

CONTEMPORARY KERALA

MODULE-IV

DEVELOPMENTS IN CINEMA

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DEVELOPMENTS IN CINEMA

Film industry- production of motion picture
in Malayalam

Active Malayalam film production-second
half of the 20th c

2 silent films & 3 malayalam language
films before 1947.

1950s- 6 a year

1960s- 30 a year

1970s-40 a year

1980-130 films



FATHER OF MALAYALAM CINEMA

J . C. Daniel

The first film in Malayalam-

Vigathakumaran- released in 1930

The first talkie in Malayalam was Balan-

released in 1938 directed by S.Nottani

Neelakkuyil – landmark in Malayalam film-

released in 1954- Won President's silver

medal- scripted by Uroob- jointly directed

by Ramu Karyat and P.Bhaskaran.

NEELAKKUYIL

A neo-realistic melodrama –story of the love affair of a Dalit girl and an educated high caste school teacher , starring Sathyan and Miss Kumari.

The girl becomes pregnant , but the hero refuses to marry her as he fears being ostracised by the conservative high caste dominated society.

The girl becomes an outcaste and dies at the time of child birth. The village postman adopts the child ignoring protests of the society.

The hero marries a lady of an aristocratic family. The film ends with the hero and his aristocratic wife accepting the boy as their own child.

CHEMMEN

1965- Best Malayalam movie produced so far – it is a romantic movie based on Thakazhi's novel

Screen play by S.L.Puram Sadanandan – directed by Ramu Kariat – Produced by Kanmani Babu

It is the first notable creative film in South India- first south Indian film to win Indian President's gold medal for the best film

It was screened at various International film festivals and won awards at Cannes & Chicago festivals

THEME OF CHEMMEEN

It tells about a pre-marital and later extra marital relationship between Karuthamma, daughter of an ambitious Hindu fisherman and Pareekkutty, son of a Muslim trader. The theme of the film is a popular legend among the fishermen communities along coastal Kerala regarding chastity of fisher women – if a married fisher woman was faithless when her husband was out in the sea, Mother sea (Kadamma) would consume him.

Sathyan , Madhu,Sheela, Kottarakkara etc. were the actors and actresses

Chemmeen became the first Malayalam film to win honour at international film festival. It received Certificate of Merit at Chicago festival and Gold medal at Cannes festival for best cinematography.

Cinematography by Marcus Bartley and U. Rajagopal. Every details of fishermen community provided in it. Music- Sasil Choudhary.

NIRMALYAM

1973- Malayalam film written , produced and directed by the great Malayalam writer M.T.Vasudevan Nair.The main actor in the film , P.J.Antony won the national film Awardfor Best Actor for his performance as Velichappadu in the movie.

The film received National film Award for Best Feature Film and Kerala State Award for Best Feature Film

It also bagged State Film Award for Best Editor (Ravi) and for Best Dialogue by M.T.

It is considered as one of the classics in Malayalam cinema. The film is an adaptation of M.T's short story ' Pallivalum Kalchilambum'

THEME OF NIRMALYAM

Nirmalyam resolves around a neglected local temple and the people depended on the temple. P.J.Antony , the velichappadu is the caretaker of the temple. His wife runs the household with the meagre income from the temple. Their educated but unemployed son lost faith in temple and goddess. One day , he tries to sell the holy sword to a pawn seller and his father finds it and asks his son to leave the house immediately .Due to the outbreak of small pox , the villagers decided to conduct a festival in the temple. On the day of the festival velichapadu finds his wife selling her body to a local money lender for a living. Velichapadu gets totally devastated . He dances before the Goddess, strikes his forehead strongly with his sword ,spit at her face with his blood and falls down dead.

RAMU KARIAT

Leading Malayalam Film Director from 1950-70

Directed 15 films

Began his artistic activities with Kerala People's Arts club (KPAC) , a leftist theatre group- co directed the film Thiramala in 1953 with Vimal Kumar & PRS Pillai

Neelakkuyil directed with P.Bhaskaran.

Directed Minnaminungu in 1957 and direction of Chemmeen brought him national and international fame.

Received the 'All India Certificate of Merit for Best Feature film ' & 'President's Silver Medal for Best Feature Film in Malayalam ' for 'Neelakkuyil' in 1954.

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He was awarded the 'President's Silver Medal for Best Feature Film in Malayalam' for 'Mutiyanaya Puthran' in 1961. Chemmeen was accorded "National Film Award for Best Feature Film" in 1965.

Chemmen is considered as his outstanding directorial venture.

The last film directed by him is 'Ammuvinte Attinkutty' in 1978

He was a member of the Jury at the 9th Moscow International Film Festival.

An actor in the film 'Ramanan'

Social & political activist

Elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly as a left independent candidate from Nattika, Thrissur in 1965.

ARAVINDAN(1935- 91)

Film director , Screenplay writer, musician, cartoonist and painter of Kerala.

Aravindakshan was one of the pioneers of parallel cinema or new wave cinema in Malayalam

He experimented in the way of story telling without usual regular narrative styles.

Produced documentaries. The first film directed by Aravindan was ' Utharayanam' in 1974 produced by the famous writer Pattathuvila Karunakaran and written by Thikkodiyan.

The film was a reflection on the decline of the values in the society within three decades of independence_ received the best film , best director and best screen play awards of the Kerala State.

Aravindan's next film was 'Kanchana Sita' - it is a unique interpretation of Ramayana

And it sets the epic narrative amidst the Chenchu tribe of Andhra Pradesh who consider themselves to be the descendants of Lord Rama.

His third film was 'Thambu' in 1978, which dealt with realism and told the sufferings of a circus troupe- best film. It received the National Award for second best Film in 1978.

Kummatty, Esthappan, Pokkuvayil, Chidambaram, Oridathu, Unni & Vastuhara were the other films directed by Aravindan- Awards won.

Best Director Award twice at national level, six times state level

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His last film Vastuhara in 1991- a film about refugees in Bengal which was based on C.V. Sreeraman's short story.

Aravindan died before the release of the film

It received national award for Best Film in Malayalam & state award for Best Film & Best Direction

He was awarded Padmasree in 1990. Best music director award of 1988 of the state for his music in 'Oru Thuvai Pakshikal' directed by Ravindran.

Cinema has the power to influence human mind



THANK YOU