

Devdas

Study Notes



Directed by: Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Certificate: PG

Running time: 182 minutes

Release date: 11 July 2002

Synopsis

Devdas is the son of a wealthy landlord and is brought up in the lap of luxury. He spends his memorable childhood with his friend Paro, who is their neighbour's daughter, and belongs to a middle-class family. Unfortunately, Devdas is sent away to London for further studies, and doesn't return for several years. Paro is shattered by the departure of her dear friend and awaits his return. When Devdas returns to his native home, he and Paro realise that their bond has only grown stronger and fall deeply in love. Devdas' father however, is completely against the union, as Paro's family is not of the same social standing as theirs. This leads to a series of unfortunate circumstances where Paro is married off to a wealthy but much older man, causing Devdas to turn to alcohol that eventually leads to his downfall. The film is foremost a love story but it seems to end in tragedy for all the characters involved. It is set in a different era and therefore is shot in sets reminiscent of colonial bungalows in Bengal.

Questions For Discussion

1. Why do you think Devdas discourages Paro from taking any drastic steps without getting permission from their parents?
2. Chandramukhi is portrayed as a courtesan with a heart of gold. Can you think of any other film that makes a similar reference?
3. How can you describe Paro and Devdas' incomplete love story?
4. All the song and dance sequences are in relation to an occasion or a particular incident. Can you identify the reasons that lead to each of these sequences?
5. How does the mise-en-scène aid the narrative?