

GAIATTA

CINEMA

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Diva DESIREE

RAKUL PREET SINGH
shares her story
LEADING to her
recent **BIG**

GRABS:
Spyder & Theeran
ADHIGARAM ONDRU

**STEP
ON IT!
REV IT UP!**
Prabhu Deva,
the **MASTER** of
LIGHTNING
moves is
BACK

**SO LONG.
FAREWELL.**
It's time to say
goodbye
2017!
A quick glance
at **THE YEAR**
GONE *by*

MEN? WHAT MEN?

NAYANTARA and the *ladies* of tinseltown prove
they don't have to be men to be heroes. A shout out to these **POWER LADIES!**



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& A

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18.12.2017 Monday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	10.15 AM
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19.12.2017 Tuesday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Devotional Discourse Desa Mangayarkarasi	Hindustani - Vocal Padmalatha	Vocal Anjana Thirumalai	Bharathanatyam Parvathi Ravi Gentsala
20.12.2017 Wednesday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Devotional Discourse Dhanuvarsha	Vocal Tirupathi Srivani Yalla	Sustaining Sampradaya By Cleveland V.V. Sundaram	Bharathanatyam Sheela Unnikrishnan
21.12.2017 Thursday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Manchi Parvayyar Hemalata Jayaraman Rukmini Ramani	Vocal - Adana Sisters Sheela Varadachari Nihayaa Shree	Bharathanatyam Amritha	Dance Drama Aadilgobbi's Bharatanatyam
22.12.2017 Friday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Namasankarathanam Lalabar K.Kalyanaraman	Vocal Harini Krishnan	Bharathanatyam Shubhiksha Ganesh	Guitar Prasanna
23.12.2017 Saturday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Namasankarathanam Cuddalore Gopi	Vocal - Hindustani Iida Balakrishnan	Bharathanatyam Poopa Srinivasaraja	Dance Ganga to Kaveri by Chenchil Pandian
24.12.2017 Sunday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Aanmiga Ural Pattinamdran Raja	Fusion - Kings of Music Students of Lakshman Sruthi	Bharathanatyam Meenukehi Ravagan	Ragam Subhasree Thanikachalam
25.12.2017 Monday			
7.00 AM	8.30 AM	9.45 AM	11.00 AM
Discourse Senkottai Hari	Bharathanatyam Shubhavadana Chandramohan	Vocal Renuka Balaji Sandhya Kumar	Bharathanatyam Urnula Sathyasrayanan



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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

December always arrives in pensive tones. A year has sped by once more. A ton of memories to look back at and smile. A bunch that brings a tear. And a few we wish to push into oblivion. Whatever be the mood-downers, there's always a sense of hope when January 1st arrives. A new year. A new start. And so we thought lets end the year on a high-five.

South Indian cinema is slowly making way for its lead ladies to rise above the monotony of being arm-candy to macho heroes. Today we have ladies who set aside their personal lives and brave the male dominated movie biz to single-handedly carry a movie to success. Nayantara in Aramm has made her lady peers swell in pride. But she's not the only one doing female-kind proud. Our cover feature this month salutes the actresses who have proven that you don't need to be a man to be a HERO! Also, don't miss out on our flashback feature that captures important showbiz events in 2017. We cornered hotty Raai Laxmi with a rapid fire and she shot back her responses even faster! Prabhudeva takes us through his movie journey and Sameer Sethi



shares behind-the-scene goop on the 2.0 music launch. I can just brag and brag some more about all the awesomeness within, but you'd enjoy it best if you found a cozy corner and flipped through the pages yourself!

We will meet again in the New Year!

KAANCHAN PRASHANTH, Deputy Editor



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DULQUER SALMAAN

DULQUER'S SECOND ATTEMPT

TO BREAK THE ICE IN KOLLYWOOD

Dulquer Salmaan has rightfully inherited his father's throne in Malayalam Cinema. The actor has proved himself in a variety of roles, wowing critics and fans time and again. Ever since his debut in 2012, Dulquer has grown as an actor and is a force to reckon with amongst this Mollywood contemporaries. From action roles to romantic flicks, comedy movies to emotional dramas, he's done it all.

The actor made his Tamil debut with *O Kadhal Kanmani* in 2015. It was a dream debut, given that it was directed by Mani Ratnam and had AR Rahman's music to back the easy-breezy romance. The movie clicked with the young audience, but Dulquer did not achieve what Madhavan did with *Alaipayuthe*, in spite of his dashing looks and perfected acting. But that was not the end of the line for the actor. He is all set to win the Tamil audience over. He has recently signed on his second Tamil movie - *Kannum Kannum Kolaiadithal* to be directed by Desingu Periyasami, an associate of director Vijay Milton. Reethu Varma will play his love interest in this fast paced romance.





DREAM GIRL HAS FOUND THE MAN OF HER DREAMS!

Namitha may have disappointed her fans when she didn't survive the madness of the Bigg Boss house (WE SURE THOUGHT SHE HAD IT IN THE BAG!) but the actress is happy she got out when she did! The controversies surrounding the truth and lies of the show have at last died down and Namitha, who has pointedly avoided getting mixed up in any of the post-show interviews, is now in the spotlight for a much better reason! She has found true love and they are ready to take it to the next step.

A few years ago Namitha was ruling the roost in Tamil cinema as the Queen of Glam. However, certain problems in her personal life took their toll on her mind and her career. She went into depression and struggled to bounce back. Fortunately for her fate placed her and actress Priya Raman at the Iskon Temple in Chennai on the very same day. The latter encouraged Namitha to give meditation a chance and changed her life forever. Namitha found peace in Krishna and the balance in her life was restored. Now to further her happiness she has found a life partner in her best friend Veera who has stood by her through some of the toughest phases in life. He popped the question over a candle-light dinner at the beach. And she was only too happy to say YES!

GALATTA CINEMA WISHES NAMITHA AND VEERA ETERNAL LOVE AND HAPPINESS.

A BITE FROM THE PAST!

Vadivelu was the unbeatable King of Comedy until a few run-ins with powerful politicians. Over the last couple of years the actor has been trying hard to make a memorable come-back and Mersal may have been just what he was looking for. Despite protests and scandal, Mersal has raked in the big bucks and earned blockbuster status, which means there is a chance that Vadivelu will be back in the spotlight. As always such joys are short-lived. The actor has been taken to task by the Producers Council for an loan that he had taken from a producer in his glory days and not repaid. The actor has been warned severely to honour his deal with the producer in question or face the repercussions.



VADIVELU

DHANSIKA



“FOR A WEEK AFTER THE INCIDENT I COULDN'T TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. BUT I THANK EVERYONE WHO STOOD BY ME”

TR IS NOT A SPIRITUAL MAN! SAI DHANSIKA SPEAKS HER MIND

A couple of months ago yet another T. Rajendar speech went viral, and this time not because it was filled with 'dandanakas' and rhyming words that made us laugh. At the music launch for Vizhithiru, the actor-director made it quite clear that he was miffed that Sai Dhansika (heroine of the movie who was also present on the stage) did not mention him in the list of people she wanted to 'thank' with regards to Vizhithiru. And though the actress tried to intervene and even ventured an apology, TR just wouldn't let go. He went on and on about his seniority and superiority, and her disrespectful behavior. And though he repeatedly stated that he did not 'need' her respect, his angry outburst proved just the opposite! Dhansika tried to maintain her composure through it all, though she did tear up at the end. In a recent interview the actress said quite plainly that it was her spiritual bent of mind that helped her keep calm. She added that TR was clearly not a spiritual person because he could not get a grip of himself on that particular day.



AND IT'S A CUT... POWER CUT!

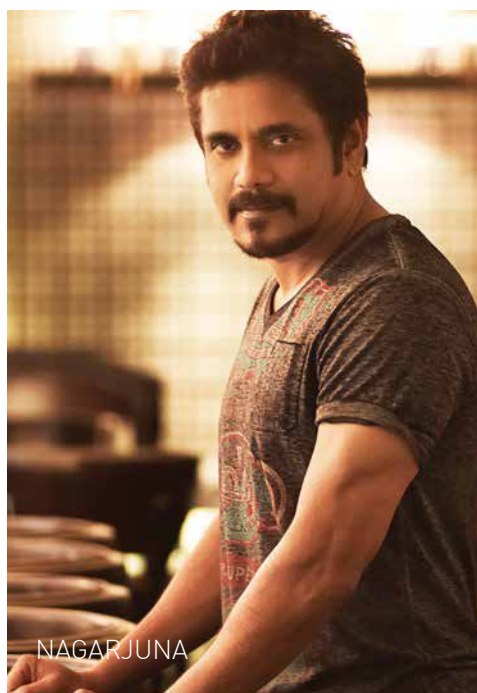
In an exclusive tête-à-tête with celebrity photographer G. Venket Ram, we got a peek into his life behind the lens and we also learned a few life lessons. Venket told us about an unforgettable shoot with director Mani Ratnam. On the day of the shoot, there was an unexpected power shut down that disrupted their schedule. Instead of getting angry or upset, Mani merely sat by the table and set to writing dialogues for his next movie! He didn't crib about the delay one bit, he just made the most of a bad situation! Now that's the kind of positivity we love!



AKSHARA HAASAN

SHOCKING & ROCKING!

Ram Gopal Varma is one of those directors who will keep churning out movies irrespective of box-office returns. He has given some cult hits and some 'forgettables'. One movie of his that still gives us goosebumps is Shiva. A young, handsome, angry Nagarjuna in a realistic action film just stormed the movie scene and went on to be a stupendous success. The duo are coming together now, for another action film. "Back then when I agreed to work with RGV, people were shocked. Now when I decide to work with him, lots of people are shocked and lots of them are happy. Let us rock Ramu," quips the actor who has no doubt or mixed feelings about the movie.



NAGARJUNA

RELIGION UNKNOWN

The Government of Kerala has given its people the right to refuse to reveal their religion in application forms. And this decision has really impressed Kamal Haasan who is known for his very profound thoughts on religion and God. The actor commended the Government of Kerala and revealed that he had refused to fill in the name of religion in his children's birth certificate. His girls were allowed to pick their religion when they were older. Shruti Haasan has chosen to be a Hindu, while Akshara Haasan has not taken on a particular faith.

STR BEGINS A NEW LOVE STORY

STR has fallen in love this time with something more solid and fully metallic! Just as STR fans were ogling at the trimmer, tidier STR in a cute selfie that he put online, pictures of the actor on a magnificent metal steed from BMW went viral. Sources reveal that the actor visited the BMW showroom with the intention of getting a new car, but the bike just swept him off his feet. The bike that he is seen posing with, is the one that he is most likely to buy. It is said to cost close to 18 lakhs! Maybe the vehicle will get him on time to the shooting spot of his next movie with Mani Ratnam, which is a multistarrer on a large scale.

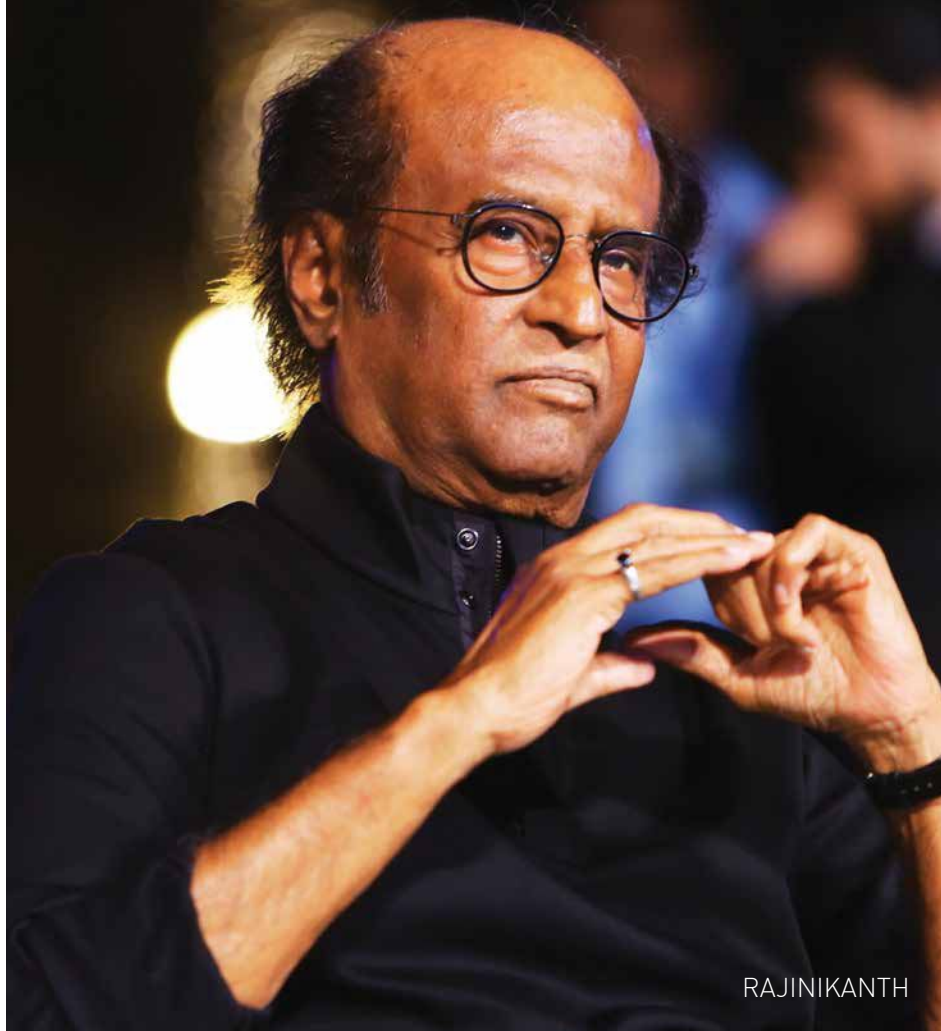
MANI RATNAM HAS GIVEN STR A SEVERE WARNING TO BE ON THE SETS ON TIME. NO EXCUSES. THIS BMW WILL ENSURE THAT!





LIFT YOUR SPIRITS WITH POWER LIFTING!

We have all watched Ramya as a television show host and in a few supporting roles in cinema. When we heard that she was into 'power lifting' and that too on a competitive level, it was hard to believe! However, she has been posting videos of her workout sessions and we are stunned by the way this dainty girl huffs and puffs and lifts heavy weights. She won Gold at a recent District level championship and she couldn't be happier. Ramya surely seems to love the adrenaline rush and admits that she is hooked for life! But she now has one more reason to smile: she is playing a pivotal role in Samuthirakani starrer - Sanga Thalaivan, directed by Manimaran and produced by Vettrimaaran.



RAJINIKANTH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUPER STAR!

Yeah, it is that time of the year when Rajinikanth will step out of his fortress and wave to the hundreds of fans crowding his gateway eager to wish their icon a Happy Birthday!

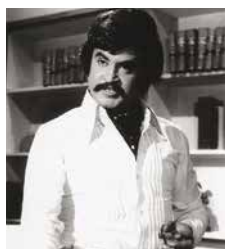
Come December 12th, Rajinikanth turns 67. He began his career in cinema in 1975 and he has spent the greater part of this 42-year long journey as a Superstar. His rags-to-riches story is almost unbelievable, and yet it's true! Who would have thought his stylish way of flipping a cigarette or flicking his hair off his brow would pave way to stardom of epic proportions!

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Will Rajinikanth enter politics? That's a question that his loyalists have been asking for years now. However, rumour is that he will give a final answer on his birthday this year!

SUPERSTAR, SUPERHITS

Rajini has given some cult hits, with his characters often rising above the movie. Some of our fave roles from the Superstar are...



MOONRU MUDICHU As the big bad wolf, his first big hit.



AARILIRUNTHU ARUBADHU VARAI As the self-effacing brother.



BILLA As the suave bad guy who has since seen many remakes.



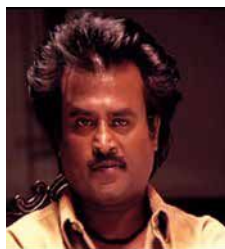
THILLU MULLU As make-believe twins in a twisted comedy tale.



NETTRIKAN As the playboy Daddy who doesn't let age stop his wild ways



MOONRU MUGAM As the unforgettable Alex Pandian.



THALAPATHY As Suriya who is none other than Karna, an epic tragic hero



ANNAMALAI As the simpleton who is betrayed by his rich best friend.



BAASHA As the fearless Mumbai don and the good natured auto driver



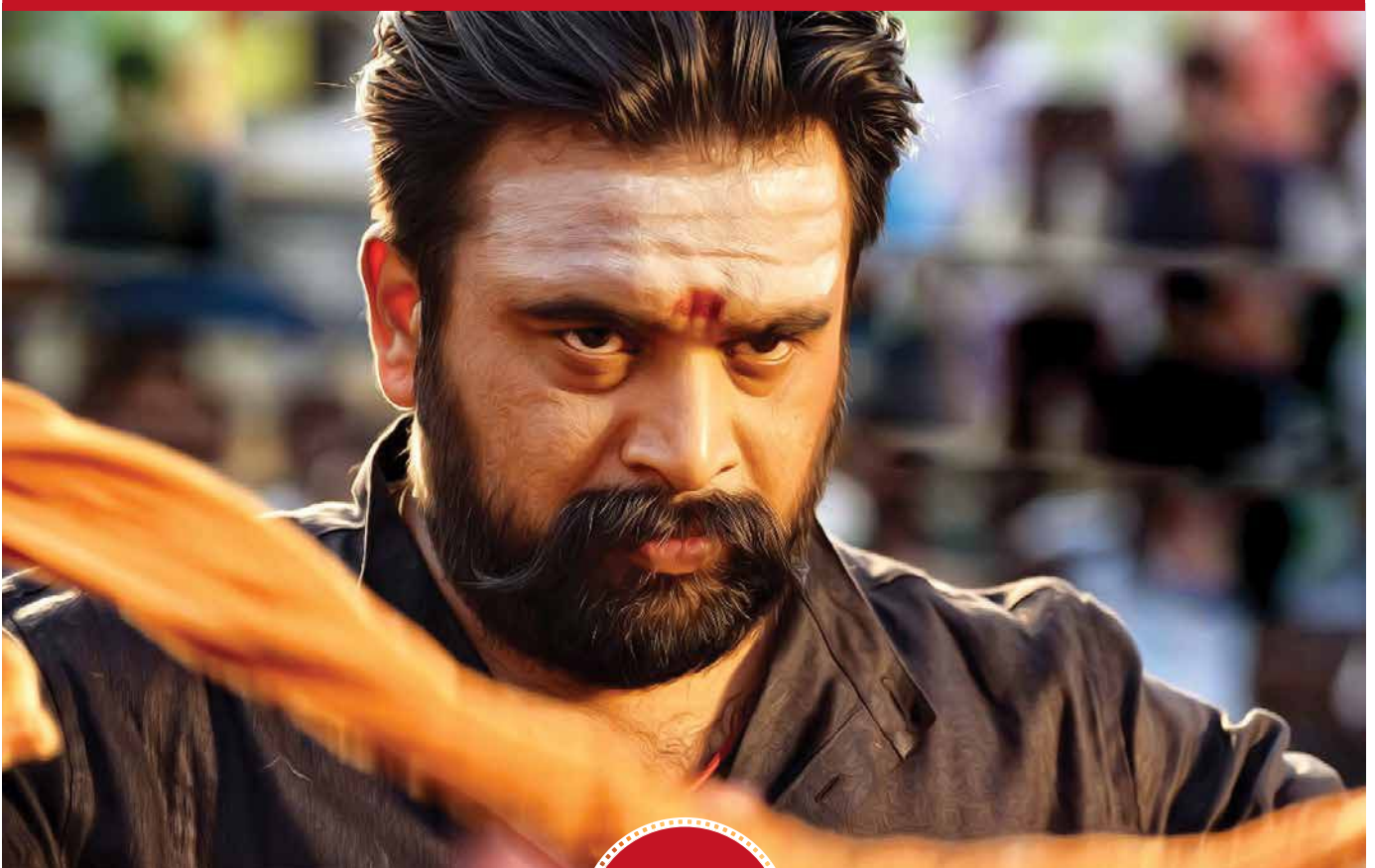
CHANDRAMUKHI As a telepathic psychologist who boos the ghost!



ENTHIRAN As the smart Chitti and as the villainously smart Chitti 2.0



KABALI As the tough gangster just out of jail and ready for revenge



KODI VEERAN

TAMIL

**MADURAI
VEERAN**

CAST: Sasi Kumar, Vidharth, Poorna, Sanusha

DIRECTOR: Muthaiya

BANNER/PRODUCER: Company Productions

MUSIC: NR Ragunathan



Director Muthaiyathons, is ready to put on another show for us with Kodi Veeran. Shot entirely in and around Madurai, the movie has Sasikumar in the lead with Vidharth playing a supporting role in it. From the looks of the posters and the teaser, Kodi Veeran is every bit a rural action movie - a genre the director has mastered over his last four movies. The person who has really stolen everyone's thunder with Kodiveeran is actress Poorna. How? She has dared to tonsure her head for the role! In a culture where a women is expected to have tresses hanging down to her waist, everytime an actress agrees to have it shaved off, it does make news. Poorna insists that she did not pick the role just to prove a point, but her confidence in her ability to pull of a bald look has definitely made a statement. Kodi Veeran was expected to release for Diwali, but Mersal squashed those plans and now the movie will releas end of November or early December.



SATHYA

TAMIL

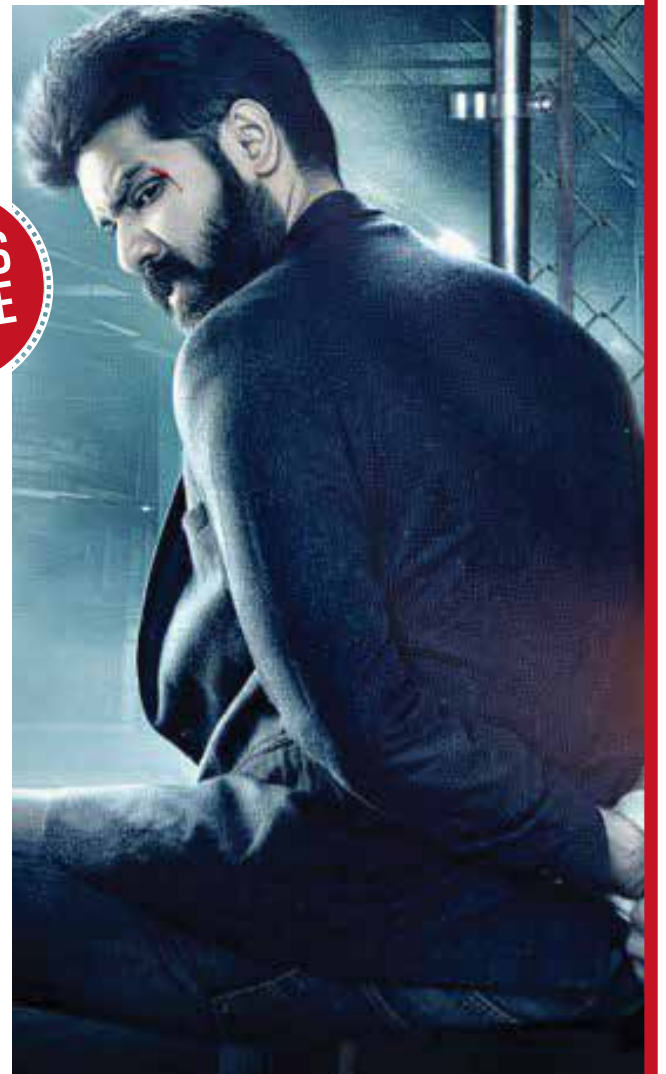
CAST: Sibiraj, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Anandhraj, Remya Nambeesan

DIRECTOR: Pradeep Krishnamoorthy

BANNER/PRODUCER: Naathambal Film Factory

MUSIC: Simon K King

Taking the name of a cult hit may grab attention, but it's a huge risk as well. You cannot avoid the comparison. Sibiraj who has lately put on his 'daring' gloves has been dabbling in a variety of genres - from co-starring with supernatural forces to canine stars, he's really ready to try anything that sounds interesting. From the looks of it Sathya is an intense suspense thriller. It is the remake of the Telugu movie Kshanam. Sibiraj reveals that while he really enjoyed Kshanam it was his sister who was first convinced that it would be great to remake it in Tamil. As for the title, he says that they were a bit apprehensive to request Kamal Haasan for the rights to use it. But not only did Kamal allow them to use the title, he was gracious enough to even tweet about the first look poster of the movie.



RICHEE

TAMIL

THRILLS
GALORE

CAST: Nivin Pauly, Natty, Shraddha Srinath, Lakshmi Priya, Prakash Raj

DIRECTOR: Gautham Ramachandran

BANNER/PRODUCER: Cast N Crew

MUSIC: B Ajaneesh Loknath

Nivin Pauly's second Tamil flick is here. After Neram, the actor has not been seen in a direct Tamil film, because he has been extremely busy earning accolades in Malayalam cinema. Premam was a game changer and Nivin's fan-base amidst Tamil audience has also increased. Richie, which is a remake of the Kannada film Ulidavaru Kandante (2014), was supposed to be made in Tamil and in Malayalam simultaneously. But Nivin is said to have insisted that it be made exclusively in Tamil and has even dubbed for himself. Director Gautham heeded his request. The movie's teaser created quite a flurry because no-one really expected to see Nivin in such an 'angry' avatar. The teaser has clearly got our hopes high. Gautham vouches that Nivin plays a gangster unlike any we have seen.



BALLOON

TAMIL

CAST: Jai, Anjali, Janani Iyer

DIRECTOR: Sinish

BANNER/PRODUCER: 70mm Entertainment & Farmer Master Plan Productions

MUSIC: Yuvanshankar Raja

MUST WATCH!



The moment you catch a glimpse of a clown in a horror movie, you can't help but think of Stephen King's IT. The Hollywood version released recently and scared us silly! And now Sinish, who worked in the shelved STR project Vettai Manan, brings that character into his horror movie Balloon. Plotwise we doubt there will be similarities, but the clown is no doubt a tribute to Stephen King. The haunted house with a haunted well and a possessed clown, seem to be the backdrop of this chilling tale. Jai, Anjali and Janani Iyer play the lead. Director Sinish stated that Jai has three individual looks in this movie and that the actor has worked very hard for them all. Given the success of Oviya's "Shut-up Pannugna" statement on Bigg Boss, a song titled the same was made and released recently. Anirudh has sung this track.



CHALO

TELUGU

Cast: Naga Shaurya, Reshmika

Director: Venkatesh Kumudula

Banner/Producer: Ira Creations

Music: Sagar Mahathi

Kannada actress Reshmika who shot to fame with her role in Kirk Party is beginning her Tollywood journey with Chalo. Co-starring with her is Naga Shaurya who will be seen in a completely new look. When director Venkatesh told Naga the story for Chalo the actor was so impressed that he wanted to produce the movie himself. Being his maiden production venture he has ensured that there has been compromise on quality. The movie is said to be a breezy college romance, infused with some great comedy. Thought it sounds like any run-of-the-mill story, the director promises it is not. The movie's story is set in a fictional place along the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu border. The lead players go to the same college and that's probably where the romance sets in. Director Venkatesh is the protege of Trivikram Srinivas, and hence the audience expectawell-thoughtout,well-writtenmovie.SaiSriram is the cinematographer. Turns out that he was so impressed with Reshmika that he has signed her on for his directorial debut.

SWEET
LOVE

MCA

TELUGU

CAST: Nani, Sai Pallavi, Bhumiika Chawla, Naresh

DIRECTOR: Venu Sree Ram

BANNER/PRODUCER: Sri Venkateshwara Creations

MUSIC: Devi Sri Prasad

Nani and Sai Pallavi come together for the first time for MCA, which does not expand into Master of Computer Application! In this fun flick MCA refers to Middle Class Abbhayi. The middle class boy is of course Nani and he is proud about his social status, the trailer reveals. He is a fun-loving single boy who enjoys the company of his buddies. And then along comes a beautiful girl... Sai Pallavi who made an astounding impact on Telugu audience with Fidaa is another asset to the movie. A beautiful girl proposing to the guy on their first meeting is something rather unexpected, telling us that Sai Pallavi plays a character that is unpredictable and quirky. She is all set to steal our hearts again. Dil Raju has produced the movie that is set to release on Decemeber 22.





VELAIKARAN

TAMIL

LAW
LESS

Cast: Sivakarthikeyan, Nayantara, Prakash Raj, Sneha, Fahadh Faasil, RJ Balaji
Director: Mohan Raja
Banner/Producer: 24AM Studio
Music: Anirudh Ravichandhar

At last the time has come for this Sivakarthikeyan-Nayantara starrer to hit the theatres. The movie has been awaiting a release date for a while now and finally it has been decided. Velaikaran will release in December. The movie is an action thriller and the poster with Sivakarthikeyan dressed in formals, holding a suitcase in one hand and a 'aruvaal' in the other, has been likened to the hard-hitting Hollywood movie Falling Down, which deals with one angry man who is unhappy with the system and decides to do some brutal cleaning up! Director Mohan Raja has not clarified this comparison. And even before the release of the movie, the Velaikaran team saw big success with the Karuthavanellam Galeejam song. The single track that was released earlier this year was an instant hit. The kuthu beats and the intense lyrics that talk about the hardworking middle class folk and their struggles, went on to become a chartbuster. The movie boasts of a stellar supporting cast which includes Prakash Raj, Sneha, Fahadh Faasil and Sathish





IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING!

For Percept Activ's Associate Vice President Sameer Sethi, hosting an event that the whole world will envy, is just another day in the office! It's not easy, but it's definitely not impossible. Percept Activ is one of South India's most sought after event management companies and Sameer gives us the backstory to the spectacular audio launch of Lyca Productions 2.0. The coming together of Superstar Rajinikanth, director Shankar and music maestro AR Rahman, is not common. And bringing all of them to one venue is the kind of miracle movie maniacs dream of!

"It was through Mr. Subhaskaran of Lyca Productions that we got the opportunity to plan and host the music launch of 2.0. Anyone who knows Indian cinema, know that 2.0 is not an ordinary movie. Lyca Productions have spent hundreds of crores on making sure that this movie is on par with International standards. So obviously, they wanted an event that would make the whole world watch," explains Sameer. From the glimpses we have had of the event, it was nothing short of amazing. The venue was the Burj Khalifa at Dubai, VIPs were flown in on helicopters, the movie's poster was launched in mid-air by sky-divers,

Rajinikanth emerged on the stage in the midst of dancers on a hydraulic lift, AR Rahman and Shankar made an entry on a 60 foot long train, bits of the stage that floated around were controlled via bluetooth, the entire audio launch was screened at a mall in Dubai on a 60 foot tall screen, over thousand people worked for weeks before the event venue...

"The only thing more that I could have done was asked the stars to jump from out of space! But this is what we wanted. We did not want merely a memorable event, we wanted one that could not be matched for the next 100 years to come," says Sameer, who adds that director Shankar's associate Pappu, was a big support in the execution of the event. "I watched the dance sequence being shot for the movie. So I saw the scale on which the movie was being made. I had to make an event that reflected the bigness of the movie. There was no question of compromising on the vision I had for the event. Shankar sir was on board with everything that was being arranged and Mr. Subhaskaran was confident that I would pull this off. Everything was planned and executed to perfection. Plan B is for losers - when you are not sure of what you are doing. Not for us,"



says Sameer. And true to his word that music launch was phenomenal in terms of performances, gimmicks and star presence. Ask him what he will do if he must plan 3.0's music launch and Sameer admits, "The thought scares me! It will be next to impossible!" But we are sure he'll figure it out!

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

G
**BOX
OFFICE**



THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU

TAMIL

CAST: Karthi, Rakul Preet, Abhimanyu Singh, Bose Venkat, Manobala, Sathyan

DIRECTOR: H Vinoth

BANNER: Dream Warrior Pictures

★★★★★ **OUT: NOVEMBER 17TH**

Officer Theeran Thirumaran is transferred to a district ravaged by a series of murders and burglaries. Theeran takes on the case which gains more prominence after an MLA becomes one of the victims. Theeran and his team of officers conduct intensive investigations that lead them to the scorching hot parched lands of Rajasthan and Maharashtra where the ruthless gang of murderers wander freely amongst innocent civilians. Catching the bad guys tests Theeran's mental and physical strength.

VERDICT

H Vinoth has skillfully woven a social message into this thriller of a film. The movie is long and winding, but for those who love police adventures, Theeran Adhigaram Ondru has lots to offer in terms of suspense, action and bloodshed. Karthi is the body and soul of the movie. He carries this gritty tale on his shoulders and keeps us interested in the plot. The barren desert is an unforgiving terrain, and Karthi has clearly braved the heat and harsh climate. At all times he comes out on top, keeping the movie moving and engaging with his performance.

WHAT WE LIKED:

Director H. Vinoth has skillfully balanced the social message in the movie and creates a huge respect for the police department without showcasing them as superheroes or as those who don't work at all. The striking balance with catchy dialogs change when the hunt begins and the attention to detail given for the gangs of robbers who operate from Sambal area will definitely blow the minds of audience who love such depth to their movies.

WHAT WE'D SKIP:

The movie is long. The length is what gets to you. The movie would have been so much better if the narrative had been taut. A few more snips would have added to the pace as well. Audience come to police stories expecting

fast cuts, high-speed chases and quick flow of action. That section of the audience is bound to get impatient in spite of the killer performances of the lead players.

THE CHARACTERS:

Theeran Adhigaram Ondru is Karthi's show all the way. Karthi has a fantastic screen presence and he makes sure that his lines, his look and his acting are perfect. Casting is top notch with Bose Venkat being the best pick for his seamless acting. The villain group from Northern India and police squad make the movie as believable as it can get. Rakul Preet Singh sticks to her role with a charm.

TECH CHECK:

Cinematographer Sathyan Sooryan and music director Ghibran have competed with each other, while his camera travels through dry lands searching for answers, the loud and thumping BGM elevates the tension. Dhilip Subburayan's stunt need to be mentioned. There is a certain authenticity in every punch that makes the final showdown satisfying. The camera, the music and the stunts come together brilliantly, leaving us breathless.





CAST: Udhayanidhi Stalin, Soori, Daniel Balaji, RK Suresh, Manjima Mohan
DIRECTOR: Gaurav Narayanan
BANNER: Lyca Productions



OUT: NOVEMBER 9TH



Madhu is an IT professional. He loses his job and it's his girlfriend who helps him pay off his loans. Daivakolundhu is a hardworking middle class man putting in extra hours to take care of his pregnant wife. Chotta is a terrorist who has planted a bomb in Chennai. Madhu and Daivakolundhu are suspected to be part of Chotta's terrorist group and that's where their lives intersect and that's where their lives come crashing down. How they prove their innocence is the rest of the story.

WHAT WE LIKED:

Udhayanidhi Stalin as Madhu, does a great job. His acting has truly matured - he is subtle, yet strong. Soori is essentially the comedian in the story, yet he pulls off a key role supporting the hero throughout. Daniel Balaji and RK Suresh's respective performance help move the story effortlessly. Kudos to Gaurav's story and screenplay for being smart and thrilling. There aren't any logical loopholes and a sensible narration ensures you don't get annoyed at any point of the flick.

WHAT WE'D SKIP:



The run-time could have been lesser. Even though Manjima Mohan has done her part well, the romance is not an essential element in the plot and could have been edited further.

VERDICT

Ippadai Vellum is one of Udhayanidhi's best performances. A job well done. The biggest plus of Ippadai Vellum is that the movie treats audience with respect and does not undermine their intelligence. On the whole a well-made thriller.



CAST: Siddharth, Atul Kulkarni, Andrea Jeremiah, Suresh, Anisha Angelina
DIRECTOR: Millind Rau
BANNER: Viacom 18 Motion Pictures



OUT: NOVEMBER 3RD



Dr Krish and his wife Lakshmi are living happily in a cozy home in Himachal Pradesh. They soon have new neighbours. The daughter Jenny has a crush on Krish. But soon a series of strange events take place leading them to believe that Jenny believes she is possessed. Being a man of science Krish does not immediately accept the idea of a ghost. His colleague, a psychiatrist suggests they fake an exorcism in order to help the girl come out of her fears. However, during the fake ceremony, all hell breaks loose. They realise that there is an inexplicable dark force at play. And soon everyone who has come in contact with Jenny start seeing things. Lakshmi who is pregnant has a near fatal fall because of an apparition. Krish and his colleague attempt to get to the bottom of the haunting and try to chase away the dark spirit.

WHAT WE LIKED:

The movie is a full-blown horror movie. There are hideous ghosts and gruesome deaths to send chills down your spine even if you are catching the matinee show! Millind and Siddharth deserve a pat on the back for reviving the horror genre, for all we get these days are

comedy-horror flicks that are neither here nor there. The art, VFX and make-up departments need special mention. They have done a terrific job in terrifying the audience!

WHAT WE'D SKIP:

The makers were really prepared for the A Certificate from the Censor Board, because they have not bothered to go easy on the gruesome details of the 'ghost' and the deaths. Two hours of this however, does tend to make you nauseous.

VERDICT

If you can stomach the gore for two hours, if you are a hardcore horror buff, if you are fed-up with the ridiculous number of pseudo-horror flicks that have released in the last five years, then this one is a refreshing change. And even if you are not a big fan of the horror genre, you will surely enjoy the thrills and chills. The movie has taken inspiration from Hollywood movies such as *Conjuring* and *Exorcist*, but it has definitely raised the bar for Indian horror flicks.



CAST: Krishna, Sai Dhansika, Vidharth, Venkat Prabhu, Sarah, Abinaya

DIRECTOR: Meera Kathiravan

PRODUCED BY: Haya Mariam Film House



OUT: NOVEMBER 3RD

Vizhithiru follows the happenings in the life of five individuals: Krishna is Muthukumar who loses his wallet and searching for it gets him painfully tangled up in a murder. Then there are Viddharth and Dhansika who

are petty thieves on the run from the cops. Finally we have a little girl played by the extremely cute and expressive Sarah. She and her visually impaired father (Venkat Prabhu) are searching the streets for their lost dog. All these people live their lives as far removed from each other as possible, yet there maybe a fine thread that connects their paths. To find out how and where, watch the movie!

WHAT WE LIKED:

Well, we loved the racey pace. But what we loved and are grateful for the most is that director Meera Kathiravan did not feel compelled

to add a couple of songs just to stick to the masala formula. Kudos to that! There is the kuthu song by T Rajendar, but fortunately it is quite enjoyable.

WHAT WE'D SKIP:

While we totally appreciate the director's attempt to stay away from cliches we wish he had steered a way from the many coincidental meetings in the story. There are times that we feel that two characters are put at the same place just to move the story forward and are not brought there by the story.

VERDICT

Krishna does a good job, as do Vidharth and Dhansika. Applause to Venkat Prabhu and Sarah as well. Vizhithiru is primarily a thriller and it does bring you to the edge of the seat in anticipation. The movie is technically sound and most of the knots are neatly untied, which means the director has written his story well. The movie is totally worth a watch. Thumbs up & three cheers!



NENJIL THUNIVIRUNDHAL

TAMIL



CAST: Sundeep Kishan, Vikranth, Mehreen Pizada, Harish Utthaman

DIRECTOR: Suseenthiran

BANNER: Annai Film Factories



OUT: NOVEMBER 10TH



Suseenthiran's Nenjil Thunivirundhal is an action thriller in the lines of his hugely successful Pandiyanadu. Kumar and Mahesh are best buddies. Kumar's sister falls in love with Mahesh and on a parallel track, a group of local thugs want to get hold of Mahesh. The reason for this is unknown. When Kumar gets wind of the situation, he takes it upon himself to save his friend. Kumar's father used to be in the police force hence the police are willing to help Kumar on his mission to free Mahesh from the clutches of the bad guys.

WHAT WE LIKED:

The movie moves forward at good pace. The casting is perfect. Sundeep gets good screen time and he makes the best use of it. He is a newcomer, yet he manages to pull off the character with ease. Vikranth, who got a second life in the biz through Suseenthiran's Pandiyanadu, has once more proved that he has the stuff but just needs the right scripts. His does brilliantly. Harish Utthaman is one of the upcoming 'villains' to watch out for. He packs lot of power into every role he takes. In Nenjil Thunivirundhal he is the loud, obnoxious villain type and yes, he does it

with finesse! Most of the movie is shot at night and the cinematographer has lit up the shots in such a way that there is always an element of suspense around the edges. D. Imman's background score is a major asset. It fills in the gaps and enhances the suspense.

WHAT WE'D SKIP:

Though the movie is enjoyable, some scenes and situations remind us of Suseenthiran's previous movies in this genre. He needs to relook at his shot designing. And we hope that next time he casts Vikranth, he will give him the lead, since he does bring out the best in the actor.

VERDICT

Good entertainment. Once more Suseenthiran has proved that he can definitely take an action movie that has some amount of drama in it as well. His films generally pit a common guy against a seemingly insurmountable villain. Suseenthiran has mastered that genre and has given one more hit. Congratulations!



CAST: Nayantara, Ramachandran Durairaj, Sunu Lakshmi, Kitty
DIRECTOR: Gopi Nainar
PRODUCED BY: KJR Studios



OUT: NOVEMBER 10TH

Aramm is not for you if you just want to while away time at the movies and head home whistling a tune. Aramm is the kind of movie that will wake you up and make you see the murky reality. Director Gopi Nainar wastes no time in build-up of any kind. Nor does

he soften the path for us as he leads us into the this hard-hitting, thought provoking tale that questions the system and all the people who keep it running. Nayantara is being questioned over the rescue operation of a young girl who fell into a 100 feet deep hole. The investigation and the flashback open a can of worms, that needs cleaning.

WHAT WE LIKED:

Nayantara has come a long way from playing arm-candy to mass heroes. In daring to take on a completely de-glammed look in Aramm, she

has taken a risk that has paid off. As the District Collector she is both firm and sensitive. Her acting is top notch. Gopi Nainar and KJR Studios need to be thanked for making such a movie.

WHAT WE'D SKIP:

The movie is based on one single incident. And recounting it again and again, is the only set-back.

VERDICT

Aramm is undoubtedly a praiseworthy attempt. The movie will be the forerunner in the National Awards race - both director Gopi Nainar and Nayantara deserve to be awarded. Gopi Nainar has not bothered with the usual masala formula and has instead trusted in the power of a good story. It's a big win for him. The dialogues in the movie are also brilliant. Pazhani Pattalam has a lot of punch lines, which the audience applaud for each time. Om Prakash's camerawork is perfect for the movie. All in all a technically sound movie, with a lot of heart.

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH





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THE PRESSURE OF EXPECTATION IS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME BUT THE LOVE SHOWERED BY FANS IS VERY OVERWHELMING. I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY GRANDFATHER TO GIVE 100% IN EVERYTHING I DO!

When did you decide to take up acting?

I was very much an outdoors kind of guy and my high levels of energy lead me to take up a lot of sports. I went to study in Australia, just to play cricket. However, everybody at home used to talk about cinema and when I was around fifteen or sixteen, I too decided to get into acting.

What preparations did you undergo to become an actor?

Nowadays, the industry is completely different than what it was earlier. All actors are well prepared in all disciplines before getting into cinema and I also took up a course at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in the USA. Initially, I was very self-conscious but the course helped me discover myself and more importantly, there I was judged for my performance rather than for who I was.

How did your debut film come about?

The clarity with which VV Vinayak sir narrated the story was amazing. The fresh script and the high octane stunts attracted me. I trained in Thailand for two months to learn the basics of stunts and rope work.

Whom do you take after - Mother or Father?

I take after my mother in complexion. Her mother is Irish, so I have some Irish blood in me. However, my facial features are very much like my father's and I also have a natural passion for fitness, very much like him. I guess I have gotten the best from both my parents!

UPCOMING PROJECTS :

AFTER HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN CINEMA AS A TODDLER, AKHIL AKKINENI MADE A FEW CAMEO APPEARANCES IN MOVIES BEFORE DEBUTING WITH AKHIL IN 2015.

AKHIL'S UPCOMING MOVIE HELLO, WHICH HAS KALYANI PRIYADARSHAN DEBUTING AS A HEROINE, IS DIRECTED BY VIKRAM KUMAR. THE MOVIE'S FIRST LOOK AND TEASER HAVE RECEIVED A LOT OF POSITIVE RESPONSE AND THE MOVIE IS SCHEDULED TO HIT SCREENS ON DECEMBER 22! ■



from google

www.cinepost.net

AKHIL AKKINENI

WONDER WOMAN

With Nayantara the surprises never stop coming. She has seen her movie career go through various phases of ups and downs. Taking hits in her personal life in her stride, she has glided on with utmost dignity. We cannot blame her for the times she decided to stay aloof for haven't we all made miscalculations of people and situations? In a business that is all about keeping face, Nayantara has no issues showing her real self at all times. She smiles when she's happy and keeps silent when she is not. But right now, is the season of smiles - of high spirits and celebration. She took a break from acting a few years ago, for personal reasons. For critics and nay-sayers who thought she would never be accepted if she returned, her career achievements in the last three years is a slap on the face. Her fanbase has only increased by several times, her filmography is growing and she is now deemed Lady Superstar! What more can she do to prove that even in a so-called man's world, hard-work and perseverance will eventually pay off? She has hit a peak in her career at a time when many others would be thinking of retirement plans. She has given hope to her lot that age is not a barrier anymore. She has broken the mould.





HOW IT BEGAN...

There's something about a Mallu gal that is forever alluring! Nayan started her career in Malayalam cinema, but once she wowed us in *Ayya* and *Chandramukhi*, Tamil cinema knew the worth of the diamond in hand!

SCANDALS MADE HER STRONGER

Sometimes it takes a set-back to jolt you into action. Not once, but twice we saw her have her heartbroken and we truly sympathised with her. She took our love and some strength from within and rose like a mountain. A force that cannot be contained.

LADY SUPERSTAR

She has of course, very modestly requested fans to stop calling her that. But the fact remains. She is the Lady Superstar of current times. On the one hand she can gleefully glam up and play arm-candy to heroes younger than her. And on the other, she can wipe off the lip gloss and bronzer, slip into a cotton saree and fight for the cause of the common man, as she did in *Aramm*. Phenomenal performance!

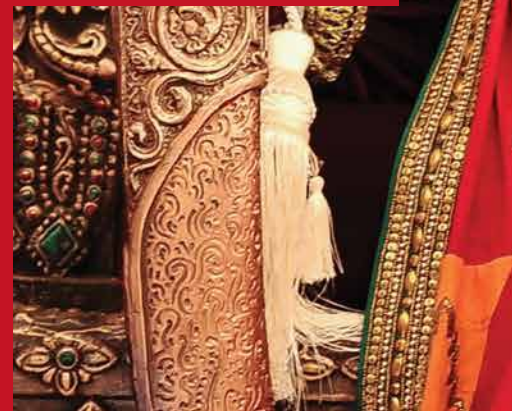
THE POWER OF SHAKTI

SECURE IN HER SPACE

From the start of her career to now, Anushka has never shied away from multi-starrers. She has always been confident in her ability to connect with the audience no matter how little screen time she had or how many other heroines were on board. That's the kind of confidence that deserves a salute.



When in the presence of Anushka, one cannot help being drawn by the positivity she exudes. Cheerful, polite and an absolute sport, her given name 'Sweety' seems like the better fitting option! Anushka was ruling the movie scene in Telugu cinema for a while before Kollywood realised that we had actually had our chance with her and let it pass! The beginning of her acting career is studded with the regular dose of 'bubbly roles', which is sort of where all her contemporaries started. But with a dozen 'bubbly' young girls eagerly waiting at the threshold, Anushka had to make herself indispensable. And that's where being a good actress came in handy! Even in simple, blink-and-a-miss roles, she has given her absolute best. So when Arundhathi came along and alighted on her shoulders, she was ready to take on the challenge. Anushka packed so much power into the role, that we all just had to surrender to her.





HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Word on the grapevine is that she chanced to meet Nagarjuna when she was still a yoga instructor. Seeing a spark in the charming young yoga teacher, it is said that Nags suggested her for one of the lady leads in his movie Super. The rest as they say, is history! Whether Nags had a hand in her discovery or not, co-starring with him is the kind of dream debut few heroines have had, that too in a Puri Jagannath film!

FEMME FATALE!

Anushka played some super glam roles in the first few years of her career. Her good looks and the absolute ease with which she dealt with her 'sexy' image, made her the most sought after actress. However, she really took our breath away when she pulled off the haunting double act in Arundhati. Nobody expected her to do it and that too so well! Her parts in Rudramadevi and Baahubali further strengthened her image as an Empress who could hold court without a King.

BOO TO THE BODY SHAMERS!

Anushka has recently been criticised for putting on too much weight and losing her oomph. But the actress has really chiseled herself into shape for the upcoming thriller Bhaagamathie.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Trisha was happily minding her own business and studying. Then the pageants happened. Then the modeling assignments happened. And then she made the big mistake of saying she would NEVER act - a statement that she regrets having ever made, because we just won't stop teasing her about it! Never say never, dear girl! Because a year after the fatal statement she was busy shooting for Priyadarshan's Lesa Lesa!

MAMA'S GAL

When you are an actress there's a camera on you even when you are not on the shooting spot. From an after-party jig in a park, to link-ups with best buddies and a called-off marriage Trisha's personal life has seen bad times. And her pillar of support through it all has been her mother. Trisha has no qualms in admitting that she is a complete Mama's Girl!

MORE POWER TO YOU!

She seemed a tad shy and a little awkward in her first couple of movies. But then the glam-girl emerged with Samy and after a decade of doing those fluttery butterfly roles, Trisha surprised us with Thoonga Vanam. Our good girl had turned tough. Then came Kodi. The tough girl had just gone plain bad! And then in Nayak she turned pure Evil. She has proven each time that she is not a starry eyed newbie anymore and that she can definitely carry complex characters.

FOREVER & EVER

Time has passed by but it has definitely not touched Trisha! She looks just as gorgeous as she did almost fifteen years ago when she pledged that she would never act in cinema! It's funny how life sometimes thrusts you in the exact direction you did not want to go. Trisha may have had other plans, but Fate was not listening! With a couple of beauty pageant titles tucked under her belt and a killer smile on her face, Trisha arrived in Kollywood and we have no intention of saying ba-bye! If you look at the list of movies on her filmography, you will see that in the first few years of her career she had quickly starred with all the top actors and was happily perched in the big league and we mean in both Tamil and Telugu. She grew more and more confident in front of the camera, and it showed in the way she went from one role to another. Before she knew it she was No. 1 in the biz. Trisha has lasted in mainstream cinema for much longer than most other actresses. She continues to play the lead and continues to have a sway over the audience, proving that age definitely does not matter - it's all about charisma, good will and great acting skill. She has been on top of the game for more than a decade, which is a remarkable feat for a woman in cinema.



**HOW IT ALL BEGAN...**

We owe it all to SJ Suryah! Remember his first movie Vaali that went on to be a smashing hit? Well, Jo made a brief appearance in that flick and then she starred in Poovellam Kettupar with Suriya. And before she knew it she was cast opposite Ajith, Vijay, Arjun and Kamal Haasan. Her rise to No.1 was quick and smooth. Word has it that it was in fact upon her recommendation that Gautham Menon cast Suriya in Kaaka Kaaka.

HAPPILY MARRIED

Of course there were rumours that Suriya's family did not approve of the romance. But the two got married and Jothika quietly slipped into her new role as wife and daughter-in-law, and then mom. We caught glimpses of her at elite events, but we got no hint that hubby Suriya had big plans to re-launch her acting career.

ROCK N ROLL!

When Suriya started his own production house 2D Entertainment and announced that his first movie would be 36 Vayadhinile starring Jothika, it came as a pleasant surprise to everyone. The actress deftly pulled off a role that resembled Sridevi's part in her come-back movie English Vinglish. She followed this up with the heartwarming Magalir Mattum, and we expected more feel-good flicks from Jo. And that's when the trailer of Bala's Naachiyar kicked up a storm. Jothika is definitely ready for Act II in her movie-saga.

SHE'S BACK!

Back in the day she broke the myth that you had to be super-slim to be No.1. In her effervescent smiles she had the Tamil audiences in a trance. Somehow from the very start of her career Jothika managed to grab roles that in spite of being lesser important than the male lead, were nevertheless well-crafted. As sister of Nagma, who ruled supreme with her 'glamour roles', Jothika had to find her own niche. And she did. She just took glamour out of the equation and focussed on passing off as the girl next door. Tamil was an alien language to her then and yet, her lip-sync from day one, was spot on. Clearly that young girl was all out to find a spot not just in showbiz, but in every Tamil household. And when she was at the top, crown upon her brow, she gracefully stepped on and into married life. Her romance with Suriya was one that neither of them openly discussed and understandably so. The actress settled into married life like any other woman would - embracing the in-laws, their traditions and their lifestyle wholeheartedly. As much as we crushed on the Suriya-Jo pairing in real life, we missed her. Little did we expect her to return to the silver screen and that to with Suriya watching her back like a hawk - an albeit adorable hawk!



STRONG

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Amala Paul's claim to fame was the heart-wrenching Mynaa. But that was not her first movie. The actress had starred in a few movies before Mynaa, including the very controversial Sindhu Samaveli. Mynaa gave her career a boost and Deiiva Thirumagal gave it a face-lift. She landed some interesting movies such as Vettai, Kadhalil Sodhapuvadhu Yeppadi and Muppozhudhum Un Karpanaiye. She was beautiful and she most definitely could act - a combination that made her hot property.

RENEWED ENERGY

Amala Paul was in the prime of her career when she married her beau director Vijay. It was a short-lived marriage. The two parted ways and Amala returned to acting. Only this time she has decided only to work in movies that give her space and opportunity to perform. Amma Kanaku and Milli are two samples of her innate talent and her ability to shoulder entire movies.

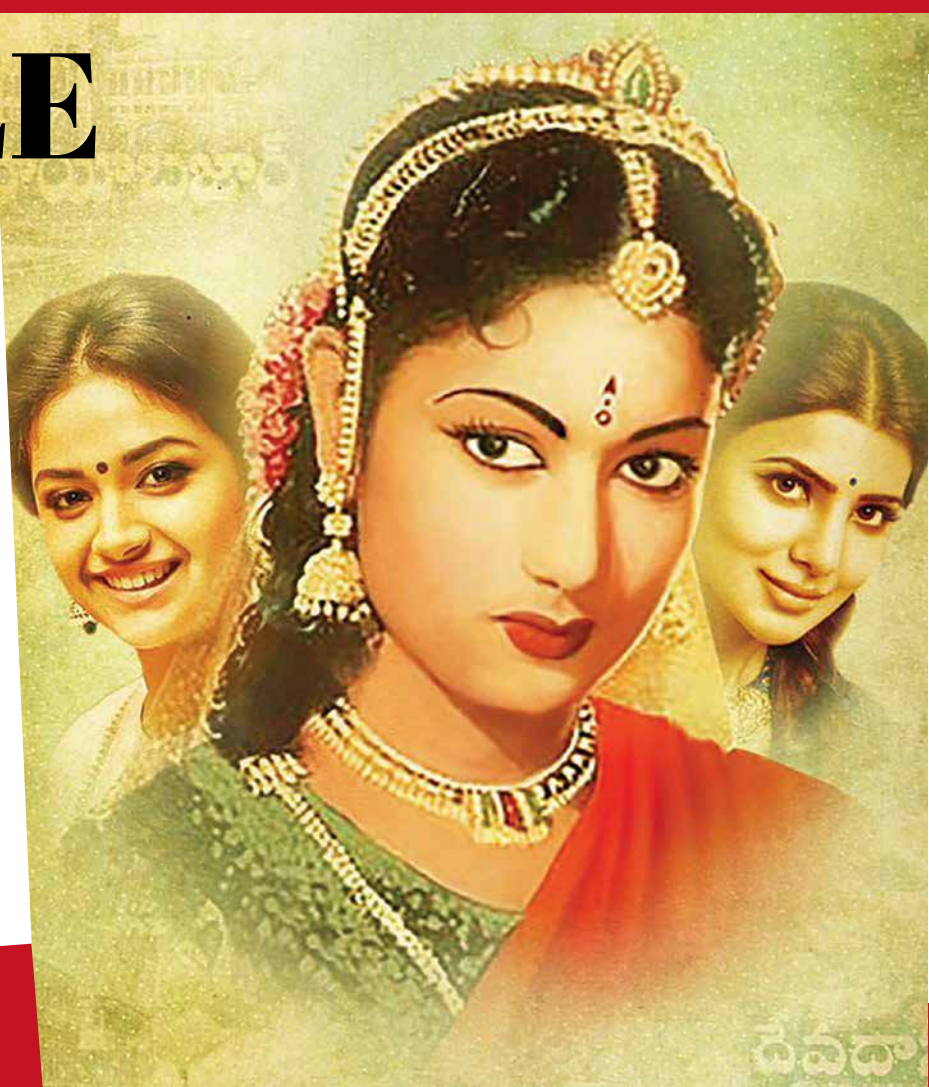
SUBTLE

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Keerthi Suresh made her debut with director Vijay's Idhu Enna Mayam. The movie did not do well at the box-office, but Keerthi Suresh had made heads turn. In look and demeanour she is the kind of girl any girl can relate to. Her effortless acting and unabashed smiles have ensured her a spot in cinema for many years to come. Her career graph has been on the rise, acting with only big-league stars in movies directed by the big fish in the biz.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

If there was a list of actors an actress must act with in order to be accepted into the big league, Keerthi has probably ticked off most of the names. But we believe that the true validation came for her through a movie that is still in the making. Keerthi Suresh has been selected to play the part of actress Savitri in the bio-pic of the yesteryear heroine whose acting skill is compared to Sivaji Ganeshan himself! Savitri was infact called Nadigaiyar Thilagam. and playing her is an absolute honour





SEXY

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Raai Laxmi was just seventeen years old when we first laid eyes on her in her debut movie Karkakasadara. And from then to now, Rai Laxmi has always been a bold woman. In her interviews, in spite of the girly giggles, we always sensed a strong, motivated force in her aura. And today she has completed fifty movies in multiple Indian languages which makes us very proud of her.

MY BODY. MY CHOICE.

Over the years Raai Laxmi has become synonymous with glamour, and she has no problem with that image. The actress has no illusions about the movie business. She is comfortable in showing off her curves, as long as it is done aesthetically. Julie 2, is a her most recent releasee. The movie may not have turned out to be a box-office stunner. But Raai Laxmi has made a bold statement. She will not hold back for a role, if she believes in the movie. The bold and brazen Julie of the movie is quite like the strong willed Raai Laxmi we know!

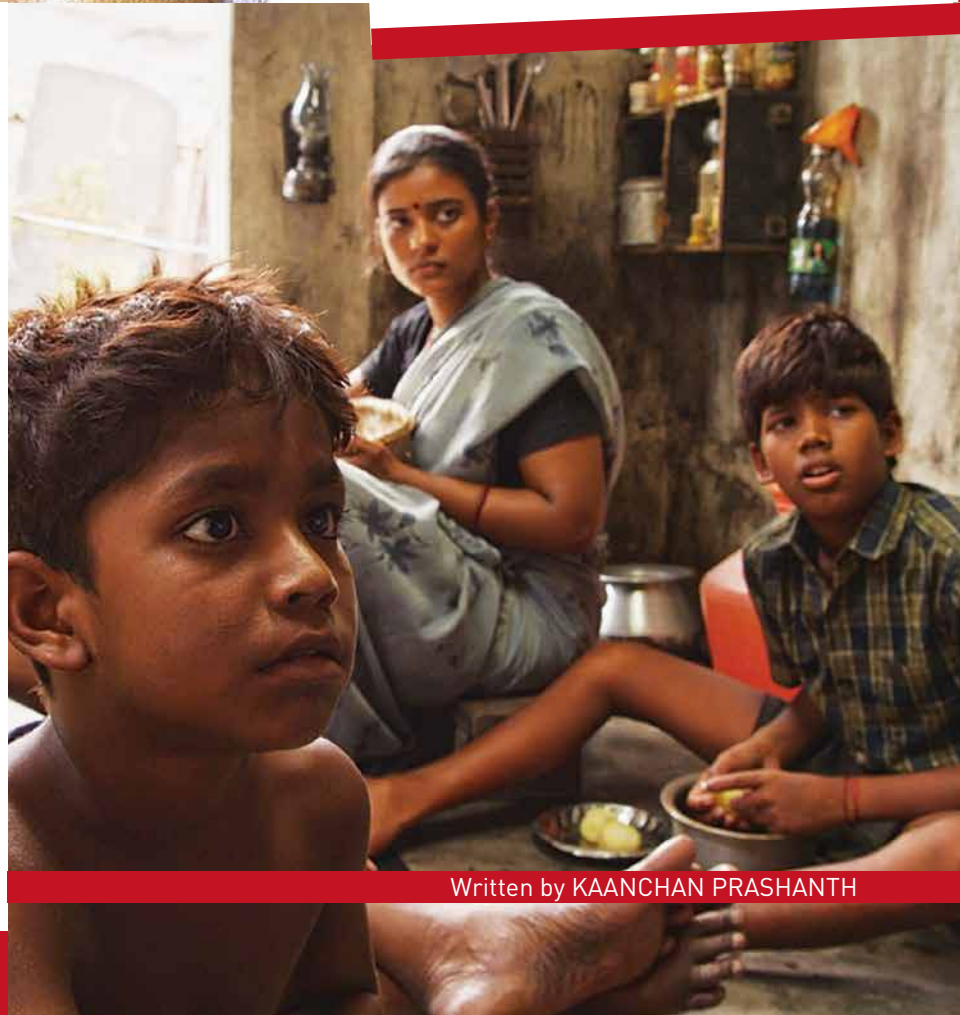
SMART

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

There was a time when TV stars were not so welcome in cinema. If you wanted to make it big on the silver screen you steered clear off the small screen. Today of course, those lines are blurred thanks to a few successful TV to cinema transitions. Aishwarya Rajesh started on TV as well. She gained popularity via a reality dance competition. She did a whole bunch of roles before she landed the jackpot with Kaaka Muttai and then the offers came pouring in.

ON THE RISE

She had no trouble playing a young mother in Kaaka Muttai. She saw a good opportunity and grabbed it. Even in non-descript parts, she holds our attention and stays memorable. She made her debut in Bollywood with Daddy alongside Arjun Ramphal. For most actresses a Hindi film in their kitty means they have arrived! Aishwarya certainly has.



Written by KANCHAN PRASHANTH



GREAT EIGHT!

Balakrishna's Legend bagged 8 awards for the year 2014 in the following categories: Best Film, Best Actor, Best Director, Best Villain, Best Dialogue Writer, Best Editor, Best Fights and Best Special Effects.

f/14reels You

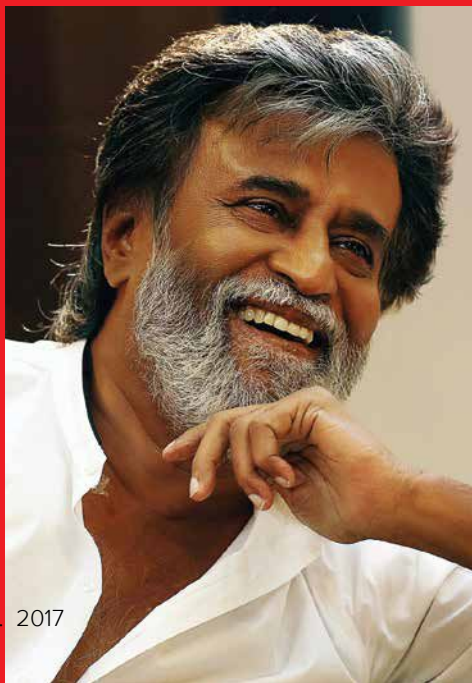
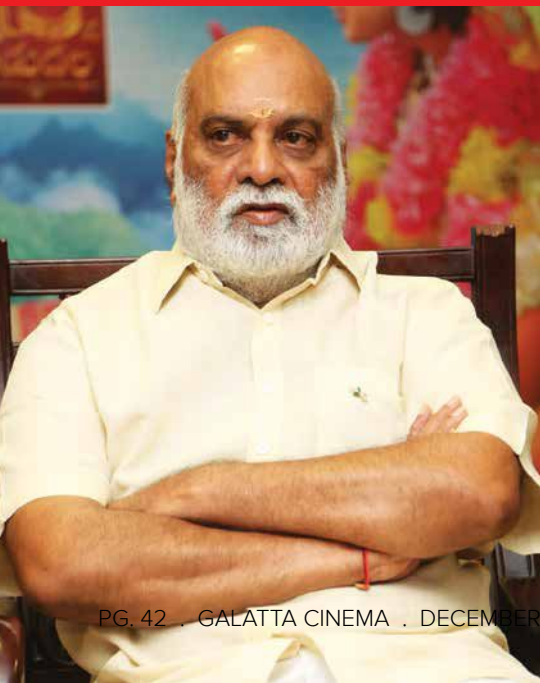
AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

IT WAS A SEASON OF CELEBRATION FOR TELUGU CINEMA LAST MONTH, WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NANDI AWARDS FOR THE YEARS 2014, 2015 AND 2016. HERE'S A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE WINNERS...



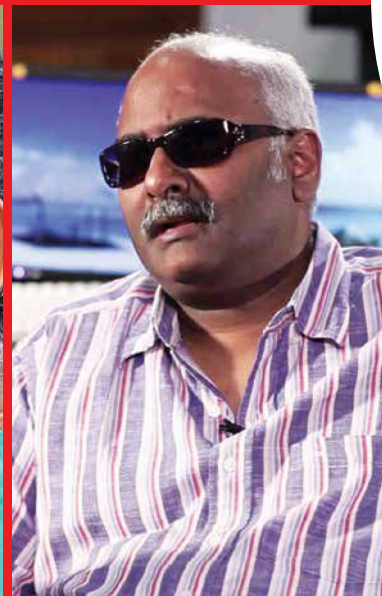
REWARDING THE LEGENDS

The NTR National Film award for the year 2014 went to Kamal Haasan while K. Raghavendra Rao bagged the award for the year 2015 and superstar Rajinikanth received the award for the year 2016.





THE BIG BOSS was Baahubali- The Beginning, of course. It waltzed away with 13 awards for the year 2015 in the following categories: Best Film, Best Director, Best Supporting Actress, Best Villain, Best Cinematographer, Best Playback Singer (male), Best Music, Best Choreographer, Best Fight Master, Best Dubbing, and Best Special Effects.



MEN OF THE MOMENT

As for the BN Reddy National Film Award, it went to Rajamouli, Trivikram Srinivas, and Boyapati Srinivas for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016 respectively. The Nagi Reddy Chakrapani national film award for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016 went to Narayana Murthy, MM Keeravani and KS Rama Rao. Krishnam Raju, Eswar, Chiranjeevi were selected for the Raghupathi Venkaiah film award for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

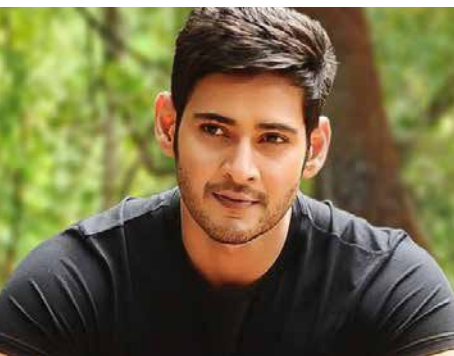
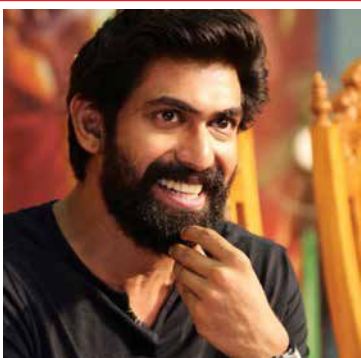




While Balakrishna won the Best Actor award for Legend, Anjali bagged the Best Actress award for her role in Geethanjali. Naga Chaitanya's role in Manam and Lakshmi Manchu's part in Chandhamama Kathalu won them Best Supporting Actor awards. Vidhyulekha and Brahmanandham won awards for their comic relief in Run Raja Run and Race Gurram, respectively. Jagapathy Babu took home the Nandi for Best Villain in Legend. Anup Ruben's music for Manam earned him the Best Music Composer award and Krishna Vamsi won the Best Story Writer Award for Govindudu Andarivadele.



2014 NANDI AWARD WINNERS AT A GLANCE

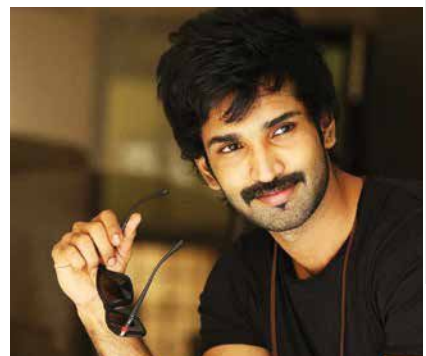


2015 NANDI AWARD WINNERS AT A GLANCE

Baahubali stole the show with 13 awards, but it did miss out on a couple of top awards: Best Actor, which went to Mahesh Babu for Srimanthudu & Best Actress that went to Anushka for Size Zero. Ramya Krishnan's power-packed role in Baahubali got her the Best Supporting Actress award, while Posani Krishna Murali took home the Best Supporting Actor title for Temper. Of course, Rana Dagubatti was picked and awarded Best Villain for Baahubali. MM Keeravani won the Best Music Composer award and the Best Play-back singer for Baahunali.

2016 NANDI AWARD WINNERS AT A GLANCE

Peli Choopulu was honored Best Feature film, and it's lady lead Ritu Varma won the Best Actress title. Jr NTR won the Best Actor Award for Janatha Garage and Nannaku Prematho. Mohanlal's role in Janatha Garage earned him the Best Supporting Actor, while Jayasudha was given the Best Supporting Actress award for Sathamam Bavati. Aadhi Piniseti won the Best Villain award for Sarrainodu. Sathamam Bavati's music won Mickey J Meyer the Best Music Award.



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RAUL PREET SINGH IS THE HOTTEST NEWS IN SOUTH CINEMA RIGHT NOW. SHE'S BEEN IN THE BIZ FOR OVER FIVE YEARS NOW, AND THOUGH SHE DID TWO TAMIL FILMS EARLIER ON, TELUGU CINEMA SNATCHED HER UP AND SMOTHERED HER WITH GOOD OPPORTUNITY, THAT IT WAS A WHILE BEFORE SHE TURNED UP ON THE KOLLYWOOD RADAR. WHEN SPYDER HAPPENED, TAMIL CINEMA COULD RESIST HER NO MORE AND NOW SHE'S GOT A FLURRY OF TAMIL FILMS, STARTING WITH THE SUPERHIT THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONRU. IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH GALATTA CINEMA THE PETITE ACTRESS NOT ONLY WOWS US WITH HER HONEY-DIPPED TAMIL, BUT WITH HER SINCERE REPLIES THAT COME STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART...



ALATTA CINEMA: WHY HAVE YOU STAYED AWAY FROM TAMIL CINEMA FOR SO LONG?

RAKUL PREET: I know, it's been a while right.

But it's not like I've just been sitting around and avoiding every Kollywood offer that came my way. I did Thadayara Thakka and Pudhyugam a while ago and then I just started getting interesting offers in Telugu cinema. I too was waiting for something good to come up in Tamil as well, and that's when Spyder happened. After Spyder, I feel the opportunities in Tamil have increased.

GC: AND THAT WOULD BRING US TO THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU. WHAT EXCITED YOU ABOUT THE MOVIE?

RP: The story is based on true events. It's a case that was being investigated between 1995 and 2005. I feel it's important to tell people such stories about real events and real heroes. The people should be aware of the things going on around them - the true stories. Also I loved the character that I was offered. It was something I have never done before. It was fun as well as new - that really got me hooked. And when I was told the story, I had already watched Sathuranga Vettai by director Vinodh. I liked the way the screenplay had been written. So I was more than happy to be a part of his next movie.

GC: DID YOU CONNECT ON SOME LEVEL WITH THE CHARACTER YOU PLAYED IN THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONRU?

RP: Not at all. In Theeran Adhigaran Onru, I play a Tamil girl from a lower-middle class family. I have failed multiple times in school. I have no interest in studying, yet whenever I am called to do some household chores, I immediately pick up my text books and pretend to be busy. I'm more interested in going to the movies than to school. And everytime the topic of marriage crops up, I say that I wish to pursue a Masters degree and have no time for marriage. These simple moments make up the personality of the character I play, which is very different from who I am and different from any role that I have played so far. I also really liked the romance in the movie, the way the love-story was designed by the director. The love-scenes as realistic as they may seem are too good to be true! Every time he described the scene I would be awed by the amount of love the two characters had for each and how they showed it. Karthi and me used to tease Vinodh saying the scenes were inspired by his married life, for he had just gotten married, like the characters in the movie!

GC: WE HEAR THAT YOUR CO-STAR KARTHI WAS ALSO YOUR TAMIL TEACHER! WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH HIM?

RP: He is a very grounded guy. He has absolutely no 'hero image' of himself. He was there to help me whenever I needed it. I used to put in a lot of effort to learn my lines in Tamil, but somehow during the take I would forget something. And before anyone else could prompt me, Karthi himself would tell me what my line was! That was amazing because it meant he knew every dialog in the movie! His passion and hardwork is something else!

GC: WHAT KIND OF A RAPPORT DID THE TWO OF YOU SHARE? IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HE CRACKS UP HIS CO-STARS BETWEEN SHOTS...

RP: Absolutely! He is a fun guy and most of the scenes that we share is also fun. The two characters thrive off each other's personalities. It's not just about saying your lines and conveying a message. The chemistry had to work, for the characters to work. And Karthi is as helpful and supportive as it gets.

GC: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIRECTOR VINODH?

RP: He is absolutely focused. and unwavering. Vinodh is very clear about what he wants. If he has planned a certain sequence to last for one minute, even if it took ten seconds more, he would go in for a retake, cause he was rock sure that it was worth only a minute. He has seen to it that the editing is taut, giving enough weightage to the various parts of the movie. These are definitely his strong points. Another thing is knowing where to draw the line in commercialising a film that is based on a true story. As a director you need to strike a balance between 'commercial elements' and telling the truth like it is without taking too much of 'cinematic privileges'. Vinodh has it all figured out and he will pursue it. Unswerving, Unyielding.

GC: SPYDER, YOUR PREVIOUS FILM AND THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONRU, ARE BOTH BILINGUALS. HOW DOES MAKING A BILINGUAL IMPACT YOU?

RP: By completely stressing you out! It definitely is extremely difficult to work on the same movie in two different languages (that are not my mother-tongue)

WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY JOURNEY IN CINEMA FROM MY FIRST FILM TO NOW, I SENSE THAT I HAVE MATURED IN THE ART OF ACTING. HOW AND WHO TAUGHT ME, I CANNOT TELL YOU SPECIFICALLY.



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simultaneously. Of course, doing the movie in two languages means that you reach a bigger audience, which is great for everybody, but it is really challenging. The most difficult thing for me and even for Mahesh Babu was shooting the songs. We would have to learn different moves for the same line, while lip-syncing to different lyrics as well. We would need longer breaks during the switch from language to the other, so that we too could mentally make the switch. But these challenges are what make the job exciting, right!

GC: WHAT LESSON IN CINEMA DID YOU LEARN ON THE SETS OF SPYDER FROM DIRECTOR AR MURUGADOSS?

RP: Learning is a continuous process. You can't quite pinpoint any one particular thing that you have learnt from one person. Most of the time you don't realise you have learnt something, you naturally imbibe it from the people you meet and the situations you experience. When I look back at my journey in cinema from my first film to now, I sense that I have matured in the art of acting. How and who taught me, I cannot tell you specifically. It's from everyone, even the people who interview me maybe!

GC: YOU DID THE REMAKE OF THANI ORUVAN IN TELUGU - DRUVA. HOW DID YOU APPROACH THE CHARACTER?

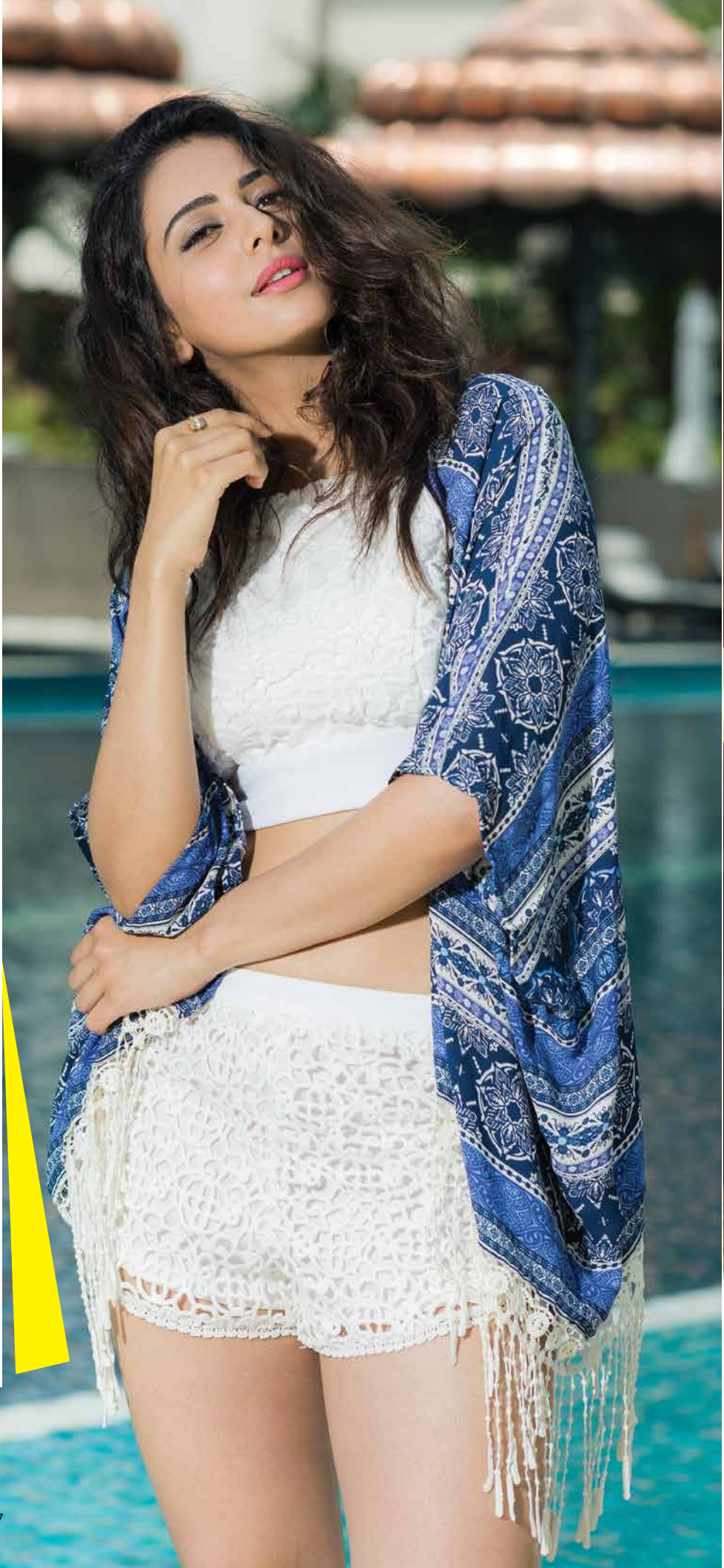
RP: I watched Thani Oruvan much before the offer to act in Druva came to me. I loved the movie. And Nayantara is one of my most favourite actresses, and she had set a benchmark already for the character, which I had to beat. Remaking a hit film is tricky for the actors and the makers. But I was sure I did not want to imitate the original. After I signing on Druva, I did not watch Thani Oruvan again. I did not want to even accidentally copy what Nayantara had done.

GC: WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM YOURSELF?

RP: I just want to enjoy the work that I do. You cannot plan everything. I don't have finite goals that I'm going after. I love to work. If I believe in what I'm doing, I can work even for 24 hours non-stop. I just need to enjoy the job.

And we wish her lots of enjoyable movies in the near future...

Interview by SASHTI
Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH





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20

RAAI LAXMI: UP BEAT & RARING TO GO!



She admits herself that the 'glamourimage' has followed her from the beginning of her acting career. But she doesn't care. She is comfortable in her own skin

and confident about who she is. And that's why the we feel she couldn't have chosen a more fitting movie than Julie 2 to be her fiftieth film! RAI LAXMI gives the 'bold and beautiful' tag-line a whole new meaning!

1 THE STAR OF YOUR LIFE...
My mom.

2 GIVE BRAND RAAI LAXMI A TAG-LINE
Selfie Queen!

3 THREE THINGS THAT ARE ALWAYS IN YOUR HAND-BAG
My Aadhar Card, a lip balm and my wallet

4 COMPLETE THE STATEMENT: SOUTH INDIAN CINEMA NEEDS ME BECAUSE...
Of the kind of films I do and the kind of 'glamour' I add to the roles I do! (I'm just guessing here!)

5 COMPLETE THE STATEMENT: I NEED SOUTH INDIAN CINEMA BECAUSE...
I feel there is lot of good content here and lots of talented people on the job who teach me a great deal.

6 IF YOU WOKE UP TOMORROW ON THE SETS OF KARKA KASADARA (YOUR FIRST MOVIE) WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
I would do a glossier version of it and trust me I would to it all in one take. I can never forget my lines because I spent so much time learning them!

7 THREE THINGS THAT MAKES A WOMAN EMPOWERED...
Being courageous, being a fighter and always standing up for the truth.

8 HAVE YOU EVER AGREED TO DO A MOVIE JUST FOR THE MONEY?
Never! I have in fact I have charged less for certain films, because I believed in the story.

9 HAVE YOU EVER WALKED OUT OF A MOVIE BECAUSE THE OTHER ACTRESS HAD A BIGGER ROLE TO PLAY?
Never! I'm not an insecure person. Also, no one has ever deceived me that way – promising one thing and then doing the opposite.

11 THE ONE QUESTION YOU ARE TIRED OF BEING ASKED...
About my supposed romantic relationship with an iconic sports person!

10 IF THERE WAS AN AWARD CALLED THE RAAI LAXMI AWARD, WHAT WOULD IT BE FOR?
A Survivor award – for someone who has gone through the toughest things and yet lives happily.

12 WHO WOULD THE RAI LAXMI SURVIVOR AWARD GO TO?
Ajith and not for him as an actor, but for the person he is in real life.

13 A MOVIE YOU WISH YOU WERE IN...
That would be 2.0!

14 A PIECE OF ADVICE TO RAGAVA LAWRENCE?
He's so creative and he keeps improvising on the spot that it's hard to keep up with him! I have often asked him to slow down! Also I would say please, do more films in a year!

15 1 WHY ARE YOU NOT IN KANCHANA 3?
Both Raghava Lawrence and I feel that I have much more to offer than what the part offers to me. So we will work on something else soon.



16 FROM KARKA KASADARA TO JULIE 2, WHAT HAS CHANGED ABOUT YOU?

I have matured in my understanding of cinema and in picking roles. And I have also become fitter than I was!

17 FROM KARKA KASADARA TO JULIE 2, WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED ABOUT YOU?

Everything else!

18 ARE YOU MAKING A STATEMENT WITH JULIE 2?

It's my 50th movie. I wanted it to be a woman-centric one. So when Julie 2 came along, I just took it. And I am so happy I did.



19 RAAI LAXMI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GLAMOUR

It's always been an integral part of who I am in cinema. I don't mind glamour as long as it is not vulgar.

20 HOW DIFFICULT IS IT BEING A WOMAN IN CINEMA?

Anything new is difficult at first. You just have to keep going and keep trying, and then it won't be difficult anymore. You just have to learn.

Written by
KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

Prabhu Dheva is wearing
TOM FORD FRAME



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GROOVING ALONG!

NO ONE WOULD EXPECT THIS QUIET, UNASSUMING MAN TO SUDDENLY ROLL-UP HIS SLEEVES AND BREAK INTO A DANCE ROUTINE THAT WOULD LEAVE US OUT OF BREATH! IT'S NOT WITHOUT REASON THAT HE IS FONDLY CALLED THE MICHAEL JACKSON OF INDIA, FOR PRABHUDEVA IN HIS OWN WAY REVOLUTIONISED THE DANCE SCENE IN INDIAN CINEMA. YOU MAY HAVE SNIGGERED AT HIS BAGGY PANTS AND OFF-BEAT SHIRTS. BUT WHEN THE MUSIC CAME ON... YOU JUST HAD TO BOW DOWN AND SUBMIT. PRABHUDEVA MIGHT BE A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT HE DEFINITELY SURPRISES YOU WITH HIS GENUINE REPARTEE.

Interview: KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

Photography: KUNAL DASWANI

Styling: CHAITANYA RAO

Location: PARK HYATT, CHENNAI

Hair & Make-up: PAGE 3 LUXURY SALON AND
MAKEOVERSTUDIO, KHADERNAWAZKHANROAD,
CHENNAI

“I HAVE NO
IDEA WHY
AND HOW I
GET LINKED
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IT JUST
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DON'T FEEL A
THING.”

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Prabhu Dheva is wearing
TOM FORD- ALASDHAIR

Wardrobe Courtesy:

Rare Rabbit

Jacket - SANDY (Genuine Leather)

Denim - BOB

T-shirt - CALM

Shoes: LANGUAGE

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KAANCHAN PRASHANTH SHARES EXCERPTS FROM A CONVERSATION WITH PRABHUDEVA...

GALATTA CINEMA: AFTER QUITE A GAP WE SAW YOU IN A TAMIL FILM – DEVI. THE MOVIE WAS RECEIVED WELL. DID YOU REALISE THAT WE TRULY MISSED YOU HERE DOWN SOUTH?

PRABHU DEVA: In the pre-release promotions, while doing interviews, I got the feeling that I was missed. That the people wanted to see me in Tamil movies again. It was a good feeling and I'm happy I did it.

GC: IN YOUR ABSENCE SEVERAL NEW HEROES HAVE EMERGED. DID THAT GIVE YOU A SENSE OF INSECURITY?

PD: I wouldn't say insecurity. But just before the release, I did have my doubts. People may not have forgotten me, but they were definitely not that much in touch with me because they had not seen me. So I was a bit worried if they would immediately accept me again. I did have some apprehensions and doubts as the release date for Devi drew near. But then on the day of the release, when I visited the theatres to see how the movie was faring, I was relieved to hear the sound of applause. The claps were reassuring.

GC: DID YOU FEEL GUILTY FOR HAVING IGNORED US?

PD: No, no. I did not ignore the South. I did not have a predefined plan to just go off to Bollywood. Nothing like that. I just did one movie and then went with the flow. I honestly did not stop to strategise. But now that I have started working in Tamil movies, I feel really happy.

GC: EVERSINCE DEVI YOU HAVE BEEN SIGNING ON TAMIL FILMS IN A FLURRY. AREN'T YOU BOTHERED THAT BOLLYWOOD WILL FORGET YOU?

PD: No, I don't really think that way. Moreover, I will begin working on my next Hindi movie by November. I am in talks with a Bollywood producer and when the details are sorted, I will share the news with the world.

GC: WE OFTEN HEAR ACTORS DESCRIBING THEIR DIRECTORS AS DRAMATIC ACTORS THEMSELVES, WHEN EXPLAINING A SCENE. BUT YOU DON'T TALK MUCH. WHAT'S YOUR METHOD OF WORKING?

PD: The same way I get actors to dance! Having been a choreographer and worked with several actors, I know how to extract work from them.

I may not chit-chat, but I definitely know how to act out a scene and get the actor to perform.

GC: HOW MUCH FREEDOM DO YOU GIVE THE ACTORS, ONCE YOU HAVE CONVEYED WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

PD: I give them freedom, of course. The actors have to feel comfortable doing the role, so I welcome their suggestions. See, as the director I am looking at the whole movie. I know what every scene is about. I already have a picture in my head. But when someone comes with a newer perspective, I cannot simply ignore it because I have the power to do it. I pay attention to every small detail.



SIMPLE. HUMBLE. QUIET. HONEST.

GC: WHAT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO TEACH: DANCE OR ACTING?

PD: Both! Ultimately the dance moves and the acting have to be received by the people and they should like what they see. So, it's important to get both right and that means putting a lot of effort into it.

GC: YOU HAD THIS INTERESTING VENTURE KARUPU RAJA VELAI RAJA WITH VISHAL AND KARTHI, IN THE PIPELINE. RUMOUR HAS IT THAT THE MOVIE HAS STOPPED. IS IT TRUE?

PD: It's a valid question, but I don't quite have the answer! What you know about the movie's progress, is all that even I know. It sure does seem like it is on hold right now!

GC: THAT'S A PITY! KARTHI AND VISHAL HAD PROMISED TO GIVE THEIR SALARY TOWARDS THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NADIGAR SANGAM BUILDING...

PD: Yeah. It was a good project. Even we found it very interesting. We did talk about it at length and now it has come to a standstill. Why? I have no clue! Maybe everyone has gotten busy and they don't have time for this one. Or maybe it was so good that jealous people cast an evil eye on our dream!

GC: YOUR RUMOURED 'LOVE-LIFE' IS AS INTERESTING AS YOUR MOVIES. WHAT'S THE STATUS ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TAMANNAH?

PD: I have no idea why and how I get linked up with the heroines I work with. It just happens and I ignore it. I

don't feel a thing. However, I do feel bad for the actress. Tamannaah is a wonderful person. She is extremely hardworking. I was in absolute awe watching the dedication and commitment with which she practiced her dance moves. It's really not fair to her.

GC: HOW FAR IN THE PAST IS YOUR WHIRLWIND ROMANCE WITH NAYANTARA?

PD: Very far! It happened so many years ago. I think even the people have forgotten about it and will be bored to rake it up.

GC: NAYANTARA HAS DEFINITELY MOVED ON. WHAT ABOUT YOU? CAN YOU WORK WITH HER IF THE NEED ARISES?


PD: It's great that she has moved on. So have I. My focus is on my work. I've kept myself busy and I've not really thought about what did or did not happen. As for working with her, I don't know what the right answer is! And I'm going to leave it at that.

GC: HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING MARRIED AGAIN? FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN? OR HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH OF ALL THAT?

PD: Honestly, I have not thought about all those things! I am just enjoying my work. Great things are happening here and I'm going with the flow. It's not like I have been through so much trauma in my love-life that I have vowed never to marry or love another woman. I have not had the time or need to think on those lines.

GC: WHAT KIND OF A DAD ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU SPEND TIME WITH YOUR BOYS?

PD: I love my sons to bits. I spend as much time as I can with them. I take them on holidays abroad. I drive them to school whenever possible. They are very important to me and I make sure I have quality time with them. I am not concerned



“KARUPPU RAJA VELAI RAJA. EVEN WE FOUND IT VERY INTERESTING. WE DID TALK ABOUT IT AT LENGTH AND NOW IT HAS COME TO A STANDSTILL. WHY? I HAVE NO CLUE!”

Prabhu Dheva is wearing
TOM FORD SUNGLASS - RICK

SON. BROTHER. FATHER. FRIEND.

with how much marks they score in their exams. All I want is for them to grow up into decent, respectable men and to be good boys.

GC: TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARENTS. HOW HAVE THEY SUPPORTED YOU THROUGH EVERY PHASE OF YOUR LIFE?

PD: It is the same with me as with anyone. Without parents' support it is next to impossible to achieve anything. My parents have always been my strength! I love them, but I must add that till today I am thoroughly scared of my father! I fear what he would say about something that I have done. He has scolded me on several occasions for the kinds of movies I have acted in or that I have directed. We don't get into the details of cinema, but he has chided me for some of my movies!

GC: IS IT HARDER TO TAKE CRITICISM FROM YOUR DAD OR FROM A THIRD PERSON?

PD: Criticism from anyone is hard to take. We put in lot of effort to do what we do, so when someone comes along and points out the flaws and puts down the movie, it definitely is a blow. But you have to jump back into the game. I make note of the mistakes I made and try and correct it all the next time. But most often, again critics will have something to say, and I will be left clueless! But I just keep doing what I do and hope to get it right the next time!

And on that positive note, we bid adieu and let him get on with the plans for his next Bollywood flick with Sooraj Pancholi. It took some effort to get him to talk, but it was all worth it in the end! And we wish this elusive super star tonnes of success in the years to come.

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

THE YEAR THAT WAS

IT'S TIME TO PUT 2017 BEHIND. THE UPS, DOWNS AND THE IN-BETWEENS MUST ALL BE STRUNG TOGETHER AND STOWED A WAY, ONLY TO BE CHERISHED BUT NEVER TO LOOK AT AND REGRET. HERE'S A QUICK GLANCE AT SOME MEMORABLE EVENTS IN SOUTH INDIAN CINEMA...

THE BATTLE FOR JALLIKATTU

The year began on a stormy note. The demise of late Chief Minister J Jayalithaa and the mystery that shrouded it was fresh in everyone mind, but along came the Jallikattu Protests to change the colour of the season from sombre gray to scarlet red. The Supreme Court's ban on conducting Jallikattu did not go well with rural Tamil Nadu. The protests against the ban went from mere voices from village folk who raised bulls especially for the sport to livid youngsters in the city who came out in angry hues to support the poor village folk and uphold an age-old tradition.

Celebrities from Tamil cinema voiced their support to the cause as well, some more vehemently than others. The Marina beach in Chennai saw a historic turn out of protestors who refused to leave until the ban was lifted. RJ Balaji's passionate speech at the beach hit a chord with the protestors and he immediately went from being the 'funny dude on the radio' to a youth icon. At around the same time videos of a young girl in Madurai went viral. Julie and the direct digs she made at the politics and politicians involved in the Jallikattu issue, made her a mini-hero of sorts, a status that she practically ruined later in the year...



RJ BALAJI



JULIE



SUCHITRA

WHO LET THE LEAKS OUT?

Was it in fact RJ & Singer Suchitra who shared those controversial videos and photos? Suchi tweeted that she had been manhandled by actor Dhanush's aids, and also claimed to have been abused by the actor himself after having been drugged. Shortly after this she posted some rather scandalous videos and photographs of South Indian stars that stunned just about everybody! It went on for a couple of days and the phenomenon was named SuchiLeaks and it garnered a lot of heat and attention. Of course, Suchi clarified that her account had been hacked and that she had nothing to do with the videos and photographs being published via her twitter account. Eventually the buzz died down, but who leaked the data remains a mystery.

WINNER AGAIN!

Last year the team of young actors lead by Vishal made a sweeping victory at the Nadigar Sangam elections, and this year Vishal got elected President of the Producers' Council, as well. The actor not only has his hands full with movie roles, but with major roles and responsibilities in the functioning of two important bodies in Kollywood.



VISHAL



READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

Even as Rajinikanth fans continue to wait for the Super Star to taken on a political avatar, Kamal Haasan announced his foray into politics. He threw several hints while hosting the Bigg Boss show, but eventually around his birthday he confirmed his intentions to start his own party. In fact he launched a mobile application that can be used to register complaints to be directly reviewed by the actor. Kamal has stated that those who favour him can send money to him to set up the party.

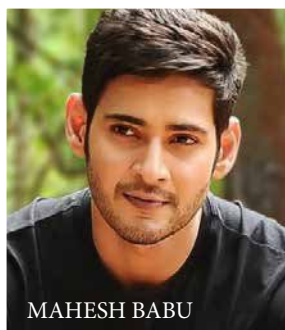
HITCHED!

Glam girl Namitha married her long-time best friend Veera in a simple temple wedding at Tirupathi. But the Akkineni clan went all out to make the Nag Chaitanya-Samantha wedding as incredible as possible. From the engagement to the wedding, from the jewelry to the décor at the venue, everything was surreal.

THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Mahesh Babu has been in the biz for eighteen years and this year he attempted something new – he made his first direct Tamil movie. Spyder in the direction of AR Murugadoss, was made in Telugu and Tamil, and though the movie did not turn out to be a blockbuster as expected, Mahesh's fans were more than happy with this new journey. Likewise actor Vishal made his Malayalam debut alongside Mohanlal in the movie Villain. Other notable debuts include Akshara Haasan's techie role in Vivegam and the announcement of Druv Vikram's debut in the Tamil remake of Arjun Reddy.

And most recently music composer Anirudh Ravichander gave India our first vertical music video for his Hindi single Bewajah. Within three days of its release online the song hit three millions views.



MAHESH BABU



AKSHARA HAASAN

A PRINCESS IS BORN

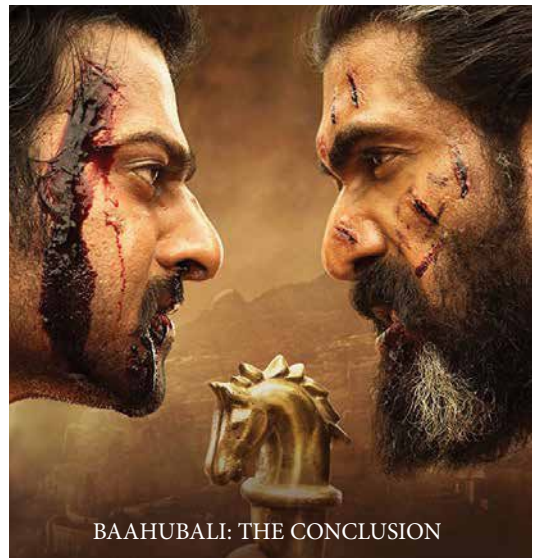
When it was announced that Bigg Boss was to finally get its Tamil avatar, the show's calling card was its host – Kamal Haasan. The show grabbed everybody's attention and its format irked few religious groups, but Kamal handled it with absolute poise. While the show laid foundation to Kamal's political inclining, it most definitely changed the



OVIYA

lives of the participants. Julie, the Jallikattu Hero, started out as a favorite, but ended up at the bottom of the tank. Gayathri Raguram who should have held the audience in her sway turned out to be the vamp on the show! Oviya, who came with little expectations and whom audiences initially saw as an actress attempting to rise above a dwindling career, came out the on top. She did not stay for the 100 days, but she won over the audience.

KAATRU VELIYIDAI



BAAHUBALI: THE CONCLUSION

GOOD CINEMA

OF COURSE WE WITNESSED THE RELEASE OF SOME REALLY GOOD MOVIES. WHETHER THE BOX OFFICE RETURNS WERE MAGNIFICENT OR NOT, THESE MOVIES KEPT US ENTERTAINED AND SATISFIED...



KUTTRAM 23



MERSAL



THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU



THUPPARIVALAN



SINGAM 3



ARAMM

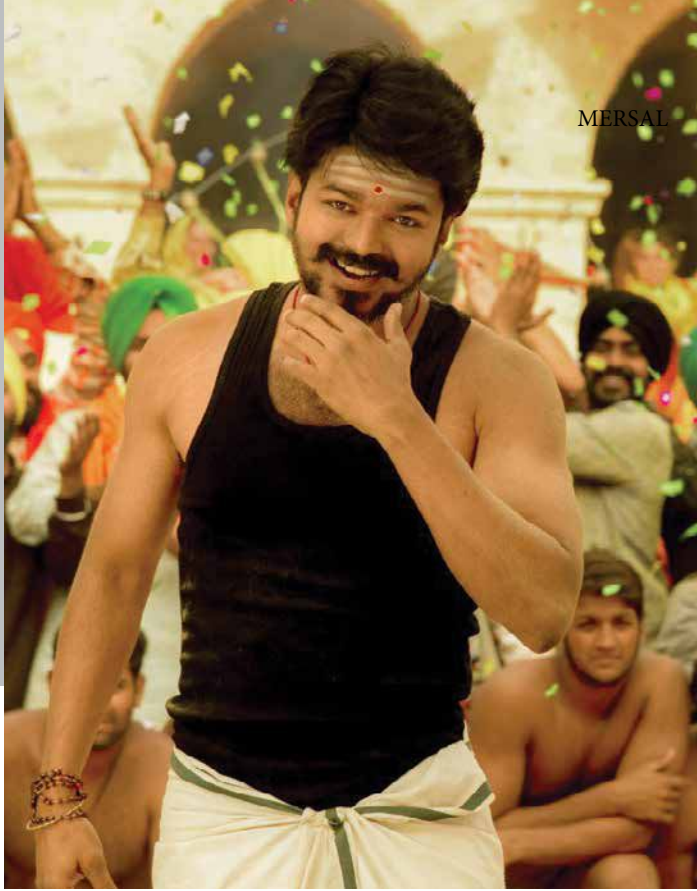


VIKRAM VEDHA



VIVEGAM

MERSAL



3-MINUTES TO FAME!

If only the politicians had let it go, Mersal would have been just another mass movie with Ilayathalapathy in the lead. Instead they got all riled up over three minutes worth of dialogues in the three hour-long movie, and got every Indian across the globe to watch the movie at least once, making it the biggest global success a Vijay movie has ever seen! A quip about Digital India by Vadivelu at the start of the movie and some hasty statistics on GST woes by Vijay in his post-climax monologue, angered certain political leaders who went to the extent of demanding a Re-censorship of the movie! With enormous support from the people and the film-fraternity, Mersal survived, and how!

2 POINT OMG!

The music launch of Shankar's 2.0 took place in Dubai at the worlds tallest building – the Burj Khalifa. Lyca Productions that has pumped a few hundred crores into the movie, weren't too averse at spending a few crores more towards the staging of a spectacular audio launch unlike any we have seen. From the celebrities arriving in helicopters, to skydivers launching a new poster, to AR Rahman and Shankar entering the stage on a train, everything about the event was monumental.

MONEY GAMES

The ongoing war between unlawful, ruthless financiers and cornered producers is making the last few weeks of 2017 hard to get through. The war was sparked by the suicide of actor Sasikumar's close friend and associate Ashok Kumar. The deceased man, left behind a note clearly stating that the reason for his suicide was the financier from whom they had borrowed money and been unable to return. The humiliation at the hands of the said financier went a bit too far, giving Ashok no option but to take his own life. While most members of the film industry grieved Ashok's death and cursed the ruthless loan sharks, suddenly and most unexpectedly a few stars began to speak up in favour of the financier in question. However, Vishal, who heads the Producers Council has requested fellow producers to approach the association in case they get into trouble with such ruthless financiers. One can only hope that humanity will prevail. Let's hope we make better memories in 2018.

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

PIRATES CEASED!

IT'S A KNOWN FACT THAT THE MOVIE BIZ IS FACING SERIOUS TROUBLE FROM VIDEO PIRACY. IN SPITE OF ACTOR VISHAL KEEPING HAWK-LIKE VIGIL, THE PIRATES ALWAYS GET AWAY THEIR ONLINE PRINTS. TAMILROCKERS IS THE WEBSITE THAT HAS QUITE OPENLY CHALLENGED KOLLYWOOD MAKERS TO TRACK THEM DOWN AND SHUT THE WEBSITE. HOWEVER, AROUND THE RELEASE OF VISHAL'S DETECTIVE FLICK THUPPARIVALAN, A 'PIRATE' WAS NABBED AND THE BUZZ WAS THAT IT WAS AN ADMIN FROM THE NOTORIOUS TAMILROCKERS SITE. HOWEVER, A FEW HOURS LATER THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE TRIPLICANE POLICE STATION REVEALED THAT THE PERSON DETAINED WAS THE ADMIN OF ANOTHER PIRATE SITE. TAMILROCKERS PROMPTLY HOSTED A PIRATED VERSION OF THUPPARIVALAN SOON AFTER.



KAMAL'S ROAD TO POLITICS

Tamilnadu Politics and Tamil cinema share a unique bond. Kamal Haasan has decided to take the almighty plunge into the smouldering cauldron of politics and we can't help but wonder what surprises are in store for us...

THE SCENARIO

The fine line between cinema and politics often tends to blur in Tamil Nadu and there are many who sail with one leg in both these boats. Ever since the passing off our former Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha, political unrest has been prevailing in the state. The infighting in the ruling party and increasing protests from the people has given rise to a very volatile situation. Many people have been voicing their opinions but one voice sounding loud and clear above all the clamour has been that of Kamal Haasan's. His outspoken approach slamming the corruption prevalent in the state as well as the downsides of new sanctions (NEET) being imposed upon the people has gotten him a very good backing from the people.

Though it was initially considered that Kamal was only voicing his frustrations out aloud, his announcement that he would be floating a separate party and be actively involved in administrative politics turned out to be a jolt for all the politicians.

ACTION SO FAR...

* Following the term 'political tourism', Kamal met with Chief Ministers Pinarayi Vijayan and Arvind Kejriwal to discuss the state of politics and also gain some insight on the current situations in the state and central levels.

* Kamal visited the Ennore Port region and surveyed the encroachments on the Kosasthalaiyar river and interacted with the locals to check on their status. He highlighted the plight of fishermen and their families & their livelihood being affected due to the encroachments by industries along the Ennore Creek region!

* On his birthday, Kamal announced the launch of the Maiaam Whistle app for the public to report any instances of corruption or malpractice and more importantly as a platform for the people to highlight their issues.

* While participating in the 23rd edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival, Kamal interacted with the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamta Banerjee and interacted with her too.

* Kamal Haasan has announced that post the launch of the Maiaam Whistle app, he would undertake a tour of all the districts in Tamil Nadu, to meet with the people and understand what their issues are.

* He has also mentioned that he is in talks with various political experts to gain more knowledge on the formation of policies and building a strong foundation for the launch of a party.

* Despite stating that he would be getting the funding for his new party from the people themselves, Kamal has returned the money sent as donations by his



fans. He has stated that he is not backtracking from his decision but that it would be illegal for him to accept any funds before the launch & naming of the party.

REACTIONS...

There has been an outpouring of welcome from many sections of the society. Many political leaders from other states and a few from within Tamil Nadu itself have welcomed Kamal's decision to enter politics and have stated that it is a very positive move. People from different walks of life have also stated that a new face on the political front is a welcome change and hope that Kamal would be the messiah who finally works for the upliftment of the people.

On the other side of the spectrum, many people especially politicians from the ruling party have not taken too kindly to Kamal's strong messages condemning the way the government is functioning. Some of Kamal Haasan's statements have also drawn a lot of flak from wide sections and legal cases have also been registered against him. Meanwhile, there are a lot of speculations that Kamal is specifically anti-BJP and anti-AIADMK, despite him repeatedly claiming that he is neither leaning towards or against any specific party.

All said and done, guess we would have to wait and see how fruitful Kamal Haasan's entry into politics would be and what changes it brings for the people of Tamil Nadu!

Written by MKV



fandolized!



Sharukh Khan at Madame Tussaud's



Khushbu

DOLLED UP!

Movie stars definitely have a greater impact on their fans than even they expect. We've heard of fans tattooing their hero's name or image on their arms. Some of them have even added a part of their favourite actor's name to their own. The tech savvy ones use their imagination and internet resources to create posters and quirky videos glorifying the star of their choice. Every now and then we read about a Madame Tussaud's Museum somewhere in the world adding wax models to their collections, including Indian stars. But the most recent star to get a literally idolized is the evergreen Queen of Indian cinema Sri Devi. What's even more interesting about this info is that the doll was made to order by a restaurateur in Singapore! The beautiful Sri Devi doll looks very like one of those manipuri idols that you would find adorning a step at someone's Golu! The facial resemblance is striking and clearly the work of a skilled artiste. The Sri devi doll that can be found at the restaurant in Singapore is bringing in a lot of visitors and press coverage. The actress is overwhelmed by the love fans continue to shower on her even though she has worked in a very few movies in the last decade. But of course, the success of English Vinglish was proof enough that there are Sri Devi fans aplenty and that she still had the charisma, the charm and the skill that we saw in her back when her career was at its peak. Husband Boney Kapoor beams in pride as he reacts to the Sri Devi doll in Singapore. He has seen shops named after her, but a doll in a restaurant in Singapore, came as a pleasant surprise to him as well.



BEYOND THE BIG SCREEN

Indian stars who have wax statues at Madame Tussaud's in London are: Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Shahrugh Khan, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Kareena Kapoor, Katrina Kaif and Prabhas.

Non-filmi Indians with wax statues at Madame Tussaud's are: Mahatma Gandhi, Sachin Tendulkar and Narendra Modi.

Actress turned politician Khushbu, was quite the sensation back in her younger days. Not only did she make breakfast interesting at small local restaurants down south where they served the special soft Khushbu Idli, but in the 90s a fan built a shrine for her! However, few years ago haters tore it down following certain comments the actress made with regards to AIDS awareness.

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH



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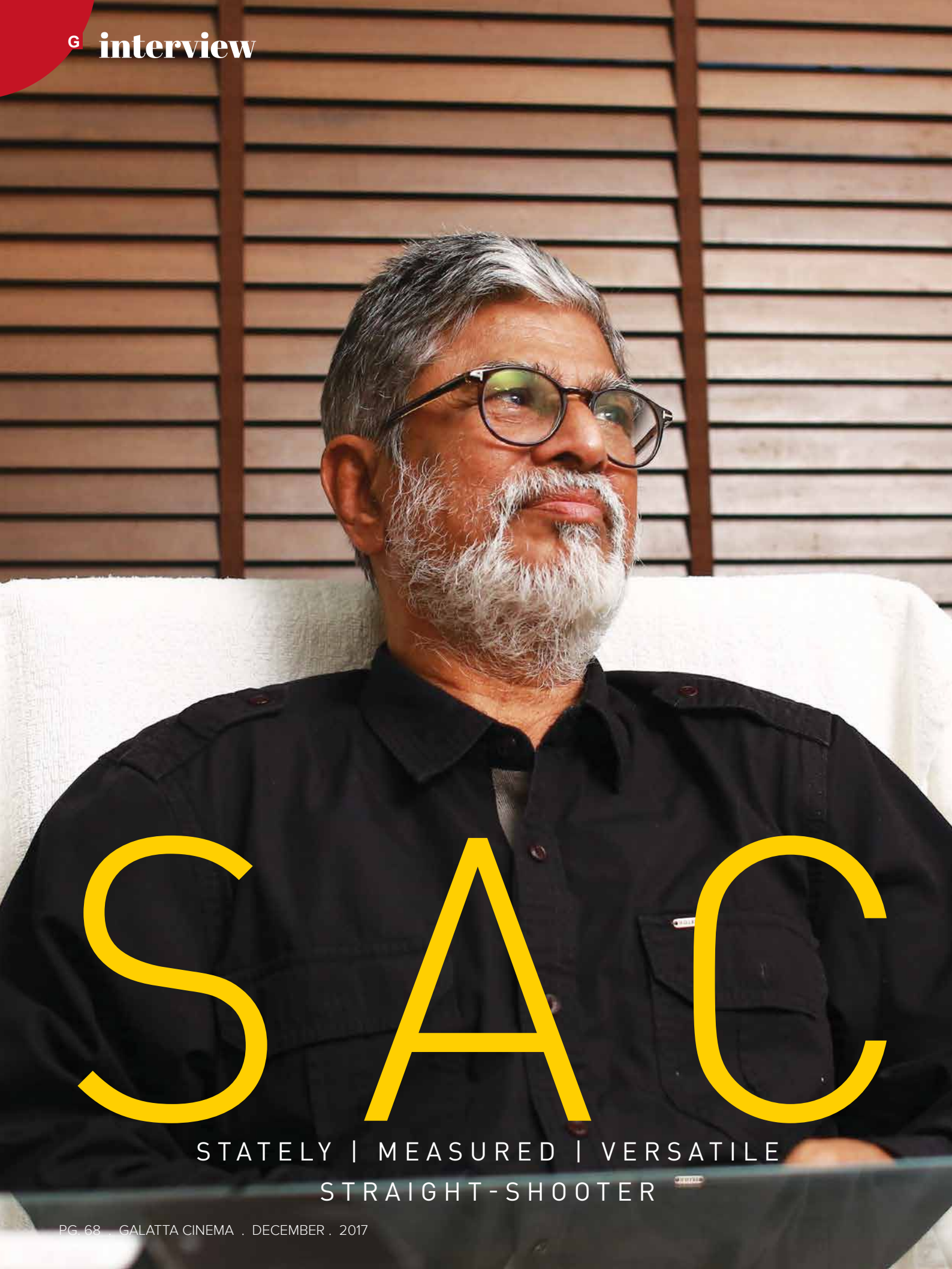
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SAC

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STRAIGHT-SHOOTER

FOR OVER 36 YEARS, SA
CHANDRASEKHAR HAS TRAVERSED
DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF CINEMA
INCLUDING DIRECTION, WRITING,
PRODUCTION AND ACTING! READ ON
TO CATCH HIM REMINISCING ON HIS
JOURNEY AND THAT OF HIS PRODIGAL
SON ILAYATHALAPATHY VIJAY'S...



GC: HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY FROM 1980'S TILL NOW BEEN?

SAC: At the outset, I have to mention that I have stopped direction for the past two years. All the youngsters of today are making amazing movies with wonderful technical skills and I don't want to compete with that. In this period, I got a chance to act in Kodi and took that with both hands. Now, am acting in Traffic Ramasamy.

GC: How do you see Ilayathalapathy's journey from Naalaiya Theerppu to Mersal?

SAC: More than seeing his journey as a father, I have watched it as the director who introduced him to cinema. His career graph is something that has amazed me for I did not expect such extraordinary growth in such a short time span!

GC: What do you think of the controversies that surrounded Mersal?

SAC: Irrespective of what others think, I as an individual, always have the premonition that some issue or the other would crop up for Vijay's movies. I hold my breath until the day after his movie releases, for only then would I heave a sigh of release.

IT IS INDEED A
PLEASURE TO BE
KNOWN AS VIJAY'S
FATHER! THE FATHER
IN ME TAKES
IMMENSE PRIDE IN
THAT!

I BELIEVE VIJAY'S
STUPENDOUS
GROWTH IS THE
MAJOR REASON
FOR ISSUES BEING
RAISED BY OTHERS
DURING HIS MOVIE
RELEASES

GC: What is your take on Vijay's entry into politics?

SAC: Personally, I don't think a few dialogues in movies are a testament to anybody entering politics! However, at his age I am sure Vijay has the maturity to discern what is right or not and it is him who has to decide whether to enter politics or not. When Vijay and me meet, we talk about his movies and other family stuff, but never about politics!

GC: Amongst Rajini, Kamal & Vijay, whom do you think should enter politics first?

SAC: It is evident that the current leadership in Tamil Nadu is in shambles and a strong, pure, people-oriented, new leader is needed. Anybody who can set the system right and has a clear-cut plan to take Tamil Nadu towards progress should get into the fray. Anybody can enter politics, but their intentions for the betterment of people should be true and honest.

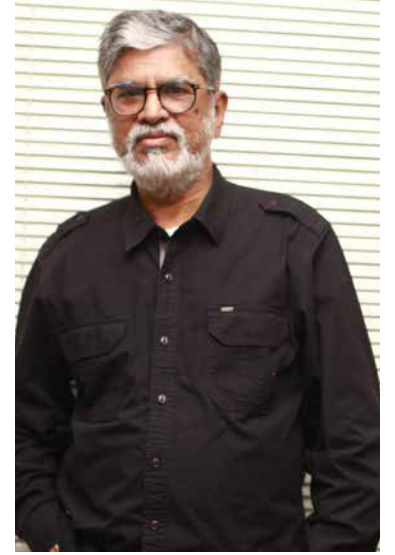
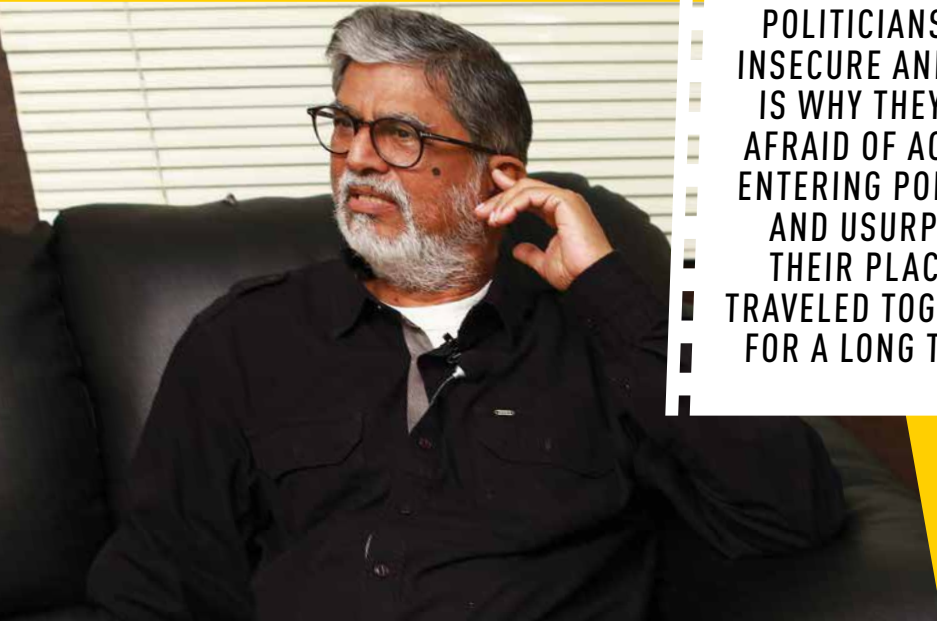
GC: When was the last time you shared any advice to Vijay?

SAC: He is not at an age where I have to advise him. Irrespective of whether he is my son or anybody else for that matter, he is at an age mature enough



MGR MENTIONED IN HIS MOVIES THAT HE WOULD MAKE RICE AVAILABLE FOR RE. 1 AND ALSO THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THE POOR. HE ENSURED THAT HE MADE TRUE THESE PROMISES IN REAL LIFE. THAT IS A TRUE LEADER FOR YOU!

PRESENT DAY POLITICIANS ARE INSECURE AND THAT IS WHY THEY ARE AFRAID OF ACTORS ENTERING POLITICS AND USURPING THEIR PLACES! TRAVELED TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME!



to take his own decisions. If I remember right, the last time I advised him was on the day of his marriage.

GC: How do you feel his mindset was, during Mersal's release?

SAC: We can see that he puts in so much hard work for nearly 100 days for any movie. When as a father I feel anxious when issues crop up during a movie's release, am sure he would be feeling the anxiety too. It is not just for him, anybody who faces issues during their movie's release would be having tense moments.

GC: You have earlier mentioned that you would be happy to see Vijay as a leader. When do you think he should don that mantle?

SAC: I did not mention that he should enter politics to be a leader. Every father dreams that his son should grow in stature in life and so do I. He wanted to act, so I made Naalaiya Theerppu. However, despite the movie not doing well commercially I realised his potential as an actor and went on to make subsequent movies.

GC: People feel SAC will have a major part in Vijay's political career. What is your opinion?

SAC: All the good and bad of a child would be attributed to his parents only, more so in Tamil Nadu as here the parents have a lot more influence on a child!

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PUSHING BOUNDARIES!

It is very easy for somebody who has almost everything to just sit back and reap the dividends of what they are bestowed with. Coming from a family steeped in politics and with a very good backing in media, Udhayanidhi Stalin could have just been content with what he had going for him.





I'M VERY HAPPY AND COMFORTABLE WITH MY AVATAR AS AN ACTOR! THERE CAN BE HITS AND MISSES BUT I ACCEPT BOTH EVENLY. I DEFINITELY DO HAVE JITTERS BEFORE A MOVIE'S RELEASE BUT POST RELEASE, THE IMPACT OF ITS' OUTCOME STAYS FOR JUST A DAY!




However, he forayed into production followed by distribution and after a very successful stint, he jumped into acting and there has been no looking back since!

WIDENING HORIZONS...

In 2008, Udhayanidhi floated the production house Red Giant Movies and began with a bang by producing Ilayathalapathy Vijay's *Kuruvi*! The movie was a commercial hit and this was followed by another massive blockbuster in *Aadhavan*, in which he made a guest appearance along with director KS Ravikumar towards the end credits. Tasting success with production, it was natural for Udhayanidhi to lean towards distributing others' movies and this journey began in 2010! It seemed like Udhay had acquired the Midas Touch, for this too proved to be a masterstroke and he began acquiring blockbuster hits on his hands! After acing production &





I FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO TAKE STRONG ACTIONS AGAINST PIRACY, STEPS AS STRONG AS THEY TOOK TO IMPLEMENT THE GST.

distribution, it was only a matter of time before Udhay would test waters in other fields of cinema and it was in 2012 that he chose acting and proved that his Midas Touch was very much still in effect with his debut Oru Kal Oru Kannadi (OKOK) rocking the box office!

CONSCIOUS SHIFT!

After OKOK, we got to see Udhayanidhi in very similar roles in his following acting ventures like Idhu Kathirvelan Kadhal and Nannbenda. Though Getthu was a deviation of sorts from his previous movies, it still did not do much to showcase Udhay's true potential as an actor. However, when Manithan happened we got to see Udhayanidhi's prowess as an actor and he endeared himself to the audiences, playing a struggling actor. It was refreshing to see the hard work he had put into honing his skills. By his own admission, Udhay needed to improve his dancing and stunt skills and today, he definitely has done that and is a far better dancer and stunt performer than what he started out as!





AFTER WORKING
IN SIMILAR
KIND OF
MOVIES SINCE
OKOK, IT WAS
A CONSCIOUS
DECISION
TO EXPLORE
DIFFERENT
GENRES AND IT
WAS DIRECTOR
AHMED WHO
GAVE ME THE
CONFIDENCE IN
MANITHAN.



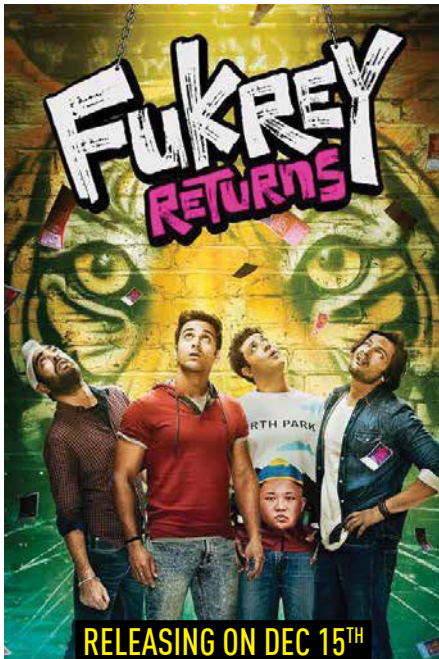


FOLLOWING THE MERSAL CONTROVERSY, DIRECTOR GAURAV AND I FELT THAT WE HAD MISSED A TRICK TO GAIN SIMILAR PUBLICITY BY NOT INCLUDING ANY DIALOGUES ON GST! (WITH A CHUCKLE)

CALCULATIVE APPROACH

Having produced his acting ventures from debut OKOK to Saravanan Irukka Bayamaen, Udhayanidhi has now started working for other banners with Ippadai Vellum. This definitely goes to show his development as an actor! After producing twelve movies and having distributed nearly twenty, Udhayanidhi's experience and shrewd business acumen works wonders for him when he selects his acting ventures. This is also a major bonus for other producers who bankroll his films, as they know that they are backing an actor who knows the nuances of production, values money and more importantly is somebody who would ensure that their investment isn't wasted.

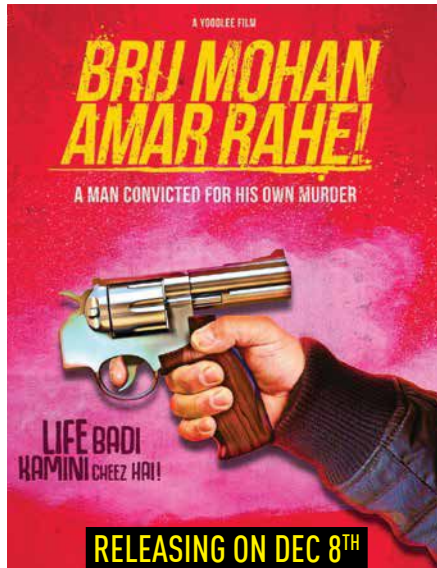




RELEASING ON DEC 15TH

FUKREY RETURNS

And brings with it a whole lot of fun! Starring the same gang from the first movie Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Manjot Singh, Ali Fazil, Richa Chadda, Priya Anandh & Vishaka Singh, the movie is directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba. If you enjoyed the first part, the makers promise you will love this one. Though the movie is sandwiched between the release of two mega movies: Padmavati and Tiger Zinda Hai, producer Ridhesh Sidwani is confident that Fukrey Returns will be a hit for after all "The meat sandwiched between the bread is the tastiest," he quips!



RELEASING ON DEC 8TH

BRIJ MOHAN AMAR RAHE

Director Nikhil Bhat's Brij Mohan Amar Rahe has an interesting premise. Brij Mohan, a hosiery shop owner in Delhi stages his own death to escape the monotony of his life and start afresh. It seemed like a fool-proof plan until the death of Brij Mohan is looked into and then the new Brij is proven guilty of murdering the old one! Arjun Mathur plays the titular character.



RELEASING ON DEC 22ND

TIGER ZINDA HAI

Oh yeah, the Tiger is back on the prowl! Tiger Zinda Hai stars Salman Khan and is the second movie in the Tiger film series, the first being Ek Tha Tiger(2012). Sallu plays Tiger, a RAW Agent who is the most fearsome man on the squad. Katrina Kaif reprises her role of Zoya who helps Tiger in his investigation. The movie which is about the abduction of nurses by the ISIL(2014), is directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.



IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

ADITYA PANCHOLI TELLS HIS SIDE OF THE STORY

In a tell-all interview with a popular lifestyle magazine, Aditya Pancholi states that all of the scandals that Kangna Ranaut raked up this year was in order to promote her movie Simran. The actress made headlines when she divulged details about her alleged affair with Hrithik Roshan and



Photo: from google

about being kept under house arrest by Aditya when they were dating. Her Nepotism statement and other digs at Karan Johar are still fresh in our mind. Aditya feels that Kangna should be more grateful to the people who helped her when she was a struggling actress and not spin controversies to promote her movies. Aditya has even filed a defamation case against her.



Photo: from google

FAN LOVE!

HUMA QURESHI'S KIND GESTURE

The beautiful actress who is currently busy shooting for Rajinikanth starrer 2.0, received a long, touching letter from one of her fans who called Huma 'an inspiration'. While the letter was flattering on many levels, it saddened Huma to know that the fan-gal had to give-up her 'Doctor Dream' because she couldn't afford Medical College. Huma who supports the cause of educating the girl-child, has decided to fund the girl's medical school fees.



RELEASING ON DEC 15TH

FERDINAND

Director Carlos Saldanha brings to life the adorable Ferdinand, an enormous bull with an even bigger heart. The movie is based on the children's book The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf and if you watched Blindsight(2009), you would know that this bull is the most gentle creature you could find. But what happens when he is mistaken for a dangerous

beast? Even worse, what is he going to do when he is thrust into a bull-fight? Will he actually fight back? Or will he retain his non-violent persona?



RELEASING ON DEC 22ND

ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD

Directed by Ridley Scott, the movie is a Hollywood take on the real life story of billionaire J Paul Getty who refused to cooperate with kidnapers who had abducted his grandson. The boy's mother and a CIA officer go to great

lengths to get the old man to part with some of his money to pay off the ransom. Charlie Plummer plays the stubborn tycoon and Mark Wahlberg is the CIA operative in-charge of the case.



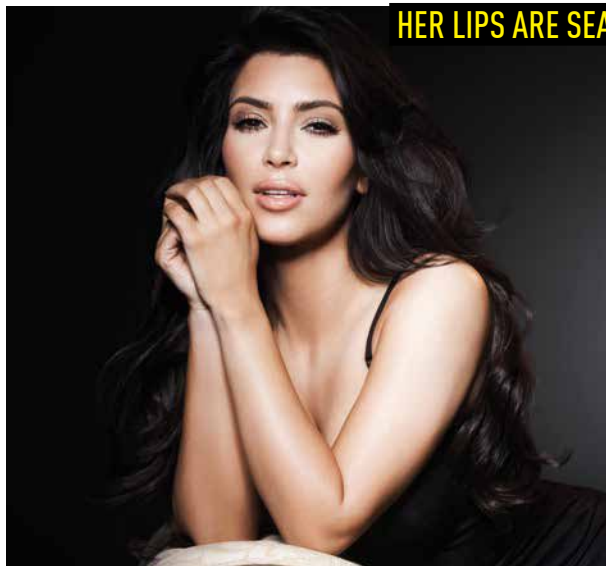
RELEASING ON DEC 20

JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

The movie is a sequel to the 1995 movie and the game has evolved from a board-game to a video game! Four kids are stuck with cleaning out the basement of their school as part of detention. They stumble upon the video game and then get sucked into the scary

virtual jungle within it. The only way they can get back into the real world is if they play along. Starring Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan and Kevin Hart, the movie is every adrenaline-junky's dream come true!

HER LIPS ARE SEALED!



A SARDINE SMOOTHIE, PLEASE!

It is hard keeping up with the Kardashians because an unbelievable amount of things keep happening around them! The buzz right now is that Khloe Kardashian and Kylie Jenner are pregnant. But they have neither confirmed nor denied the rumour. Kim Kardashian who appeared on The Late Night Show with James Corden, chose to take a swig of a Sardine Smoothie (in a Truth or Dare-style game) rather than clarify whether her sisters were in fact pregnant!

ENJOYING THE SEXINESS

FROM FAT & UGLY, TO POSTER BOY HOT!

Country Singer Blake Shelton has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People's magazine. The actor who recently appeared in the Ellen DeGeneres Show confessed that

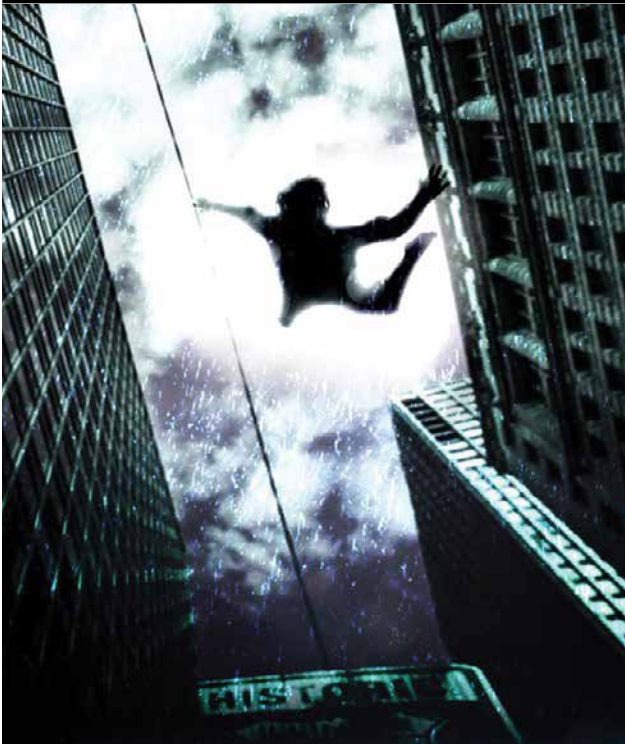
he had spent the greater part of his life being fat and ugly. He added that now since he had been bestowed with this title for a year, he was going to milk it for everything

that is was worth! Blake is judge on The Voice alongside former-Sexiest Man Alive Adam Levine. In jest he stated that he was pretty sure that Adam was not happy about sharing the panel with another SMA title winner!



Photo: from google

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH



Downsizing

THE PLOT: Norwegian Scientists have found a revolutionary solution to the problem of Population Explosion on Earth. They have found a way to shrink people into a miniature of themselves - about 13cm tall and they will then be placed in a miniaturised community. The only trouble is the process cannot be reversed. Once you are shrunk, you stay shrunk. A middle-class couple Paul and Audrey, decide to give up their stressed out life in Omaha for the miniature one. However, only after the process is complete does Paul learn that his wife backed out in the very last minute. So obviously the couple cannot live together anymore and Paul moves in with other 'small' folk. And there begins his adventure.

THE PEOPLE: Alexander Payne (the director) and Jim Taylor spent two and a half years writing the script of this movie. Matt Damon plays the role of Paul. Reese Witherspoon was originally attached to the project, as well as Paul Giamatti and Sacha Baron Cohen. However, since the movie's announcement in 2014, the key cast got revised to include Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau and Kristen Wigg. Watch out for a quick cameo from Neil Patrick Harris.

SNEAK-A-PEEK: The movie was screened at the Venice Film Festival in August. The Guardian called the film "Alexander Payne's miniature masterpiece!"



Padmavati

THE PLOT:

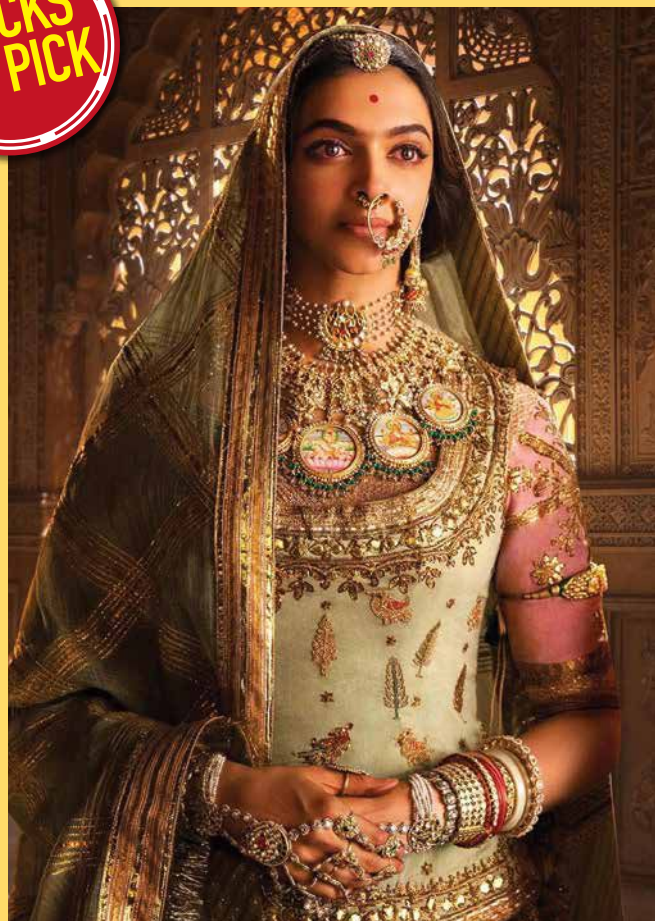
The movie is an adptation of the epic poem Padmavat written by Malik Muhammad Jayasi. The story is about a Rajput Queen Rani Padmavati, the wife of Ratan Sen, the Rajput ruler of Mewar. It is said that when Sultan Alauddin Khilji, the Turk-Afgan ruler of the Delhi Sultanate heard about the legendary beauty of Queen Padmavati, he was beset with the desire of conquering her. And in order to capture her he laid seige to the Chittor Fort in Rajputana. When the men of the Rajput city went to battle, the women committed jauhar - self-immolation, to save their honor. Padmavati was amongst those women.

THE CONTROVERSY:

First it was criticised by a Rajput group as being factually inaccurate. But most recently, a politician called for a ban on the movie because it showed a Rajput Queen dancing without ghongat, and director Sanjay Leela Bhansali has a case of treason filed against him! However, the film fraternity has come together as a unified force to support the movie.

THE PEOPLE

Deepika Padukone plays the titular role with Shahid Kapoor as Ratan Singh and Ranveer Singh as Alauddin Khilji. The movie is directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and is expected to release on December 1.



- ☎ HAIR FALL MANAGEMENT
- ☎ HAIR TRANSPLANTATION
- ☎ LIPOSUCTION
- ☎ TUMMY TUCK
- ☎ BREAST SURGERIES
- ☎ ANTI AGEING TREATMENT
- ☎ BOTOX
- ☎ FILLERS
- ☎ SKIN LIGHTENING
- ☎ ACNE SCAR MANAGEMENT
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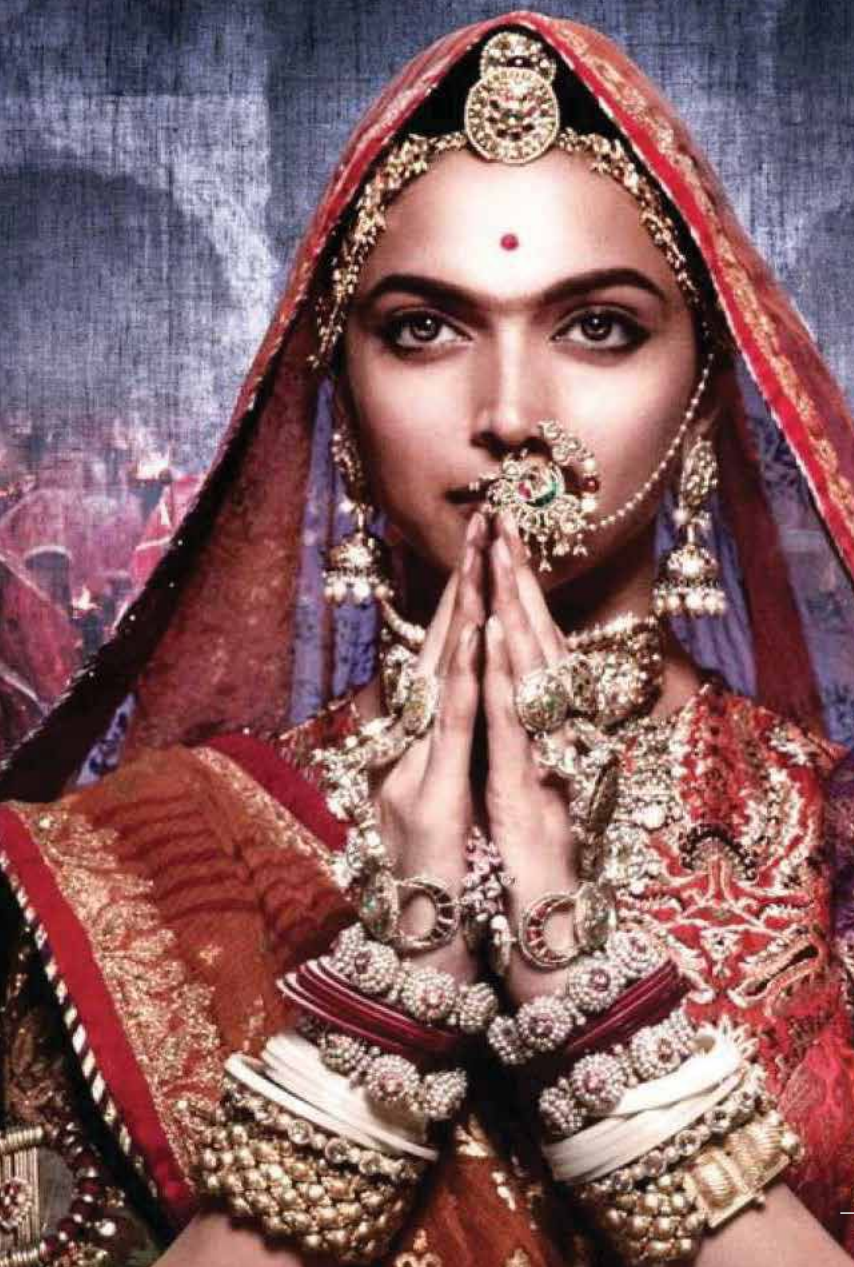
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ONE EYE SHUT



They say that cinema is largely a reflection of reality, with a smattering of fiction. Which means that more often than not, what we see on screen is what happens in real time, in a small or big way.

If you see a brash and aggressive politician - that sort actually exists. If you see a corrupt cop or govt. official - that lot actually lives amongst us. If you see cruel and criminal doctors, lawyers, engineers and businesspersons, those types of citizens actually live amongst us. If you see casteist, corner-shaving, law-breaking, wife-beating, petty-thieving citizens, we are these very people in our own communities.

It's a sad irony that while such people do exist and then raise their voices in protest when shown in poor light, the characters that are truly rare to find are the heroes portrayed on-screen - larger than life, fighting battles against armies of bad guys and winning and finally, proving that good does triumph over evil... ironically, not something that happens in real life every time.

What I am trying to say is that while we show indignance toward the powers that be that try to suppress creative voices and works in cinema, how different are we ordinary citizens ourselves? Look at the Padmavati issue! Child marriages and rapes are an everyday reality in this land and yet entire villages are offended at some cinematic representation of a long-ago story?! Holding the livelihoods of thousands of workers in the cinema industry at ransom is infuriating and just plain wrong.

Doctors and lawyers going on strikes because some movie has shown them in a bad light - how about they clean up their own community? Cops protesting unfair portrayal of their fraternity - who can come forward and confidently say that they are incorruptible?

Even the media is no better than any of them, with an opportunistic attitude towards information - instead of sensible, fact-based and dignified reporting, news today has become a medley of sensationalism, half-truths and TRP-greedy stories. Gone are the days when the media was the voice of the common man, the courageous and truth-speaking entity that stands above wrongdoing and quarrelmongering.

Oops, sorry, I couldn't see any difference in the shouting matches and abuse-hurling sessions of panel discussions on news channels and parliament sessions with violent and aggressive people parading as political ambassadors of their people.

All of us with one eye shut are just making hay while the sun shines and in India, the sun shines bright and yellow and mottled all year long. Perhaps it's time to look inward and clean up our mess; and remember to live and let live.



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