

“I will make the public know there is a good actor in Vikram”

With the release of 'Sethu' Vikram proved his potential, both as an actor, and as a box-office draw. Cinesouth.com reports on a rendezvous with him on an enchanting evening, stealing time when he was engaged in dubbing his voice for 'Dil', in this the second of a two part interview.

WHY ARE you in a hurry in this prime time of your youth to don various and varied characters that are different from one another?

I was always after acting in characters which are unique in their own way. Previously there was no choice for me, practically no chance at all! As I had acted in the films directed by big ones, I couldn't ask for the stories except for 'Houseful' and 'Sethu'. I just relied upon the confidence on the directors, delivering the goods required of me.

As I was resolved to act in films with a different hue, I could act only in just eight films during the course of the last ten years. Now I am in a comfortable position and I can also be choosy about the films I act. I am ardent lover of good acting. I had been a stage actor too.

These days, I don't give much importance to the fame of the production nor to the reputation of the director. My primary consideration is whether the character would suit me or not. I give my nod if only something in me compels me to accept a role as a must. Otherwise, I won't be carried away, how-

ever big the director may be. The role should provide ample scope for me to exhibit my histrionic talents.

The capacity to act well is in my power. Why I should I waste my gifted talents over trivial things?

Have you not taken another incarnation as a singer by the virtue of singing in Meena's album?

As an artist, I am interested in many spheres. I was asked to sing the song, 'Unakkena Unakkena' in 'Vinnukkum Mannukkum' itself. Lack of time prevented me from doing so. I was invited to sing in Manoj's album, 'Pathinaru Vayadhinile' also. But I didn't oblige as there was Manoj already in the project.

I never experienced any difficulties in singing for the album, 'Kadhalism'. Even Kamal's voice is not that great. But it would convey the emotions as they should be. For a new picture, I have sung alongside Shankar Mahadevan who is one of the best singers in India. Despite the fact that I am not qualified to sing a chorus song even, my voice has mingled well with his voice as it is able to convey the required emotion.

I will never opt myself for the profession of singing. But I will never refuse to sing in the event of suitable chances. I will definitely accept songs modelled on the lines of 'Strawberry Kanne' of 'Minsara Kanavu'. The song should be something like a piece of conversation. The song 'Strawberry Kanne' might have come out better had Prabhu Deva sung it in full instead of merely uttering the dialogue 'Nose than konjam Oversizaa irukku' in the middle of the song. The voice of the song might not have changed if the actor himself had rendered both the lyrical lines and the dialogue. So, I will be singing when I land upon such chances.

What do you expect of 'Citizen'?

It is something that must be applauded that an actor appears in nine different make-ups in a single film. That Ajith dons nine characters in a film is a difficult task to perform when compared to the trouble taken by me in these two months to justify my single role. I hope 'Citizen' would be an instant success. If the film turns out to be a blockbuster, another actor of a different kind would be arriving on the scene of Tamil Cinema. So far, we have not seen any such actor after Kamal. The success of 'Citizen' would encourage many more actors and induce them to do such great feats like Ajith.

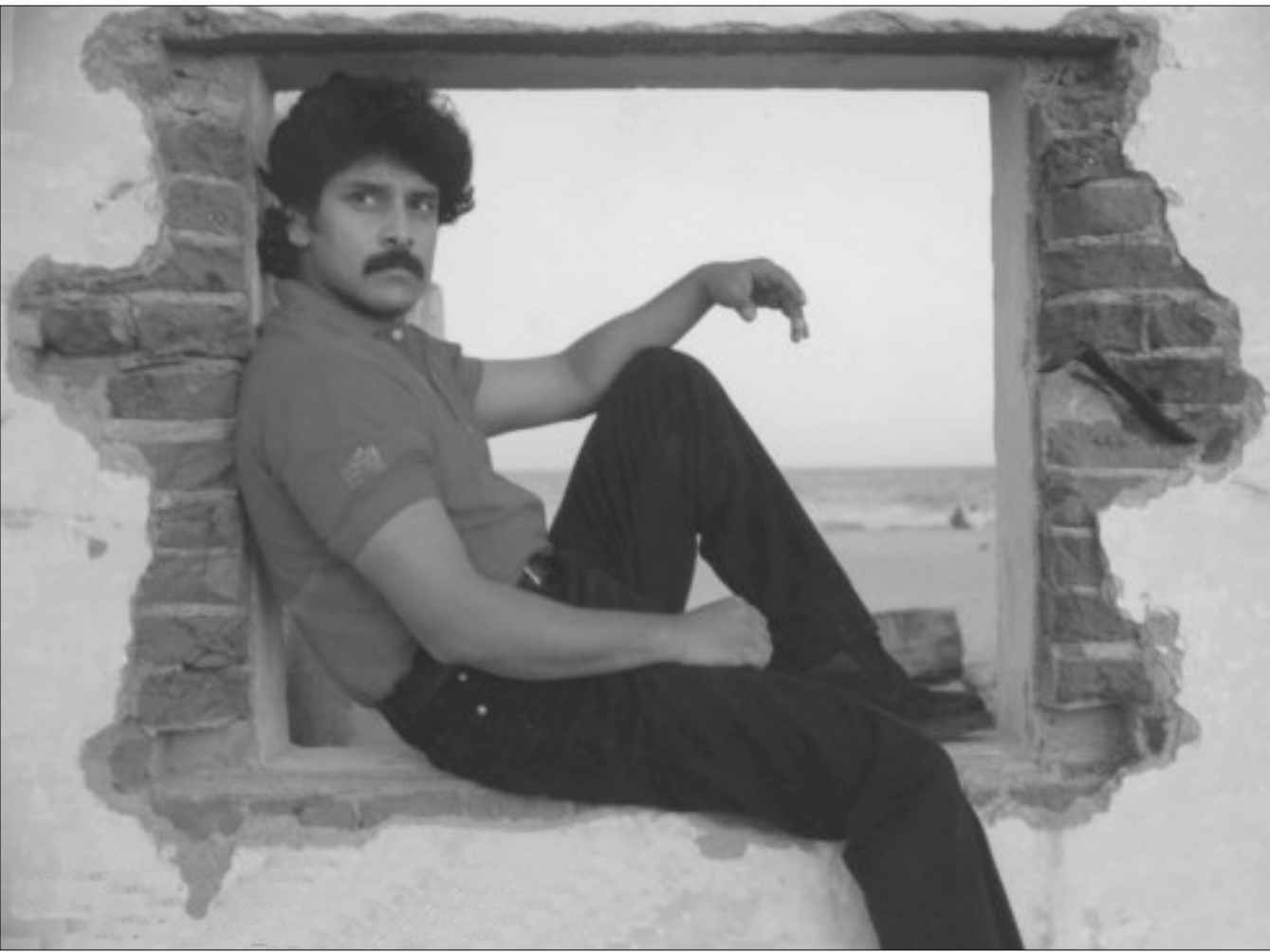
How do you feel about the yeomen services rendered by the associations of your fans to relieve the pains of the quake - afflicted people of Gujarat?

From the very beginning, myself and my fans contemplated about making our actual presence at the scene of the calamity rather than sending certain goods of value to be of help to the quake victims. But I never expected that my fans will actually rush to Gujarat. They were brave enough to start on their committed mission. When they landed in the railway station there, they themselves experienced the impact of an earthquake.

But my fans were an undeterred lot. They rushed to the devastated areas and offered their utmost help to the God-forsaken people there. The general public as the red cross society voluntary, who operated in the disastrous area have praised my fans for having journeyed a long distance all along from Tamil Nadu to participate in the rescue work. My fans have worked hand in hand with the Red cross people. I don't claim credit to my fans for this. I am proud of them that they have done their bit on behalf of Tamil Nadu.

Were you aware that you were in fact doing the real-life character of Rajakumaran in 'Vinnukkum Mannukkum'?

(Smilingly) Of Course I know. Rajakumaran has filmed my birthday scene



Out to make a mark: having packed his bags to leave the Tamil cine world for good, Vikram is now in a position to pick and choose his roles. He bases his decisions about whether to make a movie or not on what he thinks of the character. While all out to consolidate his fame and earn his fortune, Vikram also aims to display his acting talents.

based on his own birthday celebration. All of us were aware then that Rajakumaran was in love with Devayani. When we learnt about the news of their wedding subsequently we were all elated.

You have attained success after persisting for a long time with patience. What will become to your film life hereafter? Where are you heading for?

When 'Sethu' became a hit I thought that my dream

has been realized. I am so much in love with Cinema. But merely loving Cinema and not getting any chance to prove your mettle will serve no purpose. But cinema too is fond of me. It gives me ample chances. I will

certainly prove worthy of the confidence the cinema people have reposed on me. I shall act in good characters and give good films to the movie-lovers. I will make the public know there is a very good actor in Vikram.

Love within the bounds of Tamil culture

THE THEME of love has become so common in Tamil movies these days that directors have been forced to find increasingly more ridiculous methods of differentiating 'their' love story from all the others.

Viewers have been treated to all versions including the 'unseeing' love, the 'unspeaking' love, the 'sacrificing' love, the 'respectful' love, and the selfless love. There have been so many copies of these versions that the love theme has almost become boring.

Now director Kumaresan takes a different tack. He focuses on the role of Tamil culture by intertwining love with cultural greatness.

He says 'Love Channel' is a movie that stresses that Tamils won't forget their motherland although they go to live in the various nooks and corners of the world and that they would always be

conscious of their unique culture and civilization.

The movie tells the story of Eswar and Monisha, two lovers who reside in Germany. Yet, despite the foreign locale, they never never overstep the limits of the Tamil culture and civilization.

The central core of the story revolves around how their love succeeds in the end.

As the hero lives in Germany, a majority of the scenes have been shot in that country. All the six songs that find place in the film have been picturised in Germany. That is the highlight of this movie.

The producer, director, hero and heroine are not very popular with the public. The movie is expected to succeed based on the strength in its story and screenplay.



Tamil love: though living in Germany, this couple do not forget their culture in 'Love Channel'

When the inevitable happens

"LOVE MARRIAGE" is a romance story with a difference, director K. Subhash tells S R Ashok Kumar from The Hindu. And he expands: "The hero does not believe in love marriage. He thinks love will disappear after the marriage. So he is not willing to fall in love. He develops this attitude on seeing married couples came to his father, a popular divorce lawyer, seeking separation. He finds that couples who were in love for 10 years want to split three years after marriage."

But the inevitable happens. He is 'forced' to love a girl and tells her that he will not marry her. But the heroine is prepared to wait until he changes his mind. Her parents have other ideas.

Does the hero's idea of love change? The gripping climax holds the answer.

For hero Ajay, who acted with the thespian, Sivaji Ganesan, in 'Poopparikka Varugirum' it is a re-entry. He is paired with Ranjana, a model. Vadivelu plays a significant role. The others in the cast are Vijayakumar, Fathima Babu, Anumohan and Y. S. V. Sekhar.




Ajay (seen here with Malavika in 'Poopparikka Varugirum') attempts a return

The main portion of the film was shot in Udhagamandalam for more than 25 days. The songs are to be picturised in Norway and Denmark. The highlight in the film is an action sequen-

ce which depicts water, ground and fire.

Music is being scored by Deva, while the camera is handled by Ilavarasu. Editing is being taken care of by

Krishnamurthy Siva, and the stunts are taken care of by Super Subbarayan. Art is by Nagu and dialogue is being written by Shanmugapriyan. Besides direction Subash is in charge of the screenplay.



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