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PRESENTS

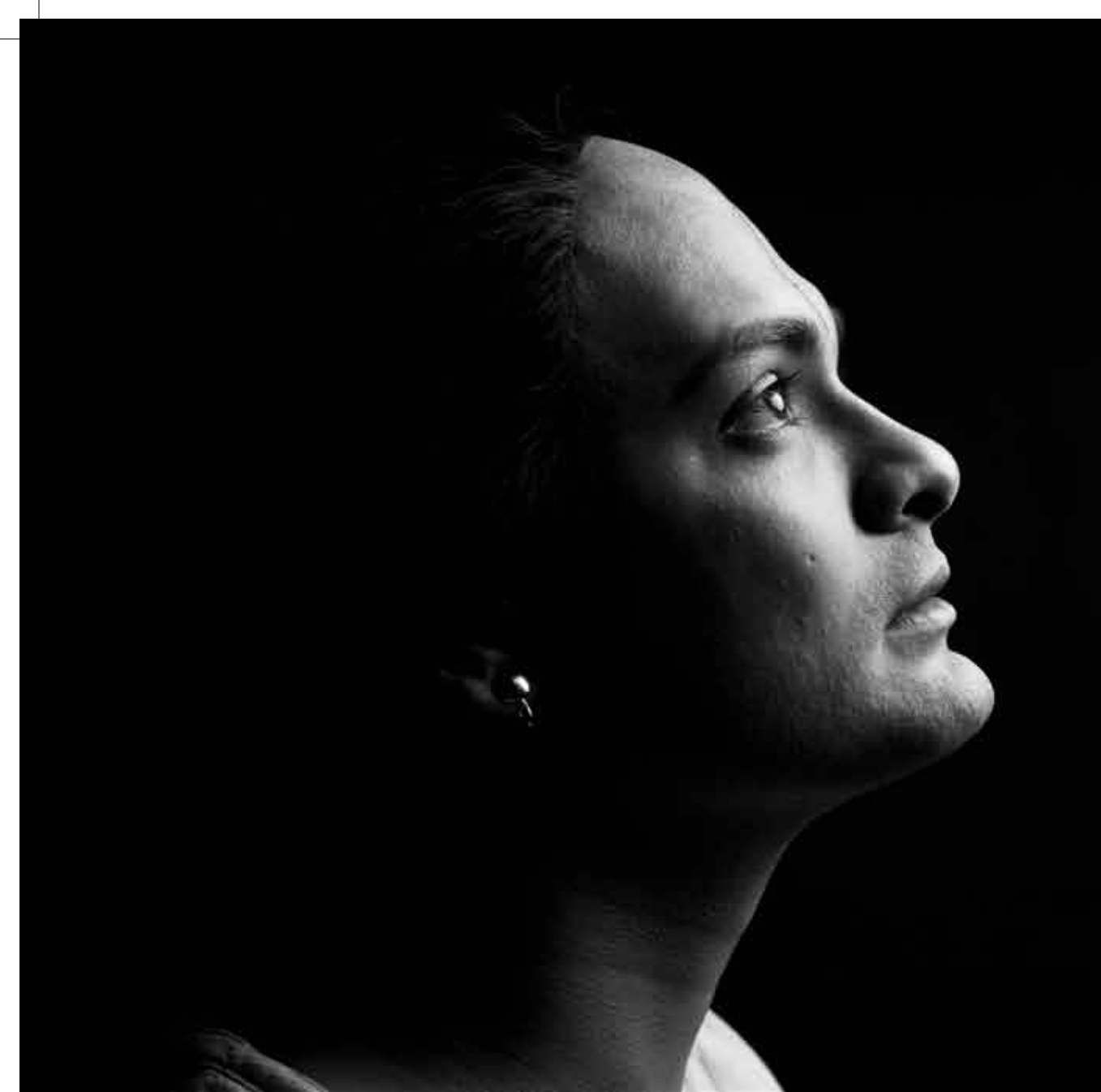
RAMANUJAN

A FILM BY GNANARAJASEKARAN



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Camphor Cinema

Camphor Cinema is an independent film production company that aims to produce good narratives that combine the best of storytelling, music, visuals, the semiotics of acting and much more. We believe that the allure of films captivates the audience deeper when they bring characters and stories alive.

Our love for film and the drive to get together a team of like-minded people to make films that tell human stories, induced the four of us: Srivatsan Nadathur, Sushant Desai, Sharanyan Nadathur and Sindhu Rajasekaran, to think of starting an independent film production company. Our idea became reality in late 2012 when we started the firm.

With an international cast and crew, our first film is one such venture. 'Ramanujan' is a historical biopic based on the life and times of the mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan. Set in the early 1900's British India and England, the film aims to acquaint the national and international audience with the struggles of an Indian mathematical genius and his perseverance. Also, the team is convinced that Ramanujan's story would serve as a source of inspiration to the younger generation.

We hope to be able to further collaborate with artists who have a rare vision and intend to create films for the new era. As Schiller notes: all human beings possess the inherent capability to understand and appreciate aesthetics, if they are exposed to it. And that is what we aim to do: bring great stories to a larger audience.



The Film - English I Tamil

Set in early 20th century British India and England, 'Ramanujan' revolves around the life and times of the mathematical prodigy, Srinivasa Ramanujan. Directed by the award-winning director of 'Mogha Mul,' 'Bharati' and 'Periyar,' Gnana Rajasekaran, 'Ramanujan' has been simultaneously shot in two languages, English and Tamil.

'Ramanujan', tells the human story of an Indian mathematician who languished in the grip of a disdainful society and a scornful academia. It means to demonstrate the genius that enabled him to overcome the poverty of his material circumstances and the indifference of his peers to emerge and be recognized as a great savant by the world.

The adverse social conditions in South India at the time saw Ramanujan's mathematical capabilities dismissed by traditional fellow Indians, pushing him to take up employment as a clerk and subsist on meager wages. It was an Englishman, Professor G. H. Hardy, who recognized Ramanujan's genius while the Indian academia shunned him. Professor Hardy took the native clerk to Cambridge, where he facilitated Ramanujan's research in mathematics. In England, Ramanujan's quintessential contribution to mathematics got him elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.



The Film - English | Tamil



A film that prompts society to look within: How does society treat geniuses?

A person with abnormal predilections is pushed to the fringes of society. Millions of Ramanujans roam the dusty roads of India even today, people do not understand them or recognize them, and they die undeserving deaths. What is it that ails our society so, that we try to make everyone average instead of celebrating that which is unique?

‘Ramanujan’ is truly an inspiring story of perseverance: Ramanujan, who came from a very poor family, who was thrown out of college for not passing in any subject other than mathematics, who was ridiculed by society, had nothing to hold on to except his passion for numbers. He overcame social, cultural and economic hardships and showcased his brilliance by sheer self belief. He convinced the greatest of the greats of the mathematical world with his discoveries, and was elected to the prestigious Royal Society, London and as a Fellow at Trinity College, the first Indian to ever get that honour.

Humanism during imperialistic times: The film demonstrates the human bond that existed between two culturally different peoples, an Indian and an Englishman. Prof. Hardy was instrumental not only in bringing Ramanujan to England, but also in getting Ramanujan's work recognized by the mathematical world. Prof. Hardy fully trusted Ramanujan's capabilities and espoused him as a genius in the field at a time when imperialistic attitudes ruled university campuses. Their relationship was one that was at the same time mathematical and personal.

A journey from British India to England - An Indian's suffering in a foreign land: Even among friends in Britain, Ramanujan longed for his homeland. Given his Indian idiosyncrasies, and his spiritual inclination, he was the object of much ridicule for fellow students. Ramanujan had to forbear this and fight his inner conflicts as well in his journey towards recognition.

Lost love: The film also revolves around Ramanujan's marriage. Even before he could start a life with his wife, he left to England. And while he yearned for his wife, Janaki, in his loneliness in England, his imposing mother refused to send Janaki to him fearing she would distract his research. As fate would have it, Ramanujan and Janaki were reunited only after five years, when Ramanujan was in his deathbed.

Bringing history alive - Authenticity & Aesthetics: The film was shot in the actual locations where Ramanujan lived and worked, in Kumbakonam and Cambridge. Meticulous research went into understanding the religious and social milieu of the time in order to recreate the art and costumes authentically and aesthetically.

Creating awareness: An astonishing mathematician whose numerous discoveries are being proven and used even today, Ramanujan is potentially unknown in India. The film aims to enlighten and educate the audience with his life story, which contains an inherent message - one that questions society and educational institutions, asking it to reform itself such that it does not push another genius to suffer unrecognized.

Indo-British Efforts: The film is set in India and England, and has equally important Indian and British characters. A large number of the 'Ramanujan' crew are British. A truly cross-border venture, the British and Indian cast and crew worked closely together to depict a true picture of the age and of the two cultures.

Biopic as Entertainment: Bridging the gap between commercial cinema and parallel cinema, 'Ramanujan' combines the virtues of both. Not only is the film rich in content and aesthetics, it is also a visual treat as it captures the fashion of the age and takes the audience to exotic locations set in a historical time period. Further, with avant-garde film score, 'Ramanujan' aims to capture a large audience cutting across demographics.



Behind the Scenes

Extensively researched by the screenwriter and director, Gnana Rajasekaran, the film intends to establish the authentic life story and achievements of Ramanujan. The film has been shot at the appropriate historic locations such as Kumbakonam: where Ramanujan was brought up and attended college, Namakkal: the abode of Ramanujan's family deity, Nellore, Madras: where Ramanujan worked at the Port Trust Office, Cambridge and London: where Ramanujan was finally recognized as a mathematician of the highest class.

Veteran Indian art director, P. Krishnamurthy, has worked on recreating the panorama of the early twentieth century India, while British production designer Caroline Story has brought alive England of that period. The costume designer, Sakunthala Rajasekaran, has ensured the accuracy of the attires of the age.

Intricate details ranging from antique brass vessels, coins and books to the topknots and jewellery of the Kumbakonam brahmins and attires of the British elite have all been scrutinized by the art and costume departments. With expert cinematographer Sunny Joseph, who has worked on award-winning Bengali and English films, behind the camera, reputed and accomplished ace editor B. Lenin, well-known composer Ramesh Vinayakam and sound designer A. S. Laxmi Narayanan as part of the team, and with an international crew including English-Australian scriptwriters such as Roxane de Rouen, 'Ramanujan' also includes a large British cast.



The grandson of legendary film couple Savithri - Gemini Ganesan and actress Rekha's nephew, Abhinay Vaddi, essays the poignant, albeit-powerful role of the mathematical genius, Srinivasa Ramanujan. The national award-winning actress Suhasini Mani Ratnam, wife of the acclaimed director Mani Ratnam, plays the important role of Komalatammal, Ramanujan's strong-willed mother. The established British stage and screen actor, Kevin McGowan, dons the imperative role of Prof. G. H. Hardy of Trinity College, Cambridge, who reformed British mathematics in the early twentieth century.

Award-winning actress Bhama plays Ramanujan's timid wife, Janaki, while Michael Lieber, whose films have been screened at Cannes, plays J. E. Littlewood, Prof. Hardy's collaborator. Other British actors in vital roles include Richard Walsh as Sir Francis Spring, Cloudia Swann as Ms. Bourne and Lizzie Bourne as Gertrude Hardy. Further, Indian actor Abbas, Nizhalgal Ravi, Delhi Ganesh, Y. G. Mahendran and SharathBabu have also been cast in crucial roles in the film.



The Cast

Abhinay Vaddi as Srinivasa Ramanujan

Suhasini Maniratnam as Komalatammal

Nizhalgal Ravi as Srinivasa Iyengar

Kevin McGowan as Prof. G. H. Hardy

Anmol as Young Srinivasa Ramanujan

Bhama as Janaki

Abbas as P. C. Mahalanobis

Michael Lieber as J. E. Littlewood

Richard Walsh as Sir Francis Spring

Sharath Babu as Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao I. C. S.

Radha Ravi as Prof. Singaravelu Mudaliar

Madhan Bob as Prof. Krishna Shastri

Y. G. Mahendran as Narayana Iyer

Manobala as Krishna Rao

Satish Kumar as Anandhu

Thalaivasal Vijay as Sathiyapriya Rayar

Mani Bharathi as Krishnan

Delhi Ganesh as a Maths Teacher

Raja Krishnamoorthy as Prof. Seshu Iyer

T. P. Gajendran as Chettiar

Mohan Sarma as The Hindu Kasturi Iyengar

Cloudia Swann as Ms. Bourne

Mike Parish as Doctor Charles Budd

Harsh Naik as Chatterjee

Lizzie Bourne as Ms. Gertrude Hardy



The Crew

Directed by Gnana Rajasekaran

Produced by Camphor Cinema

Written by Gnana Rajasekaran

Music by Ramesh Vinayakam

Cinematography by Sunny Joseph

Editing by B. Lenin

Production Design (India) by P. Krishnamurthy

Production Design (UK) by Caroline Story

Costume Design by Sakunthala Rajasekaran

Sound Design by A. S. Laxmi Narayanan

Lyrics by Vaali

Production Managers (India): V. Vishwanathan & K. S. Venkatesh

Line Producers (UK): David Choudhary & Naveed Aslam

Assistant Scriptwriters: Roxane De Rouen & Sindhu Rajasekaran



In the Media



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18th August 2013



Deccan Chronical Kochi
Kerela Chronicle
30th June 2013



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13th July 2013



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1st to 8th September 2013



HT City Kolkata (Also in Ranchi)
10th July 2013



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10th August 2013



Deccan Chronicle (Chennai Chronicle)
31st August 2013



In the Media



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June 28- July 4



The Pioneer Delhi
10th August 2013



The New Indian Express (City Express) Hyderabad
27th July 2013



The Hindu- Friday Review
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28th June 2013



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17th Sept 2013,



The Hindu (Cinemaplus)
18th August 2013

