mr. India)



Durjan Singh
(Karan Arjun)



Mola Ram
(Indiana Jones &
The Temple of Doom)



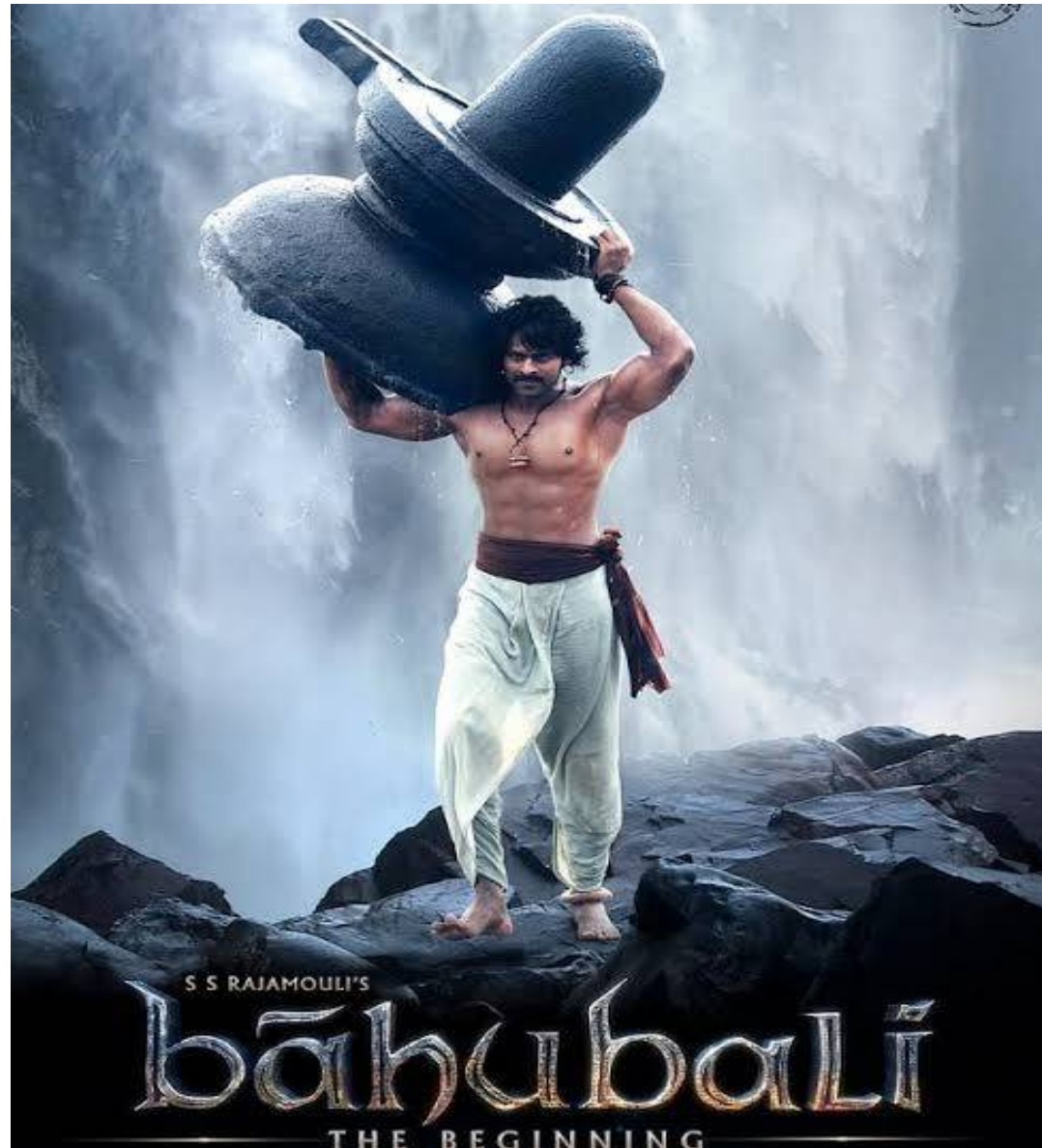
Gen. Dong
(Tahalka)

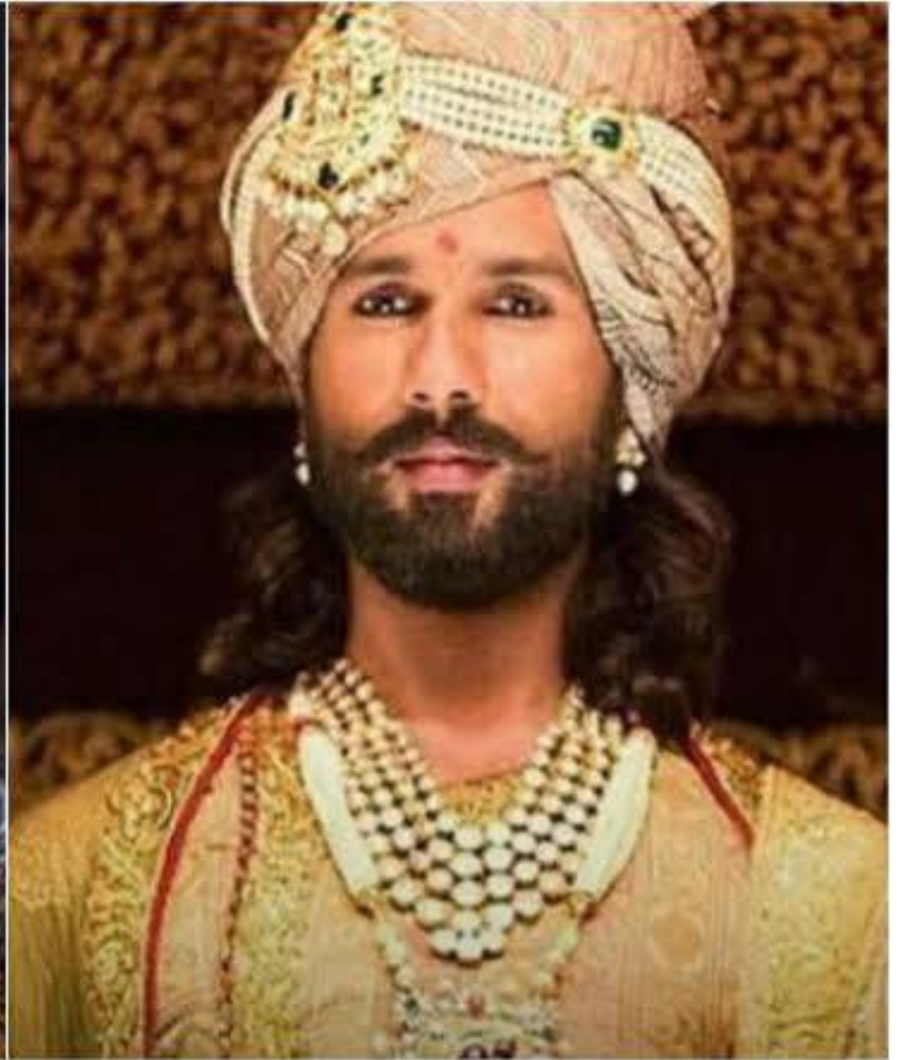


Bhairo Nath
(Nagina)



Pasha
(Hero)

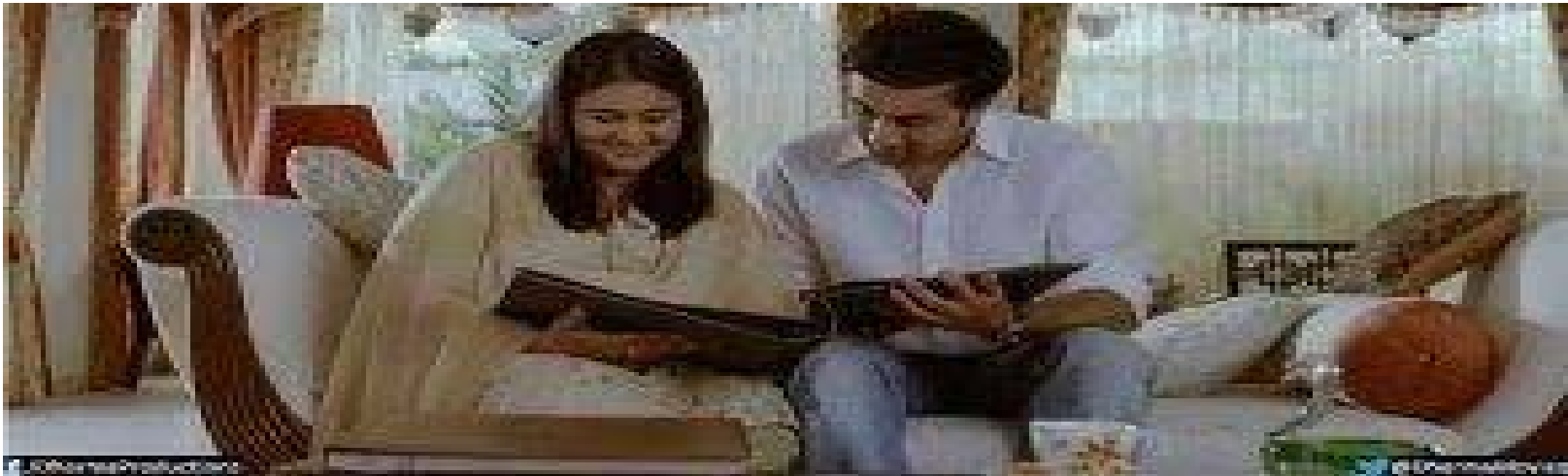




OR SOMETHING AS COMPLEX AS HAVING AN
EXISTENTIAL CRISIS.....



.....OR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSION AS WELL





NARRATIVE STRUCTURE APPROACH:

Narrative structure approach analyses the story elements, including plot structure, character motivations and theme.

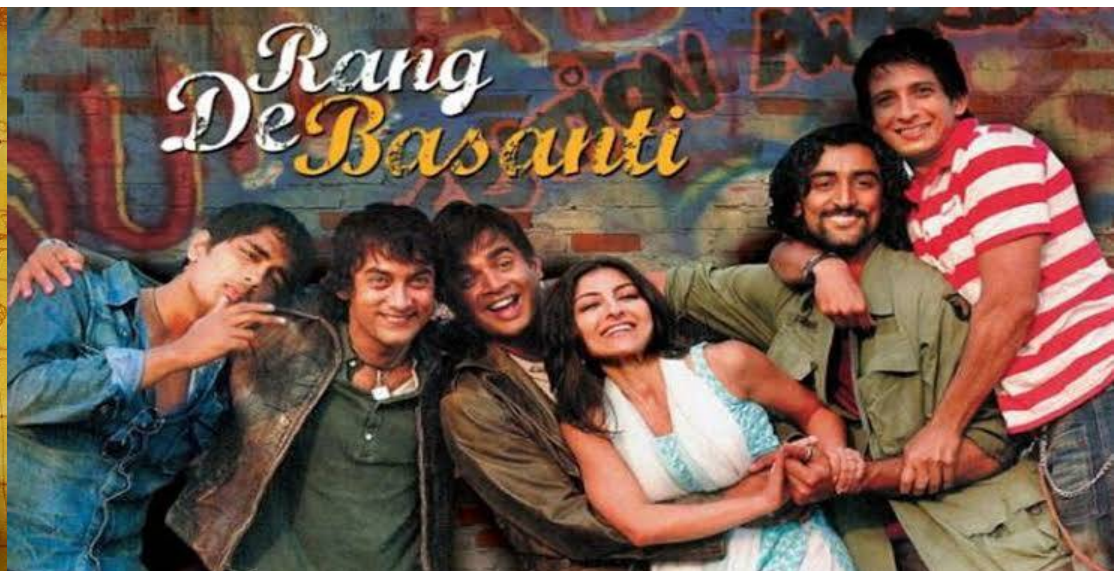
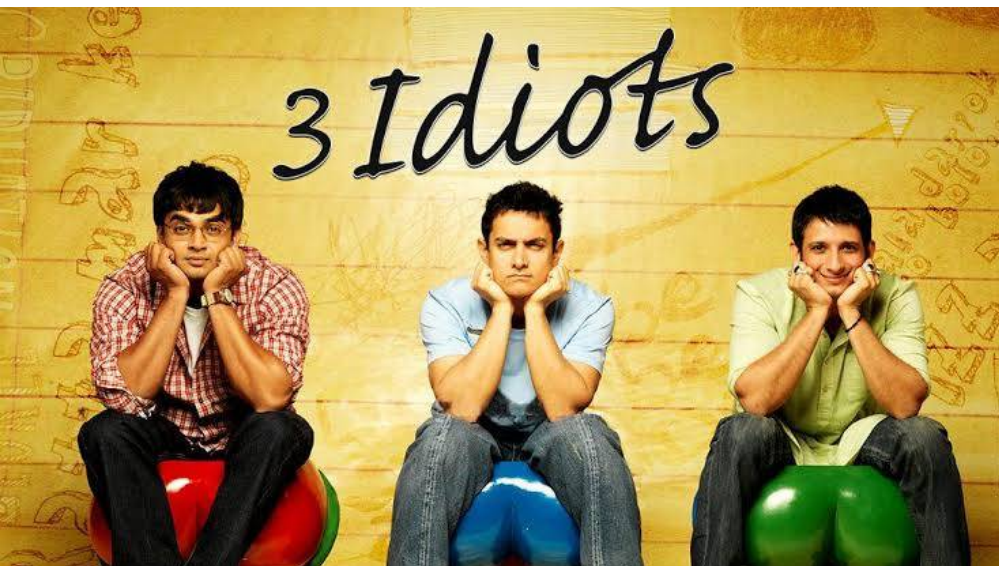
Linear vs. Non-Linear Narrative

Linear

- Chronological
- Beginning – Middle – End
- A causes B causes C

Non-Linear

- Non-Chronological
- Story not told in proper order
- No direct causal pattern
- Flashbacks don't count
 - Example: Saving Private Ryan is told as a chronological flashback



....CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



... GENRES AND THEMES



CONTEXTUAL APPROACH:

Contextual approach is reading a film as part of a broader context.

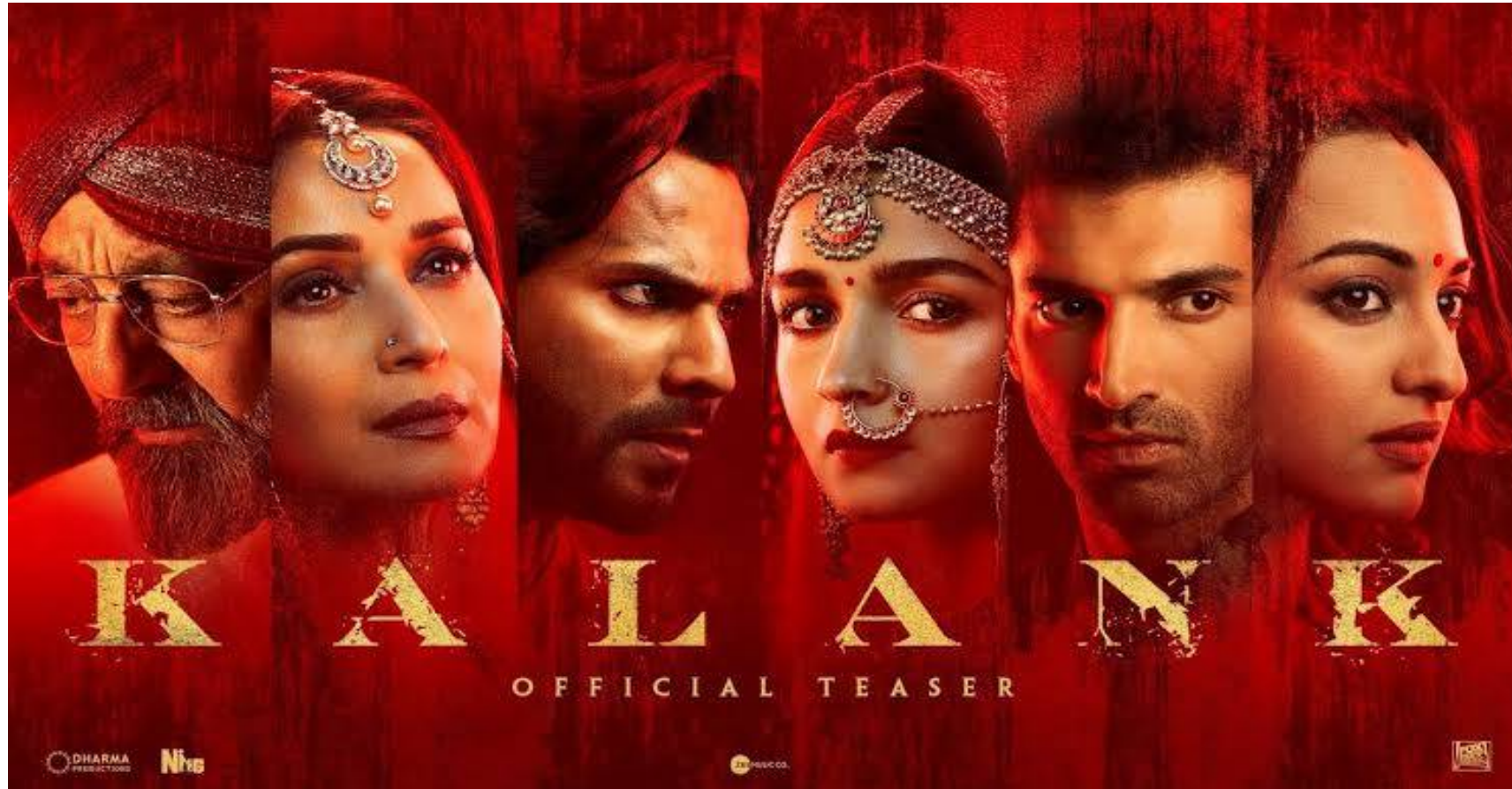
For example, what kind of culture, time and place the film talks about?

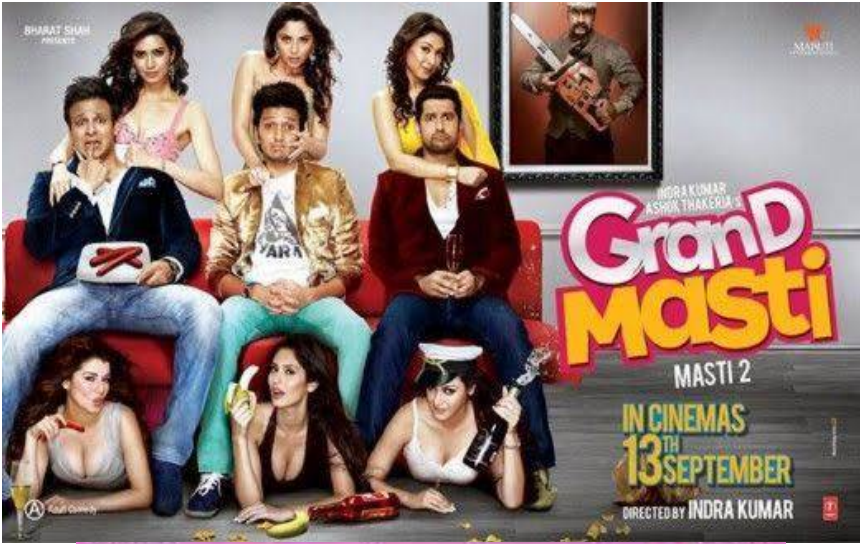
Does the film represents that setting appropriately?

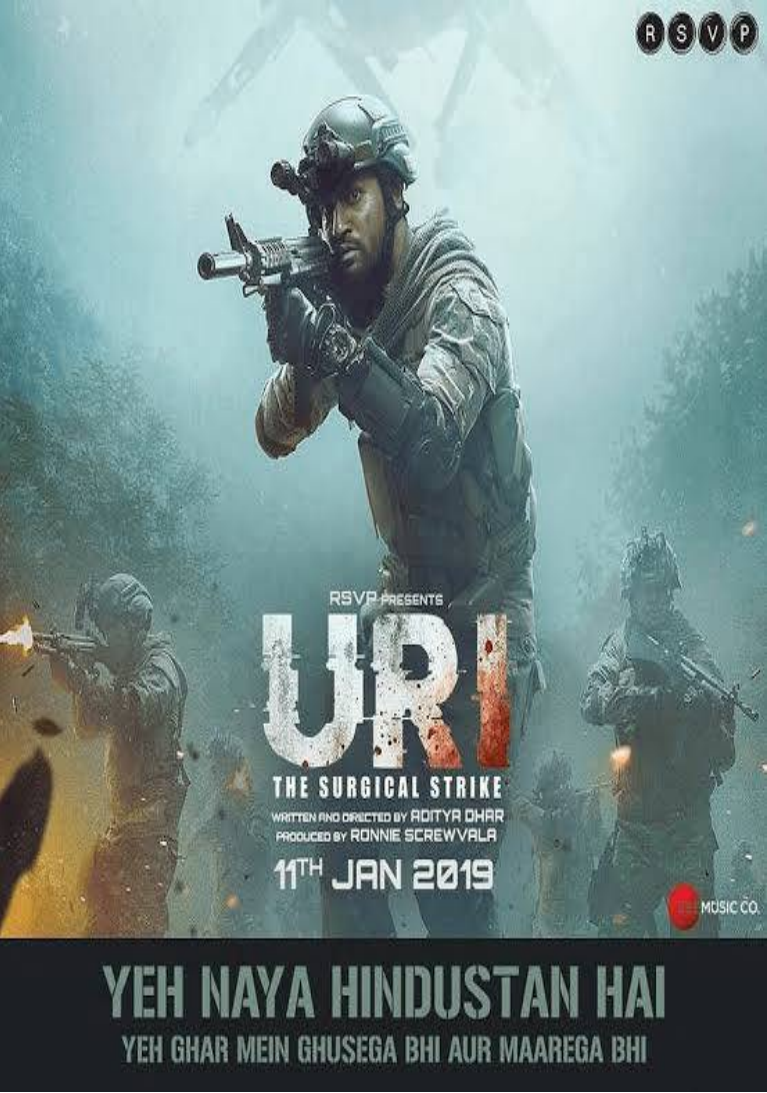
Does it align with the usual style of directing of a director or does it move in a new direction?

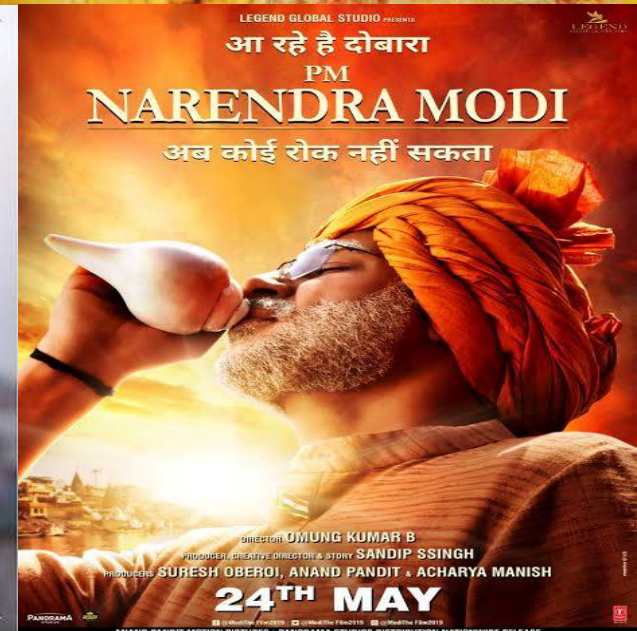
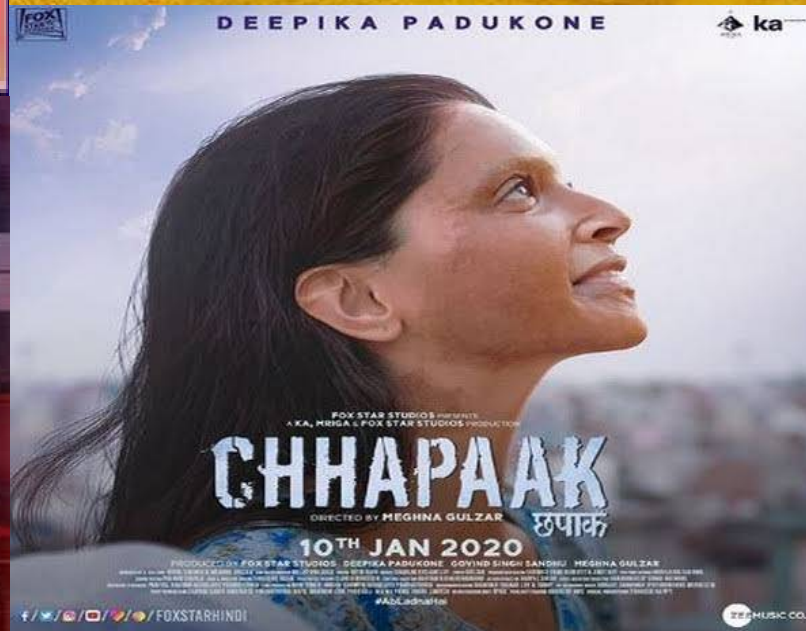
Other examples of contextual approach might be analyzing the film in terms of a contemporary political and socio-cultural background.

A BAD EXAMPLE TO BEGIN WITH.....









MISE-EN-SCENE APPROACH:

Mise-en-scene approach is analysis of the arrangement of compositional elements in film like setting, lighting, camera angles, frames, special effects, choreography, music, color values, depth, placement of characters, etc.

For example:

How is the lighting used to construct a particular mood?

What does the setting say about certain characters?

What role does music play, camera angles and movements play in constructing a particular scene?

...LIGHTING...



... LIGHTING....



... LIGHTING...



... CAMERA ANGLES





.. CAMERA SHOTS, SOUND AND MOVEMENTS...



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY
(United Artists)

A SMALL EXERCISE IN SYMBOLISM AT THE END....



Thank
you!!!

