

Review #63 : *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001)

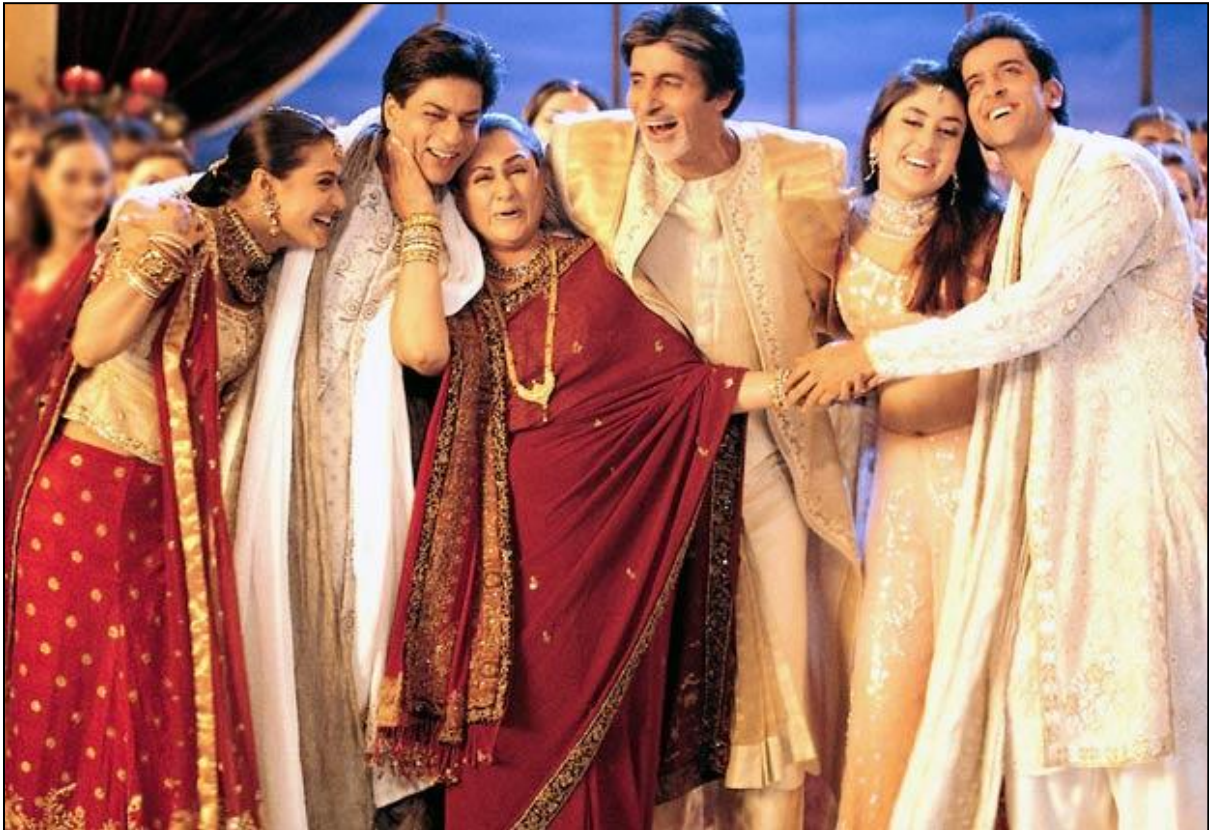
'It's all about loving your parents'

Kajol and Shahrukh Khan – Hrithik Roshan

TRAILER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CV2DMo-Rd08>

Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham has its share of flaws and its share of excellent attributes, and for fans, the **positive aspects undoubtedly outweigh the negative**. The plot is relatively simple. Not intense, surely not original, but nothing short of pleasant.



SYNOPSIS

Yash (**Amitabh Bachchan**) and Nandini (**Jaya Bachchan**) have raised their children, Rohan (**Hrithik Roshan**) and Rahul (**Shahrukh Khan**). Rahul was adopted when he was younger. Circumstances intervene and Shahrukh falls in love with the wrong girl, Anjali (**Kajol**), a peppy girl from Chandni Chowk. Exasperated at his audaciousness, Yash is torn that Rahul

refuses to marry Naina (**Rani Mukherji**), a person Yash feels is of much better class than Anjali. Yash and Rahul part ways, unaware of the pain they have caused to all the others in their loving family. Come post-interval a grown-up Rohan and a promiscuous Pooja, Anjali's sister, join forces to bring together Rohan's torn family in the name of Yash's dying mother, played by **Achla Sachdev**.



REVIEW

First the positive aspects. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll think of your parents many a times. Johar handles the emotive and sad scenes with a **magic touch**, one which *makes* us recognize his talent. Certain scenes will remain in your memory for their **emotive qualities** long after the film is over, most notably, Nandini waiting for Rahul at the door thinking he will return ; Anjali's father dying ; Anjali and Rahul's son, Krishi, reciting the Indian National Anthem. The scene between Rahul and Krishi strongly echoes the one between Rahul and his own father, Yash.



These are only some of the best scenes, combined with an **emotive background score**. Johar knows the **importance of outmost sincerity**, playing with our emotions, giving us lots of tears and then quickly after giving us some laughs to dry them up ! Naturally, the technical aspects of the film by **Sharmishta Roy** are all first-rate and at times mind-blowing.

From **Kiran Deohan**'s lush camera-work, to the **exquisite sets and impressive costumes**, you'll marvel at them all. The setting of the title track, to the overall film, it's all 100 percent **first class visual appeal**.

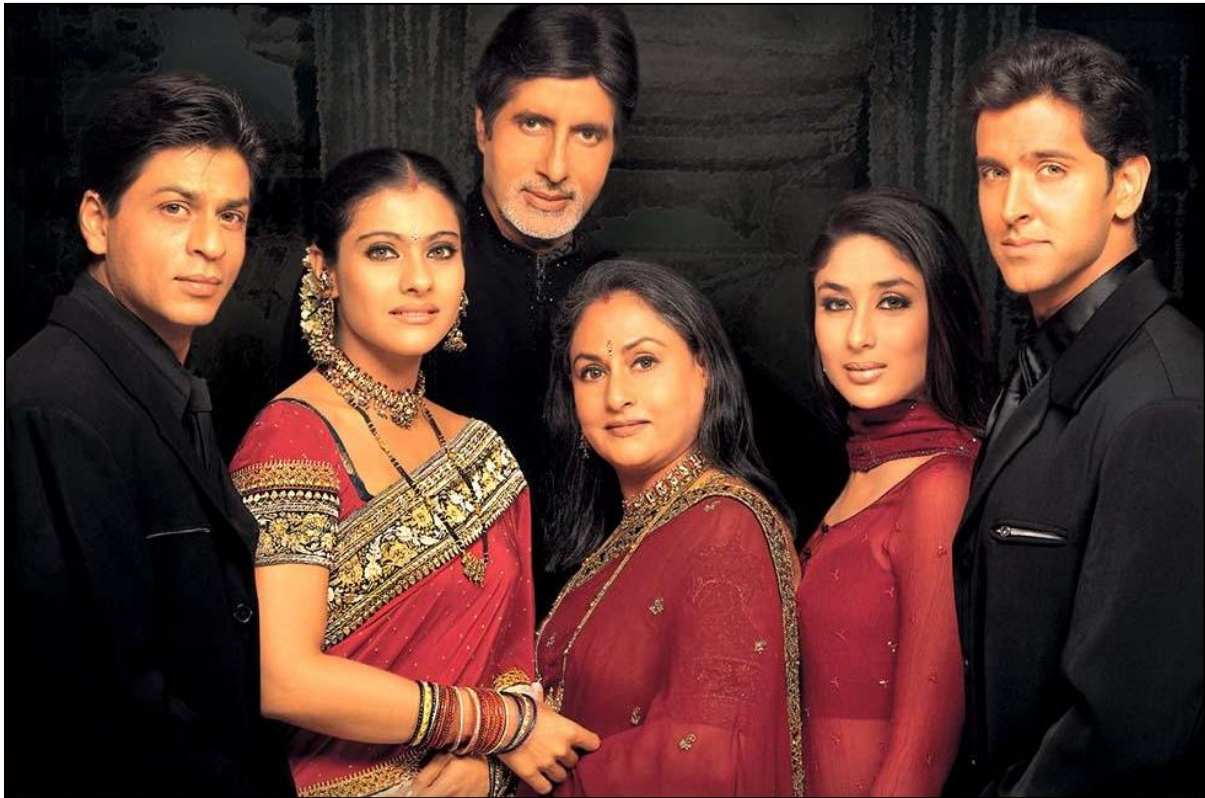
However, all the beauty may **alienate the poor and middle-class audience** periodically. There have been rich families on films before, but none of them have shown off or been so *ghamandi* about their riches like the Raichands. **Dialogues are endearing**, from the comedic angles to the **emotional scenes between the Dad and the Mum** – husband and wife in real life. They are so cute together ! And so are Kajol and Shahrukh. I can't speak enough of their wonderful chemistry hence I won't even try...



The choreography by **Farah Khan** is indeed enjoyable although it tires me at length – and short-skirted girls are sometimes a little too much –, but the videos for the songs are mostly incredible! From *Suraj Hua Maddham* to *Bole Chudiyen*, the songs are all **boasted up adding to the extrinsic look of the film**.

The **acting department is filled with superb performances** from each of the three major couples in the movie. Many think this is **Shahrukh Khan**'s film, and though his performance is restrained and skilful as always – which won him the Filmfare this year – I don't think he's the male winner. It's **Hrithik** all the way, baby !

In an interview, **Hrithik Roshan** said : ‘*All my fans want a Rohan.*’ His emotive sequences, especially his **tear jerking scenes** are well handled, especially the bench scene between him and Shahrukh. I don’t even need to talk about his **mind boggling foot work in his dance steps**, he is without a doubt the best dancer Bollywood has seen in recent times.



On to the female cast, Kajol is the winner here folks. Those that said Johar gives his best to Kajol couldn’t be closer to the truth. She is simply awesome. It’s her **well-balanced act between comedy and emotion** that strikes at the viewer, and more so, it’s the lingering memory of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* that one can’t relinquish that makes us enjoy her awesome performance even more. Her entrance too proved that she was indeed intended as a surprise.

Farida Jalal has probably given her best performance since last year’s *Pukar*. She is a second Mom to Rohan and Rahul and she is awesome doing it, almost a threat to **Jaya Bachchan**, which makes it **hard to choose which mother is the best of them all**. Her character was well written and her performance is excellent. Her *Pati-Parmeshwar* bit with Amitabh may have been seen before, but not only does their **unique and hardly seen pairing** entertain, but her acting does that as well, specifically her ending it off with ‘*I said it...*’ In the end you will definitely be reminded of your own mom and **cherish her** even more...

With *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, newcomer Kareena Kapoor seals her fate as either being loved or hated – like Alicia Silverstone in *Clueless* – for her **bubbly presence**, her **comedic strength and sassy attitude** – and her lack of the ability to wear a full body outfit. Poo is a well defined character, but her definition is not going to be liked amongst those that are seeking an all out family entertainer. Unless you're a fan and can appreciate her, chances are you won't like her one bit!

There are many scenes that will **win you over and leave you in knots and tears** ! Pooja's transformation from a slut type to a charming girl and Yash's attitude towards it is indeed enjoyable. Back to the dialogues, when Rohan says to his father : '*God has blessed you with everything, money, home, but it's sad that you don't have love*' and gets smacked for it, you will relate to both characters, Yash and Rohan. Anjali's take off on the **London life style** was also a rage in Indian theatre with everyone cracking at almost every second. Johar has done an awesome job overall with the comedy in this film.

So is the emotional bit. The portion when Anjali (**Kajol**) actually gets her father in law's blessing is also well shot, and even more so, when Rohan (**Hrithik Roshan**) stops her from running away is a highlight for both Hrithik and Kajol. Little Rohan is such a pleasantly plump delight and the young boy, **Kavesh**, portraying him is also bound to be one of the enjoyable comedians in the making – unless he actually does lose some weight, a joke quite relevant to the film !

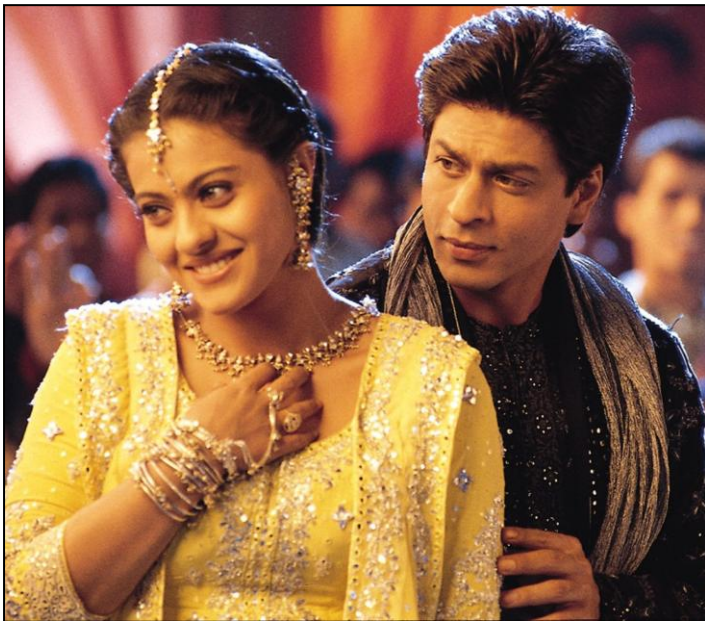
Now to the down points. Some critics have called this film a re-hash, which is an insult, and clearly incorrect. A bench scene and the mention of a company and boom, it's an *Ek Rishtaa* copy ? A confrontation and a man defying something related to love and it's a *Mohabbatein* copy ? Give me a break. Johar may have been influenced by the recent release of those two films, but completely undoes that with everything else. **The college environment also gets funny to a point.** The college campus in *KKHH*, where Pooja and Rahul are actually going to get studying, is *kinda* weird : girls dress like tramps, guys like goondas, and there isn't any studying going on.

The **length of the film** is also noticeable, but hey, there's always Kajol popping up to give you a good laugh ! Still, who can notice the drawbacks ? It's all **handled with good style and panache**, what Johar films are all made of. Dharma Productions has kept its promise in giving us a **lovable film** for us to remember in coming times. A winner all the way ! +++

IN SHORT

It's all about love and affection in a family. Yash tries to pass on to his sons the **values, the heritage and the rich traditions** of his family, which he cherishes and holds in great regard. On the other hand, Nandini has **different dreams and aspirations** for her two sons. And she shares a special bond with Rahul, the eldest son, who's an adopted child. Ever since Rahul himself found that out at the tender age of 8 years, it has been the reason for his **unending devotion and gratitude** for his parents, especially his father. His father's every word, every wish becomes an unwritten commandment for him, one that he would never break, but unfortunately he does. Because he falls in love ! And the girl makes a proud stubborn man forget that he is a father and reminds a son that he is adopted. Rahul decides to leave his parents, even the mother who taught and encouraged him to fall in love and whose every waking moment henceforth will be spent **waiting eagerly for her elder son to return home**. But Rohan makes a promise to re-unite the family...

In the hands of the brightest director in film firmament, it gives a **thoroughly entertaining ride handled with utmost sensitivity**. All sequences display the masterly touch of Johar, soaked with values and undoubtedly heart rending. The first half of the film has its moments of glory, although the pace drops slightly, and the second half will keep you **spellbound**...



Face to a first-rate Kajol, Shahrukh Khan sparkles yet once again, **performing with class, honesty, amazing poise and maturity**. **Hrithik Roshan** looks dashing and handles the delicate moments with admirable ease, proving yet again that he is not merely an excellent dancer and a great looker, but a superb performer as well. It will be difficult for newcomers to replace him in the years to come !

Kareena Kapoor provides the much-needed fun and entertainment in the second half. Her performance will be loved by the youth. Top-notch Bollywood ! +++