

# **THE SHOWMAN**

+91 8056256423  
sr.worklocus@gmail.com

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EXT. ROADS - DAY

MCU of a hand holding a bag which says "Real Life Film Festival" with the logo, the camera trucks down to ...

Two legs of different people riding as pillion on a bike. They don't have the space to keep both their legs on the leg rest. The one with the shoe seems to have taken up all of it. The one with the sandal tries to hang onto the edge but keeps slipping. He lets it hang at the end.

The camera slowly pedestals up revealing SENIOR (32), the sandal's owner, sitting as the last pillion, smoking. As he finishes taking a puff, he passes it to the rider, the camera follows the cigarette until the hands cross the ...

JUNIOR (28) listening to a song in his headphones, doing a silent sing-along, he looks at the passing cigarette and get pissed looking over his shoulder at SENIOR. As he goes back to his silent sing-along, the smoke seems to surround him from the front.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

The Bus Stop looks deserted with a half-broken sign of the bus stop. The bike comes to a halt and the SENIOR & the JUNIOR get down. The SENIOR shows an informal salute to the rider and he takes off. The SENIOR & the JUNIOR take their place to wait for the bus.

SENIOR in his short kurta and dark dhoti with a white cotton jolna bag. JUNIOR in his "Nayagan" T-Shirt, with a jacket/shirt, colour-matched shoes and watch, his coolers dangling in front of his T-shirt, a headphones for a neckwear and a similar-looking white cotton jolna bag.

They both put their hands into their respective "REAL LIFE FILM FESTIVAL" jolna bag. SENIOR takes out a cigarette box & JUNIOR takes out an information sheet.

SENIOR lights a cigarette with his antique lighter and starts smoking. We hear a long horn by a train. JUNIOR looks at him and sighs, takes a step away from him & turns his gaze to the road.

SENIOR has his eyes closed, pulling in smoke from the cigarette when,

JUNIOR

Yov senior, Idha bus stop ah? Enna,  
oru bus ah kuda kanom! Olunga  
ketiya illaya?

SENIOR opens his eyes & blows out smoke, looks to both sides of the road which looks empty. A man is walking towards them from far away but no signs of any bus.

SENIOR

Ella ketu dhan da vandha. Lodge la  
inga dhan sonnanga.

JUNIOR takes a look at his watch which says 08:30 AM. He then opens up the sheet which has information on the film festival they're about to attend. He marks the movie that says "Matthias & Maxime @ 9:00 AM" with a pencil. SENIOR looks at JUNIOR from top to bottom, scratches his back head, smoking without ashing.

JUNIOR

Inniku epdiyavadhu Matthias &  
Maxime pathuranum. Adhula  
thalaivan vera level nadipam.

SENIOR nods his head and puts his hands into his bag again and searches for something while blowing out smoke with the cigarette still in his mouth. JUNIOR gets a call which he checks on his watch. It says "Main Villain Manager", he silences it from the watch.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Eppo paathalum office la irundhu  
call panni tholla panite  
irukanunga. Oru dhadava, Ore oru  
dhadavayadhu film fest ah fulla  
attend panna vidranungala!  
Imsainga!

SENIOR

(whispering)  
Pudikalana pannadha!

SENIOR whispers, still lurking in his bag. His bag has several empty cigarette boxes, new-looking information sheet & lighters. He takes a cigarette box and opens it to find it empty and he puts it back in. He takes out another and opens it to find only smoked butts when,

JUNIOR

Unakku enna, nee jolly ah appa  
kaasula padam paathutu suthitu  
iruka.

SENIOR stops searching & turns and takes a long, sharp look at JUNIOR. JUNIOR is still looking at the festival information tapping on the sheet with his pen. He averts his look to the road and checks at his watch again. SENIOR stands there tapping his legs and he goes back to his dingy bag.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
Ama, Naalu varushama oru short film  
edukanum nu sollite irundheengale.  
Adha edupeengala illa ... ?

JUNIOR turns to SENIOR. SENIOR also turns to JUNIOR.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
Illa, Enaku etha... role edhavadhu  
iruka?

SENIOR takes a last long drag of smoke, he throws the butt to the floor and he exhales it at JUNIOR. JUNIOR tries to dodge the smoke & fans it away with his hands.

SENIOR  
(WITH APATHY)  
Edutha papom.

Meanwhile, in the background we see STRANGER (40), in a very maximalist dress & a terrible hairstyle, being shoved away by someone, he then shows an informal salute at them and walks towards SENIOR and JUNIOR slowly.

JUNIOR shakes his head in disappointment & gets back to his sheet and marks the movie "I am Legend". SENIOR goes back to his bag, finds the box with cigarettes and takes it out.

JUNIOR  
(whispering)  
Umumm. Ivaru pudichathellam  
mattumdhaan panra madhiri!

He pulls a cigarette halfway out of the cigarette box. Stops and pushes it back in. He is closing and opening the lid of the cigarette box when ..

3 EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

A vehicle whooshes past them. STRANGER smiles.

STRANGER  
Hello, gentlemen. I'm sorry to  
interrupt your morning.

SENIOR looks up from the bag. JUNIOR looks up from the sheet.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

I have misplaced my wallet and can't seem to find it anywhere. I have a friend who is in the hospital right now affected by Krippin Virus. I was taking some money to him but the wallet has lost me. If you'd be k...

JUNIOR intervenes.

JUNIOR

Sir, kaasellam illa. Neenga ponga please.

STRANGER has the smile stuck to his face, he shakes his head, adjusts his pose as he raises his hand to clarify himself. JUNIOR without turning his head looks at SENIOR, who is without a blink looking at the STRANGER.

STRANGER

You don't understand. I'm not begging to you, think of this as a... test to your humanity, just like it is for myself. Until I heard about his disease, I didn't think of him as a friend. But when I learnt so, It hit me. Him in a hospital, alone, my friend. I was overcome by this urge to go visit him and give him all the money I have and that's when the wallet was gone.

STRANGER looks down as if he feels guilty, he puts his hands in the air. When JUNIOR steps in to speak again,

STRANGER (CONT'D)

(interrupting)

And then it hit me again, if it were him, he wouldn't mind going around asking people money... for me...

(voice breaking as if he's about to cry)

That's when you guys appeared and... that's why I'm here.

STRANGER continues his speech turning to SENIOR.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

So, I am not begging, it is simply testing.

SENIOR takes out his wallet from his back pocket looking at the STRANGER. STRANGER is still smiling at the SENIOR. JUNIOR steps in and stops SENIOR.

JUNIOR

Sir, naangale unga nelamai la dhan sir irukom. Please ponga.

STRANGER

Very well then. I guess I better ask someone else. I don't want to keep my friend feeling like it's the end of the world, I want to be there telling him that it's not. I hope you enjoy your show friends and once again, sorry for the interruption.

SENIOR takes out some money from the purse looking at the stranger the whole time and as STRANGER walks away, he calls him.

SENIOR

Sir!

SENIOR hands over the money to STRANGER. JUNIOR stands with his eyes wide as he shakes his head.

STRANGER

Thank you so much, gentlemen. And hey, I could take your address and return it if you want me to.

JUNIOR looks at SENIOR, SENIOR shakes his head at the STRANGER as if to say it's ok.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

Have a nice day. I'll forever remember this conversation.

STRANGER shows an informal salute and walks away.

JUNIOR

Oru monologue-eh nadathitu, conversation am!

JUNIOR turns to SENIOR with a disbelief.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Krippin Virus am. Yov, Nee irukura nelamaiku indha vallal gunamellam unakku thevaya? Avan kekura karanathulaye therla avan pachayaa nadikuranu/nadichu emathuraanu?

SENIOR is still looking at STRANGER, who is talking to someone else far away from them and says,

SENIOR  
Hey! Avan semmaya **nadichanda!!**

CUT TO TITLE.

## THE SHOWMAN