**Overview of the Interview with Director Pa. Vijay on 'Aghathiyaa'**

In this insightful interview, director Pa. Vijay discusses his latest film *Aghathiyaa*, sharing his creative journey and the film's unique elements. Pa. Vijay, who is also a lyricist and actor, talks about how storytelling shaped his creative evolution and how this fantasy thriller stands out in the genre.

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**Salient Points of the Interview**

1. **Creative Journey & Inspiration**
   - Pa. Vijay enjoys writing about historical and hidden truths.

   - His earlier poetry collections like *Broken Moons* highlighted untold human stories.

   - This penchant for unearthing hidden truths inspired the story for *Aghathiyaa*.

2. **The Story of *Aghathiyaa***
   - The film spans two timelines: the 1940s and 2025, blending a historical and modern narrative.

   - It's a fusion of fantasy, thriller, and horror elements presented in a unique way.

3. **Theme & Key Characters**
   - The protagonist, played by actor Jiiva, is named "Aghathiyaa."

   - The film portrays Jiiva and Raashi Khanna as college mates with a shared goal.

   - Arjun plays a professor who returns to India after studying abroad.

4. **Film Production**
   - Produced by *Vels Film International* under Ishari K. Ganesh's banner.

   - The story required a large budget and heavy investment in graphics.

   - Visual effects involved 14 graphics studios and cutting-edge technology.

5. **Music & Technical Aspects**
   - Music is composed by Yuvan Shankar Raja, a long-time collaborator of Pa. Vijay.

   - Cinematographer Deepak Kumar Padhy used distinct color tones for period and modern segments.

- The use of high-end camera technology (similar to that used in *Vikram*) elevated the visuals.
6. **Innovative Marketing**
   - Inspired by a suggestion from co-producer Anish Arjun Dev, the team developed an *Aghathiyaa* video game app.

   - Players can choose characters based on Jiiva and Arjun.
7. **Casting Journey**
   - Jiiva initially joined for a different story that was later revamped.

   - The director approached actors like Vijay Sethupathi, S.J. Suryah, and Siddharth, but scheduling conflicts arose.

   - Raashi Khanna was brought in to target pan-Indian audiences.
8. **Challenges & Unique Elements**
   - Moving away from traditional horror elements, the film adopts a "sugar-coated horror fantasy" approach.

   - The visual climax involved innovative technical solutions in Mumbai.

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**Key Facts & Figures**

- **Production Time:** Two years of extensive work

- **Language Releases:** Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi

- **Key Cast:** Jiiva, Raashi Khanna, Arjun, Charlie, Yogi Babu, and British actors Edward and Matilda

- **Graphics Contribution:** 14 VFX studios

- **High-Tech Camera Cost:** Several lakh rupees per day

- **Video Game Launch:** Based on lead characters

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**Creative Philosophy**

- Pa. Vijay emphasizes storytelling through both poetry and filmmaking.

- He believes in delivering impactful narratives through compelling visuals and technical finesse.

- His mentor, director Bhagyaraj, played a significant role in shaping his creative path.

In conclusion, *Aghathiyaa* is a blend of creativity, technical innovation, and storytelling that explores hidden truths through fantasy and thriller elements, aiming to captivate audiences across languages.