

KHADDAMA

Director's Note

For the past four decades, there have been an overflow of expatriates from my country to the gulf, seeking their el dorado. Numerous writers wrote on them, cameras wielded on their lives to depict their hard, struggling world. But it was all male-oriented and projected the hardship of men. Like them so many Indian women work in the gulf countries whose lives remain un pictured or unspoken .Majority of women hail from very poor family backgrounds. They board the plane in high hopes, dreaming of a luminous future. Most of them land up as 'Khaddamas' in arab houses and get totally abandoned in the four walls of the palatial houses and their groanings inadvertently attended. I wield my camera ,this time, to them. Probably the first Indian movie of this kind-that is 'Khaddama'. It is Arabic which means house-maid.

Aswathi, the protagonist, who comes from a remote village in Kerala, creeps into the jacket of a khaddama in Riyadh , loses her identity , surrenders her freedom to the four walls of the villa and withdraws into herself. Though she saves herself from the suffocating atmosphere, she gets estranged in the vast Arabian desert and the strenuous journey through the desert obviously keeps her in a haze.

In one of my earlier films, 'Perumazhakkaalam' I tried to draw attention to the problems of expatriates, not presenting the actual life in the gulf , but the story is narrated from the point of view of two Keralite women. But in this movie I get myself into the marginalised lives of hapless women who get entrapped in the gulf for a living. Both Perumazhakkaalam and Khaddama are real life portrayals. Hundreds of thousands of Khaddamas from third world countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Indonesia, Philippines and Africa, live a hard life to make both ends meet. I dedicate this movie to thousands of such poor souls who sacrifice themselves and fade into oblivion.

Synopsis

Razak Kottekkad - a well-known social activist among the Malayali community in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He feels it his incumbency to repatriate those who lose their passport and other documents and finally end up in prison. He comes to the aid of those who meet with accidents and is always ready to help the expatriates in their numerous problems, share their consternation regarding their lives ,a benign soul. The real altrucian ,who neglects his life and family for the sake of the needy.

A friend of Razak, who is the editor of a malayalam daily, shows a photograph of a woman to Razak just to find out whether he knows her. She is Aswathi, from

a remote village in Kerala (South India), who arrives in Riyadh to work as khaddama (house-maid) in an Arab house. She has absconded and the police filed a case against her. The editor sees the prospect of an interesting story, but they have only the details of the passport which is not enough. As the editor instructed, Razak sets out to know more about the enigmatic character, Aswathi.

Usman, the driver of an Arab family, belongs to Aswathi's village, arranges the visa for Aswathi and brings her to Saudi Arabia. She joins as house-maid in the Arab villa along with an Indonesian woman (Fatma). Usman and Fatma are drawn together by carnal passion and their relationship is revealed to the sponsor. They are sent out from the house. Aswathi's horrendous days begin. Aswathi gets trapped in the large villa. She is badly treated and harassed. One night, when the sponsor and his family go out, she jumps over the huge walls of the villa and escapes. But the strange world outside is not woman friendly. The laws and rules in Saudi Arabia are totally rigid and she stands spell bound as to where to go.

She walks along the long winding road in the desert. She gets exhausted in the hot sun. She tries to stop vehicles and gets into a truck that stops on her way. She sits at the back among a flock of sheep. Embarrassingly, she understands the truck diverts from the highway and enters the un trodden path that winds up and down the desert. It is her journey to the unknown world. It is also the journey of Razak in search of Aswathi who gets lost in the desert. In that journey, Aswathi's new paths and new turns in her life are revealed to Razak.

Cast And Crew

Kavya Madhavan
Sreenivasan
Biju Menon
K.P.A.C.Lalitha
Sukumari
Suraj Venjaramode
Lena
Shine Tom
Jaffer
Muralikrishnan
Manu Jose

Associ. Direction - Salim Padiyath, Harish
Pro.Design -Suresh Kollam Makeup - Pandyan Wardrobe - Anil Chemboor
Stills - Jayaprakash Prod. Controller - Shafeer Sait Prod. Exec. - Sanjay Padiyoor

Story - K.U.IqbqI

K.U.IQBAL a Riyadh based working journalist Last 22 years he is working in Saudi Arabia 10 years back he joined Malayalam news Riyadh Bureau as staff Reporter . Malayalam News The First Malayalam Daily published outside India . A sister publication of Pan Arabs leading English Daily Arab News . 1982 his First Article PUBLISHED IN MATHRUBHUMI WEEKEND

In 80 s he wrote several articles in Mathrubhumi week end, Mathrubhumi weekly , Madhyamam etc. Mathrubhumi serialised his Articles related to Malayalam Drama Artistes life sketch 1984 O.V.Vijayans famous novel Ghazakinte Ithihasam CHARACTERS Interview and Thazarak travelogue was one of his notable works , which was published 1986 in Mathrubhumi .

Published Books

NADU KANDANGAL

YANA PATHRAM (GULF SEA PORT AND EXPAT LIFE)

Based on of His story Kairali Tv telecast a short film 4 years back

EDAYA VILAPANGAL published in Basha Poshini 2009 December

GADDAMA is his entry to Malayalam Film Industry

Screenplay - K.Gireesh Kumar

Script writer of noted films ; Amrutham, Veruthey Oru Bhraya, Kanakannmani and Tele serials ; Shamanathalam, Anna, Vennal Mazha, etc.

Won prestigious awards in the field of screen play; Critics Award, Asianet Award and Vanitha Film Award writing short stories in Malayalam Periodicals since 1997.

Published two short story collections.

Dir.of.Photography - Manoj Pillai

Manoj Pillai has more than eighteen feature films and several recognitions including a Kerala State Award to his Cinematographic credit. The significant films from Manoj Pillai's filmography include 'Kaiyoppu', 'Vaasthavam', 'Shikar', 'Achanurangatha Veedu', 'Pachamarathanlil', Oru Naal Varum', and 'Arabi Katha;. 'The ace DOP was trained under acclaimed Filmmaker - DOP Santosh Sivan, with whom he worked on many national and international projects including Road to the Sky, Bride and Prejudice, Dil Se, Terrorist and Asoka.

Music - Bennet Veetraag

"Bennet" is a guitarist song-writer with his musical training based in the Western Classical genre, broadened through exposure to other various genres, fusion, and Indian forms of music like the Ghazal.

"Veetraag" is a singer-musician who was initially trained in Carnatic classical music and later developed a keen interest and proficiency in diverse genres of music, including Hindustani classical.

Background Score - M.Jayachandran

M. Jayachandran is a film score composer, singer and musician in the Malayalam film industry. He has won Kerala State Film Awards for best music director in 2003, 2004 and 2007. He also won the state award for best male singer in 2005. He is also known for his role as the chief judge in the television shows Amrita TV Superstar 2, Amrita TV Superstar Global and Idea Star Singer.

Editing - K.Rajagopal

K.Rajagopal ,was trained under acclaimed editor G.Venkitaraman. Rajagopal has worked in Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, English and Arabic Projects
His recent wins are Asianet Awards – Swapnakudu, Nammal
Mathrubhumi Medimix Awards – Madhuranombarakatu, Swapnakudu
Film Critics Award – Nammal
Film Fertility Award Amrita TV – Perumazakalam

Sound Design - Tapas Nayak

Best sound student of 1996 -99 bachelor of Satyajit Rai Film and TV institute
Assisted H.Sridhar. Had the opportunity to collaborate all 5.1 mixing of some landmark movies like Lagaan, Dil Chahata hai and numerous south Indian projects. Received the Apsara producers guild award in the best re-recording category for the film Ravan.

Producer - P.V.Pradeep

Originally from Palakkad, Kerala Pradeep was lured into the culinary world when his passion for this industry and for food was recognized at an early age.

Graduated from the renowned Dadar Catering College Mumbai from where he learned to develop his own unique style and flair and worked in various

prestigious institutions namely such as Hyatt Regency Kuwait, Monkey Island hotel UK & Metropolitan Hotel, Al Habtour group Dubai.

Pradeep own & operate a number of well established restaurants, catering and hospitality relative services such as Chef Tastebuds, Al Rahmania Catering, NEFMS & Bluestar Kitchen Industry. Now after several years abroad, he has, partially returned to Kerala and set up business enterprises such as Hotel Regency, GIHMS (an institute in hotel Management) & lately even a movie production unit, namely Anitha Productions.

Director - Kamal

Kamal is a director well known among the Malayali community, who made a significant, indelible contribution to Malayalam cine world. He was born in Kodungallur(Thrissur) ,the traditional, cultural capital of Kerala. He left his personal stamp and gained fame by directing certain valued films. The audience can keep many of his films close to their hearts as they portray strong relationship. He wields considerable influence over the audience as his films relate with them.

He made his entry into the Malayalam film world as story writer as well as an assistant director who got his talents mature under the guidance of veteran directors like P.N.Menon, Sethumadhavan and Barathan.He debuted as a director with 'Mizhineerpoovukal' in the year 1986.In a span of 25 successful years, he made more than 40 films.

These are some of his prominent movies, which won him several laurels.

Awards:

National award:

Perumazhakkaalam (Best film for social issues) -2004
Karuthapakshikal (best film for social issues) -2006

IFFI COMPETITION 2004 (GOA) -Perumazhakkaalam
IFFK COMPETITION 2004 (TVM) -Perumazhakkaalam

INDIAN PANORAMA:

Ulladakkam -1991

Meghamalhar -2001

Perumazhakkaalam -2004

State award:

Ulladakkam (Best director) -1991
Meghamalhar (Best screenplay) -2001
(2nd best film) -2001
Madhuranombarakkattu (2nd best film) -2000
Mazhayethum munpe (best popular film) -1994
Nammal (best popular film) -2002

Critics Award:

Total 7 times - 2 times for best film (Ulladakkam,
Karutha Pakshikal)
2 times for best director (Perumazhakkaalam,
Karutha Pakshikal I)
Best screenplay (Meghamalhar)
Ramu Kariyat Award for Best Director:
2 times (Mazhayethum Munpe, Meghamalhar)

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