

A photograph of filmmaker Zoya Akhtar. She has long, dark, curly hair and is wearing a black button-down shirt with white piping. She is sitting in a blue upholstered chair with a white fur-like trim on the backrest. She is gesturing with her right hand as if speaking. The background is a wooden wall with a framed picture.

'The men we see on screen have changed'

MUMBAI: Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar, who has helmed movies such as *Gully Boy* and *Dil Dhadakne Do*, says she tries to make movies she can watch.

"I was young and till then I had a certain perception of what constitutes as cinema. Till I watched 'Salaam Bombay'. That switch that you can make what you want happened with that film. I try to make movies I can watch," she said.

Akhtar, who was at the Indian film festival of Melbourne, also discussed how the representation of men and women on silver screen has changed over the years.

"The men who we see on screen have changed. Their stories and their characters are today far different. Look at Vicky Kaushal in *Raazi*, it was such a beautiful character. And the credit goes to Meghna for it, because she could write this part. We are trying to project men who we want to see on screens," she pointed out.

Zoya is currently working on her short film for Netflix's upcoming anthology *Ghost Stories*. IANS