



FILM: **GUILTY (Talvar)**

FDG RATING: 4.5 
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Director: Meghna Gulzar
Writer: Vishal Bharadwaj
Actor: Irrfan Khan (Ashwin Kumar)

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2015

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **GUILTY (TALVAR)**

Talvar (the English title is "Guilty") is a dramatization of a notorious, horrible crime that took place May 2008 in Norida, India. A botched investigation with weak circumstantial evidence was enough to convict the well-to-do parents (Dr. Rajesh and his wife Nupa Talwar) of the murder of their 14 year old daughter, sentencing them to life imprisonment. The film, however, reenacts what probably actually occurred, showing that 45 year old Hemraj Benjade, the family's trusted domestic employee, had three much younger male friends over and one of them committed the murder. The Talvars have challenged the Nov. 2013 sentencing in the Allahabad High Court. In a Rashomen type story, the film presents three contradictory accounts of the case, which variously portray the parents as guilty or innocent.

The popular Indian actor, Irrfan Khan, (Life of Pi) plays Central Bureau of Investigation detective Ashwin Kumar, who condemns the initial sloppy investigation for compromising the crime scene and then doggedly pursues his own theory with precise, methodical professionalism.

All of the acting is excellent, the characters exceptionally interesting, and the story is extremely compelling. The film was in our local theater for a very short time so I was the only one in our discussion group to see it. In my opinion, the film is definitely 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best).

Note: Talvar means sword and the word is the same except for the letter v in place of the letter w in the parent's last name, The reference is to the talvar (sword) carried by the figure of Lady Justice. In this film justice jumps to erroneous conclusions for the purpose of revenge. "People sometimes forget the sword's there," investigating officer Ashwin Kumar (Irrfan Khan) is told by his superior. "And in the past 60 years, it's become rusty."



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See you at the movies!
Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net
Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer