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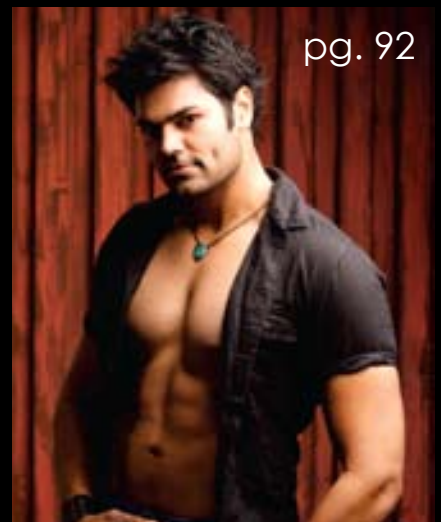
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PRINTING PRESS

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Mrs. Kamalam Rajendran,
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We also thank those who have helped us put this

issue together: Meenakshi, Mr. Kiran Reddy & Mr. Swaroop Reddy of Sathyam Cinemas, Mr. Vijayakumar Radhakrishnan – CTO, Dot Com Infoway Ltd. and Mr. Gnanam. We thank the ENTIRE FILM industry – actors, producers, technicians and support-personnel like managers and PROs, assistants, secretarial staff and others who have supported us from the start.

Special thanks: To our beloved Venket Ram, whose genius is only surpassed by his generosity. His shots inspire great stories! Our buddy Sunder Ramu, whose love for colour is as rich as his exuberance. Stylists and idea-banks who lend unique excellence to Galatta Cinema.

Our heartfelt thanks to: Mr. Randor Guy who spearheads the Nostalgia section of our magazine. His superb memory and inimitable writing style have brought an eclectic feel and old-world charm to Galatta Cinema!

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Editor's Note

It's all about the
Children

I am going to lose my job very soon. Because I have to say, before I say anything else, that this month's entire issue has been done ONLY by my team and what a grand job I see in front of me! Apart from periodic checks and updates, I pretty much ran around town for a month doing a bunch of other things... but only knowing what a capable group of people I have on the team! The reason for absence? A good one: Galatta.com, Galatta Cinema, G3 and any other Galatta venture will henceforth simply be called Galatta Media; and we're in the business of complete entertainment. Not just movies and movie info on our mega-properties Galatta Cinema and Galatta.com, but also in the field of events and people-related activities - parties, shows, theatre, art, charity events and more. The next few months look exciting, so please join us in the bonhomie! (Like you did at our star-studded Michael Jackson's This Is It premiere and party, hosted by us and Sony Music!)

This baby called Galatta Cinema is ever a taskmaster. We have processes, schedules, responsibilities. And this month's schedule sheet reads: pure magic! Giving it to you straight and quick, here's a gist of what we have for you this November:

MEENAKSHI: Once we set our eyes on the NEW her, there was no looking back - my God, what a transformation! Is this the girl who played the shy student of medicine in Karuppusamy Kuthagaithaar? Well, this Bengali bombshell has metamorphosed into something celestial and we wanted to grab her charisma and put it in print before she becomes too big and poofy for mere mortals like us!

BHARATH: Kanden Kadhala just released and it looks like a damn good film! What a refreshing change. The makers have stuck to the original Jab We Met to the T and have done justice to it, indeed. Bharath shines as the subdued sombre man and this dark, silent quality is what we have brought out in this special feature on him this month. I must say, doing the photo shoot with him was as exciting as writing the feature itself!

ULTIMATE HUNKS: Step aside, everyone, the GenNew breed of talented, good-looking and ambitious actors are here to give their predecessors a run for their money. Project by project, they're doing what the others haven't managed to do - grab the hip youth's attention, go global and yet retain that necessary intent to experiment and be different. Yummy!

PASSION 4 FASHION: We at GC always show you beautifully shot pictures of gorgeous and perfectly poised beauties from the industry. But what of their sartorial leanings OFF-screen? Here's a look at some personal styles of our lovely ladies.

MORE FOR CHILDREN: November 14, thanks to Chacha Nehru, is dedicated to children. Giving it a "film" quirk, we look at how child stars looked and how they've grown today; we peek into their memories and see that their favourite things were when they were kids; we look at cherished movies with loads of kids in them and we even got Mr. Randor Guy to go way back in time and talk about child actors of the yesteryears!

Of course, we have our usual round of exciting movie info, movie reviews, music reviews, hot-off-the-press news and more. Happy?

I know I say this all the time, but you gotta admit, it's a beautiful issue, including the colourful and intelligent G3! Enjoy your month!

Shakthi Girish

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BRONZED DEEPAVALI

I have never seen Nila look as lovely as she did in Galatta Cinema Oct '09. A real stylish lady, she is, and it made me think - how wonderful to see the new bold, brave, outspoken and ambitious young actors of today. They speak their mind and go for what they want. Nila is one such, I read and inferred. Way to go - can't wait to read November '09!
- Deepika Sinha-Dev, Bangalore

A HURRIED ISSUE?

Your October 09 Deepavali special issue was superb in colour and content and I enjoyed reading every word. Sadly, this is what made my eye note and my brain file away the little typos and grammatical mistakes that are also there in the issue - a hurried affair? Nonetheless, as a regular reader of GC, I can see that compared to other error-free issues, this must have had a story behind it, thus the errors. I look forward to a lifetime of my favourite cinema mag... minus the typos!
- Geetha Narayanaswamy, Madurai

*Dear Geetha,
You are absolutely correct - the time that we put together the October issue in was one of absolute madness and chaos - vacationing designers, ill content writers, events to plan... Thank you for keeping us on our toes. We need it! And here's to giving you super-satisfactory issues, always!
- Editor*

WHITE HOT FUN?

Hey! Every time I read G3, I can't believe I am reading about Chennai! Whenever I visit, I certainly don't get to see such shows and events and parties happening, such as you publish every month! Where are they? Who do we have to know to get invited? Wow, you guys make life itself seem like one big party. I loved the cover with Rina, Hitesh and Suneeth on it. Hats off to you, Sunder!
- Aneesh Reddy, Vizag

DEEPAVALI DRAMA!

I am a sneaky one. I love GC, but I also love comparing your specials every month and year. For Deepavali, for example,

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Write in to us with your comments, critique, wish lists on who you want to see featured, what you like, what you hate and pretty much... your inner thoughts! The fastest way, of course is, email: feedback@galattacinema.com



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We look forward to filling this page with YOUR words!

I thought I'd read to see if you indeed had new specials or if you reproduced what was in print last year... and I was, happily, thwarted in my attempts at spying shamelessly like this. This Oct 09's issue was splendid in terms of the specials. What colour! What fun reading! I simply loved your star-couples' take on home, food, etc. I read and I read again until my issue became dog-eared. I have only one complaint, though - I still feel there are too few pages in GC. I think you need to look at increasing the no. of pages per issue we I'd have some more reading close at hand!
- Cleona Maria Mascarenhas, Mumbai
*Dear Cleona,
When we're done laughing after your super-cool letter, we'll surely think about it!*
- Editor



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KANGNA RANAUT

Himachal Pradesh, the land of the gods, has sent many talented actresses to Bollywood in the past, including the late Priya Rajvansh and Preity Zinta. The latest sensation Himachal has given to the glamour world is 1987-born Kangna Ranaut, who hails from village Bhambla in Sarkaghat sub-division.



Widely known for her curly hair and spectacular looks, Kangna Ranaut debuted in films in 2006 with *Gangster* for which she won the prestigious Filmfare Best Female Debut Award and Sony's "Face of the Year" award. After making her presence felt in Bollywood with some of the best scripts like *Woh Lamhe*, *Life in a Metro* and *Fashion*, this size zero girl stepped into the South Indian film arena with Jeeva's successful Tamil film *Dhaam Dhoom* (2008) opposite Jayam Ravi. Her next release down South is veteran director Puri Jagannath's Prabhas-starrer *Ek Niranjan* (Telugu).


Ever since Kangna Ranaut signed *Ek Niranjan*, one of most expensive Telugu movies made till date, she has constantly been making headlines in the South and Bollywood. The first headline was that she was reportedly paid a whopping one crore for *Ek Niranjan*. Rumours spread like wildfire that she got this amount to feature in a nude scene! (Notably, Kangna has already appeared in aesthetically-shot revealing pictures.)

However, Kangna Ranaut instantly rubbished these rumours, saying: "I've never posed in the nude, never will, no matter how right the zeroes on the cheque are. I've an inbuilt censor code. I come from a very conservative background. If my parents ever see that I've crossed the line of morality, they'd drag me back to Himachal." Kangna is also said to have added about eight kg to suit Tollywood tastes.

Tollywood now has more offers for Kangna Ranaut; she has reportedly bagged yet another prestigious project titled *Rakta Charitra*, to be directed by renowned director-screenwriter-producer Ram Gopal Varma. In this Hindi-Telugu bilingual, Kangna will don the role of Suneetha, wife of rebel-turned politician Paritala Ravi (Vivek Oberoi), one of the most-feared individuals in the blood-ridden faction politics of South India. This movie also marks the Bollywood debut of our very own Suriya.

Of course, her run in Bollywood continues. She has more than six films in hand, including *Kites* (with Hrithik Roshan), *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai*, *No Problem*, *Actor*, *Tanu Weds Manu* (with R. Madhavan) and *Knockout*. We wish all the very best to this blooming actress.

- compiled and written by Baiju N.

There are many stars today who have reached where they are because of their positivity and their determination to succeed. Such is the star who Kickstarts Galatta Cinema every month. SALUTE! 



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Popular 'item-gal' Bhuvaneshwari, who was recently arrested for allegedly running flesh trade at her residence, is all set to pen her autobiography. It is believed that the actress has some 'untold secrets' to disclose, secrets that could mar the names of many celebrities.



Lyricist Pa. Vijay turned hero in Gnabagangal, whose poor showing has not dampened his acting ambitions. Word has it that he is sweating it out at the gym, building muscle for his next acting venture in which he is to play an action hero!

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Vettaikaran missed the Diwali bang, but Anushka is still hot property! She's not yet signed her next Tamil movie, but the buzz is that Lingusamy is trying to get her for his home production that has Simbu playing the lead. Will she say YES?

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In February 2010, Suriya begins shooting for his Bollywood debut *Raktha Charita*, directed by none other than Ram Gopal Varma. And because he wants to dub for the movie himself, he is learning Hindi from a professional tutor and his dear wife, Jyotika!



Meera Jasmine has no qualms playing the hero's sister. In *Gorintaku*, one of her big hits in Telugu that has been dubbed in Tamil as *Marudani*, she plays Dr. Rajasekhar's sister. Again, she plays the hero's sister in *Devari Kotta Thangi* with Shivarajakumar.

Sources say that Vikram is likely to star opposite a Hollywood actress in his forthcoming movie by Selvaraghavan, produced by Kanagarathna Movies. Who the actress will be is yet undecided, but Selva is determined to get the movie done and released by May 2010!



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Playback singer K.J. Yesudas has said that he would provide all legal help to the driver of the boat that capsized on September 30th at Thekkady lake killing 45 people. "The boat belongs to the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation. The driver alone should not be targeted," he added.



Nayantara has created a record with her fee in her Kannada debut film Kichaka opposite director-actor Ravichandran. It is said he was adamant to cast her and the producer had to pay her a whopping Rs. 60 lakhs, the highest ever in Kannada films' history!

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Actress Vimala Raman has turned glamorous overnight! It is said she will soon appear in a two-piece bikini in her next Telugu film Lover Boy, being directed by V.N. Aditya opposite Tarun. She too has learnt that it's hard to survive by playing the good girl!



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Prithviraj will act with veteran actor Mohanlal in one movie and with Mammooty in another! In director Lal Jose's Cousins, he acts alongside Mohanlal, and in Pokkiri Raja, he plays Mammooty's younger brother. Prithviraj sees both movies as good learning opportunities.



Divya Spandana has announced that she has opted out of Just Maat Maathalli after having a tiff with dance master Harsha. The movie is in the last schedule, and she chose this crucial time to walk out. "I have opted out in the best interests of the film," she said.



Nila is fed up with baseless rumours about her and she insists she is not tired of quality cinema. "I have NOT quit acting. It's not just about the money any more. Money is secondary. I want job satisfaction. That's why I have decided to do roles that will give me that satisfaction," she explains. The latest news doing the rounds is of her marriage.

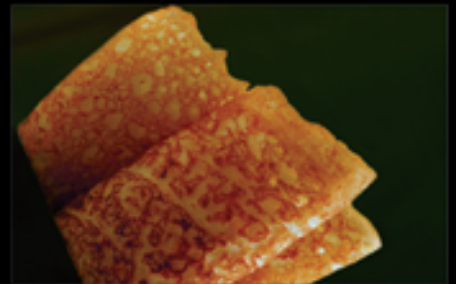
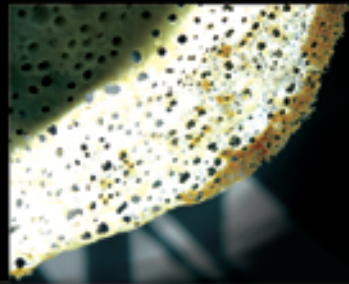


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Mohanlal, who acted opposite Kamal Haasan in the recent blockbuster *Unnai-pol Oruvan*, insists he would love to do it again. "I am really interested in working with Kamal in more projects," said Mohanlal, whose performance won accolades from fans, peers and film critics.



Ilamai Idho Idho has a lot of fresh talent, model-turned-actress Parvathi being one of them. She has all it takes to scorch the silver screen, but A.Raja, director of the movie, insists the movie has no glamour! Maybe you can reveal something next time, Parvathi!

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Vijayalakshmi has wised up to the fact that short skirts and hot pants are in! In *Adhe Neram Adhe Idam* and *Katradhu Kalavu*, she has shed some inhibitions and several metres of clothing! "Yes, I have worn some revealing clothes in my new movies but I have not overdone the glamour," she reveals.



Namitha was upset that Nayakudu, a Telugu movie she did four years ago was to be dubbed and released in Tamil just as Jaganmohini's release drew near. "The movie is aimed at Rajasekhar's fans. My role was limited. It could project me in a bad light in the wake of Jagan Mohini's release. The timing is just bad luck," she sulked. Now that Jagan Mohini has released, and Nayakudu never hit the screens, Namitha is happy.



After the path-breaking Subramaniapuram, Sasikumar will begin shooting for his next movie, Nagaram shortly. Earlier, a 54 year old man was supposed to play the lead, but latest reports say he has completely changed the script to include 10 newcomers.



Asin has denied rumours that she rejected director Farah Khan's offer to act in Happy New Year opposite Shahrukh Khan. Asin has rubbished the rumours saying that, "Farah Khan is a close friend of mine; there is no way I can refuse her."

SUNAINA: TECHNO MUSICIAN!!

"I'm not your typical gadget buff, but I love my HP laptop! I can appreciate the technological advances shaping the world, but the one thing I'm most grateful for is the Internet, which I get to access via my beloved laptop! It keeps me connected with my friends wherever I go and that's just about the coolest thing! I got my laptop just an year back. I always wanted to have a laptop, because it's like the key to lots of knowledge and other cool stuff, but getting a PC or a laptop was not exactly too simple. Buying one was almost as big a move as buying a Mercedes! But now that I have it, I'm making maximum use of it. You could say I am addicted to it these days. When I'm not working, the laptop is amongst by closest buddies. I mainly wanted the laptop to keep in touch with my friends, who I miss a lot while travelling. Thanks to my electronic companion and the worldwide web, we can chat for hours and hours together! Another one of my favourite possessions is my guitar! I love strumming it. Besides taking lessons from a tutor, I go online and learn chords for my fave songs, all by myself! Now would that be possible without my laptop?"



Gen

NEXT Stuff

XTREME COOL

SONY ERICSSON C903 CYBERSHOT



The C903 is a slider Cybershot phone with a camera slider similar to Sony's T-series of digicams.

FEATURES

The large bright scratch-resistant 2.4" display makes is visible even in the sunlight and very convenient to use. The D-pad is surrounded by soft keys, activity key, clear key as well as dial and end keys. The phone's slider is smooth and its keypad offers great tactile feedback. On the side are dedicated volume keys, camera mode switch and gallery key along with the shutter key.

The phone features a great 5MP autofocus camera, which comes with advanced features like face detection and smile detection. For a cybershot, the sound quality is very good. The audio output from the headphones is astoundingly clear and rich in bass. The phone includes GPS and is loaded with Google maps as well as a Wayfinder Navigator 7 application.

Another big improvement on this phone is the battery. The phone sports a 1000 mAh battery, the charge lasting for two days for average users.

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YOGI -Tamil

Ameer, Madhumitha | a Subramaniya Shiva film

Produced by Ameer Sultan

Banner: Team Work Production

WATCH OUT FOR

Director Ameer's debut as an actor

RELEASING

November 2009

ACTION

One of the eagerly-awaited Tamil movies, Yogi is said to be inspired by South African's film Tsotsi (2005), an adaptation of the novel Tsotsi by Athol Fugard. It depicts the story of a boy orphaned at age nine and forced to fight his way to adulthood with other homeless children in a series of large concrete construction pipes.

A few years later, he emerges as the leader of a gang and accidentally gets involved in a murder. In another incident, he shoots a young woman and steals her car, only to discover a three-month-old baby in the back seat. The woman survives the attack and works with a police artist to create a composite sketch of the kidnapper's face, which is published in newspapers. Realizing that he cannot care of the baby properly on his own, the hero forces another woman at gunpoint to feed the kidnapped child. But the story takes a different turn when he plans another robbery.

SOON TO THEATRES NEAR YOU...



KANDEN KADHALAI -Tamil

Bharath, Tamannaah | a Kannan film

Produced by Moser Baer and Blue Ocean Entertainment

Banner: Moser Baer and Blue Ocean Entertainment

WATCH OUT FOR

Bharath-Tamannaah combo

RELEASING

October 2009

**ROMANCE
COMEDY**

Kanden Kadhalai, a remake of the Hindi blockbuster *Jab We Met*, revolves around Sakthi (Bharath), a failing industrialist, who is even more heart-broken as the girl he loves is getting married to somebody else. Unable to muster up the courage to return home, he aimlessly boards a random train. Destiny dictates and on the train he meets Anjali (Tamannaah), a beautiful but annoyingly talkative girl, whose plan is to elope with her boyfriend (Munna). What happens next forms the rest of the film. *Kanden Kadhalai* is set in the backdrop of Theni region in Tamil Nadu; several festivities and cultures of the region have been included to make it look like a complete Tamil film, not a remake. Kalanidhi Maran-owned Sun Pictures recently acquired the distribution rights of *Kanden Kadhalai*.



RENIGUNTA -Tamil

Johnny | a Panneerselvam film

Produced by Mahendra Kumar

Banner: Film Fabricators

WATCH OUT FOR

Story of young criminals

RELEASING

November 2009

ACTION

Renigunta speaks about young criminals and explores the reasons that force them into a life of crime. The director said that the idea of the film sprang up in his mind, when he read a newspaper article about a young man who murdered an old couple for a mere Rs. 2000! "I follow such newspaper articles regularly and each case has a surprise. I was really troubled to see so many youngsters choosing the wrong path. I started to wonder what pushed them to do these extreme acts; they were not born criminals or morally depraved! Thus was born Renigunta." A down-to-earth film which presents life in the lower strata of the society as it is, the film can also be described as a peek into the human mind and the solutions it offers to persons who face desperate situations or wretchedness.

SOON TO THEATRES NEAR YOU...



SAA BOO THRII -Tamil

Arshad Khan, Prajin, Aksha | an Arshath Khan film

Produced by Prasanna, Rajesh and Sunitha Ojha

Banner: Wizard Media Works

WATCH OUT FOR

A serious love story

RELEASING

November 2009

Saa Boo Thrii, named after a popular traditional game played by children, is a serious romantic thriller, introducing three new faces to Kollywood - Arshad Khan, Prajin and Aksha. It revolves around the lives of these three, their love lives and careers. The movie mainly targets to entertain youthful audiences. Abbas Rafi, an assistant to A.R. Rahman and Rehana, composes the music. The story, screenplay, dialogues and direction are also by Arshad Khan, who has worked as assistant director on several successful projects, including Manathodu Mazhaikalam and Yaavarum Nalam.

ROMANCE



PRAVARAKYUDU
-Telugu

Jagapathi Babu, Priyamani | a Madhan film
Produced by Ganesh Kandukuri
Banner: Tolly 2 Holly Films

WATCH OUT FOR
Jagapathi Babu-Priyamani combo
RELEASING
November 2009

ENTER TAINER

Pravarakyudu is a mature love story featuring Jagapathi Babu as a man who always despises women. But the story takes a different turn when he ends up getting a job as a lecturer in a women's college. The film deals with various facets of love and analyzes whether love is just a physical attraction or there is something more to it. After Pellaina Kothalo, this is the second time Jagapathi Babu and bikini babe Priyamani team up in Pravarakyudu.

KURRADU -Telugu

Varun Sandesh, Neha Sharma | a Madhan film
Produced by P. Kiran
Banner: Anandi Arts

WATCH OUT FOR
Varun Sandesh's action
RELEASING
November 2009

ACTION

A remake of Tamil actor Dhanush's Polladhavan directed by Vetrimaran, Kurradu revolves around a happy-go-lucky guy who purchases a bike with the money that his middle-class father gives him to find his livelihood. The bike eventually gets lost, subjecting him to interminable anguish. During his search for it, Prabhu comes into conflict with the underworld and unavoidably gets dragged into rubbing shoulders with criminals.



SOON TO THEATRES NEAR YOU...

JANAKAN - Malayalam

Mohanlal, Suresh Gopi | a Sajeev Paravoor film

Produced by Arun Nair and Shan

Banner: Line of Colours

WATCH OUT FOR

Mohanlal-Suresh Gopi combo

RELEASING

December 2009

DRAMA

After a gap of 16 years, Mohanlal and Suresh Gopi come together once again in full-fledged roles in Janakan in which Mohanlal plays Surya Narayanan, a lawyer while Suresh Gopi is Vishwam, a man who has been convicted of murder. It is the brilliance of Surya Narayanan that saves Vishwam and two of his fellow convicts, Monai (Biju Menon) and Pazhani (Harisree Ashokan). Jyothirmayi and Kaveri play the heroines. Kaveri plays Suresh Gopi's wife.



PALERI MANICKAM - Malayalam

Mammootty, Sreenivasan | a Ranjith film

Produced by A.V. Anoop and Subair

Banner: AVA Productions and Varnachithra Big Screen

WATCH OUT FOR

Mammootty's investigative thriller

RELEASING

December 2009

Palery Manikyam, based on T.P. Rajeevan's novel 'Palery Maanikyam - Oru Paathira Kolapathakathinte Katha', is about a murder that took place 51 years back (1958) at Palery near Kozhikode. Mammootty plays the role of a Delhi-based investigator who reinvestigates the case.

THRILLER



CRAZY KUTUMBA - Kannada

Ramesh Aravind, Ananth Nag | a B. Rammurthy film

Produced by Ravi Joshi

Banner: Sinema House

WATCH OUT FOR

Crazy comedy by Ramesha and Ananth

RELEASING

November 2009

Ramesh Aravind and Ananth Nag, known for their sensible performances and family-oriented films, come together on screen after 20 years in Crazy Kutumba inspired by the Marathi film De Dhakka. Ananth Nag plays the role of Ramesh's father in this film which revolves around a team of talented people in a family who remain unrecognized because they are based in a village.

COMEDY

GALATTA CINEMA | NOVEMBER 2009 29

55th NATIONAL AWARDS

It was South Indian Cinema that took most of the accolades at the recent 55th National Awards. Galatta Cinema salutes all the winners and wishes that South Indian Cinema continues to shine in India as well as all over the world

The Swarna Kamal for Best Feature Film went to the Tamil film Kanchivaram. Directed by Priyadarshan, the movie also won Prakashraj the best actor Rajat Kamal. Girish Kasavali's Kannada film Gulabi Talkies got Umashri the best actress Rajat Kamal. Veteran Malayalam director Adoor Gopalakrishnan won the best director for his movie Naalu Pennungal.

Veteran singer Manna Dey was presented the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his lifelong contribution to cinema.

The awards for supporting actor and actress went to Darshan Zariwala for his sensitive portrayal as Mahtama Gandhi in the Hindi film Anil Kapoor's Gandhi My Father and to Shefali Shah for the English film The Last Lear respectively. Sharad Goekar won the best child actor for the Marathi film Tingya.

Though the best music went to Ouseppachan for his soul stirring tunes in the Malayalam film Ore Kadal, the honours of best lyricist, play back singer (male and female) went to Hindi movies. Prasson Joshi picked up the former award for Maa, from Taare Zameen Par. Shankar mahadevan picked up the best playback singer (male) for the same song. Shreya Ghoshal was adjudged best playback singer (female) for 'Ye Ishq Hai' from Jab We Met. The same song won veteran Saroj Khan the best choreography award.

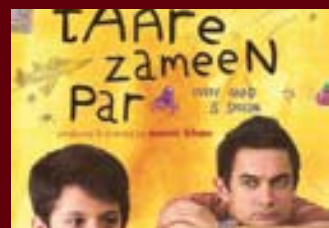
In the technical awards, Shanker Raman's cinematography in Frozen, Feroz Abbas Khan's screenplay for Gandhi My Father, Sabu Cyril's art direction for Om Shanti Om, B. Ajith editing for Naalu Pennungal and Kunal Sharma's audiography for 1971 were adjudged the best.

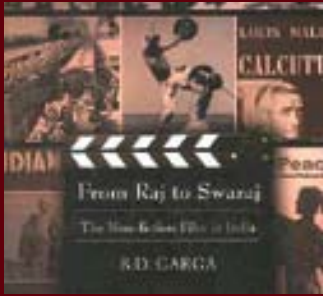
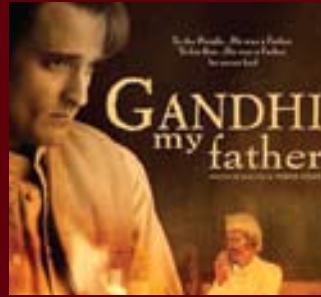
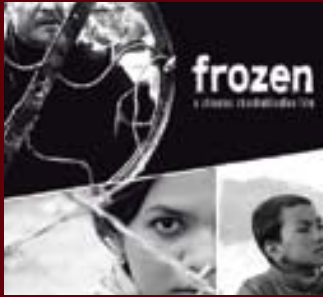
The Bengali film Krishnakanter Will got Ruma Sengupta the best costume designer award, while the Pattnam Rasheed's make up in the Malayalam film Paradesi was chosen for the National Award.

The language wise best feature films were: 1971 (Hindi), Ballygunge Court (Bengali), Ore Kadal (Malayalam), Nirop (Marathi), Periyar (Tamil), Gulabi Talkies (Kannada) and The Last Lear (English).

Shivajee Chandrabhushan won the Indira Gandhi Award for best first film of a director for the Hindi film Frozen. Other film awards given were: the best film in overall entertainment to Chak De! India, special jury award to Gandhi My Father, best family welfare film to Taare Zameen Par, the Nargis Dutt Award for best film on national integration to Bhavna Talwar's directorial debut Dharm, best film on social issues to Sushil Rajpal's Antardwandwa and best Children's film to Foto, produced by Children's Film Society of India and directed by Virendra Saini.

The best non-feature film award went to Hope Dies Last in War. From Raj to Swaraj: The Non-Fiction Film in India authored by B.D. Garga was awarded the best book on cinema.







CONTEST

Once upon a time there lived a king.... How many stories that we have read or heard start like this. We have picked a few actors sporting kingly crowns on their head. All these three actors are talented and have a loyal fan following. All you have to do is guess the actors and the film from which this still is taken.



Actors:

Film:



Actor:

Film:

I like Galatta Cinema because _____



LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

ANSWERS

* The bindi on Nayantara's forehead, *the beads on the shoulder of her dress, *the colour of the button on her dress, *the handle of the sword, *the beads on the collar of Suriya's dress, *the colour of the stone on his head gear



1. **NIRMALA DEVI**, Chennai
2. **PARVATHY**, Chennai

Answers to the above contest will be published in the next issue of Galatta Cinema. You can send your entries to us at:

GALATTA CINEMA CONTEST, Post Box No. 7166. Chennai - 600 102
or email to webmaster@galatta.com



1. **Cookie Man Crunchies**
2. **Free subscription of Galatta Cinema Magazine for three months.**

WIN

*All winners of prizes and gifts will be decided only by the team of Galatta Cinema. Sending the snippet and completing the contest questions does not automatically entail winnings. Participants to the contest may send in as many entries as they wish to, provided each is accompanied by the cut out strip. Employees (and their relatives) of Dot Com Infoway Ltd. cannot participate in the Galatta Cinema Contests. *Incomplete or illegible contest entries shall be disqualified. *The winning entries shall be decided by a panel of judges whose decision will be final. *Prizes are not transferable. *Prizes will be given in the name of participants only. *Prizes are subject to Indian tax laws as applicable. *Gifts / prizes may not exactly match with those shown in the advertisements. *We shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury incurred or suffered from use of any of the prizes / gifts.



+



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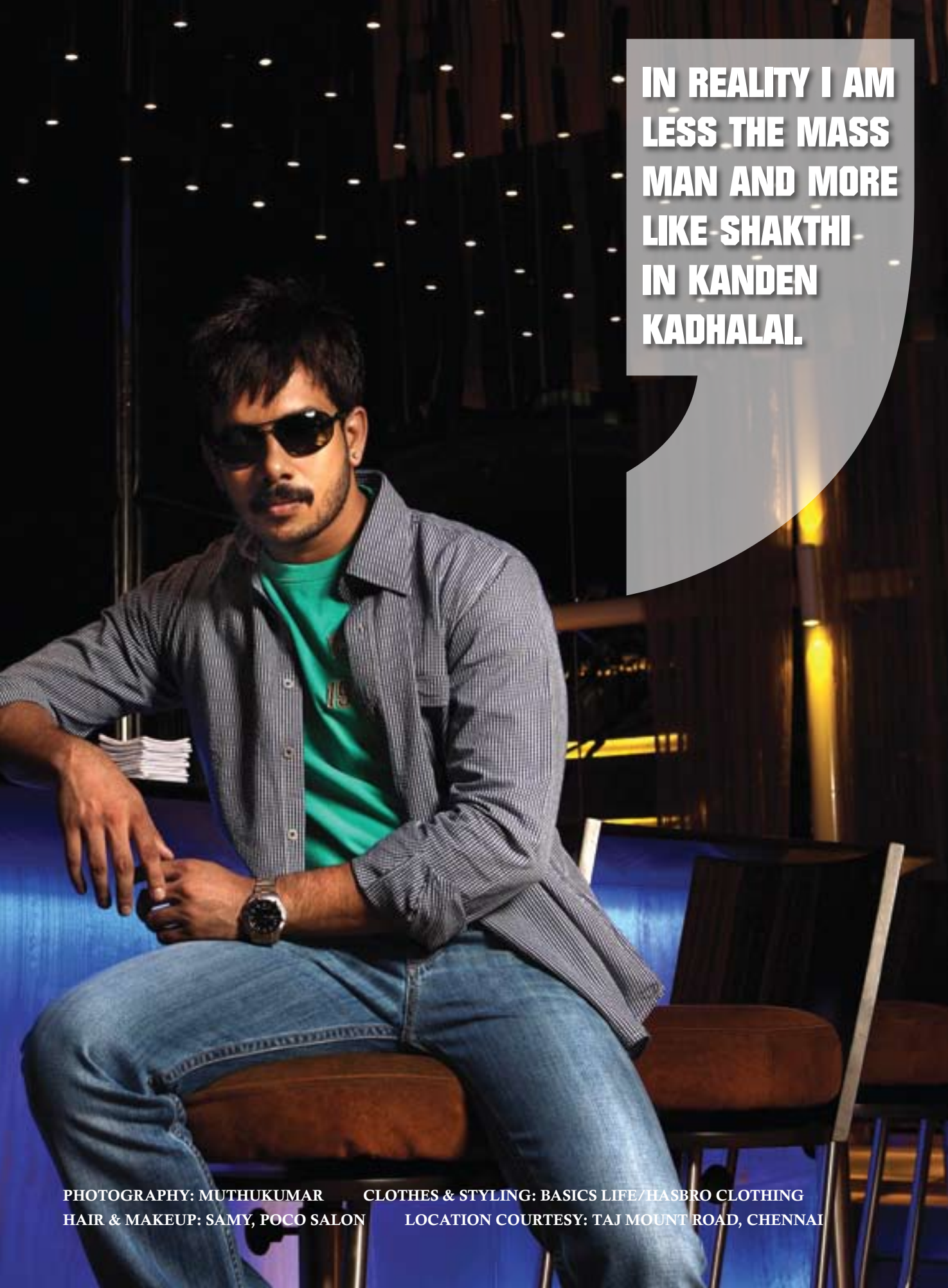
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BACK TO BASICS WITH BHARATH

Chatting with Bharath and shooting him are two different things. He's cool, relaxed and forthright, but his mind's not on our conversation when he's being caught on camera. It's on the details of getting the shot right and he lets Muthu, the photographer do the directing. In a nutshell, that's what he is. A director's actor who also craves different scripts, new looks, a combo of intelligent and entertaining and experimenting the way really good actors truly want to. KAANCHAN chats up Bharath and gets into his mind and under his skin, while he poses - relaxed, whiskey-on-the-rocks in hand and a slight smile especially reserved for his first love, the camera. Here's what she found...



**IN REALITY I AM
LESS THE MASS
MAN AND MORE
LIKE SHAKTHI
IN KANDEN
KADHALAI.**

PHOTOGRAPHY: MUTHUKUMAR

CLOTHES & STYLING: BASICS LIFE/HASBRO CLOTHING

HAIR & MAKEUP: SAMY, POCO SALON

LOCATION COURTESY: TAJ MOUNT ROAD, CHENNAI



» GC: HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN CINEMA?

B: Honestly, I did not! I was busy preparing for a career in football! I was playing District-level football and was aspiring to get into the State team, then the National, then fly off to UK, settle there and join a Premier League team. In fact, acting was never on my agenda. Even at school, I was never into stage plays and skits. I loved to participate in dance events. I was never considered as someone who could emote. It was only when Shankar sir saw me and offered me the part that I first came in touch with cinema.

» GC: THE BIGGEST TRUTH ABOUT CINEMA THAT HIT YOU HARD?

B: The truth about cinema is that it's all about sustaining oneself. Every actor has that innate fear whether he will be able to get success and then, the fear whether he will be able to sustain it. When you are successful, everything seems rosy. When you are not, and are sitting at home without work, you are alone. Nobody will even take your calls. You may put in all the hard work but at the end of the day, what people see and want to know is if your latest movie is a hit. That's all.

» GC: DID YOU REALIZE HOW BIG A DEAL IT WAS TO MAKE YOUR DEBUT IN A SHANKAR MOVIE?

B: Cinema and my life were never on the same page till Boys happened. I had no relatives in cinema to tell me what to do. I was just someone in the audience, watching and enjoying cinema as a recreation. So when I got the offer from Shankar sir, I did not wholly realize what a great opportunity it was. I was just 16 and I saw it as an adventure of sorts. I realized the enormity only as the movie progressed. Only looking back I can see the "bigness" of it!



moving to my **OWN BEATS!**

>> GC: WHAT WAS THE FIRST LESSON YOU LEARNT ON THE SET?

B: I learnt that in cinema, every minute is money! And so you have to respect that and be disciplined. One of the biggest lessons I learnt from Shankar sir is that no matter how big or small your current project is, you need to be professional and disciplined. One's own character is as important as the character he is playing and his acting skills.

>> GC: HOW DID IT FEEL TO APPEAR AS A GREASY MECHANIC FOR KADHAL? AND DID YOU ANTICIPATE ITS SUCCESS?

B: When Kadhal came my way, glamour was just not on my mind! I just wanted to do more movies, good movies. I was still fresh, had no image, so I had the freedom to explore and Kadhal had a brilliant script. So I was not thinking on how good I looked in the movie, but how well I was going to act in it. As for its success, well, you cannot predict it. Nobody can. You can have faith in the film - a faith that grows as the movie shapes up. But the true happiness is when the faith does not go in vain. However, when Kadhal became a blockbuster, I was happy, yet scared. It was my first single-hero movie and its success mounted pressure on me. How can I better this became my primary worry!

>> GC: WHILE DOING BOYS, NAKUL AND SIDDHARTH WOULD BE COMPETITION?

B: At the very outset, let me say that I do not think that Nakul, Siddharth and I are competitors. We are each doing our own kind of cinema. So we are not in competition. Coming to Boys, it was just a fun film on five boys and their dreams. So there was never a thought about my co-stars and me competing with each other. But as it stands now, I look at it like we are all sailing in the same boat to success, but in our own individual ways.

>> GC: AFTER FUN MOVIES LIKE BOYS AND FOUR STUDENTS, WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO DO CHELLAME?

B: When director Gandhi Krishna offered me Chellame, I had done very few movies. If I had already been doing solo hero roles, I may even have rejected it. I was not in a position to demand roles or script changes, so I was happy to do the part. Moreover, though it's a negative role, the main story revolves around me. I did not care that it was an anti-hero subject. My acting won applause, and I wanted to linger longer in cinema!

**I DON'T SEE
NAKUL AS
COMPETITION.
HIS STYLE IS
DIFFERENT
FROM MINE.**



IN THE MOOD





FOR MORE

>> GC: FIVE THINGS YOU LOVED ABOUT KADHAL...

B: The screenplay; it's what transformed the simple script into something so beautiful. The cinematography is also a big asset to the movie. We did not use any extra light source for any shot in the movie. The casting was impressive. Then of course, the really moving and surprising climax. And finally, probably myself!

>> GC: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT DOING ROMANTIC COMEDIES?

B: Romantic roles are fun. You get to romance a pretty girl and that's every man's dream, right? I like the romantic lines, the moves, the love sequences, the songs, everything. It's a nice light experience. And it's much less demanding than an action role. However, in the South, action movies make more money. For the hero, it's the action film that gives him more mileage. If your romantic film has a dose of action, it is likely to do better.

>> GC: WHAT'S SO ATTRACTIVE ABOUT A MASS MOVIE?

B: A mass movie means more audience, hence more money! These movies are targeted for B and C centres and they can make a movie a big success; bringing them to theatres with a romantic movie is a big challenge. With drama, sentiment and a good dose of action, they will automatically throng the theatres. However, stale plots and forced punch dialogues will not work with them. So when I pick a movie, I look at the entertainment value it promises. Audiences from B and C centres, after a hard day's work, want simple stories with lots of fun and action.

>> GC: HOW DO YOU WANT BE REMEMBERED: AS THE MASS MAN OR ROMANTIC HERO?

B: I want to be remembered as a good human being and be loved always! And as far as my profession is concerned, I want to be remembered as a people's actor and live in their hearts forever!

**MY LOVE LIFE
WILL REMAIN
UNDER WRAPS
UNLESS
I DECIDE
DIFFERENTLY.**



THIRU THIRU THURU THURU -TAMIL

*Banner: Saarathi Nath Creators
Producers: Sathyam Cinemas,
Real Image*

Arjun (Ajmal) is a cool guy who lives the way he likes while Archana (Rupa) is a control freak but a principled girl. They work for an ad agency owned by Srinivasan (Mouli). Right from the beginning, they are like a cat and mouse, always fighting. They come together for an ad for a baby product, but things go wrong when they come to know that the baby in the ad has been kidnapped. How they reunite the kid and his parents forms the rest of the story.

Cast: Ajmal, Rupa Manjari, Mouli, Lakshmi Ramakrishnan
Direction: Nandhini J.S.
Cinematography: Sudhir K. Chaudhary
Music: Mani Sharma
Genre: Romantic comedy
Rating: ★★☆☆☆
+POINT: Comedy
LETDOWN: Slow paced second half



AADHAVAN -TAMIL

*Banner: Red Giant Movies
Producer: Udhayanidhi Stalin*

Aadhavan (Suriya) is a sharpshooter who has never missed his target. But when he is assigned by Dr. Reddy (Rahul Dev) to bump off magistrate Subramaniam (Murali), who is about to reveal the list of culprits involved in organ-racketeering of poor children, Aadhavan unfortunately misses his target. He then plans to get into the magistrate's house to accomplish this task. But he fails terribly in every attempt. Will Aadhavan succeed in this mission forms the crux of the story.

Cast: Suriya, Nayantara, Vadivelu
Direction: K.S. Ravikumar
Cinematography: R. Ganesh
Music: Harris Jayaraj
Genre: Action
Rating: ★★☆☆☆
+POINT: Fabulous comedy by Vadivelu
LETDOWN: Falls short of expectations



PERANMAI -TAMIL

*Banner: Ayngaran International
Producers: K. Karunamoorthy,
C. Arunpandian*

Duruvan (Jayam Ravi), a forest officer, is appointed to train 30 women NCC cadets. He chooses five arrogant girls for a trek inside the forest. Though the girls are unwilling to work with Duruvan, they start the journey with plans to create trouble for him. Things take a different turn they spot foreigners with weapons heading to destroy a satellite research centre inside the forest. How Duruvan and the girls stop this nefarious operation forms the rest of the film.

Cast: Jayam Ravi, Roland Kickinger
Direction: S.P. Jananathan
Cinematography: S.P. Jananathan
Music: Vidyasagar
Genre: Action
Rating: ★★☆☆☆
+POINT: Interesting storyline
LETDOWN: Illogical presentation



JAGAN MOHINI -TAMIL

Banner: Murali Cine Arts

Producer: H. Murali

Azhagu (Nila) loves her cousin, the handsome prince Jagathalapradhapan. But Jagan falls for a sexy and voluptuous Mohini (Namitha), a young pearl-diver who saves his life during his mission to capture the deadly sea pirate Allaikallan and his gang. The prince informs his parents that he wants to marry the commoner, but his parents, unhappy about his decision arrange for Mohini to be murdered with the help of a sorcerer (Kota Srinivasa Rao). Mohini then returns as a spirit to unite with her lover.

Cast: Namitha, Raja, Nila

Direction: N.K. Vishwanathan

Cinematography: N.K. Vishwanathan

Music: Ilayaraja

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

+POINT: Namitha's glamour

LETDOWN: Outdated presentation, special effects not up to the mark

HIGH FIVES TOP 5 BLOCKBUSTERS

TAMIL



AADHAVAN

Director: K.S. Ravikumar

Cast: Suriya, Nayantara

Music: Harris Jayaraj



PERANMAI

Director: S.P. Jananathan

Cast: Jayam Ravi

Music: Vidyasagar



UNNAIPOL ORUVAN

Director: Chakri Toleti

Cast: Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal

Music: Shruti K. Haasan



EERAM

Director: Arivazhagan

Cast: Aadhi, Nandha, Sindhu Menon

Music: Thaman S.



KANTHASWAMY

Director: Susi Ganesan

Cast: Vikram, Shriya

Music: Devi Sri Prasad

BELLARY NAGA

-KANNADA

Banner: Cinema NSR

Producer: Kishore

Naga is a buffalo dealer in Bellary who ran away from home as a young boy. His stepfather Vishwanatha Gowda feels that his son Raju Gowda and daughter will not be able to take care of his estate, therefore he writes a will entrusting all responsibilities to his stepson Naga for the next 25 years. An enraged Raja wants to kill Naga and seeks help from a notorious rowdy Reddy. How Naga unites the warring siblings forms the rest of the story.

Cast: Vishnuvardhan, Shobharaj

Direction: Dinesh Babu

Cinematography: P.K.H. Doss

Music: L.N. Shastri

Genre: Action comedy

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

+POINT: Vishnuvardhan's performance

LETDOWN: Sloppy in some parts



TELEUGU

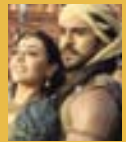
MAGADHEERA

Director: S.S. Rajamouli

Cast: Ram Charan Teja, Kajal

Aggarwal

Music: M.M. Keeravani



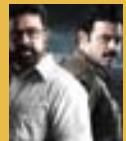
EENADU

Director: Chakri Toleti

Cast: Kamal Haasan,

Venkatesh

Music: Shruti K. Haasan



MAHATMA

Director: Krishna Vamsi

Cast: Srikanth, Bhavana

Music: Vijay Antony



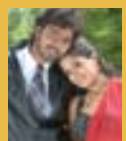
BENDU APPARAO

Director: EVV Satyanarayana

Cast: Allari Naresh, Kamna

Jetmalani

Music: Koti



BAANAM

Director: Chaitanya

Dantuluri

Cast: Nara Rohit, Vedhika

Music: Mani Sharma





PAZHASSI RAJA

-MALAYALAM

Banner : Gokulam Films

Producer: Gokulam Gopalan

The film chronicles the life and times of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja and his guerrilla warfare against the British East India Company's army. The British levies heavy taxes on various kingdoms and Pazhassi Raja (Mammootty), who belongs to the Kottayam Royal family, opposes this. After being forced to flee with his queen Kaitheri Makkom (Kanihaa), Lieutenant Edachena Kunkan (Sarathkumar) and Kaitheri Ambu (Suresh Krishna) to the forests, Pazhassi Raja starts his brave guerrilla warfare against the British.

Cast: Mammootty, Sarathkumar, Suman, Padmapriya, Kanihaa

Story and direction: Hariharan

Cinematography: Ramanath Shetty

Music: Ilayaraja

Genre: Historical

Rating: ★★★★★

+POINT: A masterpiece of our times

LETDOWN: None



ROBINHOOD -MALAYALAM

Banner : Anantha Vision

Producers: Muralidharan, Shantha Murali

Venkatesh Iyer (Prithviraj), a computer wizard, leads a dual life. During the day, he works as a physics teacher and at night he is a crook robbing ATMs. As the local police fails to nab the culprit, the bank's head Nandhakumara Menon (Biju Menon) invites Alexander Felix (Narain), a cyber crime expert to investigate the case. Along with Rupa (Bhavana), the system head of the bank Alex set about to nab the thief. What happens next forms the rest of the film.

Cast: Prithviraj, Narain, Bhavana

Direction: Joshy

Cinematography: Shaji

Music: Jayachandran

Genre: Action thriller

Rating: ★★★★★

+POINT: Prithviraj-Narain-Bhavana combo

LETDOWN: weak presentation



LOUD SPEAKER -MALAYALAM

Banner: New Generation Cinema

Producer: Time Ad Release

Mike Philippose (Mammootty) from a small village goes to the city to donate his kidney to meet his financial needs. Anand Menon (Sasi Kumar), an astrophysicist from the US, is in hospital with a major ailment, urgently needing a kidney transplant. Philippose meets Menon and until the operation date is fixed, they stay together in a posh flat. Philippose soon becomes a nuisance, both for Menon and other flat residents. But after a while, they realize his pure heart and helping nature.

Cast: Mammootty, Sasi Kumar, Gracy Singh

Story and direction: Jayaraj

Cinematography: Gunasekaran

Music: Bijibal

Genre: Entertainer

Rating: ★★★★★

+POINT: Story and narration

LETDOWN: First half lacks the spirit and pace of the second half



RECHIPO -TELUGU

Banner: Sri Spectra Media
Producer: G.V.Ramana

Shiva (Nitin) is a young thief who robs from the rich and distributes the money among the poor and needy. His plan to rob Rs. 500 crore from the Home Minister's (Ahuthi Prasad) house succeeds. The money is in fact the illegal earnings of a mafia group seized by the police. The mafia don later kidnaps the minister's daughter Krishna Veni (Ileana) and demands the release of his men and repayment of the amount. Krishna Veni (predictably) being his girlfriend, Shiva fights off the gang and rescues her.

Cast: Nitin, Ileana, Ahuthi Prasad, M.S. Narayana
Direction: Paruchuri Murali
Cinematography: Surender Reddy
Music: Mani Sharma
Genre: Action
Rating: ★★☆☆☆
+POINT: Rich production value
LETDOWN: Predictable storyline

MAHATMA -TELUGU

Banner: Golden Lion Films
Producer: C.R. Manohar

Hyderabad rowdy Dasanna (Srikanth) leads a chaotic life style, with regular fights and booze. His advocate Krishnaveni (Bhavana) keeps bailing him out when he gets into police custody. Dasanna unwittingly becomes a tool for the political rivalry between ruling party leaders Dattanna (Jayaprakash Reddy) and Kalarani (Jyothy). Dasanna is suddenly attracted by Gandhism and eschews all bad habits. How far Gandhigiri influences Dasanna forms the crux of the film.

Cast: Srikanth, Bhavana
Direction: Krishna Vamsi
Cinematography: Sarath
Music: Vijay Anthony
Genre: Action
Rating: ★★★★★
+POINT: Strong message
LETDOWN: Clichéd story



HIGH FIVES

TOP 5

BLOCKBUSTERS

MALAYALAM



PAZHASSI RAJA
Director: Hariharan
Cast: Mammooty, Sarathkumar
Music: Ilayaraja



LOUDSPEAKER
Director: Jayaraj
Cast: Mammooty, Sasi Kumar
Music: Bijibal



ANGEL JOHN
Director: Jayasurya
Cast: Mohanlal, Shanthnuo
Music: Ouseppachan



VAIRAM
Director: Nishad M A
Cast: Pasupathi, Suresh Gopi, Samvrutha Sunil
Music: M. Jayachandran



ROBINHOOD
Director: Joshi
Cast: Prithviraj, Narain, Bhavana
Music: M. Jayachandran

BALLARY NAGA

Director: Dinesh Babu
Cast: Vishnuvardhan, Avinash, Shobraj,
Music: L.N. Shastri



RAJANI

Director: Jolly Bastin
Cast: Upendra, Arti Chabria
Music: Thriller Manju



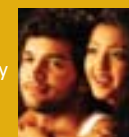
NINAGAGI KADIRUVE

Director: Jolly Bastin
Cast: Vishal Hegde, Pooja Gandhi
Music: Robin Gurang



MANASAARE

Director: Yogaraj Bhat
Cast: Diganth, Aindrita Ray
Music: Mano Murthy



GILLI

Director: Raghava Loki
Cast: Gururaj, Yethiraj, Rakul Preeth Singh,
Music: Yuvanshankar Raja



KANNADA



Actor Ashok celebrates Deepavali at Galatta office



Jagubhai audio launch



Renigunta audio launch

Parties, premieres, launches, birthday bashes... Tinseltown down South always rocks in its own way and don't let anyone tell you any different! October 2009 was so packed, that we're not even going to give you long explanations on what happened... Not when we can give it to you in the most vivid, visual manner! Take a look at June through these pages....

SCENE

about town



Sneha celebrates her birthday with children



Superstar Rajinikanth at Kamal 50 Celebrations by Vijay TV



Sangitha, Krish, Jiiva, Supriya at This Is It premiere



A.R. Rahman and Tabu at Ability Film Festival Launch



Radikaa at ID Festivity Fare launch



Krish and VJ Pooja at SS Music Deepavali Special



Superstar Rajinikanth appreciates the team of Eeram



Siddhu (+2 First Attempt) music launch



Shobana at Nagabarna dance programme



Lizzy Priyadarshan at Ecstasy



Sona makes a visit to Australia with friends



Genelia at Katha audio launch



Odiplama audio launch



Amala at Crossword book store



Jayeebhava audio launch



Ghatikudu audio launch



Arun Vijay with Dheena at BIG FM



Swami Manikanda movie launch



Yaksha movie launch



Chapter 6 audio launch



Ileana at a magazine launch



Namitha at Jagan Mohini press meet



Likhitha movie launch



Ravana audio launch

COVER FEATURE



WHILE MANY ARE BLINDED BY SUCCESS AND FAILURE, ME

THE



FACTOR

Today, we reveal Meenakshi, the mysterious and shapely beauty from Kolkata. This Maths graduate (whose original name is Pinky Saran) made a calculated entry into showbiz, going against all odds. It was not by chance that she kept in shape. It was not sheer coincidence that one of her main subjects at college was theatre. It was not just for kicks that she got her photo portfolio made. From a very young age, she had nurtured the dream to be an actress, to find her own spot in the dream factory, and no amount of disapproval or dissuasion made her deviate from her dream career. With no one to back her or push her forward, Meenakshi deftly took things into her own hands and began carving out her career in cinema, one of the most competitive industries. KAANCHAN chats with this starlet - who makes time for us even though she is running a high fever and should be resting instead!

“I don’t have a godfather or even a distant relative in the industry. My parents never really took my childhood acting dreams seriously. My family was furious with my decision to act and refused to back me. But I knew I had to do it,” says Meenakshi, who has made a habit of chasing her dreams, no matter what hazards crop up. While many novices are blinded by the dazzling gleam of the arc lights and the intimidating impact of success and failure, Meenakshi has taken every step with caution and care.

MEENAKSHI HAS TAKEN EVERY STEP WITH CAUTION AND CARE.



GC: When did you know you wanted to be an actress?

M: We all have a lot of dreams when we are young. The people we see, the places we visit, the events that happen, everything inspires those childish dreams. But we eventually outgrow those dreams. They are replaced by more practical aspirations. I don't remember when and how, but from a very young age I have always wanted to be an actress. My parents hoped and believed that I would eventually grow out of it, but I did not!

GC: Were they disappointed in your decision? Angry, maybe?

M: Oh yes! Terribly angry! They wanted me to finish school, graduate and study further or work. They knew nothing about cinema, beyond what they saw on TV and read in the papers. There is not a single person in my family even remotely associated with the field, and nothing I said could make them agree to me being the first! It was like a war between us back then! But I was not going to let that stop me. I knew I had it in me and I went ahead. Only recently, I managed to convince them that I have made the right decision.

GC: Were you not intimidated by the enormity of the industry, that too with no family support?

M: I was too young. I was just out of school when I signed and began Karuppusamy Kuthagaitharar [KK]. I was very confident and knew I was a good actress. I knew I was smart enough to play it safe. I informed my parents about the offer; I tried to make them see how eager I was to do it, and how much it mattered to me. But they were not ready to accept it, still I went ahead. I knew there was always the risk of not being accepted, but that did not scare me away. I had immense belief in my acting prowess and knew that if I worked hard, I would succeed. I was living my dream, so obviously I was happy.

GC: How did you manage to complete your graduation?

M: When I signed on KK, my parents did not even know. I knew it would not release in my home-town, so my parents would not know much about the movie. When they found out, I tried to convince them in different ways. I told them it was a good script and that it would just be for the experience. They said OK but once the movie was over, I had to return to do my graduation. So once the shoot was done, my parents get on with my graduation, hoping that my studies would extinguish my cine dreams, but no! I came racing back!

GC: What was it about cinema that attracted you most?

M: The craft. I love acting in front of the camera. I love playing the many different characters, going through the various emotions. I enjoy performing. The fame and fortune that one gets with cinema is definitely attractive, but for me that came second. It was acting that was and is the biggest lure.

GC: How did you equip yourself for cinema?

M: Before entering the cine field, I was fascinated with acting and the possibility of enacting such a variety of characters. During my college days, I whetted my acting prowess by doing theatre and little bit of modelling. But my first movie was before my graduation and I had not really equipped myself much. I love the craft and I had full confidence in my skill, but I was quite taken aback by the emotional demands of the profession. Being a confident, self-motivated person, I was easily able to adapt to the long hours, the difficult locations, the need to be good humoured to all and sundry, the need to look my best around the clock... In fact, I would tell any girl aspiring to act, to first strengthen her mind and be prepared for all the mental strain. With every movie, you can improve your acting skill, but right from the beginning, you have to be mentally strong.

GC: For a young girl like you, cinema is a high-pressure profession. How do you handle it?

M: The pressure is there, but when I came back after my graduation, I knew what I was getting into. Initially, the maximum pressure was what I put on myself, worrying about the outcome - how I had done, whether people would like it, whether the movie would be a success and so on. The other things, such as the long hours, the make up, the work, does stress you out. But per se, I don't have a stress-buster. I don't booze. I don't smoke. I don't party. There is nothing that I actually do when I am stressed. Sometimes I drive in the night to cool off. But mostly I just take things as they come.

GC: How do you handle the unprofessional lot, someone who acts fresh with you?

M: I won't deny the fact that I have met my share of such people. At the very beginning of my career, I did encounter people whose intentions were unclear, and possibly wrong. But I have always held my ground. I am smart enough to keep away from such situations. If you ask me, I would say that how a situation turns out entirely depends on your attitude. When you think someone is behaving suspiciously or when someone approaches you for the wrong reasons, you have to back out immediately. Don't give room for anything fishy to happen. I believe that no one can force you into anything. It's entirely your choice.

GC: If you could go back in time, would you still do KK at such a young age, or would you want to wait till you finished college?

M: No way! I would absolutely do it! KK is the best movie I've done till date. I have no regrets about the movie and my performance. For an unschooled novice actress I think I did a good job. I would not change anything about my career till date.



HER ATTITUDE, ASPIRATIONS AND THE ACTRESS WITHIN



OOZING CONFIDENCE, SEX APPEAL AND SENSUALITY. SHE'S



THE NEXT HOT THING TO SET THE SILVER SCREEN ABLAZE



GC: What was the first thing you learnt about cinema?

M: I learnt that 24/7 you had to be perfect! In terms of your looks and your attitude you just had to be at your best all the time. Especially when you're new, it's kind of mandatory not to allow a bad day to get in your way. It is difficult to maintain your composure and always look pretty, even when you're having a bad day, when you're upset, when you're angry, sick or tired. But from the outside, people can't see that and hence you better not show it. You have to look perfect for them. That's a job requirement that anyone who gets into cinema knows about, and there's no point complaining!

GC: How did the opportunity to act in KK actually come to you?

M: I had actually auditioned and got the part for Kokki, Karan's previous film under the same banner. They were very happy with my performance and had selected me. But it turned out that the shooting dates were clashing with my exams, and so I could not do the movie. They said they would contact me for their next movie and they did just that. However, though the production house and hero were the same as in Kokki, the director was different. And he was not very sure if I could play the part of a small town typically South Indian girl. So I had to come and audition for KK too. My audition lasted nearly five hours! I'd never worn the half-saree before and never worn my hair in that style either. So they made dress up just as the character would and I was given a series of scenes to enact, and only after that was I selected for KK!

GC: How did you handle the language barrier?

M: Language is a barrier only if you think it is! It is difficult, I agree, but nothing is so difficult that it cannot be overcome. For me the difficulty is greater in fact, because I take the pains to understand every word I utter. I am not one of those actresses who simply repeat the dialogues taught to them like a parrot. I need to know what I am saying and it's not enough to just know the meaning of the sentence as a whole. I need to know the meaning of every word. If I am to emote properly, it is of paramount importance that I know what I am saying. I need to pause at the right times, sound emphatic at the right times. And moreover, if I blindly recited the dialogues, learning the language would be even more difficult. Today, I can understand when people converse in Tamil. I myself can talk in Tamil to a certain extent.

A QUICK TAKE

Dream roles... A double role would be interesting
Rejected roles... Reject? No way! I want to do everything!
Karan, Ajmal, Pasupathy, Sundar... They were all very good to me. Other than Ajmal, all the others were relatively more experienced. They did not mind helping me out, teaching me how to do certain scenes. Ajmal was equally helpful and supportive.
In five years... I hope I'll be ready to direct a movie!

GC: There are so many young actresses now. What is the one thing about you that makes you better than them all?

M: Honestly, I am almost totally unaware of who my contemporaries are. From the time I entered cinema till now, I am entirely focussed only on myself and my career. I'm always looking at ways to improve my acting. I'm always looking for good scripts to enhance my career. You can say I'm like a horse with blinkers on. I can only see in one direction, with no diversion. I only know the names of established actresses and may grasp a name or two while surfing through channels on TV. But that's it. I don't know who's acting with whom and in what movie. I don't keep track of these things, because I have myself to build. But if you ask me what is X factor in me that makes me a good pick for a movie, I will say it's my confidence and my acting. I am confident that I can do any role and that I will perform well, also.

GC: The switch to glamour: Was it a conscious decision?

M: I am not essentially the traditional girl of KK. I dressed that way because that was the character I was playing.

At that time, I did not have too many options to pick and choose. The only offer I had in hand was KK and it was a good role. For an actress, what gets top priority is the kind of role. Till date, I will rate my character in KK as the best. After that, I took a two and a half year break to finish college and when I came back, I signed on three movies in one month. Glamour was a part of the roles. In Rajadhi Raja, my part was primarily traditional, while in TN07 AL4777 and Perumal, the roles had the glam factor imbedded in them. It was no conscious decision; it just happened that my first movie required a traditional look and the others had glamour.

GC: Who are you - the traditional girl or the glam gal?

M: As far as my dressing goes, I am very modern. I wear jeans pants, capris, even mini-skirts. Very rarely do I wear sarees or salwar suits. The saree is most beautiful and my favourite kind of clothing, but wearing it every day to work and stuff is not practically possible for me. I find it difficult to carry on my regular work in it, because I'm used to wearing western casual clothes. But though I dress that way, I am more of an introvert. Just because I wear a mini-skirt that does not mean I party a lot, go pub-hopping or dancing. No way! I prefer to stay at home. The way I dress is very misleading! It's just the opposite of my nature!



On a free day... Drive or do math puzzles!
You would love to have acted in... Jodhaa Akbar!
The hottest actor and actress... Shahid Kapur, Aishwarya Rai
The actor with the best smile... Hrithik Roshan
Your ideal romantic hero... Shahrukh Khan
The best Indian Superman... Hrithik Roshan
Wanna be remembered as... A good actress and a good human being

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

First person you go to with good news...

My parents

First person you go to with bad news...

My parents

First crush...

It was a silly thing... in class 2, I had a classmate, my main competitor in singing contests! He used to come first and me second! It irritated me, but I l-i-k-e-d the way he sang

First thing that comes to your mind when we say Kadhal...

The fun I had! I was just 15 without a single care in the world! It was a beautiful experience!

First thing you bought with your pay...

A Honda Civic

First thing that you thought when you saw yourself on the big screen...

I was too young to realize what a big leap I had taken! At that time when I saw myself on the screen, it felt weird. Now when I watch the movie, I'm very critical. There are so many things I could have done better!

First lesson you learnt about cinema, on the job...

I learnt that A Monitor is a rehearsal shot and A Take is the actual shot; and that I could go easy for a monitor!

First scene in front of the camera...

I had to come running out of school and bump right into the hero and then an argument ensued! I was nervous, but it was fun!

First friend you made in cinema...

I made friends with everyone I worked with, but the first true friend I made was Jiiva. He is a very nice person.

LET'S GET WORDY!

Three words that describe you the best...

Short-tempered, happy, fun-loving, adventurous... that's a lot of words... but still!

The phrase you use the most...

Super Cool!

Your most frequent lie...

When I'm way past curfew and my dad calls to find out where I am, even if I have not left, I say, "I'm on my way! Just ten minutes away!" I maintain the same position till I get home!

The best advice given to you...

How a situation takes shape depends on how you take it. So just take everything coolly!

The funniest rumour you've heard about yourself ...

Almost every time, the rumour links me with the actor I'm working with and every time, I find it funny!

The best compliment you've got yet...

Every compliment I got for my debut performance!

Which is harder to say: 'Sorry!' or 'You're right, I'm wrong!'

When I'm wrong, if not at once, eventually I do accept it. Saying sorry isn't that tough either!

To the readers of GC:

Watch my movies, keep giving me your support and encouragement! And of course, keep reading Galatta Cinema as well!

- As told to Kaanchan

Love the stars talking snappy? Watch them get on candid camera online. Log onto www.galatta.com and check out the video interviews section.

**FAST
TRACK**
with

SANDYA



BEHIND THE SCENES



SINGING

TO

Carnatica

The South Indian Film music is a melting pot of talents from all over the country. This vast film industry has accepted talents irrespective of from which part of the country they come from. From technicians to actors, to music composers to singers, every one has been taken into the fold of South Indian films. Of late the surge of singers from up north in the film music of South has had a great impact. Though veterans Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle have sung down South, there is today a huge number of popular Bollywood singers, who do not speak the language, but have managed to become the most popular playback singers of our times. Udit Narayan, Sonu Nigam, Kumar Sanu, Sadhana Sargam, Sunidhi Chauhan, Shaan, Adnan Sami, Sukhwinder, Shreya Ghoshal, Madhushree, Kunal Ganjawala... the list is endless. Galatta Cinema looks at some of these crooners, who have adapted to the sound of the South. Though not the complete list, we have a sneak peek at some of the most popular voices down south.

BOLLYWOOD SINGERS IN

SOUTH INDIAN CINEMA

SADHANA SARGAM



THE SOUTH CONNECTION

Sadha na Sargam has prominently sung for A.R. Rahman, but it was Ilayaraja's composition 'Pattu Solli' in Azhagi that brought her into the limelight.

CLAIM TO FAME

The list is endless. But to mention a few chartbusters; Akkam Pakkam (Kireedam), Chanakya Chanakya (Dum), Enathuyire (Bheema), Eno Kungal (Kalvanin Kadhali), Kanden Kanden (Madurey), Maan Kuddiyi (Priyamana Thozhi), Oru Vartha (Ayya), Vennilave (Minasara Kanavu), Yen Anbae (Satyam) and of course Mukunda (Dasavathaaram)

AWARDS WON

National award for best female playback singer in 2002 for 'Pattu Solli' from the movie Azhagi (Tamil), an honour that no other non-South Indian singer has never received.



UDIT NARAYAN

THE SOUTH CONNECTION

Known for his imperfect pronunciations, though that is what is considered as Udit's charm, this veteran singer has to his credit more than 15000 songs in 30 languages. In Tamil he has sung prominently for A.R.Rahman, Vidyasagar and Yuvan Shankar Raja

CLAIM TO FAME

Ayyo Ayyo (M Kumaran S/O Mahalakshmi), Kaadhala Pisaase (Run), Engayo Partha Mayakam (Yaaradi Nee Mohini), Thaen Thaen (Kuruvi) and the melodious Sahana (Sivaji)

AWARDS WON

Though he is yet to win any major awards for his songs down South, his popularity among listeners is ever increasing. He has been criticised for not singing the words correctly, but Udit Narayan is a talented and versatile singer who is here to stay.

SONU NIGAM



THE SOUTH CONNECTION

He is probably the most popular singer in Kannada films. He has to his credit some of the biggest hits in Sandalwood. Music composer Mano Murthy is credited with making Sonu Nigam the most popular voice in Kannada. Sonu has established a decent fan base in Tamil and Telugu as well.

CLAIM TO FAME

All his Kannada songs are superhits. Popular ones include: 'Mungaru Male' (Mungaru Male), Kanaso Idu (Cheluvina Chiththara), Yeni Idu Yenu (Neene Neene), Chalisuva Cheluve (Iasa Utsaha). In Tamil 'Vizhiyil' (Kireedam) was a melodious hit.

AWARDS WON

He won the Filmfare Award (Kannada) two years back to back, in 2008 for 'Ninnindale Ninnindale' from Milana and in 2009 for the song 'Enaagali Mundhe Saagu' Nee from Mussanjemaatu.



MADHUSHREE

THE SOUTH CONNECTION

Though A.R. Rahman is credited with bringing Madhushree to the limelight, Madhushree got her first break in Tamil from Vidyasagar. Born a Bengali, she learnt Tamil to get her diction right while singing.

CLAIM TO FAME

She became a hit with the Hindi song 'Kabhi Neem Neem' from Yuva, 'Sanda Kozhi' from Aayutha Ezhthu in Tamil. Her other popular songs include: Unakkul Naan (Pachhaikili Muthucharam), Siragugal (Sarvvam), Marudhani (Sakkarakatti), Mayilirage (Anbe Aaruyire), Ding Dong (Ji) and the superhit Vaaji Vaaji (Sivaji)

AWARDS WON

Though major awards have eluded her, Madhushree has managed to carve a niche for herself in the South Indian film industry. And with every song, she has added hundreds of fans.

KUNAL GANJAWALA



THE SOUTH CONNECTION

Kunal rules Sandalwood along with Sonu. He debuted in Kannada in 2005 and since then has had a strong of hits. Coincidentally he is married to a Tamil Iyer, Gayatri, who is also an accomplished and popular singer.

CLAIM TO FAME

'Onde Ondu Sari' (Mungaaru Male), 'Na Ninna Pritiyalli' (Julie), 'Preethse' (Uppi Daada MBBS), 'Nanagu Ninagu' (Aramane), 'Neene Neene' (Akash), 'Kivi Maathu' (Milana) are some of popular songs.

AWARDS WON

Kunal has faced a healthy competition from Sonu Nigam in the awards section. Both singers are equally popular in Kannada, but Sonu has been more successful in terms of awards. Hopefully things will change for Kunal soon.



SHREYA GHOSHAL

THE SOUTH CONNECTION

Only 25 and Shreya Ghoshal has worked with some of the biggest names in South Indian film music; Ilayaraja, A R. Rahman, M.M. Keeravani, Hamsalekha, Mano Murthy, Gurukiran, Yuvanshankar Raja and Harris Jayaraj.

CLAIM TO FAME

'Pani Thuli' (Kanda Naal Mudhal), 'Thaen Thaen' (Kuruvu), 'Aiyaiyo' (Paruthi Veeran), 'Pathukulle Number' (Vasool Raja MBBS), 'Onnavida' (Virumaandi), 'Nannare (Guru)' and 'Munbe Vaa' (Sillunu Oru Kaadhal) in Tamil, 'Aanandama' (KIKK), 'Kopama' (Varsham), 'Pillagaali Allari' (Athadu) in Telugu and several more songs in Kannada

AWARDS WON

She won the Andhra Pradesh State Award in 2005 for 'Pillagaali Allari' (Athadu) and 'Neeke Nuvvu' (Modati Cinema). In 2007 she got the Filmfare South (Tamil) as well as Tamil Nadu State Award for 'Munbe Vaa' (Sillunu Oru Kaadhal). In 2008 she won the Filmfare South (Kannada) for 'Ninna Nodalenth' (Mussanjemaatu).



Kattradhu Kalavu

- Tamil

The story is that of a young boy and girl coming to Chennai city chasing their dreams. Krishna (Krishna) comes to Chennai with high aspirations and dreams to make it big in life. Veni (Vijayalakshmi) also comes to Chennai dreaming to fly high and become an air hostess.

The story is about their struggles, how they survive them.

A wholesome entertainer, the highlights of the movie is definitely the story which promises to be captivating, especially the action sequences and the climax are said to be gripping. With Nirav Shah as cinematographer, the stunning visuals will be another reason to watch the film. The music by Paul Jacob is another highlight and of course Krishna's complete makeover in terms of looks and style.



Won't you share your biscuit with me?

09 A
15 M



Why are we all standing here?

10 A
05 M



Who is the fairer one between us?

10 P
20 M



Thanks for teaching us how to use the phone?

11 P
25 M



The women kissed you and flew away?

12 P
15 M



Lights, camera, action... It's showtime!

01 P
10 M



One umbrella is enough for us!

02 P
00 M



Make me look the best.

02 P
55 M



I have headache!

02 P
25 M



I want the purple umbrella!

03 P
25 M



Am I smart or what!

05 P
30 M

Name: **Kattradhu Kalavu**

Banner: Talking Times

Producer: Sekar

Director: Balaji Devi Prasad

Cast:

Krishna,
Vijayalakshmi,
Kalyan (Dance
Master),
Sampath
Kumar, Ganja
Karuppu,
Cochin Haniffa,
Santhana
Barathy

Crew:

Camera: Nirav
Shah
Editing: M Kasi
Viswanathan

Music : Paul Jacob

BUZZ notes

- A song number was shot featuring New Bombay Circus artists along with Krishna and Mumaith Khan.
- Watch out for Ganja Karuppu's histrionics.
- Special appearance by Chinni Jayanth, Santhana Bharathy and Cochin Haniffa.
- Dance Master Kalyan's re-entry as an actor.
- Mumaith Khan's special appearance as a circus performer
- Krishna's has done his action sequences without using a body double, worth mentioning a 20 feet free fall during a chase sequence.
- The underwater fight sequences are first of its kind in Tamil cinema

CAREER: Problems with colleagues, good time for a job change, progress assured
BUSINESS: Issues with partners need to be sorted, legal problems foreseen
MONEY: Good time, unexpected gains
PERSONAL: Singletons may find someone special, relationship upheavals, planning a family trip will help ease tensions

ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 19)



CAREER: Aggressive environment may force job change
BUSINESS: Employee-related issues, travel on the cards, look at accounts closely
MONEY: Control unnecessary spending
PERSONAL: Time to fall in love, those in love think marriage, and married persons... together time!

TAURUS

(Apr 20 - May 20)



CAREER: A routine month, drop any plans to change jobs at the moment
BUSINESS: Focus on marketing rather than expansion, use your trust judiciously
MONEY: Don't try to make a quick buck, lots of expenditure avenues
PERSONAL: Express your feelings, peace and harmony will reign

GEMINI

(May 21 - Jun 20)



CAREER: Increase in responsibilities, be wary of office politics
BUSINESS: Think well before taking important decisions, chances of betrayal
MONEY: Monetary gains wither from old loans or stocks, rise in personal expenses
PERSONAL: Propose to that someone special, good time for engagement/ marriage plans

CANCER

(Jun 21 - Jul 22)



CAREER: Personal and professional life well balanced, time for a promotion
BUSINESS: Good time for entrepreneurs, expansion plans on the anvil
MONEY: Expenditure for travel and property, proper planning required
PERSONAL: Chance of a long distance relationship, married couples will spend romantic time together

LEO

(Jul 23-Aug 22)



CELEBRITY ZODIAC-SPEAK, BIRTHDAY PLANS OF THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS AND A CHANCE TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR FAVE CELEBS - ALL THIS AND MORE!

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

MANJU WARRIER, SHAHRUKH KHAN, MUKESH, NANDITA DAS, S.P. CHARAN, JUHI CHAWLA, P. SUSHEELA, MAMTHA MOHANDAS, PARTHIBAN, SUSHMITA SEN, DEVA, SHALINI, RAMESH KANNA

KAMAL HAASAN

HOTTEST B'DAYS OF THE MONTH



NOV 07

AISHWARYA RAI

HOTTEST B'DAYS OF THE MONTH



NOV 01

NOVEMBER FACTS

Those born in the month of November are mostly extremists, they do everything or nothing. They always maintain strength during adversity and don't cave under pressure. They always want to be in control and are prone to suspicion. They never forget a favour nor a harm done. They tend to be very vengeful. Self-Sacrificing, magnetic and seductive, November born are independent people.

BIRTHSTONE: Topaz

JOBS TO SEEK: Teaching, entertainment, investigative journalism, medicine

LUCKY COLORS: Scarlet, red, rust

LUCKY DAY: Tuesday

LUCKY NUMBERS: 9

SURPRISE YOUR STARS WITH A GIFT!

Nothing holds a dearer place in the heart than gifts given from the heart. So say it like you mean it with those rose bouquets and stuffed dolls. If that's not enough to sway the fickle, then let them sink their teeth into the sweetest cakes, and dive in to your chocolate cookies. Or for those more practical and not too sentimental, gift them jewellery they can use or accessories they'd love to sport. Come on, surprise your star with some beautiful gifts!

CHOCOLATE COOKIES

TEDDY BEARS

DELICIOUS CAKES

FLOWER BOUQUETS

FASHION ACCESSORIES

AND MANY MORE GIFTS!

SIMPLY LOG ONTO:

www.galatta.com

AND CLICK ON

'GIFT A MOVIE STAR'

STAR SIGNS YOU SHARE WITH YOUR FAVE CELEBS!

CAREER: Good rapport with colleagues
BUSINESS: Good time to launch new products and explore new markets, planning for long term projects needs care
MONEY: Opportunities for lavish spending, especially on holidays, spouse/companion
PERSONAL: Disagreements over trivial issues foreseen, lots of socialising on the cards

VIRGO
 (Aug 23 - Sep 22)



CAREER: A busy month, loads of projects
BUSINESS: Partners will be helpful, stay away from loans as they could lead to financial crisis.
MONEY: Unexpected financial gains, chance of inheritance
PERSONAL: Seeing someone? If not, then time to hook up. If yes, tie the knot!

LIBRA
 (Sep 23 - Oct 22)



CAREER: Good time to switch jobs, a friend might suggest good offers
BUSINESS: Several opportunities coming your way, be ready grab them
MONEY: A good month, no financial hassles
PERSONAL: An ongoing relationship will become more intimate, can lead exciting times ahead

SCORPIO
 (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



CAREER: A stressful month, but lots of support from peers
BUSINESS: Travel on the cards, don't get into any partnerships
MONEY: Expenses will outweigh the gains, recover pending payments
PERSONAL: Good time to spend with family and friends

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



CAREER: Several job offers, but you will continue in the same job
BUSINESS: New alliances and partnerships focusing development
MONEY: Favourable month to apply for loans
PERSONAL: Exercise patience, don't be adamant, listen to others' advice

CAPRICORN
 (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



CAREER: Good time to focus on your skills, it will help improve your position at work
BUSINESS: Focus on the small things; marketing strategies need to be revisited
MONEY: Focus is on savings
PERSONAL: Loyalty issues will crop up, so caution is advised. But a positive time for relationships

AQUARIUS
 (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



NAYANTARA NOV 18

CAREER: Cordial relations with peers, but conflicts with superiors
BUSINESS: Avoid lending money; they could turn into bad debts
MONEY: Spending is the focus, but invest wisely too
PERSONAL: A small trip for those in committed relationships

PISCES
 (February 19 - March 20)



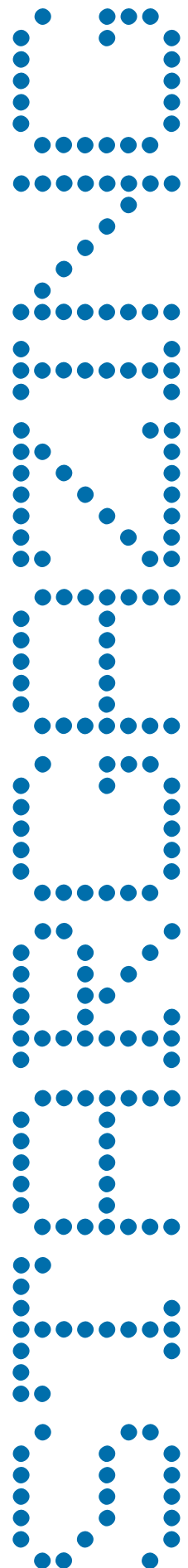
TABU NOV 04



MADHUSHREE NOV 02



VIVEK NOV 19



in-house snippets

JIIVA ONLINE RE-LAUNCH!

Galatta.com prides itself for being associated with several popular stars through their official websites. One such star is Jiiva. In keeping with the changing trends and of course the actor's ever increasing fan base, Galatta.com will soon launch a new and improved website of the happening star. Post your suggestions and views about the existing site and the changes you want in Jiiva's guestbook on www.jiivaonline.com



RECENT UPDATES

TAMIL.GALATTA.COM

DESKTOP CALENDARS

You can now have your favourite actors and movies as your desktop calenders. These calenders are updated monthly with the latest and coolest stills from the hottest movies. So check out the G! Downloads section to get your latest desktop calenders.

Movie: Thillalangadi



ANUSHKA SPECIAL

Post Arundhathi, Anushka has become the most sought after actress in Telugu as well as Tamil films. With her Vettaikaaran opposite Ilayathalapathy Vijay all set to release soon, she is indeed the hottest flavour on Galatta.com. Check out the latest pictures, wallpapers, posters and photoshoots of Anushka and her movies on Galatta.com.



100% LEGAL

MUSIC.GALATTA.COM

LATEST SONGS

For the latest and hottest movie songs in Tamil and Telugu, the right place to be is <http://music.galatta.com>. You can listen to your favourite tracks and also download them. And the best part about all this listening and downloading is that it is



Movie: Renigunta

100% legal. Our latest additions in Tamil include: Renigunta, Siddhu, Odi Polama and Kadhalan Kadhali. In Telugu songs of all the latest hit films like Ek Niranjan, Jayeebhava, Magadheera, Eenaadu... all are available on Galatta music.



Movie: Odi Polama

Another prized addition to the vast music collection is the latest blockbuster of Malayalam Cinema, the magnum opus Pazhassi Raja.



Movie: Pazhassi Raja

G! DOWNLOADS

NOVEMBER SPECIAL



MOVIE OF THE MONTH

VETTAIKAARAN

Ilayathalapathy's 49th film Vettaikaaran was scheduled to hit the screens for Deepavali, but much to the disappointment of his fans it got delayed. Most probably expected for Christmas or Pongal (looking to recreate the Pokkiri magic?), this action packed entertainer is movie of the month on Galatta.com. Listen to Vettaikaaran songs, download wallpapers of Vijay and Anushka, check out the photoshoots and latest pictures from the movie and read all about the movie in the news section, on www.galatta.com

EXCLUSIVE SIZZLER UPDATES!

She changed her on screen personality from the girl next door to wham bam glam!! Meenakshi the cover girl of Galatta Cinema leads the sizzler section on www.galatta.com as well. Check out the latest photoshoots and wallpapers of this young and talented Kolkata girl, who is all set to take Kollywood by storm!



Meenakshi

HUNK OF THE MONTH OCTOBER '09

ASHOK

'Hunk' is a slang term used to describe a sexually appealing man. But in recent times, 'Hunk' refers to any man who is confident, carries himself well, is not afraid to speak his mind, and of course, is attractive!

Keeping these parameters in mind, Galatta Studios presents 'Hunk of the Month', in which we will feature young and happening actors who have carved a niche for themselves with their work, young men who are dedicated to the craft of acting and prepared to go to great lengths to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. This special feature will give all you fans an

opportunity to see the man behind the actor; his tastes in fashion, his exercise regime, his likes and dislikes... it doesn't get more personal than this.

Visit www.galatta.com to watch exclusive videos and photo shoots of this month's hunk, Ashok.

A trained Bharatanatyam and jazz dancer, an accomplished stage performer and actor, an award-winning child actor, Ashok started his career with stage and television and worked as assistant dance choreographer with famous Bollywood choreographer Raju Khan. Ashok always wanted to be in movies and even took acting lessons in Kishore Namit Kapoor's Acting Institute, which has trained some top Hindi actors.

Ashok made his debut in Tamil with Murugaa. His work in Pidichirukku got him recognition and appreciation. He will be soon seen in Pyramid Saimira's Vaanam Partha Seemayilae as a rugged villager. His other upcoming films include Marupakkam and Kadhal Kalvan.





QUICK FACTS

He graduated with majors in Sociology, Psychology and Hindi literature from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

He has won several awards for his dance, including the Nritya Mayur award for excellence in dance.

He appeared as the child version of Sri Krishna in Ramanand Sagar's TV serial Krishna for which he won the Uptron TV Best Child Actor Award.

He was involved in stage productions including 'Evita' directed by Alyque Padamsee, 'Katha' in Hindi directed by Ravi Mishra of Ekjute Productions (which fetched him the Best Actor Award during the IPTA Theatre Festival).

Photos: Kirubhakaran | Wardrobe Courtesy: Lagan

Rising stars

Who is Sudipto Balav? That is the standard reaction of South Indian film-goers! So is he? Clues: Born and brought up in Kolkata, accidentally stepped in theatre and cinema, widely known as a comedian and last seen in Lal's super hit Malayalam film 2 Harihar Nagar (2009) as the villain! Are you able to place him now? Sudipto's journey to cinema began rather unexpectedly - with not a single connection to cinema! Naturally, his parents aspired for a regular stable job for their only son Sudipto, but to their surprise, things turned upside down overnight.

"It was when I completed my ICSC and I was totally free for three months. I really had no clue what to do. A friend told of a theatre group looking for somebody who can play the guitar. I used to play the guitar very well. Trust me, I was not at all interested in the play or anything, but somebody told me you must go there, the girls out there are awesome. My father was in business, so the other option was to go and work with him in the office. But that would have been like committing suicide, so I opted for the play; that's how I first stepped on stage."

Slowly, his talent got recognized in Bengali theatre and later he graduated from theatre to television. He has been the host of many live shows, including ICL cricket league and the brand face of products like Amaron Batteries and a campaign called "I love Delhi" by Hindustan Times. In 1999, he debuted on the silver screen with a Bengali film, after which he went to Hyderabad to host a talk show by for ETV Bangla. Later, he moved to Mumbai and did a Bhojpuri film, a Hindi film Tu Nahin Toh Koi Aur and an English film Meridian.

"I was doing a film with actress Lakshmi Gopaldaswamy, who introduced me to manager Manoj Krishna, who is incidentally my manager in Chennai now. He put forward a Malayalam offer (2 Harihar Nagar) in which I had to play the villain. I've been doing comedy for a long time and I found this offer very interesting. I flew down to Kochi, met director Lal and had a discussion with him. I came to know that the film is the sequel of a (18 years) huge Malayalam hit. I was told the villain in the first part was an iconic villain, Risa Bava. Suddenly, after the 2 hours meeting, I could feel the pressure. The director had huge faith in me and said that if I did not do the villain's role, there would be no film!"

With extreme hard work and immense cooperation from the entire unit, Sudipto completed the film. 2 Harihar Nagar turned out to be a huge hit, not only in Kerala but all over the country and also abroad. Galatta Cinema wishes him all the best in all his endeavours

SUDIPTO

Rising stars

Mollywood's charming beauty Roma is the latest attraction of Kollywood these days! After securing her place in Malayalam with her striking performances in Notebook and Chocolate and acting with almost all frontline young actors including Prithviraj and Jayasuriya, this vivacious model-turned-actress is set to debut in Tamil with director S.K. Jeeva's upcoming romantic thriller Vanjikottai Vaaliban opposite Sakthi (of Thottal Poo Malarum fame).

Most Malayalam moviegoers have the misconception that Roma is a Malayalee. But in fact she was born to Chennai-settled parents hailing from Delhi. Her father Muraleedhar runs a wholesale jewellery shop and her mother Madhu helps him in the business.

Roma made her entry into films with the super hit Malayalam movie Notebook for which she won eight best newcomer actress awards including awards from Kerala Film Critics' Association, Asianet TV, Amrita TV and Kalakeralam. Although Roma had done many ads for big brands such as Kalyan Sarees, Triveni Notebook, Sunny Jacob Jewellers, Swadesi Mermer and Archana Silks prior to her filmi debut, the role in Notebook was a big challenge for this bubbly girl because of her inexperience in acting and the difficulty of understanding Malayalam. However, luck favoured Roma and she was flooded with offers after her debut.

Her second film, July 4, starring Dileep in the lead, was a flop; her next, Chocolate opposite Prithviraj, was a big hit and became a turning point in her career. In 2008, she debuted in Kannada with Golden starrer Ganesh starrer Aramane and in Telugu with Mr. Errababu opposite Sivaji. In her four-year-old career, Roma has acted in 10 movies as heroine. Besides films, she has acted in several music videos for the band 'Malayalee' which features popular singer Vineeth Sreenivasan.

The actress, currently busy with a number of films including Utharaswayamvaram opposite Jayasuriya, Vinu Mohan starrer Kanakazhchakal, Vanjikottai Valiban and Mirror, recently signed the Telugu version of her smash hit Chocolate. Galatta Cinema wishes Roma many more successful films and a great and prosperous career.

ROMA



in the **GR** **OVE**

IN YOUR CART

Albums well worth buying



LABEL: THINK MUSIC

MOVIE: SIDDHU (TAMIL)
BANNER: MOSER BAER
MUSIC: DHARAN

Starring Shanthnoo and Chandni, the movie is a feel good film and the music echoes the same feel. 'Gundu Chattikkule' is a fun and young song in the youthful voices of Ranjith, Naveen and Rahul Nambiyar. 'Kelu Kelu' by Haricharan, Kanja Karuppu and C.A. Raja is a folk based song. Reshmi and Benny Dayal croon 'Money Money', a dance number. Yuvanshankar Raja sings 'Poove Poove', as a duet with Chinmayi and also the remix version; a melioius number. 'Naan Alana Thamarai' by Suchitra, Venkat Prabhu and Sree Mathumitha is a remix version of the yesteryear Bhagyaraj song.

GC's Verdict: ●●●

MOVIE: KRISHNA NEE LATE AAGI BAARO (KANNADA)

BANNER: RELIANCE ADLABS
MUSIC: S. MOHAN

Ramesh Aravind hopes to continue to his success run with this movie. 'Yaar Yaarigu' is an emotional number by Rajesh Krishnan and Supriya. Pravin Godkhindi sings the title track, a classical track with westernised treatment. 'Kanasidu Alla' by Karthik is soothing. Rajesh Krishnan and Ananya sing the sensuous 'Bandaano Bandaa Banda'. Mangala sings 'Aa Raadhe', composed with a devotional feel. 'Antaadaru Baa' sung by Hemanth Kumar and Chaitra HG is composed like a vedic rendition. 'Baa Bega Manmohana' by Shankar Shanbag is a classical number with comedy interludes.

GC's Verdict: ●●●

LABEL: JHANKAR MUSIC



MOVIE: ODIPOLAMA (TAMIL)
BANNER: SHRIVARU FILMS
MUSIC: D. IMMAN

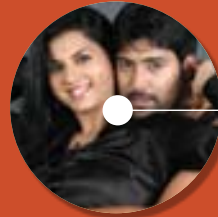
A fun and young film with tracks reflecting the mood of the film, Odipolama stars Parimal and Sandya. 'Ading Ading' sung by Rita and D. Imman is a fast paced, peppy number. Krish sings 'Aruvi Pola', a love song with heavy use of western percussion and stringed instruments. 'Odipolama - Junkyard' Aarti Ankalikar Tikekar, Dinesh Kanagaratinam 'Puchandi Puchandi' is well rendered by renowned Hindustani classical singer Aarti Ankalikar Tikekar in her basal voice. D. Imman sings 'Ragala Kaara Maaman', which is sure to be played regularly on FM channels. 'Vaalu Paiyane' is a fun romantic number sung by Ranjith and Anitha.

GC's Verdict: ●●●

LABEL: THINK MUSIC

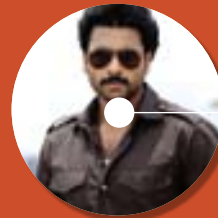


ON THE RACKS



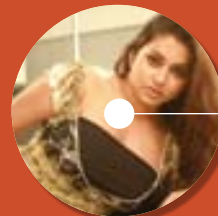
Kadhalan Kadhali

LANGUAGE: Tamil
PRODUCER: Rafat Malik, Dr. Ibrahim Pasha
DIRECTOR: Jai Akash
CAST: Jai Akash, Daisy Bopanna
MUSIC: Nandhan Raj
MUSIC LABEL: Coo Coo Music
VERDICT: ***



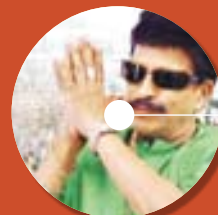
Baanam

LANGUAGE: Telugu
PRODUCER: Seshu Priyanka Chalasani
DIRECTOR: Chaitanya Dantuluri
CAST: Nara Rohit, Vedhika
MUSIC: Mani Sharma
MUSIC LABEL: Sony Music
VERDICT: ***



Black Stallion

LANGUAGE: Malayalam
PRODUCER: Jagadheesh Chandran
DIRECTORS: Pramod, Pappan
CAST: Kalabhavan Mani, Namitha
MUSIC: Abhishek
MUSIC LABEL: NA
VERDICT: ***



Bellary Naga

LANGUAGE: Kannada
PRODUCER: K. Manju
DIRECTOR: Dinesh Baboo
CAST: Vishnuvardhan, Maithreyi
MUSIC: L.N. Shastri
MUSIC LABEL: Swarna Audio
VERDICT: ***

CHART BUSTERS!

Albums rocking the countdown



MUSIC LABEL: THINK MUSIC

RENIGUNTA

Starring all new faces, Renigunta belongs to the genre of films that have proved that a good movie is made by a good script. The lead actor of the film Johnny, is producer S.S. Chakravarthy's son. The music of the film is also by a debutant Ganesh Raghavendra, great grandson of veena exponent S Balachander. The first track 'Mazhi Peyyum' is rendered in the soft and soothing voice of Harish Raghavendra. Simbu belts 'Thallakulam' in his typical 'Simbu' style. 'Kandaen Kanmaniya' is a haunting melody in Shreya Ghoshal's soulful voice. 'Vizhigalilae' sung by Bombay Jayashree has the beats of the tabla used beautifully. Ranjitha sings the fast based folkish 'Gandharvanin Kottai'. 'Vaazhikai Yaaridam' sung by Vijay Yesudas is a heart wrenching track.

BANNER: Film Fabricators
PRODUCER: Mahendra Kumar Jain
DIRECTOR: Panneerselvam
CAST: Jhonny, Sanusha
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ganesh Raghavendra

GC's Verdict: ● ● ● ●



ARIYAAN

Another movie with relatively new faces, Ariyaan promises to be a romantic poetry in celluloid. Vikram has composed some interesting tracks for this movie. 'Nee Irrukkum Naal Varaikum' sung by Karthik, Chinmayi is uses a lot of western instruments, has a rock feel to it. Mahathi and Harish Raghavendra render the melodious, romantic number 'Kaagidham Kaatril Parapathu Pol' Another melodious track, 'Vizhiyai Vizhiyai' is sung by Chinmayi, a sweet rendition. Unni Menon sings 'Kadavul Parpadhillai' in his emphatic voice, soothing to the ears. Prasanna and Roshini sing the energetic 'Mazhaiya Nee Enna Nanaikurae', a song with fast beats and a folk feel.

BANNER: Blessing Entertainers
PRODUCER: Prabadish Samuvel
DIRECTOR: P. Karthikeyan
CAST: Santhosh Bhavan, Ragini Dwiwedi
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Vikram Varman

GC's Verdict: ● ● ●



MUSIC LABEL: THINK MUSIC





MUSIC LABEL: THINK MUSIC

PAZHASSI RAJA

Music maestro Ilayaraja has used a rich soundtrack, starting from singer K.J. Yesudas' short slokam 'Maathanganana'. 'Kunnathae Konnakayum' by Chitra is simple, but has stupendous display of Ilayaraja's captivating rhythms. 'Aalamadankala Mythavanalle' sung by Ashraf Thayinari, M.G. Sreekumar and Vidhu Prathap has an excellent use of chorus vocals with dramatic Islamic sound. 'Ambum Kombum Komban Kattum' by Ilayaraja and Manjari takes on an interesting and never-heard-of hue as it has a unique tribal sound. 'Aadhiushassandhya Poothathivide' by M.G. Sreekumar and K.J. Yesudas and 'Odathandil Thalam Kottum Kattil' by Sangeetha and Chandrasekar demonstrate Ilayaraja's skills in composing enchanting melodies using classic tunes.

BANNER: Gokulam Films

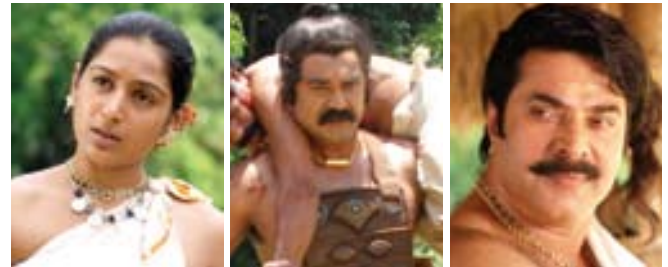
PRODUCER: Gokulam Gopalan

DIRECTOR: Hariharan

CAST: Mammooty, Sarathkumar, Kanihaa, Padmapriya

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ilayaraja

GC's Verdict: ● ● ● ●



TOP 5 MUSIC CHARTS

Tamil

- **AADHAVAN**
Song: Vaarayao Vaarayao
Music: Harris Jayaraj
Singers: Unnikrishnan, Chinmayi
- **VETTAIKAARAN**
Song: Chinna Thamarai
Music: Vijay Antony
Singers: Krish, Suchithra
- **NINATHALE INIKKUM**
Song: Unmeal Aasadhan
Music: G.V. Prakash Kumar
Singers: Andrea, Aishwarya, Dhanush
- **UNNAIPOL ORUVAN**
Song: Allah Jaane
Music: Shruti Haasan
Singer: Kamal Haasan
- **KANTHASWAMY**
Song: Excuse me
Music: Devi Sri Prasad
Singers: Suchitra, Vikram

Telugu

- **EK NIRANJAN**
Song: Ek Niranjan
Music: Mani Sharma
Singer: Ranjith
- **MAGADHEERA**
Song: Jorsey
Music: M.M. Keeravani
Singers: Daler Mehendi, Geetha Madhuri
- **JAYEEBHAVA**
Song: Okkasari
Music: Thaman S.
Singers: Karthik, Shreya Ghoshal
- **GANESH JUST GANESH**
Song: Tanemando
Music: Mickey J. Meyer
Singer: Javed Ali
- **JOSH**
Song: Aawara Hawa
Music: Sandeep Chowta
Singer: Sowmya Rao

Malayalam

- **PAZHASSI RAJA**
Song: Odathandil Thalam
Music: Ilayaraja
Singers: Sangeetha, Chandrasekar
- **ROBINHOOD**
Song: Parannu Vanna
Music: M. Jayachandran
Singers: Benny Dayal, Achu, Suchitra
- **RITU**
Song: Venal Kaattil
Music: Rahul Raj
Singer: Rahul Raj
- **VAIRAM**
Song: Nattu Paatu
Music: M. Jayachandran
Singer: Shankar Mahadevan
- **DUPLICATE**
Song: Kakkanottam
Music: Alex Paul
Singer: Jassie Gift

Kannada

- **JEEVA**
Song: Beke Beku
Music: Gurukiran
Singer: Kunal Ganjawala
- **INIYA**
Song: Yaarannu Jariyadiru
Music: V. Sridhar
Singer: Kunal Ganjawala
- **YOGI**
Song: Neenomme Nakresaaku
Music: Emil
Singer: Karthik
- **CHELUVINA CHILIPILI**
Song: Nijaana Naanena
Music: Mickey J Meyer
Singer: Sonu Nigam
- **SHISHIRA**
Song: Elliruve Hegiruve
Music: Ananeesh Lokanath
Singer: K.S. Chithra

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Madonna's Sweet Dreams!

Pop diva Madonna did not always want to be a pop star! Before she came to New York and realized that her destiny was in showbiz, she had simpler dreams. She wanted to work in a candy store! "My dream was always to work in a candy store because of my obsession with candy. I'm not obsessed any more, now that my teeth are all rotten," she said. Adding, "I did go to a university for a year and there was a candy shop that I used to go to all the time, an old-fashioned one where all the candy was in big glass jars. I used to go in there and look at all the candy and think, 'God, it would be really cool to work in here; I could have candy whenever I wanted.'" Being a Pop Diva gives one the same power, she later learnt!



Justin cheating on Jessica?

Justin Timberlake, who is dating Jessica Biel, has been spotted way too much with Rihanna. He teamed up for her third album 'Good Girl Gone Bad'. The two, who feature in a hot music video, seem to have let their steamy on-screen chemistry overlap with their real lives! They have been spotted cozying up, hidden from Jessica's view. Looks like Justin may dump another pretty lady soon. "Justin and Rihanna have been seeing each other for the past few weeks. He is really into her and it's only a matter of time before he dumps Jessica," insists a source. A New York daily claimed that Rihanna gave Justin the sexiest lap dance ever and he did not even try to stop her! Poor Jessica, she better wisen up!



Lindsay attacks pap with beer can

Looks like Lindsay Lohan has not yet called a truce with the relentless paparazzi! It is said that the actress turned up at the post-Emmys party at the Chateau Marmont on September 21 around 1.30 a.m. After a good two hours, she was quite tipsy while leaving, and photographers, not wanting to miss out on any fun that might ensue, began tailing her. They followed her to her friend's house in Los Feliz, where the two girls jumped into her friend's black SUV. Lindsay, seated in the passenger's seat, was sipping on a can of beer, when she spotted the photographers. Without warning, she flung her beer can at them and the two girls sped off immediately!



Divorce party for Katie Price?

Katie Price and Peter Andre's divorce will soon be through. Peter blames the split on their decision to have participated in a reality TV show that followed every minute of their married life. Katie, who had initially taken the split pretty badly, is now a changed person. Not only is she happily dating Alex Reid, she is also waiting for the divorce to come through so that she can throw a grand divorce party! "Divorce parties are a great idea," she cooed. "It's not about getting back at your ex, it's about celebrating that you are over your marriage." As for rumours that she keeps a shrine for Peter at their former residence, she quipped, "The only thing I worship is Alex's gorgeous body!"



Mani's promise to Bips

Bipasha Basu went through an entire photo session for Mani Ratnam's Raavan, dressed as Mandodari. Then, for no apparent reason, the dusky beauty was dropped. Some sources claim Bipasha's part was too much of a digression from the main plot, thereby adding to the length of the movie and the already drawn out shooting schedule. Mani had even planned a nice hot number for Bips, but for reasons best known to him, it was deleted. Though she is grieved at having been shooed away, Bips is hoping Mani will fulfil his promise of including her in his next project. By the way, some say the other ladies on board became insecure once they saw Bips at the spot, and worked their charm to get her removed. You never know...



Dia would love to kidnap Brad!

Dia Mirza is a self-confessed adventure buff who can never see the downside of a rash decision like racing her car! She loves the adrenaline rush, and though she and her car have taken a good bashing, she would love to do it again, "Just for the thrill!" And that's not all; the pretty actress recently revealed that she wouldn't mind being kidnapped, because it sounded like a fun adventure! And if she could kidnap someone, who would it be? The man she would love to blindfold and smuggle to a secluded spot is Hollywood's blonde lady-killer Brad Pitt! "Brad Pitt is the most gorgeous man on earth; I'd lock him up and grill him with questions," she says. Only questions? How boring!



Shilpa, the Guide!

We're sure that if Shilpa Shetty was to play guide, tourism in India would hit an all-time high! Well, she played guide, not in a movie but in real life and only for Jermaine Jackson, Michael Jackson's brother. Jermaine, who was in India to work on a music album with Adnan Sami, went sightseeing all over the country with Shilpa for company. The actress, who has been busy with her restaurant in the UK, came to India only to take Jermaine around the country and show him our rich heritage. Jermaine, Shilpa and her boyfriend Raj Kundra were seen at the Taj Mahal, and then at the Amber Fort in Jaipur. Jermaine, they say, was absolute awed by the architecture making Shilpa even more keen to show off some more!

Saif-Kareena's steamy record

How does one do one better than the current bikini season in Bollywood? With a nice steamy love scene and a record-breaking smooch! Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor, the lead pair in Rensil D'Silva's Kurbaan have no qualms discussing their romance and displaying their affection publicly. They have now taken it one step further by sizzling in a long, lusty love scene in the film! What did Rensil have to say about this passionate bedroom scene? "A certain section of the sex-starved audience might come to the theatres just to see Saif and Kareena in bed!" Sex sells, right?



Bringing HOLLYWOOD Home

MTV'S MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT IN THEATERS 10.23.09 SWEEPSTAKES



» THIS IS IT

Genre: Documentary
Cast: Michael Jackson, Orianthi
Director: Kenny Ortega
Company: AEG Live/ Columbia Pictures Corporation
Releasing in: October 2009

Before his sudden and sad demise in June this year, Michael Jackson was working with all enthusiasm for his final set of concerts to be staged in London, called 'This is it'. The documentary with the same name gives his mourning fans one last chance to watch the King of Pop in action. The film takes us behind the scenes, covering everyday rehearsals and preparation by MJ and team. The film built around over hundreds of hours of footage taken during the rehearsals shows MJ at work - mentoring his team, as well as creating, developing, and staging the high-tech performances. The footage was filmed at The Forum and the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California and comprises interviews with MJ, besides videos of him dancing to over 20 of his all-time super hits.

MUST
WATCH

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

Genre: Animation
Voices: Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan
Director: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller
Company: Columbia Pictures
Released on: October 10, 2009

Since childhood, Flint Lockwood was obsessed with the idea of becoming one of the most revered inventors of all time. However, his inventions, though unique and innovative, had never been quite the kind that people would love to patronise - the Spray On Shoes that he invented in grade school, that remain irremovable even



after he's grown up, for instance! And then, by sheer accident, he invents something that causes it to rain pasta and pancakes! What starts out as an enterprising invention soon turns awry when the food rains get heavier and the cities get overloaded with food! Flint has no control, but he must find a way out! Directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller this food-filled movie is a must-watch!



ORPHAN

Genre: Horror
Cast: Vera Farmiga, Peter Sarsgaard
Director: Jaume Collet-Serra
Company: Warner Bros. Pictures

John and Kate are happily married with two children - daughter Max who is a deaf mute and a son Daniel. However, when their third child Jessica is still-born, relations between John and Kate get strained. Kate, unable to cope with the loss, is almost losing her

sanity. To fill in the void, they decide to adopt. They take in nine-year-old Esther. Max is more than happy to have a new sister, but Daniel has his inhibitions. No sooner does Esther arrive than the most inexplicable things begin to happen and invariably Esther is always around when something goes wrong. Only Kate realizes that Esther is not the child they hoped she would be. But will she be able to save her family from Esther in time?

OUT
NOV 2009



MUST WATCH

➤ 2012

Genre: Sci-fi
Cast: John Cusack, Woody Harrleson, Thandie Newton
Director: Roland Emmerich
Company: Centropolis Entertainment/ Columbia Pictures
Releasing in: November 2009

Roland Emmerich, the true master of disaster (Independence Day and The Day After Tomorrow) is back doing what he does best with this apocalyptic sci-fi thriller. The premise of the movie takes root from

the Mayan calendar's prediction that the world end on December 21st, 2012. If this were true, can one man stop a preordained global event? The story follows an academic researcher who opens a portal into a parallel universe to make contact with his double in order to prevent the catastrophic prophecies of Mayan calendar. A global cataclysm thrusts the world into chaos and it's up to writer Jackson Curtis (John Cusack) to use his knowledge of the ancient prophecies to save the human race. This is the mother of all disasters!

THE INFORMANT!

Genre: Comedy/ Crime
Cast: Matt Damon, Lucas McHugh Carroll, Eddie Jemison
Director: Steven Soderbergh
Company: Warner Bros. Pictures
Released on: November 2009

Based on the book by Kurt Eichenwald, The Informant is the true story of Mark Whitacre, an Ivy League PhD who blows the whistle on the underhand price-fixing tactics of the company he works for. Mark, by his own perseverance and hard work, has risen to one of the top positions at Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a leading agricultural company in the early 1990s. When he finds that his boss, who has friends in high places, indulges in price-fixing tactics, Mark is forced by his wife to go to the cops. The FBI insist that he plays their spy and subsequently, Mark secretly gathers hundreds of hours of video and audio tapes over several years to present to the FBI. However, while the issue goes on to become one of the largest price fixing cases in history, it is found that nobody had taken Mark's bipolar disorder into account.



Flavour of the season

Action, Drama, Romance, Horror, Comedy, Thriller, Musical, Animation...



SURROGATES
Genre: Action/ Sci-fi
Cast: Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Director: Jonathan Mostow
Company: Touchstone Pictures
 In the future, when every human has a robot twin (surrogate) to manage his worldly affairs, the world is a safe, crime-free place. And when the rebel-humans (who refuse to take robot partners) commit murder, the Surrogates strike back. But is Surrogacy the natural course of life on Earth? Do the rebel-humans have a point?



UP
Genre: Animation/Adventure
Voices: Edward Asner, Christopher Plummer
Director: Nick Cassavetes
Company: Walt Disney Pictures/Pixar
 Little Carl meets the young spirited Ellie and the two dreamers talk about going to a Lost Land in South America. 70 years later, Ellie is no more, but Carl remembers the promise he made to her, and decides to fulfil it. Tying 1000 balloons to his house, he ascends to the skies, accidentally taking 8-year-old Russell along! What follows is a great adventure!

STARRY EYED



The dreamy eyed, dashing guy treading gingerly amidst the dazzling lights of Bollywood is Ranbir Kapoor. As opposed to the recent obsession with rippling muscles and rugged looks, Ranbir is the shy good boy. But he's not up for grabs! It's like they say, "All the good ones are taken!" Ranbir's heart is firmly wrapped around another Bollywood beginner, Deepika Padukone. The two made their entry almost simultaneously, and found love almost instantly!

For Ranbir, cinema was the natural choice, Being the son of actors Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh, it's no wonder acting came naturally as well. He debuted with Saawariya in 2007. The movie bombed, but nobody could deny that Ranbir was here to stay! Bollywood film critic Taran Adarsh commented, "Ranbir Kapoor is supremely talented, no two opinions on that. Yes, he looks handsome, but what you carry home is the sincerity in his performance. If that's the high level of performance in his debut film, this lad will only make the Kapoor clan proud in years to come!" Ranbir followed up his debut with another fun movie Bachna Ae Haseeno, that scored better at the box office. But his latest movie, Wake Up Sid, is what has really created quite a stir. His performance in the movie as the directionless youngster suddenly forced to take charge of life, has been widely appreciated. Ranbir is elated with the rave reviews, but he has had no time to soak up the attention and adulation, because he had to get on with his next movie, Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani. Studio bosses are completely floored by the actor's professional attitude and supreme patience even when the set is in complete chaos! "He never complains if things get delayed or postponed. He's always on time and willing to stay on till the work gets done," says Jay Shewakramani, creative producer for APKGK.

Also coming up in 2009 is Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year, with Rajneeti and Anjaana Anjaani releasing early next year.

RANBIR KAPOOR
A sincere performer with killer charm

Eric Bana is undeniably one handsome fella, but believe it or not, his first critically-acclaimed silver-screen role had him looking fat and bald! Eric gained 30 pounds by binging on junk food to play the role of a notorious Australian underworld figure called Read. But that was in 1997, when the world had not yet seen how HOT he could get! Even more surprising is the fact that right until he played Read, Eric's bid to fame was as a stand-up comedian and his comedy TV shows! The actor lured audiences with his perfect imitation of top Hollywooders such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone coupled with his refined sense of humour.

Once he played Read, life took a serious turn, but Eric is not complaining! "By the time I finished comedy, I was really burnt out of it. I had had enough. I feel like a kid in a candy store with the stuff that I've been offered since then, and I'm nowhere near burnt out on that stuff. As an actor, I've been attracted to the sort of films that I want to go and see. That tends to usually be drama-related. So long as they give me those opportunities, I'm afraid I'll be disappointing my comedy fans," he says. Eric's movie Chopper (2000) that received international recognition, is also the reason why we got to see his brawny side in 2004 movie Troy - Brad Pitt, was so completely floored by Eric's acting skills in Chopper that he insisted on casting him in the role of Prince Hector.

But Eric had more successes in between and after - Black Hawk Down in 2001, The Hulk in 2003, Munich in 2005, The Other Boleyn Girl in 2008 and the most recent Star Trek, to name a few. His immediate next is The Time Traveller's Wife. "It was an amazing experience, and I think director Robert Schwentke will do an amazing job putting it together. Rachel McAdams, I think, is about as good as it gets for me in terms of working with someone. She was incredible. I think we're really interesting together. I think it will be an interesting film. I hope it will be special," he says. So do we!

ERIC BANA

A dedicated actor with smokin' hot looks

LOOK BOOK

Call them fashionistas. Call them divas. Call them style icons. Call them whatever you want, because they are all that and more! These beautiful ladies convey a million things with the look in their eyes and another million with the outfits that adorn their lithe nymph-like bodies. Look close enough, listen hard enough, and you'll understand their style statement has more to do with their personalities than just those fashionable dresses, accessories and cool hair-dos!

PASSION FOR FASHION



Love her, admire her, adore her, pamper her and watch her shimmer some more! Style is redefined with Shriya. She always keeps up with the latest trends in fashion, but when she wears the latest, she adds her own dash of personality. From flowing gowns to heavy silks, there isn't an outfit that she can't carry off like a diva.



-SHRIYA AT MALLANNA SUCCESS PRESS MEET





MEERA CHOPRA AT 'THIS IS IT' AFTER PARTY



M

She's bold. She's chic. She's hot. She's cool. She's got charisma. She's got attitude. And no matter what she decides to wear and where, she grabs everyone's attention. With tresses long or short, in dresses long or short, what always gives her a silver lining is her completely feminine aura, like a whiff of mesmerizing perfume; you're bound to lose yourself in it.



VIMALA RAMAN AT THE DARK KNIGHT PREMIERE SHOW

Poise, precision and personality come together in Vimala Raman's very refined sense of fashion. She can take a casual jeans-n-T combo and make look like the latest designer do that scorched the ramp at the Paris Fashion Week! With her, it's not about what she is wearing, but about how. It's about taking the simple things and turning them into something elegant.

L

Lekha will drive you crazy, but she'll floor you for sure!! She can be elegant in corduroy trousers and also in a perfectly-cut satin gown. No matter what the design, she imprints her very own character to it. For her, style and fashion begin and end with the right attitude, frills, laces and jeans hardly matter; the fabric or design don't matter, it's the fabric of the mind that's paramount.



LEKHA WASHINGTON AT G3 LAUNCH





In a glittering saree, loaded with diamonds, Sangitha shimmers like a dream. She's got killer curves and she knows how best to accentuate them with her clothes and moves. She pretends not to realize the impact of her translucent light fabrics on admiring males (their eyes pop out, they become potential Krishnas!). And this oblivion adds a dash of spice to her sex appeal!

SANGITHA AT EA BRIDAL LAUNCH





SONYA AGARWAL AT EA BRIDAL LAUNCH



A love poem. A soft melody. The refreshing coolness of a summer breeze. All things subtle, soft and soothing. Sonia Agarwal, never imposing, never loud, yet never unnoticed. She has a subdued style; no matter what's hot on the rack, she only chooses designs and colours she's comfortable with. After all, comfort often supersedes trends, brands and names.



NAMITHA AT JAGAN MOHINI AUDIO LAUNCH

Namitha, an Amazon queen with her own audience. She knows what they want and she is more than happy to oblige. From plunging necklines to latex suits, from low-hip sarees to mini skirts, she gives the BOLD in fashion a whole new definition. But look close, and you'll notice that in spite of the daring designs, her smiles are as shy as her eyes.





REEMA SEN AT MOCHA MOJO RESTAURANT OPENING

R

Even when she's got her princess-look on, dazzling in diamonds and gleaming in satins, Reema still has the mischievous glint in her eyes! She's gorgeous in gowns, but hot pants suit her better. Style comes effortlessly, but it's a statement of her own making. No trend is good enough for her unless it has been set by her.





ULTIMATE HUNKS





JAYAM RAVI

Who said a soft-spoken guy cannot toughen up when pushed to the corner? Ravi was a cute guy, but since he had to fight off conniving terrorists in dense jungles in *Peraanmai*, he bulked up. He got himself a cop-style hair cut, menacing biceps, washboard abs and a serious stare in his eyes, all further accentuated by the bullet-spewing mean machines he brandished in the movie. It's the story of how CUTE got HOT!



PRITHVIRAJ


Quite the Prince Charming who swept up on the Marina coast, having braved the waters off the Malabar coast! He's a good-looker; there's no denying that. Those droopy eyes can go puppy cute (and drive the gals crazy) or spew venom. That killer smile is truly divine, then becomes pure evil with a twist of his lips. Those deep dimples complete his charm and often act as weapons to disarm any unsuspecting lady who dares to tread too close! And yet, the women keep falling prey to his charms and pray for his success...



NITIN

What palette or chisel did the Creator use to create such magic? He's young, handsome and most often seems unconscious of his charms. When he talks, his winner attitude keeps the guys at bay; apparently, he seldom realizes his one look is enough to lure ladies like bees to honey. The sensation he created with Jayam in 2002 has not slackened or diluted till today.

From Jayam to his 2009 release Rechipu, irrespective how the flicks faired, Nitin has only grown hotter and better, so it's no wonder he is in such demand.



If you are the son of a handsome father, you can trust your genes will not let you down! Ram Charan Teja had the pressure of being the son of Tollywood Superstar Chiranjeevi on his young shoulders. But the pressure has dissipated now that he has proven his talent, a true father's son! He looks like a million bucks, sets the dance floor ablaze and acts like a pro. His debut movie Chirutha was a success. His next release Magadheera is a thunderous blockbuster. He's proving his talent!

RAMCHARAN TEJA

GANESH VENKATRAMAN

Guys don't want to mess with him. But the ladies... well that's another story - one that needs no telling! Take a look at the man; the look in his eyes says it all! Ganesh tucked away his dashing looks beneath a Sardarji turban and beard in his debut movie, but thankfully, he displayed what a true hottie and baddie he is in Unnaipol Oruvan. The role (menacing cop with the deadly attitude) fit him like a glove! And now, everybody wants a piece of him down South. May the highest and the best bidder win!





Tamil Cinema



Ever since movies began the world over, children have always been a major attraction on the silver screen. Children, with their charisma, cute looks and lispng speech patterns, have always proved a plus point in films, especially in South India and more especially, in Tamil cinema. Since 1931, when cinema began to talk Tamil with Kalidas, child artistes have acted, winning fame and name, with some creating history at many levels. Expectedly, when the Boys' Company Movement was very active in theatre under the inspiration and leadership of Sankaradas Swamigal (one of the founding fathers of the renaissance of Tamil Theatre), children below 10 dominated the theatre scene in Tamil.

& Child Artistes

- Randor Guy

Indeed, most of the male film stars of Tamil cinema of the period 1940s-1950s came from such a background and were prepubescent when they began acting. Glittering names like MGR, Sivaji Ganesan, T.K. Shanmugham, T.K. Bhagavathi and the other brothers, T.R. Mahalingam, T.R. Ramachandran, M.K. Radha, M.K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, P.S. Govindan, C.S. Jayaraman and others were child stars of theatre before they sailed into cinema to become movie stars.

Child stars were introduced as such in Tamil cinema during the 1930s. The first child actor was S. Balachandar, later multi-faceted filmmaker and veena maestro. As a 6-year-old lad, he played a minor but impressive role in *Seetha Kalyanam* (1933) in which his elder brother S. Rajam, sister Jayalakshmi and father Mylapore lawyer V. Sundaram Iyer played major roles. Balachandar was a boy prodigy and played the musician in Ravana's court, playing the percussion instrument 'kanjeera' while somebody danced to please the ten-headed king. In his overflowing enthusiasm, 'Chandru' as he was affectionately known, would run towards the camera making faces a la Charlie Chaplin, much to the amusement of all in Ravana's court and to the discomfort of the director and technical crew. The exasperated director Baburao Pendarkar drew a circle in chalk, ordering him to stay inside it. If he stepped out, he would not get his quota of ice cream (which many in the unit ate for breakfast in princely Kolhapur)! He revealed his mastery in playing not only kanjeera but also North Indian instruments like the sitar. As a young boy, he gave a sitar concert in Karachi (then part of India) and was presented with a silver sitar for his brilliance. Indeed he could play any instrument, including western ones like the piano, guitar and such. He could be described as the first child star of Tamil cinema. He also acted in other films as a boy.

T.R. Mahalingam began his film career as a kid in the role of Krishna in *Nandakumar* (1938) when he was less than ten. He was already a singing stage star when AV. Meiyappan introduced him as Krishna. Another kid, T.R. Ramachandran, was the comedian in this film.

Not many are aware that a full-length film *Vimochanam* (1939) highlighting Prohibition was produced in Tamil entirely with children. This film was inspired by Rajaji, who published a pro-Prohibition magazine 'Vimochanam' from his ashram at Tiruchengode near Salem. (He had just given up his lucrative legal practice in Salem and joined the Freedom Movement to live and work in a thatched hut) He had Ra. Krishnamurthi, a young man of great promise to help him, whose name was immortalised under the pen name 'Kalki'. This film had a song paying tribute to Rajaji and his services for the uplift of the poor and Prohibition. It is a matter of deep regret that even film historians are hardly aware of this movie.

Lawyer turned Indian film pioneer K. Subrahmanyam made *Balayogini* (1937) in which many roles were played by children, the major role being by his niece Baby Saroja. Besides Saroja, others child artistes in this film included R. Balasaraswathi, later a multilingual actress and playback singer (of *Malligai poo maalai roja* fame).

Baby Rukmini was another child star, (later called Kumari Rukmini of Sri Valli fame and mother of multilingual star Lakshmi) played the male role of Lohidas, son of Harish-



chandra, in the 1935 version of the mythological *Harishchandra*. Her mother, a starlet named Nungambakkam Janaki was in Calcutta where the film was produced. The producers Pioneer Films and director Praful Ghosh found it difficult to get a small boy to play Lohidas. Finally they chose Rukmini who was around with her mother, for the male role.

Balayogini became a major hit and skyrocketed Baby Saroja to overnight fame. Her fame touched greater heights with the immortal classic *Thyaga Bhoomi* (1939) made by K. Subrahmanyam. She was so popular, becoming almost an iconic figure of the day, that many girls born during that period were named Saroja. Another proof of her fame was the popular ditty, 'Baby Saroja naan waarukku poren, nee varuthapadaadhey, kappal medley poren. nee kavalai padadhey.'

(When this writer made his popular multi-episode Tamil Cinema TV serial *Tamizh Cinema Oru Pinnokki Payanam* during the mid 1980s, she appeared on camera in one of the episodes during which he and Baby Saroja sang the song as a duet!)

She also appeared in the Telugu version of *Balayogini*, proving equally popular. Her acting talent excelled in *Thyaga Bhoomi*, where she won every heart, male and female, young and old, exuding cherubic allure and the excellent way she spoke her lines, especially in the famous court scene.

She was described as 'the Shirley Temple of India' and it is no exaggeration to state no child artiste in Indian Cinema has ever touched such heights of fame till today.

(Shirley Temple, now Shirley Temple Black, is the great

est child artiste of all time. The curly topped cherubic lass was the highest dollar earner in America when she was hardly five! She became a legend during her childhood but was not so successful when she became an adult. Later a diplomat, she now leads a happy retired life in northern California, avoiding all limelight.)

(In an interview for a long-running TV series, 'The RKO Story' which the writer saw at a stretch at the RKO Studio, Hollywood, she narrated an interesting anecdote. "Like every Christian child, I believed in Santa Claus until one Christmas, Santa in a shopping mall in Los Angeles asked for my autograph! That did it!")

During the height of her fame, a soap dealer of George Town, Madras imported richly perfumed soaps from Japan, repackaged them with a new cover carrying the photograph of Baby Saroja, and marketed them as 'Baby Saroja' soap. Expectedly, it became a bestseller; Saroja's father K. Viswanathan had to approach the Madras High Court to prevent the dealer from exploiting his minor daughter's name for crass commercial purposes. He won the case and the soap was withdrawn from the market.

During that period, hand-mirrors, schoolbags, notebooks, and such other articles carrying Baby Saroja's photograph were also sold with great success. Such was the fame and popularity of the child star!

After three or four movies, Baby Saroja retired from films and married. Now in her 80s, Saroja Ramamirtham lives in Madras, frequently visiting her children living abroad.

Multilingual star S. Varalakshmi, who passed away, recently also came into movies while she was in her pre-teens, making her debut in the famous M.S. Subbulakshmi starrer Seva Sadanam (1938)

Another child actress of the same period was Baby Radha, (step-daughter of M.S. Subbulakshmi) who played the young Bharathan in the musical extravaganza, Ellis R. Dungan's Shakunthalai (1940) and young Meera in Dungan's Meera (1945).

(A footnote of south Indian film history: The iconic Hindi movie star Rekha, a legend in her lifetime, took her bow in movies as Baby Banurekha in B.N. Reddi's hit Rangula Ratnam (Telugu) in which her mother Pushpavalli played a major role.)

Madi Lakshmi, hardly remembered today, was an aspiring starlet but never got a break. However, her sister Baby Saraswathi, better known as 'Sachchu', got her deserved break as a child artiste in classic movies like Avvaiyar. While still in her teens, she played the heroine in AVM's hit Veera Thirumagan.

Handsome Master Sridhar was another child star of his day, proving his mettle also on stage and television. Master Prabhakar was another child artiste of the '50s, though his career was short.



In 1959, Kamal Hassan hit the skies of fame in the AVM hit Kalathur Kannamma and the song 'Ammavum neeye appavum neeye' (voice M.S. Rajeswari) catapulted him to undying fame. The rest is history, as the saying goes.



Multilingual star Sridevi began her career as Baby Sridevi and even played a boy in her early films.

Another successful child artiste is Kutti Padmini, who won great fame playing twins in AVM's hit Kuzhandaiyum Deivamum (a rehash of the Walt Disney hit Parent Trap).

Other child actors include Baby Meena (later a successful heroine), Master Sekhar, Baby Rani, Baby Rajamani (actor V. Gopalakrishnan's sister), Baby Daisy Irani, Baby Padma (later Padma Subramanyam, her only appearance was in her father's film Geetha Gandhi), Master Sethu, Master Sudhakar Baby Indra, Baby Rajakumari, Baby Shalini and many others were all extremely popular child stars.

Many movies, many child actors, but not all of them became stars. Some movies, such as Balayogini, Kalathur Kannamma and Anjali, where child actors shone brighter than the others continue to be popular to this day.

ROUND & ABOUT

Remembering

Childhood

November 14 is celebrated as Children's Day in India. Galatta Cinema takes a trip down memory lane with some celebrities who recount their childhood days and their favourite things as a kid. We also take a look at stars who started out as child actors and found success then and now. And finally we take our pick of movies made especially for children, from the 3D *My Dear Kuttichathan* to the recently released *Vannathupoochi*.

Remembering Childhood KIDDIE FLICKS

Our directors maybe a tad to occupied churning out movies for the masses, but that there has always been someone who decides to walk down a different path saying, "Let's entertain the kids!" A good children's movie has the children laughing and the adults feeling refreshed. It kindles one's spirit and awakens the sleeping child with all of us. You got to let your

Movie: Vannathupoochi



Childhood is the best part of a person's life. A child should be allowed to enjoy it and live it to the fullest. Those days of innocence shall never return and if you miss out on the fun you'll regret it for the rest of your life. But a child's life is not complete without the involvement of his or her parents. In this fast moving world, where every grown person is caught up with converting minutes to money, parents often miss out of enjoying their child's childhood. Vannathupoochi is the story of a little girl, who finds the love she did not get from her educated cool urban parents, with her grandpa who lives in the suburbs. A clean and classy movie, that tugs at your heart-strings.

School life makes up a huge part of one's childhood memories. The friends we had, the foes we made, the groups we belonged to, the secrets we shared, the mischief we did and a whole lot of stuff that happened within the safety of our dear old school. We may not remember Pythagoras' theorem and the various clauses in English grammar, but we will always remember the number of rockets we launched while class was on and the way one stammered out a childish proposal to his first crush. And of course there's always that one kid whom we loathed. We knew no world beyond our school and we were happy. Relive that blameless life with the movie Pasanga directed by Pandiaraj.



Movie: Pasanga

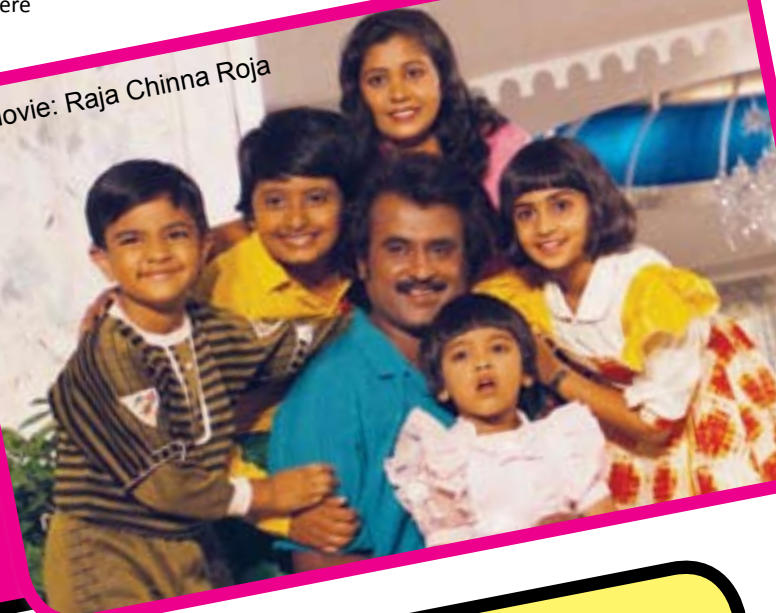
The birth of a child is a reason to celebrate. The dotting parents shower the new born with love, attention and tonnes of gifts. But what if these happy moments get plucked away from these loving parents by the cruel hand of faith? What if the child they were so desperate to love was duelling death every minute of its new born life? Harsh. Mani Ratnam's Anjali tells the story of a baby girl born with autism, a medical condition to which her life would soon succumb. What wrong had they or the child done to deserve this? The movie starts off on a light note, and proceeds so even after the introduction of Anjali. One hopes beyond hope that there is a cure or that the director will spare us the trauma of watching that nymph of a child die. We are in for grief. A genius of a movie.

Movie: Anjali



hair down, loosen up a bit and allow yourself to feel like a child to truly enjoy a kiddy movie. The Children's movie is a genre seldom touched upon by film-makers, because the risk is to great. But if he gets his formula and sense of humour right, there is nothing quite as fun and enjoyable as children's movie, that has the potential to lure the entire family to the cinema hall.

Movie: Raja Chinna Roja



Superstar Rajinikanth has always made movies that are loved not only the adults but by kids too. When it comes to clean comedy, he is enviably good, but what his major fan-base clamours for is action flicks. Hence it's a tad hard to imagining him in a kiddy movie, and yet he too has done it! Raja Chinna Roja has the commercial ingredients that a typical Rajini fan would look for, with the addition of a bunch of kids. Rajini, though he does not enter this household of kids to be their nanny, turns out to be just as fun and efficient as was Maria in Sound Of Music. He teaches those adamant spoilt brats a lesson or two, not by going after them with a cane, but by embracing them with his love and care. Lots of fun in store.

Movie: My Dear Kuttichathan



Even those who have not read the book, Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp, would have watched the cartoon. And those have neither seen nor read the story, will still know all about the genie that pops out of the lamp and offers to grant Aladdin three wishes. Haven't we all at some point wished we had such genie by our side? Well, My Dear Kuttichathan is more or less the Indian version of the tale. A group of kids manage to find a ghost, who transforms himself into a kid and what ensues is a fun ride! This Malayalam movie was Indian cinema's first 3D venture and had everyone thrilled. It was dubbed into several regional languages and was a spectacular success, with the kids and adults alike!

Movie: Manu Uncle



Once you're old enough to read Famous Five, Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys, your thirst for adventure increases manifold. You too want to spearhead an investigation, make a gang with your pals and play detective. The only trouble is, you don't really get to solve a proper crime. Manu Uncle, that stars Mammooty and five kids, is that sort of an adventure. A group of kids looking for adventure get inadvertently mixed up with a robbery and a cover-up murder, and their own lives are in jeopardy. It's Manu Uncle to the rescue. The story though serious sounding, has a good dose of comic relief thanks to the antics of the child stars. Manu Uncle remains of Malayalam's much loved kid flicks.

Remembering Childhood



2009 marks Kamal Haasan's 50th year in cinema. It's not a milestone just for the actor, but one that every patron of Indian arts must revere and cherish. It is no mean task to toy with the risks, failures and successes that cinema throws one's way for 50 long years. In 1959, as the innocent five year old, he stole our hearts, and has been doing the same since. He has played the rebel teen, the playboy teen, the womaniser, the coldblooded killer, the mass hero, a mentally challenged person, a passionate dancer, a don with a good heart, a vigilante and even dressed as a woman! Just last year he came out with Dasavatharam in which he sported ten different roles! An all-round entertainer like him, is a diamond in the crown that adorns the Goddess of the Arts.

KAMAL HAASAN

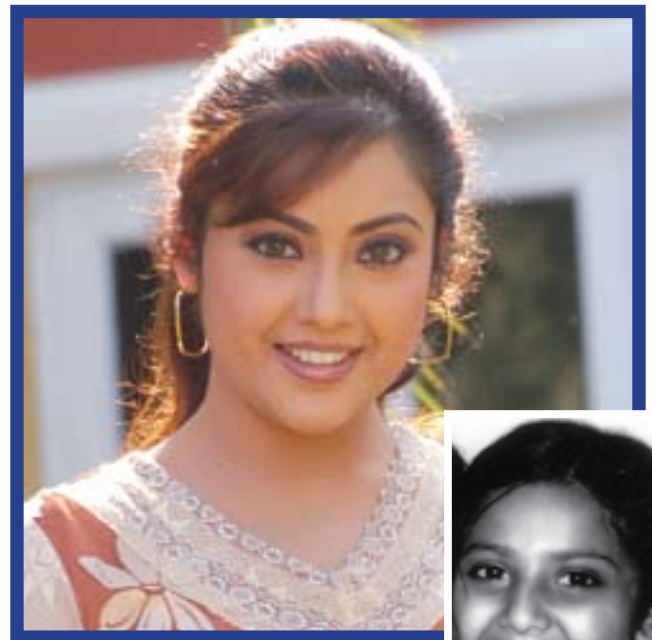
Baby Meena was Kollywood legend Sivaji Ganesan's find. He spotted the wide-eyed little girl at a birthday party, and was immediately enthralled by her charming ways. Hence she won her first acting part in the movie Nenjangal starring the legend himself. Of all her achievements in cinema, she treasures the fact that she was discovered by the all-time icon of the Tamil film industry. She went on to act in a few more movies as a child artist, one even with Superstar Rajinikanth, who became her hero when she graduated to heroine roles. Meena as a child and as an adult has always been a very dedicated worker, and has made a name for herself in the industry as a good performer. Having done the glam-gal bit and the strong character roles, she has proved that she is capable of both.

MEENA



Simbu's entry into cinema must be credited to his father Vijaya T. Rajendran [popularly called as TR]. TR has dabbled with everything that goes into film-making, and was keen to make a star out of his son Silambarasan who began his screen career even when he was in his nappies (no diapers at that time!). From the moment Simbu learnt to speak, he has been memorizing dialogues and acting in front of the camera. In fact, if he is popularly called Little Super Star today, it is entirely because the doting father TR branded his son thus and popularised the tag name in all the movies in which he cast young Simbu. Today, Simbu does not need papa TR to help him get a movie, but the youngster is always quick to acknowledge that he owes his career and his popularity entirely to his dad.

SILAMBARASAN



then & now

Who can forget the cute little girl with straight short hair, shaking her head from side to side, with her gaze skyward and her right index finger firmly touching her chin? This was baby Shalini's signature style. Every time she had a sequence in which she was supposed to think hard and come up with an idea, it was her pet pose. She acted in several movies as a kid with actors like Rajinikanth and

Sathyaraj. We may have missed her adolescent days, but when she returned, she had a line of hits like Kadhaluku Mariyathai, Alaipayuthe and Amarkalam. Shalini has bid adieu to cinema and

is now happily married to Ajith, with whom she has a baby girl.

SHALINI



Very few people did not shed tears when the mentally-impaired child protagonist of Mani Ratnam's moving movie Anjali, died in her sleep on screen. The nimble toddler always clad in a strappy white slip and white sandals, looked nothing less than an angel. Baby Shamili was just two years old when she starred in Anjali. She went on to do many more children's movies, following the footsteps of her akka Shalini, before she took a break to get an education. That done, the youngster is back to pick up where she left off. She had a flourishing acting career as a kid, and now that she is back as a leading lady there are many offers coming her way, and she is carefully cherry-picking the best of the lot.

SHAMILI



Sridevi continues to be one of the most-loved and admired actresses in India, though she quit cinema many, many years ago.

She started her acting career when she was just four years old.

Her innocent eyes spoke volumes, and it was quite obvious to everyone who worked with baby Sridevi that she would grow up to be a beautiful and powerful actress. She began her cine journey with the movie Kandhan Karunai in Tamil and has since then acted in well over 100 movies in all four South Indian languages and Hindi. This actress who had audiences from all over South India eating out of her palm had the same hypnotic effect when she made the shift to Bollywood. No other Southern actress has made it quite as big in Bollywood ever since.

SRIDEVI

Remembering Childhood

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Remember that ragged doll? The secret cliques that met in the backyard? The race down the sliding board? The pretty girl with the long braids? The cute boy with the deep dimples? The 100m dash you won? Your first wicket in gully cricket? The Barbie with the silver shoes? The GI Joe with the trigger gun? Wasn't childhood so much fun? Take a peak into some of the fun moments in the life of our sparkling young stars.



REEMA SEN

Fave Game: I loved draping my mom's saree around me, put on some make up and play with my kitchen set!

Fave Comforter: My mom's hug!

Fave Book: Phantom and Amar Chitra Katha comics! I have a great collection of them.

Fave Food: From then to now it's the golgappas we get in Kolkata!

Memorable Mischief: I was a very pampered child, my parents were often called to my convent because I had done something, but they never really ever scolded me! Not once have they raised their hand to me. One nasty incident I can never forget is when a bunch of us whacked a card from somewhere, wrote some really rotten things it and sent it to a guy. What we did not expect was for him to take the card and go to our principal! We were all in deep trouble!

First Crush: I was in class eight, he was in class 12 and he was very good-looking! I had a massive crush on him, but don't ask me his name, I only remember his face, not his name!



PRASANNA

Fave Toy: A BMW remote control car my father got me from Dubai! I was in class three then and it remained my fave toy till I was in class six, though it stopped working after a year and a half!

Fave Game: I was an introvert as a kid and I hardly played any sport. But my kid brother and I used to play gully cricket or cycle around together. Till he was old enough to cycle, I used to ride. I'd be the driver and he'd be the conductor.

Once he had his own cycle, he was a driver. He'd be driving from Chennai to Trichi down one street and I'd be going from Trichi to Chennai down another. We'll meet somewhere midway, where we'd take a pit-stop and chat a while!

Fave Food: The rava kesari my mother used to make! Whenever we had guests, Mom used to make this, and my brother and I used to have the lion's share!

I wish I could have been: A bit more naughty! I was too quiet and moody as kid - always dreaming away. I think I wasted my childhood by being too withdrawn!



SUNAINA

Fave Toy: I have always loved the hot wheels car - a glimpse of it made my day! But my parents thought it was too boyish for me and so they got me Barbie instead!

Fave Game: I loved basketball. After watching Michael Jordan in Space Jam and all the Looney Toons, I was so inspired that I went and actually learnt the game!

Memorable Mischief: I was too sober a kid! The naughtiest thing I did was fall asleep in classes, but I seldom got into trouble for it because the teachers would think I was reading!

Fave Fantasy: To perform on stage like a Rock Star, with the crowd going "YEAHHHHHHHH!"

First Crush: I was in class three. He was in my dance class. He was smart and had dimples, and I liked him a lot! But I used to pretend I hated him, because I thought he hated me since I was super fat!



ROOPA

Fave Toy: I had and still have a big collection of Barbies and big baby-sized chubby dolls!

Fave Book: I read a lot of Nancy Drew Mysteries, Tintin comics and Calvin & Hobbes.

Fave Fantasy: I loved mermaids and dolphins and used to imagine what it would be like living with them!

Fave Movie: Mary Poppins and any mermaid-related movie!

Memorable Mischief: I was in class three, and our seniors used to scare us saying the Biology lab with the skeleton was haunted, so one day when a few of us got locked up there it was quite terrifying. But later, we did get back. We had a huge playground where a number of eagles hovered. The birds used to drop bones as they flew past. We collected these bones and put them in a bathroom in school and frightened our seniors saying that the devil lives there, hence the bones!



PRIYA

Fave Fantasy: Sindbad the sailor and his adventures were amongst the fave things me and my buddies liked to pretend-play!

Fave Food: Anything my friend Mala brought to school! She seldom got to taste the food!

Fave School activity: Play the triangle for the school band! It was easy to do and being in the band allowed me to bunk classes!

Memorable Mischief: My gang of gals and I lied about band practice and bunked class. Our teacher was away, so we assembled the junior kids and pretended to be teaching them to march! When caught, we were in quite a bit of trouble!

First Crush: I am one of those late-comers when it comes to having a crush! My first crush was in class 10! He was my friend's brother. Nothing too serious, I just used to get cheap thrills out of looking at him or him glancing at me! It was just a fleeting thing.

KRISHNA

Fave Toy: Me and my brother had a collection of GI Joe dolls, that used to be our favourite.

Fave Book: I was not much into reading, but I was quite interested in action comics like Superman and Spiderman. However, when I was in High School, a book that really impressed me was the autobiography of Lee Iacocca.

Memorable Mischief: I was known for breaking things at home. When I was in 7th, I was bouncing a ball off the wall at home, and before I knew it, I had bounced it off the brand new TV dad had bought! Once I got my cousin to climb on the gate and I pushed it, because it would swing a full 180 degrees. I pushed it so hard, the gate rammmed into the wall, and my cousin broke his head.

Parents treasured: My parents always loved to watch me and my brother dance. We loved to dance and they enjoyed watching us do it!



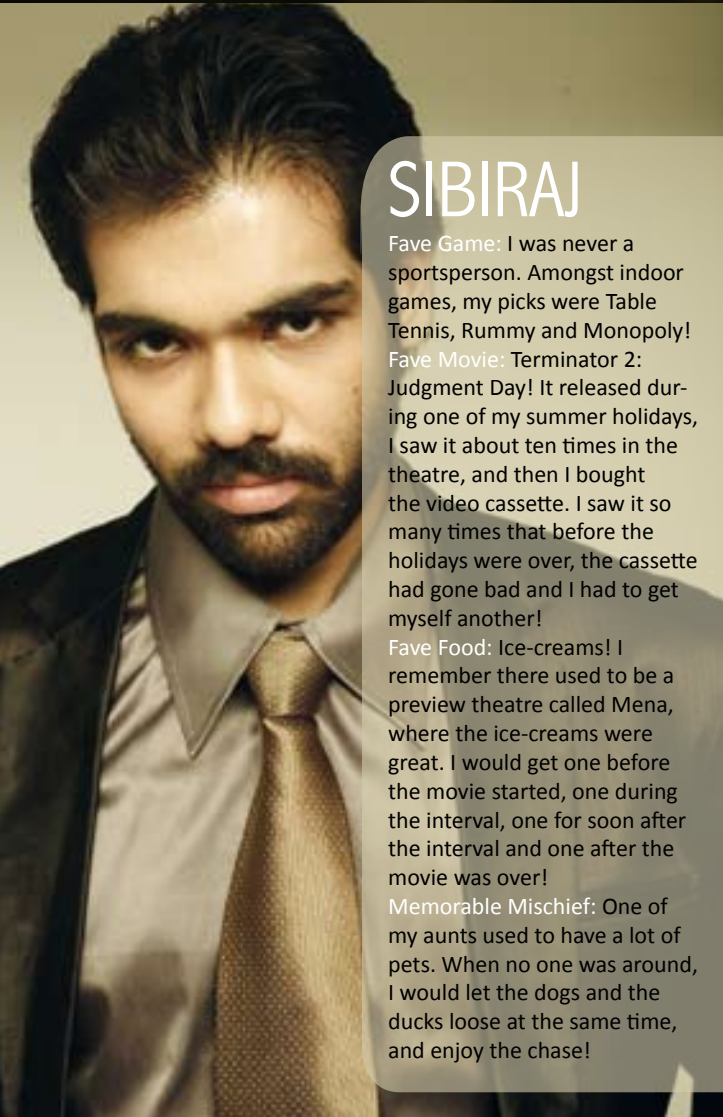
SIBIRAJ

Fave Game: I was never a sportsperson. Amongst indoor games, my picks were Table Tennis, Rummy and Monopoly!

Fave Movie: Terminator 2: Judgment Day! It released during one of my summer holidays, I saw it about ten times in the theatre, and then I bought the video cassette. I saw it so many times that before the holidays were over, the cassette had gone bad and I had to get myself another!

Fave Food: Ice-creams! I remember there used to be a preview theatre called Mena, where the ice-creams were great. I would get one before the movie started, one during the interval, one for soon after the interval and one after the movie was over!

Memorable Mischief: One of my aunts used to have a lot of pets. When no one was around, I would let the dogs and the ducks loose at the same time, and enjoy the chase!



PRIYAMANI

Fave Toy: When I was six, my dad got me a huge stuffed gorilla doll that I still have and love!

Fave Food: Kaju Barfi! Whenever my uncle visited, he used to bring one kilo of it, and within two days, just a piece or two would remain! Thanks to me! Sometimes, my mom would keep aside a few pieces for my dad. Without anyone knowing, I would finish that too. When questioned about it, I would deny it and shed crocodile tears.

Fave School activity: Dance! I was never academically-oriented. I used to jump at opportunities to cut class and participate in dance events.

Memorable Mischief: My friends and I used to put a drop of glue on our art teacher's chair, so that when she sat and got up, her saree would tear. Every day the patch of glue grew bigger and one day we covered the whole seat with it. Obviously she noticed this time, and we were all in trouble!





PRIYANKA SHAH

Fave Toy: I was possessive of every single toy I had, and I had quite a collection! From Barbies to stuffed toys to several kitchen sets, I had it all. If even the smallest thing went missing, I would start wailing! In fact, my brothers used to bully me into doing things for them, by threatening to break or take something for my collection!

Fave Game: I used to enjoy playing the board game Business. I had a diary with the birthdays (the day I got them) of my dolls and I would host a party on that day!

Fave Food: Anything chocolate-flavoured!

Memorable Mischief: I was a very well-behaved child. So well-behaved that I used to show off to everybody! I used to point out how in certain circumstances, I had been perfect and my bro had not!



NITIN SATHYAA

Fave Book: I thought that toys and books were too feminine, so I never really ventured into both. But from time to time I read Archie's comics!

Fave Cartoon: Tom & Jerry, of course!

Fave Movie: I remember being fascinated by Robin Hood Prince of Thieves. It released in Devi theatre. I watched it with my friends. It was an exciting experience at that time!

Fave School activity: Volunteering! I seldom participated in contests but was always part of organising committees that had minimum work! **Memorable Mischief:** Every day there was a new reason for my school authorities to want me thrown out! One of the most notorious was when in class 6, I burst crackers in the school campus. Dad even wanted to put me in a hostel. But my mom always intervened, saying if they were not around I would become more naughty!

RAHASYA

Fave Toy: Cars and big chubby dolls.

Fave Cartoon: Rugrats, Sponge Bob Squarepants and Tom and Jerry,

Fave Fantasy: My Uncle used to make us kids watch devotional serials and because my mother had lovely long hair, I thought she was Goddess Santoshi Mata! At night I would touch her feet and make wishes. I would ask for pens or bags and stuff like that! This went on till I was 9 years old at least!

Fave Food: When I was a kid we used to get Kissme toffee bar. I love that!

Memorable Mischief: Two things rank at the top of my list of deeds - first is the way I used to get under the table and cut the uniform skirts of my classmates! And second is the time when I locked up one of my classmates in the bathroom! I was quite notorious in my school, but since I was pretty smart in my studies, they did not know what to do with me!



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PADMAPRIYA

PASSIONATE!

MY FIRST BREATH ON... 28th February

FAVE PET NAME... Pinnu, the way mom calls me

LURE... My eyes, they reflect the sensitive and passionate person that I am. Also my smile...

WHAT WAS I THINKING... When I saw myself on the screen, I saw a decent actress! I enjoyed the whole movie making process. No doubt, I had made the right move.

TURN ON... A sensitive and passionate person like me

TURN OFF... Extreme hypocrisy

CELLULOID DREAMS... Besides wanting to do good roles in movies that do great at the box-office, I also want to widen my knowledge about every aspect of cinema.

SINFUL INDULGENCE... I love living... enjoying life... doing as my heart pleases, so I guess I indulge in life itself!

WORST NIGHTMARE... Falling off a bridge! It's an innate fear. I love adventure sports, I love travelling, but if my train is passing over a bridge, it's the scariest thing ever!

WILD WILD ME! Rafting! The adrenaline rush! Wow! Next trekking in the Himalayas! I would love to do that!

GOT THE HOTS FOR... Suriya and Arya

SCORCHER IN MY WARDROBE... When shopping in Dubai, I saw this sexy black lingerie I just had to buy! A polka dotted transparent tunic and underwear - very classy. I tried it on, felt that I had to shape up a bit for it... Now it lies snug in my wardrobe... The day will come...

STYLE MANTRA... Depends on my mood... bindaas to hot!

LIFE MANTRA... LIVE life... don't let it pass you by!

BODYWISE... The best way to stay fit is SPORTS. I used to play district level basketball... So my body is used to the training. I am a freak when it comes to working out.

YOU NEED CINEMA BECAUSE... It's CINEMA! It's everything in art - dance, music, acting... What's not to love?

CINEMA NEEDS YOU BECAUSE... I'm Padmapriya, and I'm sure I am worth it!

WORD WISE... My parents did not advise me to get into cinema! They still are not completely okay with it, but here I am, because I believe in following dreams [and I also knew my family would continue to love me!] Follow your dreams!



THE WORLD OF CINEMA

A PRODUCER'S PERSPECTIVE – G. DHANANJAYAN, MOSER BAER

Hi Readers, I hope you are having a good time reading this series. In the last four articles, we touched upon

the need to focus on the script, the basic foundation on which a film is built. Though every film is made based on a script, having the right and strong script is necessary and hence this focus.

For Diwali 2009, three big budget Hindi films were released (Blue, All the Best and Main aurr Mrs. Khanna) but none of them clicked at the box office, despite having huge star casts and budgets. Every critique mentioned the lack of script as the reason for the less-than-good audience response for these films. However, at the same time, Pazhassi Raja (Malayalam) has opened to great response from audiences, thanks to an excellent script which was made well with the right star cast. The film has already been declared a blockbuster and despite its high budget, everyone is confident the film will make money, a clear testimony to how a strong script, combined with good star cast and production values contributes to the success of a film. The Tamil new films released this Diwali also confirm how strong script-oriented films receive better response than others.

Along with a strong script, it is essential that one should also have the right, acceptable and relevant script. The author had a personal experience with the failure of his recent Malayalam film Kaana Kanmani directed by Akku Akbar, who made the blockbuster Veruthe Oru Bharya (2008). The Kaana Kanmani team handled the technical and acting fronts, so the production team was confident of creating another blockbuster with the same team. The audience was also expecting another super hit from the team. However, the result was negative. Why? Let me explain what went wrong.

The opening response for Kaana Kanmani (starring Jayaram and Padmapriya) was very good; it was one of the wide releases in Kerala for a medium budget film. However, within a day, word-of-mouth spread negative reports and drop in collections was reported from Saturday onwards. Despite good publicity, the film never recovered after that. During my personal interactions with theatre staff and audiences at several theatres across Kerala, what came out strongly is that audiences despise message-oriented subjects/ films. The audience is clearly looking for entertainment and emotionally-connecting subjects, NOT strong doses of messages. Our film's basic theme was "anti-abortion"; this message (the effects of aborting a foetus) was strongly conveyed in the second half through graphics and special effects. The first half of the film, entertainment-oriented with several family scenes, was greatly enjoyed by

audiences. In fact, in several theatres, audiences clapped when the interval sign came, showing that they were enjoying the film. But as soon as the film went into anti-abortion related scenes, the audiences labelled the film as a "documentary on anti-abortion" and totally rejected it. When I interacted with audiences at many theatres, I found that ladies were emotional about the film's theme (as they can understand the pain of aborting a foetus). But the youth and male audiences rejected the film. Personally, we learnt a costly lesson by choosing a story which we wrongly thought would appeal to family audiences.

Kaana Kanmani was appreciated by many critics for its bold theme, but the theme went against today's common practice; people routinely choose abortion when they prefer not to have a child, so the message in my film was not acceptable to them. (Did it make them feel guilty? Your guess is as good as mine.)

Hence, while choosing the script, one should see not just the depth and strength of the script, but also its relevance to the society of today. Hence, every care must be taken to validate this aspect while finalizing the script and the theme

I read a recent interview with director Ameer about conveying messages through films. He said, "Cinema is not a medium to give messages. It is basically meant to entertain. One must not make a cinema with the sole aim of passing on a message; no one will take notice of the movie then. If a message can be incorporated seamlessly in the flow of things, then it is definitely good." It is unfortunate that the interview appeared now. Had I read it six months back, probably I would not have ventured into making Kaana Kanmani. The purpose of giving the real life example here is to make potential producers aware of the danger of producing a message oriented film.

We have spent considerable time on the role the script plays in the success of the film. In the future articles, we would be discussing other aspects which contribute to the making and success of a film. Before I sign off, please keep in mind that film making is a process of events and not a simple act. A process involves several sub-processes and steps; hence film making is lengthy and detailed. Our attempt in this series is to de-code this process. Hope you would be with me and enjoy the journey... You are welcome to send your feedback to me at: ghananjayang@gmail.com.



"CINEMA IS NOT A MEDIUM TO GIVE MESSAGES. IT IS BASICALLY MEANT TO ENTERTAIN."



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WRAP UP



ASAL FOR PONGAL?

The Europe schedule of Asal was completed in 28 days straight. The team is currently shooting in Chennai. The film will be wrapped up by December. To prepare for a January release, the crew is doing the post production of the film simultaneously at break neck speed. So will Thala Ajith's Asal hit the screens for Pongal? We sure hope so.



After Madhavan, Univercell now has a bigger and more cult-drawing brand ambassador: Telugu superstar and youth icon Mahesh Babu, who will now be called Univercell Prince by the brand. This is Mahesh's first retail endorsement and his association with the Univercell will portray the brand as young, energetic, dynamic, effervescent, aspiring and independent. Mahesh Babu also met some contest winners during the press meet and said that he was happy to be a part of the synergy and would look at making Univercell Andhra Pradesh's #1 technology retail brand.



Bhagyaraj returns to doing what he is best at, writing... with Siddhu (+2 First Attempt). This Moser Baer Production will star Bhagyaraj's son Shanthnoo in the lead role. The actor may not have had a very successful debut in Sak-karakatti, but he has proved himself as a talented and hardworking boy. This movie marks the debut of Chandni as heroine. After a long time we see a true blue Tamil girl as the leading lady in a Tamil film. The music of the film, composed by Dharan was recently released.



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