

Wahan Ke Log



Wahan Ke Log, 1967

Director: N.A. Ansari

Music: C. Ramchandra

Lyrics: Shakeel Badayuni

Playback: Mukesh, Mahendra Kapoor, Asha Bhosle

Choreography: Surya Kumar

Cast: Pradeep Kumar, Tanuja, Neelofar, N.A. Ansari, Johnny Walker, with Bela Bose and Laxmi Chhaya

The 1967 science fiction flying saucers/invasion from Mars film *Wahan Ke Log* has before now only been available as a poor quality and untranslated VCD. For we non-Hindi language speakers, the fact that this and many other Indian films are not available as DVDs with subtitles is a source of never-ending frustration. This DVD with English language subtitles is a first attempt to try and begin to fix things somewhat. At the time the film was a huge flop. Of course, many classic films that were considered failures at the time have been reassessed later and are now considered to be excellent. Is *Wahan Ke Log* one such film? You be the judge. Whether or not you decide it's any good, one thing's for sure, that it's very entertaining. And isn't

that the main reason why we watch movies?

The Video



VCDs have a much lower resolution than do DVDs. Although great care has been taken in upscaling the VCD to full DVD resolution, the fact remains that the picture is much softer than had a good DVD been made using original film elements as the source. Of course, the Indian DVD production companies don't take any care at all in any part of the production process, so this DVD created from a VCD will look better than do many DVDs of Indian films. Because of the low resolution source, though, from time to time you'll see some aliasing of thin lines, some 'line jitter'. It's not too serious or bothersome. What's much worse, in my opinion, is the presence of the Nupur logo throughout the entire film, after the opening credits.

For some reason the Indian home video companies seem to think it's perfectly OK to deface their movies with these logos. I have no idea why they think this practice is at all acceptable. Were a Hollywood studio to do similar things to a DVD of one of their movies, the reviewers would be unanimous in condemnation, and no one would buy the DVD. It is **NOT** OK to

do these things. Even a mediocre company like Eagle states at the beginning of their DVDs that they don't put such logos on their releases (although they're found on their VCDs), as if they should be applauded for what should be standard practice. Me, I get rid of the damned things. Although the Nupur logo isn't entirely opaque, I've treated it as such, and what was once underneath it can't really be reclaimed. When there's a solid background, where the logo once was becomes either invisible or close to it, and not at all objectionable. Maybe 50% or so of the film is like this:



Here we have a couple of before and after pictures from the left side

of a couple of frames. One can easily tell that the source VCD has a green tint to it, something that's the easiest thing in the world to correct, but something that's rarely done. And you can easily tell that not much remains of the logos. On the other hand, where there's some sort of a textured pattern underneath the logo, then you'll get a blur:



Heads can become misshapened or disappear, and any texture turns into a blur. Much of the remaining 50% of the movie is like this, but I still don't think it really annoying. During maybe 10% of the movie the remains of the logo will 'wiggle' or 'twinkle', especially when there's steady camera movement,

and this can become bothersome.

The Subtitles



What I do is fix up the video and audio as best I can. Thankfully, there are others willing to do the translations. This movie has close to 1400 lines of dialog - 1398 separate subtitles. A huge amount of work went into translating and timing the dialog. I've been blessed to have as my partner in this project memsaabstory regular reader and commenter Raja. This project never would have gotten off the ground had it not been for his help. Those of us that don't speak the language owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. And even after putting in countless man-hours on this project, he's still willing to do it again. The man's a glutton for punishment. Either that or he's a firm believer, as am I, in what memsaab is trying to accomplish with her blog - helping to promote the Indian classic films to Indian and non-Indian alike. Oh, and Ava translated both the Laxmi Chhaya/Johnny Walker and Bela Bose songs. Thanks, Ava!

I didn't create a separate Subtitles menu. The subs will play by default. Those of you that don't want or need the subtitles,

when the movie starts just turn them off using the DVD player's remote control.

Links



Below you'll find a number of links, including one to the Wahan Ke Log DVD files. Be sure to get the Instructions.pdf which will explain the process of turning a bunch of files into a DVD for playing in your DVD player. Anyone wishing to discuss video encoding, please PM me at either Doom9 or Videohelp.com.

Blogs I read

Richard's Dances On The Footpath
memsaabstory blog
Dusted Off

Video Encoding Sites

Doom9
Videohelp.com

Wahan Ke Log Review

At Die Danger Die Die Kill

My DVDs

Wahan Ke Log

Albela

The Minoo Mumtaz Compilation DVD

The Johnny Walker DVD

The Bela Bose DVD