

My Name is Khan

Study Notes



Directed by: Karan Johar
Certificate: 12A
Running time: 165 minutes
Release date: 12 February 2010

Synopsis

Rizwan Khan, a Muslim man from India, moves to San Francisco and lives with his brother and sister-in-law. Rizwan, who has Aspergers, falls in love with Mandira. Despite protests from his family they get married and start a small business together. They are happy until September 11, 2001 when attitudes towards Muslims undergo a sea change. When tragedy strikes, Mandira is devastated and they separate. Rizwan is confused and very upset that the love of his life has left him. To win her back, he embarks on a journey across America. His main purpose for setting out on this journey is to meet the President of the United States and inform him that despite having Khan for a surname, he is not a terrorist. His simple understanding of the very serious situation is what grips us.

Director Karan Johar is typically known to make films that are much more exaggerated and opulent. This film is definitely the most topical one he has made to date.

Questions For Discussion

1. How is Rizwan Khan's character portrayed?
2. Rizwan's mother wants her son to be educated despite all the hindrances. What does this tell us about her character?
3. Rizwan moves to San Francisco to live with his brother after the death of his mother. What obstacles does he face at first arriving?
4. Comment on Mandira's character as a mother.
5. What sort of a relationship does Rizwan share with his stepson Sameer?