

favorite movie



October 10, 2023

VAARANAM AAYIRAM



Vaaranam Aayiram (transl. Thousand Elephants) is a 2008 Indian Tamil-language action drama film[1] written and directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon and produced by V. Ravichandran of Aascar Films. The film stars Suriya in dual lead roles as father and son, with Sameera Reddy (in her Tamil debut), Simran and Divya Spandana in lead roles. The film features music composed by Harris Jayaraj, making Vaaranam Aayiram his last project with Menon before the formal break-up of their partnership, until they worked together again in Yennai Arindhaal

(2015). Cinematography for the film has been handled by R. Rathnavelu and editing done by Anthony Gonsalvez.



The film illustrates Suriya, an Indian Army Major who learns about his father Krishnan's death when he is on a rescue mission. He then starts reminiscing about the bond he shared with Krishnan and the stories related to him. The storyline is inspired from Menon's life, when he heard the news about his father's death back in 2007, also serving as a tribute to him. Filmed across India and United States, *Vaaranam Aayiram* had been under production since November 2006 and was completed in August 2008. The film was theatrically released on 14 November 2008, after multiple postponements and opened to critical acclaim and praise for Suriya's performance. Further, the film also became a commercial success, eventually becoming the biggest hit in Suriya's career at that time and eventually acquired a cult status. It won a number of awards, including the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Tamil.



The film emerged as the biggest blockbuster for Suriya after Ghajini, grossing ₹5.66 crore in Chennai alone.

Vaaranam Aayiram is about the strength of love and memories, how important they are in your life, even if your loved ones depart. The film is in no way a remake of Forest Gump and was not even for a moment intended to be so. It is rather inspired by Gautham's real life events and observations.



An exceptionally well composed song on the Natabairavi scale. And rendered with perfection by Sudha Raghunathan. We have some nice sitar and violin pieces woven into the song. Especially in the first interlude where the sitar goes 'ga saa sa ga saa sa' very melodiously.

Music review: Vaaranam Aayiram (Tamil – Harris Jeyaraj)



Sudha Raghunathan replaces steady favorite, Bombay Jayashree in Anal mele – a soft, heavenly track who's tune and focused vocals create a fabulously ambient concoction. The mild backgrounds reminiscent of old Telugu numbers, is incredible. The George Michael-Faith inspired Mundhinam and Nenjukkul are breezy – brings that spring in our feet as we sing along, engrossed in the tunes. Oh Shanti, Nenjukkul's faster, rockier variant too is engaging! The rock base of Adiyae kolludhey, with excellent vocals by Krish, Benny and Shruthi is aptly catchy while the Rai-styled Yethi yethi is rousing and addictive. The most interesting track is however, Ava enna, with a disparate, apologetically mild kuthu base which shifts to a somber mood mid way, after a brief operatic struggle! Vaaranam Aayiram's soundtrack is a fantastic example of a set of mesmerizing tunes used with the right vocals and appropriate backgrounds, making a solid impact. Harris Jeyaraj springs a complete surprise – surprising because Harris' few recent ventures were painfully monotonous and unsurprising because it is a Gowtham Menon film. But make no mistake – this soundtrack incorporates every trick we've come to love Harris for; but the composer uses them in the best way for maximum appeal.



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