



# A messy affair

Recent Hindi films dwell on infidelity. Do they reflect reality or set a trend?

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LIES, deception and betrayal is what's hot in Bollywood right now. Several new Hindi films show cheating within a relationship as commonplace. If *Murder* set the trend, more recent releases like releases *Page 3*, *Silsilay* and *Fareb* reinforce the fact that extra-marital affairs are in.

"There was a time when filmmakers took care not to endorse the unconventional. Today, what sells is what counts. *Murder*, for instance, was a skin show. The audience knows this and won't really take their cues from cinema," says lensman Sheetal Jain.

But some people are still bothered by cinema celebrating anything other than the straight and the narrow. Says Ramani Iyer, the mother of a teenager, "Our parents used

to switch channels every time

## UN FAITHFUL



A scene from *Silsilay*

there was even a hint of intimacy on the screen. Parents are far more open with their children now. But I am a bit perturbed by the number of films which dwell on extra-marital affairs. Earlier films have had similar themes no doubt, but they explored the relationship in a more mature fashion."

Film buff Gayathri M feels audiences are confused about what kind of films they want. "On the one hand they want to watch realistic cinema. And on the other, they complain if the film is too real for their comfort. Just like corruption is a part of society, so are extra-marital affairs. These films reflect reality, that's all."

According to counsellor Meera Ravi, "Films always portray what's happening in society. These films do have an influence on young minds. So much so that they may now feel that it is acceptable to have relationships outside marriage. Perhaps discussing a film within a the family and putting it in perspective could prevent them from drawing the wrong sort of conclusions."