

Old story but, great chemistry

Worth a look, **Moviebuzz** writes of 'Priyasakhi' for *Sify Movies*.

IF YOU like candyfloss romance and its bitter-sweet nature, love and family relationships, mush and melodrama, then walk straight into 'Priyasakhi'. This vanilla coated love story is about what happens in the life of the lead characters, Madhavan and Sada after romance and marriage.

What works in favour of 'Priyasakhi' is the palpable and terrific on-screen chemistry between the lead pair. If originality is not your top priority this predictable story by director K. S. Adhyanam reminds you of Mani Ratnam's 'Alaipayathe', Aziz Mirza's 'Chalte Chalte' and an old Mohanlal classic 'Dasaratham'.

'Priyasakhi' is built on simple bits of screen writing and director Adhyanam's perception on how a woman should be after marriage, a story beaten to death from the 60's tearjerkers. Still the performance and the love banter between Madhavan and Sada touches your heart. He has also painted an intimate portrait of love and family relationships and the values of joint family and at the same time examines the life and style of the so-called modern society women and their family life.

Santhana Krishnan (Madhavan) alias Sakhi is a manager in an automobile company with a happy family

consisting of grandmother, mother, elder brother and his family, and younger sister. In one of his trips abroad he chances to meet a model Priya (Sada) in Dubai. It is love at first sight for Sakhi who woos Priya and proposes to her. Priya also falls hook-line-sinker for Sakhi and soon they get married.

Priya's family is just the opposite of Sakhi's - a hen-pecked father (Pratap Pothan) and mother (Aishwarya), a society lady who boozes, flirts and goes to discos. Priya finds it difficult to adjust with Sakhi's family, their culture and traditions that is alien to her. Misunderstanding and unhappiness sets in and they decide to separate. What happens then?

The first half of the film including the casual mobile phone flirtations, romantic scenes of how Sakhi tries to woo Priya, their marriage, first night including love making scenes after a discord are handled with sensitivity by Adhyanam. Bharadwaj's music is melodious especially the 'O Priyasakhi' and 'Muthal Muthal Paarthen' that are picturised superbly as the camera of 'Sethu' Sriram etches out the deserts and landmarks of Dubai and Ooty green beautifully.

Madhavan and Sada are the life and soul of 'Priyasakhi' and they have



gives their best. Madhavan looks cool with his Tom Cruise hairstyle and his performance is top class. Sada steals the thunder in the climax with her sensitive portrayal. And Aishwarya as

Priya's loud and garrulous mother who loves partying is a cameo role is irritable.

On the whole, 'Priyasakhi' is definitely worth a look.

Sundar C's attempt to break the mould

'Chinna' is another psycho pot-boiler reports *IndiaGlitz*.

SUNDAR C has a penchant for comedy capers that are low on logic but high on entertainment. 'Chinna' is unlike Sundar C's film, which is not just very serious but also lacks his trademark humour. However thanks to a fast narration and good performance by Sneha, 'Chinna' manages to leave an impression with the audience. The storyline reminds one of movies like 'Kadhakondein' and 'Guna'.

The movie begins with

Gayathri (Sneha) who reaches Rameshwaram from Chennai to do a research work on sea corals. She comes across a gangster Chinna (Arjun), who lives by sword and bullets.

On coming to know about his past (he is said to be a schizophrenic), Gayathri develops sympathy on Chinna and slowly gravitates towards him. As days go by, she develops an affair with him.

Meanwhile, coming to

know of her love with the gangster, her parents persuade her to give him up and return home. Eventually, Chinna lands up in prison for a murder which he commits to save Gayathri from trouble.

After Chinna lands up in prison, Gayathri's parents force her to marry an engineer Vikram ('Whistle' fame Vikramadithya).

Vikram and Gayathri reach Ooty to begin their newly married life. Now enters Chinna, who is let free from prison. He comes to Ooty only with a sole aim of getting Sneha back in his

life. The rest is Chinna's violent and desperate attempts to get her back (not even hesitating to commit a few murders for accomplishing his mission).

It's Sneha all the way in the film. She has given a matured performance oozing glamour in a couple of songs. She has shown fine understanding of a difficult role.

Arjun, too, does not lag behind. It is a different kind of a role for him. In a psychologically complex character (suddenly such roles are the in-thing in Kollywood), he shows some refreshing adaptation. Unlike in other movies where he flexes his muscles, in 'Chinna' Arjun has scope to perform. Vikramadithya plays the second fiddle well in the movie. Riyaz Khan, Manivannan, Vijay Kumar, Mansoor Ali Khan, Livingston, Ponnambalam and Aarthi are the supporting cast.

The music of Iman is a major let down while other technical aspects pass muster.

Sundar C is usually cast in a mould. He has tried to come out of it in 'Chinna'. Though the final outcome is not totally satisfactory, you should applaud him for making a try.

A plausible romantic thriller in the end is 'Chinna'.



Cine Scope

Telugu Satyaraj

What Satyaraj does in Tamil, Mohan Babu does in Telugu. Babu had remade Satyaraj's 'Velai Kedachachu' and played the lead role in the Telugu version 'Assembly Rowdy'. Now the actor is playing the 50+ don that Satyaraj played with such flair in 'Adithadi'. The ageing don's obsession for a college-going teenager had the audience in splits. And now Mohan Babu, with its remake 'Political Rowdy', is all set to give the Telugu viewers a taste of some hilarious comedy.



Double action

'Manikanda' has been revived and shooting for this Arjun-Jyotika starrer has started again after more than a year's gap. Arjun plays a dual role, that of father and son. Uma has since been added to the cast, and while she is paired with the senior Arjun, Jyotika is paired with the son. There's Malavika too and one can expect an item number from her. The 'Action King' has eight villains to pit his fighting prowess against this time round. Directed by Selva, it's reportedly based on a true story centered on a village that had seen no elections for the past 17 years.



Chandramukhi Satyaraj



Talking of Satyaraj, his still for his new film had Jyotika call him up and compliment him on it. It was a picture of him dressed in a dancer's costume, with jewellery, flowers et al. Jyotika was so amused when she saw what was a take-off on her role of 'Chandramukhi', that she lost no time in ringing him up and expressing her amusement. Satyaraj's answer to her was a cheeky 'laka laka laka...'. The actor appears in this garb for a scene in his new film 'Englishkaran', which promises to be a hilarious entertainer.

Going places



She's balancing her career admirably, travelling around south, selecting suitable roles from the various ones offered to her in the south Indian languages. She's also striking the right balance between offbeat films and the typical potboilers, winning in the bargain a couple of awards too. With the shooting of the Tamil film 'Kasturiman', directed by her mentor Lohita Das, completed, Meera Jasmine is back with director Lingusamy in 'Sandaikozhi', with 'Chellamay' Vishal as the hero. Jasmine teamed up with Lingusamy in her debut Tamil film 'Run' and it had spelled success for the duo. They must be hoping to repeat it here too!

Grouse

Nayantara has this grouse against Malayalam film makers. That the industry doesn't extend comforts and luxuries to their heroines like the Tamil industry does. That while the Tamil film-makers allowed her the use of a caravan solely for her use for 'Chandramukhi', and for her subsequent films too, the Malayalam industry was not so forthcoming.



The actress, in an interview to a Malayalam magazine, happened to mention this. And also, that for a Malayalam film shooting she had asked for a caravan but was refused. "That's why I'm concentrating more on Tamil films," the actress is reported to have added. Naturally, this hasn't amused the Malayalam industry bigwigs. Further, in the Malayalam film industry, every artiste is treated the same, they say, adding they thought it was a matter to be lauded.

Sati Leelavati in Kannada

'Sati Leelavati' goes to Kannada. And directing it is none other than Ramesh Arvind, popular actor in all south Indian languages. The Tamil version had Kamal Haasan and Ramesh Arvind sharing frames with Heera, Kalpana and Kovai Sarala. While Kamal and Ramesh Arvind will be re-enacting the roles they'd done in the original, Heera's role is being played by Daisy (she's done a film in Tamil), Kalpana's by Shruti, and Kovai Sarala's by Urvasi.



For Ramesh Arvind it's his first directorial venture, and one hopes the hilarious sex-comic caper will regale the Kannada audiences like it had done the Tamil viewers.

Another comeback?



He announces his comeback every few months, signs a new film, and then we neither get to hear of him nor his film. For Kartik withdraws into his shell, barely accessible to the media. But now the actor has surfaced again, and this time says he's serious about turning over a new leaf. "What you see before you is a middle-aged new face," he quipped, as charming as ever, at the announcement of his new film 'Iniillai Idaivelai' a remake of a Malayalam film.

"A leopard can't change its spots," say hardened cynics, but one hopes Ka-rtik is serious this time!

Gayatri gets a break



Here's some news for fans of Gayatri Jayaram. After doing films in all south Indian languages, the actress had all but disappeared from the acting arena. Now news trickles in that the pretty actress is acting in a Kannada film. Titled 'Sami', Gayatri is paired in the film with Darshan, one of the popular young heroes of Kannada cinema. She plays a journalist. When asked where she'd gone all these days, the actress, who's also a trained physiotherapist, says that she was working as a trainer at a swimming pool in a 5-star hotel in Malaysia.

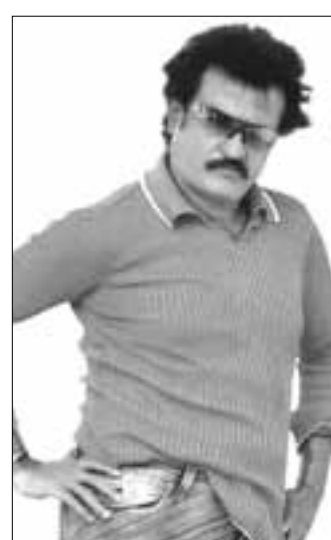
"Now I'm back to films," says Gayatri.

Playing god

It's Ajit's wrong choice of films or plain bad luck. Because a couple of his films do get stalled now and then, at times for no fault of his. This time one hears that 'Godfather', which was announced with much fanfare with K S Ravikumar as director and Ajit playing three roles, has been stalled, due to financial problems. So the actor's next release may well be 'Kadavul', directed by Bala, a film that may well help resurrect his career and steer him off his lean patch.



In disguise



That Rajinikanth is known to go around the place in disguise, and visit temples and theatres and roads is a well known fact by now. And most times no one is the wiser that the man next to them is the Superstar himself. In Bangalore, where it's a bit more easier to get away with than in Chennai, the actor goes to roadside eateries, for his daily walks round gardens, and to the theatres too. At times he takes an auto, changing it on the way. The star had seen 'Aphamitra' a record four times in Bangalore this way, before he made up his mind to star in the remake. One hears that in Chennai too he'd visited various theatres where 'Chandramukhi' was being screened, each time dressed in various guises. Here's one actor who changes his look and dresses more in real life than in reel life!

Too real?

It was a slap that Gopika would not forget that easily, a slap given by her co-star Ravikrishna. Of course, it was for their new film. It was during the shooting of a crucial scene that the incident reportedly happened. The scene required the hero to have an altercation with the heroine and slap her hard in the midst of the heated argument. And Ravi, to make the scene look realistic, brought all the realism to his hand and slapped her hard. It was only when the actress reeled and fell in a faint that realisation dawned that she wasn't acting either! But nothing to worry, a few drops of water and Gopika was back on her feet again. But it was surely an experience she wouldn't forget in a hurry! And all for some realism!



Expensive but busy



Film-makers may grumble about Reema Sen's hike in her fee post 'Chellamay'. But the actress has yet managed to sign some films with young heroes like Simbu. Reema features in 'Vallavan' which Simbu directs though she'll be sharing frames with Nayantara and Sandhya. But one hears that Reema's role is the challenging one, a character with grey shades. And Reema, with her obvious Oomph, is sure to sizzle the screen this time round too. The actress also has a film with Prashant.

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