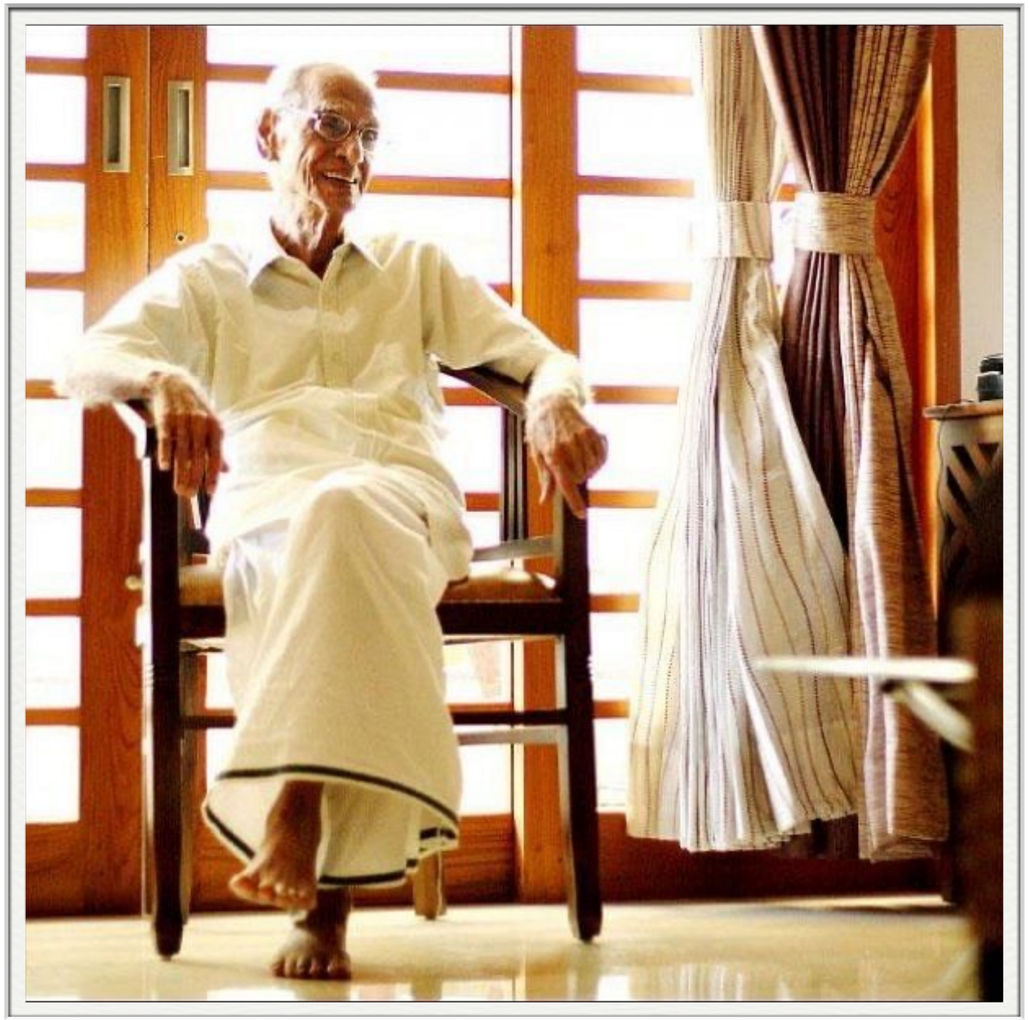


Poster by Sarah Khan

Official Press Kit

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jagadisa Thyagarajan was born in 1931 in Secunderabad.
He has had a prolific career but was listed as a non-descript employee in a post office for a long time. He worked at Gemini studios and wrote about the budding
Tamil film industry. If you read enough of his work it's actually just one big story. He hides absurdity in tight little corners of his words that spill into your mind only if you're willing to look deep enough.
The Tamil writer did not take it upon himself to reveal to you much unless you have a mind for details. His story "Free At Last", which we adapted into the short, is also a story about two Drama school pass outs as they
struggle at the helms of the Tamil film industry.The writer passed away in 2017, which is also the year we found his work. His stories have been adapted before into films of course but he remains a largely underrated figure,
hidden beneath the pile of North Indian writers who usually take the stage in Indian literature. He wrote under his pen-name- "Ashokamitran". His works have been made accessible by translators like N Kalyan Raman and Laxmi Holmström, whose contributions are as priceless as his own.



SYNOPSIS

The short film is based on 'Free At Last', a Tamil story by Ashokamitran, translated by N Kalyan Raman. The film set in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, revolves around a couple who has passed out of Drama school and is having a hard time finding work, money and time for each other. Chander, the protagonist, finds himself irritated and angry at his reality - he projects that anger on Sujatha.

Sujatha is making her ends meet by working as a masseuse for Miss SSP, who is in the news these days for putting a sexual harassment allegation against Ramanujan, a powerful cricketer-turned-politician in Chennai. Ramanujan's son Ashwin happens to be Sujatha's college friend and tries helping her and Chander to get a role in his friend Siddharta's film, who is the new young talented director everyone's talking about.

As two supposed asymptotes miraculously collide, the effect echoes throughout- affecting every person involved. Sexual and Freudian themes are explored through the lens of the absurd in the setting of scorching Chennai heat.

LOCATION

Tamil Nadu has a unique history of cinema blending into politics, be it Jayalalitha the youthful actor who was a powerful Chief Minister of the state, or MGR whose name and face are scribbled all over the walls of the Southern city. Chennai, its capital is where the story occurs in the original fiction as well. The city faces scorching heat throughout the year and is occasionally flooded during monsoon- it was also one of the most affected during Tsunami. It has a chaotic calm in its beauty, it constantly smells of spices and is rightly known for its scrumptious food. The film settled comfortably in Chennai's lap; it is where it belonged.



DIRECTOR–WRITER

Keshavanandhan Rajaram



Having lived everywhere in the country from North to South, Keshava has realised his storytelling abilities and interests reman grounded in his motherland- Tamil Nadu. He is interested in telling plotted stories through surrealism and believes Indian stories can be told at their best in this format.

Statement:

“Ashokamitran's work told volumes worth of content in the shortest form possible. He was a firm believer in the fact that times are changing, people have lesser time to consume art. Thus, he wrote short stories or novellas; never elaborate texts.
What I have tried to do is keep that sentiment of his in mind and made a short film t hat feels like a full-length feature.”

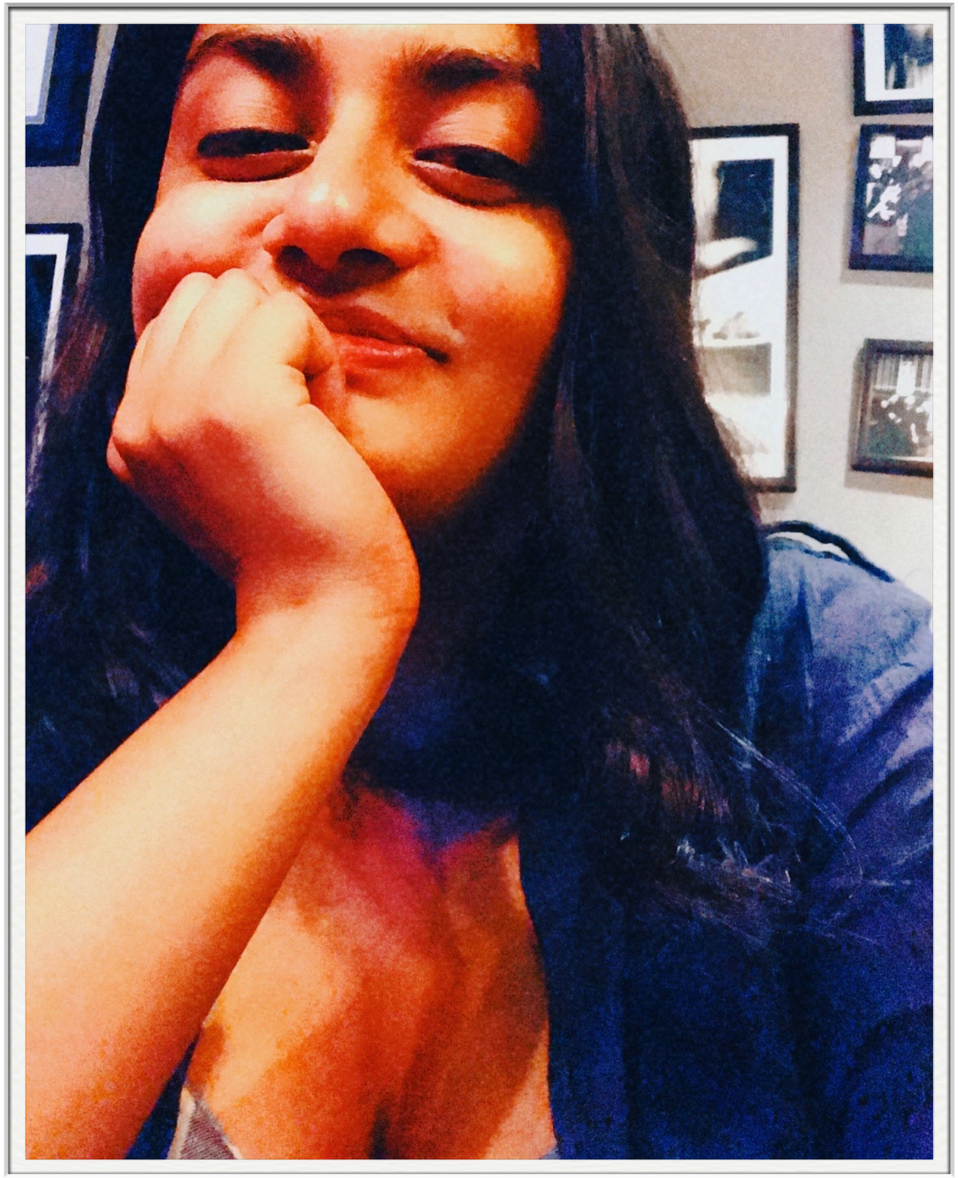
PRODUCER-WRITER

Oshee Johri

Taking on seemingly weird and borderline impossible feats is what attracts Oshee the most: she has lived in Bhopal and Mumbai only and yet chose to write a screen play based in South India. She does not know the language or the place, but she knows how to recognise a story dying to be told.

Statement:

"I am an avid reader and translated Tamil literature has added fuel to the fire. I had read Albert Camus just before picking up Ashokamitran and the similarities in their works taunted me. I had to put Ashokamitran on screen and I had to do it myself. He etches a collusion of absurdism and surrealism that represents the Indian Diaspora's soul and the story we chose, in its very essence- holds it. "



instagram: @dontleaveamessageafterthebeep

CAST

Prasanna Ramkumar

Prasanna has been part of the prestigious drama school in Chennai called Koothu-P-Pattrai. He has acted in several theatre plays and played a small role in Super Deluxe, the critically acclaimed Tamil feature film by Kumararaja. He plays the role of Chander in Freudian Slip.

Instagram: @ramkumarprasanna



K Semmalar Annam

Semmalar has had a fabulous career representing India in world cinema and she continues her fruit-bearing efforts. She recently made her directorial debut with the short "First Rain" which has been very successful in film festivals across the globe. She plays the role of Sujatha in Freudian Slip.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8595292/

Instagram: @k_semmalar_annam



Janaki Suresh

Janaki has acted in several feature as well as short films. Also an alumni of the prestigious Koothu-P-Pattrai, she has made her debut in series when she acted in 'Queen', available on MXPlayer. She has made her mark in the world of theatre as well as films. She plays the role of SSP in Freudian Slip.

Instagram: @janisuresh73



Sampathkkumar Sampathram

Sampath Kumar has been a part of the Tamil film industry since a long time. He has done several important roles in feature films including one in “Asuran”, a film by acclaimed director Vetrimaaran. He is known for trusting new filmmakers- that’s how we got him to work for us! He plays the role of Ramanujan in Freudian Slip.



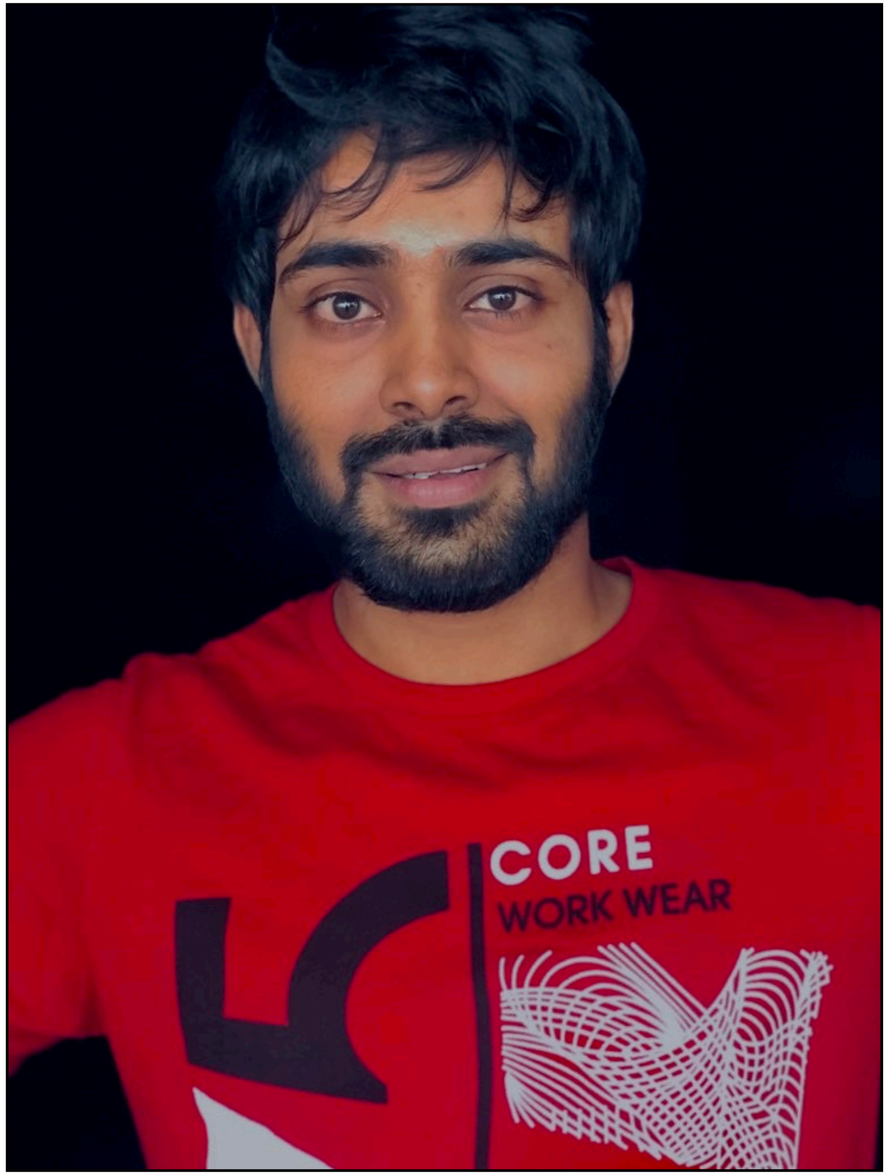
IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6513615/

Thejank Josyula

Thejank has worked in several advertisements, short films, music videos as well as feature films. He has been a part of the Tamil film industry for over five years and has tried his hand at everything that involves acting or modelling! He plays the role of Ashwin in Freudian Slip.

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S1Y3EvxAoo

Instagram: @thejank_josyula



Vijay Shankar



Vijay has acted in a number of theatre plays, short films, ad shoots and tv series. He wants to be a director. He plays the role of Siddharta in Freudian Slip.

Instagram: @vijayshankar_vs

CREW & PRODUCTION

The film production was extremely challenging. The first camera team we worked with- who were local Tamil cinematographers and had worked in feature films, couldn't land in the same plane as us. We toiled hard with them, valuable footage was lost and the director, Keshava was dissatisfied with the shots. When your own team works against you, meeting goals becomes hard. After four hectic and frankly quite morose days of non-stop shoot later, we realised our assets were our screenplay and the actors who were dedicated and sincere in their workings with us. We prepped with them a bit more, then called in Kabir Singh Chowdhary to edit our film. He is the esteemed director-writer of Mehsampur, a surreal feature film that won big at MAMI film festival, 2018 and a number of other awards, as it deserved to. Kabir guided us in our journey and gave us valuable advice on how to go about our reshoot. Post this, we were linked with Omar Chakkrovarty, a very good cinematographer who has worked with Lijo Jose Pellissery on the feature film Double Barrel. We were able to do a low-cost reshoot thanks to Annam Arusu, who is an extremely hard-working and humble individual. He works as a journalist in Chennai.

Kabir Singh Chowdhary's IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3546710/

STILLS FROM THE FILM & BEHIND-THE-SCENES




Did she tempt you into something?













CGI shoot



BTS



Freudian Slip has been a dream of us-Oshee's and Keshava's, two screenwriting students- since the time we discovered the magic and power of Tamil literature. The abundant Tamil literature, especially the ones translated to English by the talented translators like N Kalyan Raman and Laxmi Holmström- stared at us, waiting to be expressed on screen.

Tamil Nadu, one of the south Indian provinces of India, has tremendous culture, art and love for cinema. The stories were full of cinematic potential and the one story we picked up from the pile was "Free At Last".

It was difficult to choose among so many authors, namely Ashokamitran, Indira Parthasarathy and Charu Nivedita.

Charu is a critic of mainstream Tamil cinema and adapting his stories seemed too daunting at the moment. He has written books about Latin cinema and French literature. Ashkomitran's "Free At Last" was not easy to adapt in the least, in fact it took us a month of re-reading to figure the core essence out. The author is known for his feminist perspective rooted in Indian context. Adaptation was like fixing a dreamwork into a realistic output. From language barriers to scorching summer heat, everything was worth facing for this film and we are glad to present to you the short film that has taught us much, Freudian Slip.

We sincerely hope you enjoy our efforts. We thank Kannan Sundaram, the publisher of the original text, for providing us the rights of the story.

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