

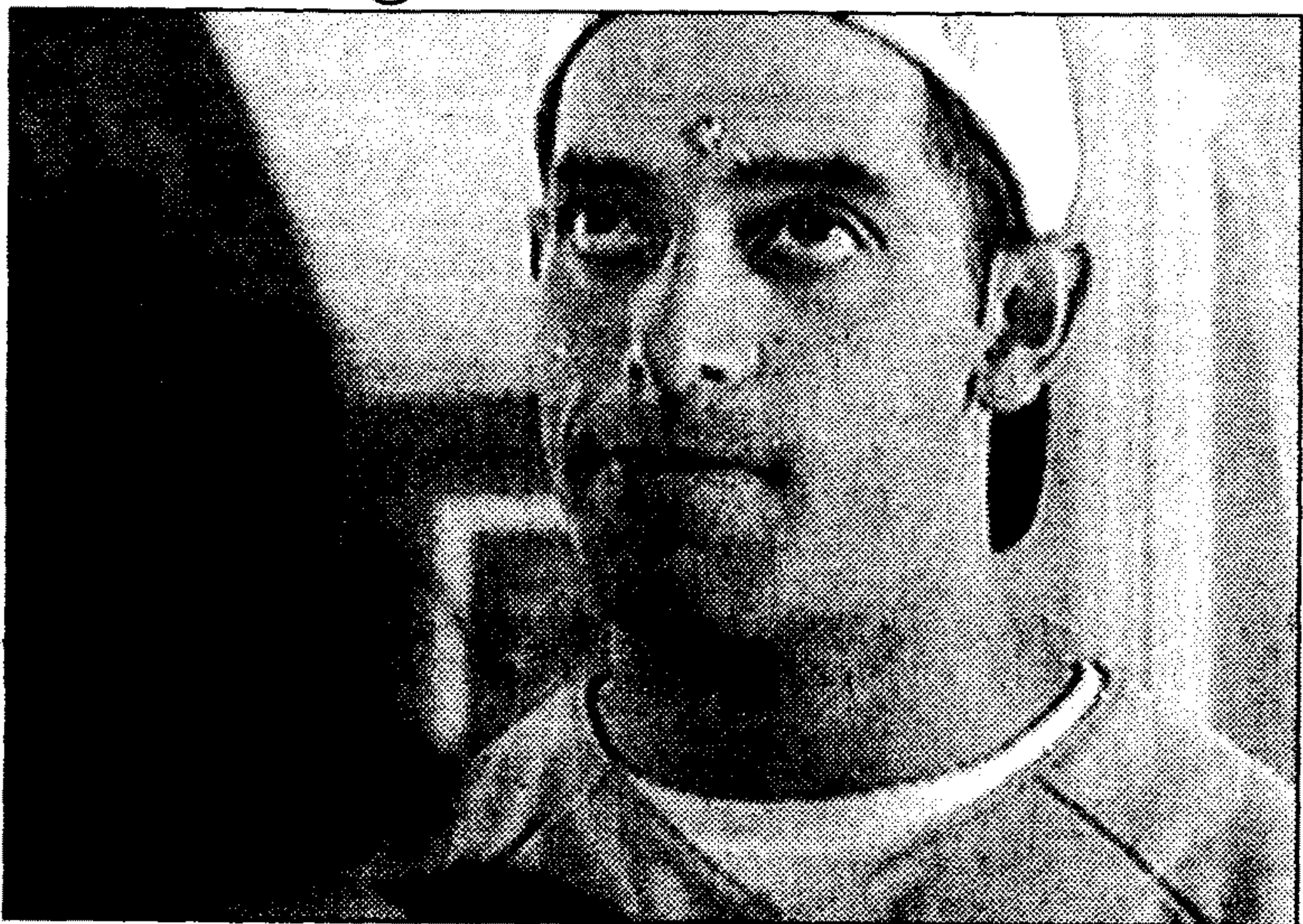
Document Citation

Title	Mixed reactions to film: from 'funny' to 'unrealistic'
Author(s)	Vandana Makker
Source	<i>India-West</i>
Date	2001 May 23
Type	article
Language	English
Pagination	C2
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	American Desi, Pandya, Piyush Dinker, 2001

India West 4/23/01

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pg C2



Deep Katdare as Kris Reddy in American Desi.



"Jagjit" gives "Kris" a hand in American Desi.

Mixed Reactions to Film: From 'Funny' to 'Unrealistic'

By VANDANA MAKKER
India-West Staff Reporter

FREMONT, Calif. — The film *American Desi* attempts to portray the lives of ABCDs: people of South Asian descent who were born and brought up in the U.S.

India-West caught up with a few audience members at a recent screening of the film at Naz 8 Cinema, and asked them what they thought.

Poonam Singh, 14, lives in San Francisco, but was born in India

and lived there for part of her childhood. She thought the film was "pretty good," and "funny," but "had a hard time believing that any Indian kid could be as oblivious" as the film's protagonist, Kris.

Singh thought the character of Jagjit Singh was "semi-believable," because she said she knows many South Asian kids who choose careers based on what their parents want, and not on what they really want to do.

Singh's friend Amrita Deing, 26, also thought the film was "funny," but said that its intended message had come across better in books like Meera Syal's *Life Isn't All Ha-Ha Hee-Hee*.

Manisha Mahajan, 23, of Oakland, said she'd "heard about the film six months to a year ago, but didn't realize it was going to be a comedy."

"People don't talk about us," she noted, saying this was one of the main reasons she'd chosen to see the movie. "Plus it was different from regular Bollywood movies."

On the whole, Mahajan termed the film "rather idiotic, yet amusing."

Yousuf, 26, who preferred to give only his first name, said that he had come to the movie because "it was recommended by friends," but was visibly disappointed upon leaving the theater.

He cited some of the problems with *American Desi* as "bad acting," "not true to life," "made fun of Indians," and "unnecessarily vulgar at times."

"The storyline was okay," he said, "but the people were not at all realistic. There was nothing that great about it. This is a movie that could have been good."