

= Gundamma Katha =

Gundamma Katha (English : Gundamma 's story) is a 1962 Indian Telugu @-@ language comedy @-@ drama film directed by Kamalakara Kameswara Rao and co @-@ produced by B. Nagi Reddy and Aluri Chakrapani under their banner Vijaya Vauhini Studios . Partially inspired by William Shakespeare 's comedy The Taming of the Shrew , Gundamma Katha is the official remake of B. Vittalacharya 's Kannada film Mane Thumbida Henu (1958) . It is also the first remake by Vijaya Vauhini Studios . It features N. T. Rama Rao , Akkineni Nageswara Rao , Savitri , and Jamuna in the lead roles , and S. V. Ranga Rao , Suryakantam and Ramana Reddy in supporting roles .

Gundamma Katha is the story of Gundamma , a rich widow who ill @-@ treats her selfless step @-@ daughter Lakshmi , who is reduced to working as a maid . Lakshmi dotes on Gundamma 's daughter Saroja , an arrogant woman who loves Lakshmi . The film 's centrepiece is formed by the way Lakshmi 's suitor Anjaneya " Anji " Prasad and Saroja 's lover Raja bring a change to Gundamma 's life after the couples ' marriages .

The film is Rama Rao 's 100th appearance and Nageswara Rao 's 99th . It was photographed by Marcus Bartley , and co @-@ edited by G. Kalyana Sundaram and D. G. Jayaram . Ghantasala composed the film 's soundtrack and score . Madhavapeddi Gokhale and Kaladhar were the film 's art directors . The production phase lasted for a year ; it was filmed in and around Madras , mainly on sets at Vijaya Vauhini Studios .

Released on 7 June 1962 , Gundamma Katha received mixed reviews from critics but was commercially successful , completing a 100 @-@ day run in 17 centres and a silver @-@ jubilee run at the Durga Kalamandir , Vijayawada . Gundamma Katha received the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu for 1962 and is regarded as the last film of Vijaya Vauhini Studios ' " Golden Age " . The film 's Tamil remake of the same year Manithan Maravillai , also produced by Vijaya Vauhini Studios , was Nageswara Rao 's 100th film as an actor ; it was a commercial failure . Though Gundamma Katha has achieved cult status in Telugu cinema , it has received criticism for its influence on stereotypes in the narration of other unrelated Telugu films .

= = Plot = =

Gundamma is a rich widow who ill @-@ treats her stepdaughter Lakshmi , a selfless person who is reduced to working as a maid . Gundamma has a daughter Saroja and a son Prabhakar . Prabhakar is in love with Saroja 's friend Padma . Gundamma has a half @-@ brother Ghantaiah , a cunning but weak milk vendor . Ghantaiah wants Gundamma to marry off Saroja to his criminal son Bhoopati . To achieve this goal without the knowledge of Gundamma , he spoils every marriage proposal Saroja receives . Saroja 's arrogance and Lakshmi 's courteous attitude indirectly help Ghantaiah . Gundamma decides to marry off Lakshmi to a vagabond and Saroja to the son of Ramabhadraiah , a wealthy man living in a faraway town .

After observing the situations in Gundamma 's house with the help of Ghantaiah , Ramabhadraiah sends his elder son Anjaneya " Anji " Prasad to Gundamma 's house as a servant to get him married to Lakshmi . His younger son Raja meets Saroja through Padma , who is his cousin . Anji and Lakshmi get married , and Raja and Saroja fall in love . Ramabhadraiah writes a letter to Gundamma opposing the marriage of Raja and Saroja upon the former 's instructions , and Anji conducts their marriage against Ghantaiah 's wishes . Shortly afterwards , Prabhakar and Padma 's marriage is conducted .

Raja acts as a drunkard and masquerades as Ramabhadraiah 's son seeking to gain Saroja 's wealth . A rift develops between Anji and Gundamma , and he leaves with Lakshmi . Anji , Raja and Ramabhadraiah reveal the truth to Lakshmi later . Raja storms out of Gundamma 's house and Saroja follows him ; they join Ramabhadraiah 's house as gardeners and Raja ensures Saroja is unaware of their employer . In the process , Saroja 's character transforms from one of arrogance to one of a hardworking , courteous person .

Gundamma is tortured by Padma 's ruthless , confidence @-@ trickster aunt Durga . Bhoopati is released from jail and Ghantaiah asks Gundamma to give some money . Because of Gundamma 's

arrogance , Prabhakar and Padma leave for Bangalore . Durga steals the money in the locker , accuses Gundamma of robbery and locks her in a room behind the house . Lakshmi and Anji visit Gundamma and become aware of her condition . Lakshmi and Gundamma coerce Durga and retrieve the money she stole . Bhoopati comes to Durga 's rescue but is defeated by Anji in a duel and is hospitalised .

Saroja meets Ramabhadraiah , her employer , and walks out after a heated argument . She meets Lakshmi on the way and learns about Raja 's plans . The film ends with Gundamma staying with her daughters in Ramabhadraiah 's house .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

B. Nagi Reddy of Vijaya Vauhini Studios helped B. Vittalacharya in the production of Mane Thumbida Henu (1958) , the latter 's directorial debut in Kannada cinema . As an act of gratitude , Vittalacharya sold the remake rights to Nagi Reddy . Mane Thumbida Henu revolves around the life of a rich woman whose brother marries off her daughter to a criminal when she chooses a mentally challenged person as her step @-@ daughter 's life partner . Nagi Reddy chose to remake the film in Telugu and discussed it with D. V. Narasa Raju ; it was the first time Vijaya Vauhini Studios decided to remake a film . After the script was ready , Nagi Reddy approached C. Pullaiah to direct the remake after considering Bommireddy Narasimha Reddy . Pullaiah was not appreciative of Narasa Raju 's treatment of the script and Nagi Reddy met his partner Aluri Chakrapani to develop the script further .

Chakrapani decided to retain only the background of Gundamma 's family from the original and rewrote the remaining script , taking inspiration from William Shakespeare 's comedy , The Taming of the Shrew . Chakrapani killed the character of Gundamma 's cowardly husband because he felt that a husband who cannot answer his wife 's questions is not eligible to be included . Kamalakara Kameswara Rao was chosen to direct the film . Chakrapani named the central character Gundamma in the remake after one of the characters in the original , despite a lack of nativity . Nagi Reddy 's family members and the employees of the Vijaya Vauhini Studios used to ask him Gundamma Katha Entha varaku vachchindi ? (" What is the progress in Gundamma 's story ? ") , which prompted Nagi Reddy to title the film Gundamma Katha after considering various options .

= = = Casting = = =

Marcus Bartley was recruited as the film 's director of photography ; G. Kalyana Sundaram and D. G. Jayaram edited the film . Ghantasala composed the soundtrack and score . Madhavapeddi Gokhale and Kaladhar were the film 's art directors . Suryakantam was chosen to play Gundamma and Chakrapani suggested Kameswara Rao not to make any special efforts to make her character look ruthless because Suryakantam had an aggressive body language .

N. T. Rama Rao and Akkineni Nageswara Rao were chosen as the male leads ; the film was Rama Rao 's 100th film as an actor and Nageswara Rao 's 99th as an actor . Savitri and Jamuna were chosen as the female leads , and S. V. Ranga Rao , Ramana Reddy and Rajanala Kaleswara Rao were cast in supporting roles . Haranath and L. Vijayalakshmi were chosen to play Gundamma 's son and daughter @-@ in @-@ law respectively . M. Pithambaram and T. P. Bhaktavatsalam provided the make @-@ up .

= = = Filming = = =

The production phase of Gundamma Katha lasted nearly a year . A house set was erected in Vijaya Vauhini Studios , Madras (now Chennai) where scenes featuring Gundamma and other key characters were filmed . C. Kuppuswami Naidu and K. Srinivasan supervised the erection of sets . The film 's shooting was severely affected by scheduling conflicts ; Chakrapani would make telephone calls to all the key artistes , and sequences were filmed based on their availability . The filming of the song " Kolo Koloyanna " was significantly affected by this ; all four lead actors were supposed to take part in the song 's shoot ; the film 's editor took care to ensure a smooth flow in the sequences during the post @-@ production phase . The scene before the song that features Rama Rao and Nageswara Rao communicating with whistles was conceptualised by Narasaraju . Harbans Singh supervised the film 's special effects .

Since Vijayalakshmi was a trained dancer , an elaborate dance sequence with no connection to the film 's story was introduced as a stage performance and Nageswara Rao , Jamuna , and Haranath were made to sit along with the audience . The song " Prema Yatralaku " was filmed in the gardens near the Vijaya Vauhini Studios after abandoning plans to film it in either Ooty or Brindavan Gardens , Srirangapatna . During the film 's shoot , a kickboxing tournament was held in Madras ; this inspired Chakrapani and Kamaleswara Rao to add a fight sequence between Rama Rao and Kaleswara Rao . Pasumarthi Krishnamurthy conducted the choreography for the song sequences . The film was processed at Vijaya Laboratory and was recorded on Western Electric equipment .

= = Themes = =

Gundamma Katha is based partially on William Shakespeare 's play The Taming of the Shrew . It focuses on a widow named Gundamma and her two daughters . The film 's main theme is the step @-@ daughter Lakshmi facing problems because of the widow , and the former 's suitor teaching the latter a lesson . Using the first conversation between Gundamma and Lakshmi , in which the former abuses the latter for disturbing her sleep , Narasaraju introduces Gundamma 's mindset and behaviour . Further incidents include the dismissal of a server fired from a hotel after refusing to work as a servant in Gundamma 's house , and Ghantaiah explaining Gundamma 's character to Ramabhadraiah .

Most of the film 's dialogue , especially that between Ramana Reddy and Allu Ramalingaiah , are satirical and provide references to Indian society during the 1960s . The song " Lechindi Nidra " is about the empowerment of women and their role in areas of the government . In her article " Manifestation of devotion " about the importance of the Krishna Janmashtami festival , Rajeswari Kalyanam of The Hans India said the lyrics and photography of the song " Aligina Velane Choodali " recalls the romantic side of Krishna that every woman sees in her husband or the person she loves . It also recalls the bond Krishna shared with his foster mother Yashoda .

= = Music = =

The official soundtrack of Gundamma Katha was composed by Ghantasala ; it consists of eight songs whose lyrics were written by Pingali Nagendrarao . The sound mixing process was supervised by A. Krishnan and V. Sivaram , and the soundtrack was processed by N. C. Sen Gupta . Ghantasala provided vocals for Rama Rao and Nageswara Rao ; P. Susheela and P. Leela provided the vocals for Savitri and Jamuna . The song " Entha Hayi " was composed using the Mohanam raga .

The cover artwork of the soundtrack features a photograph of Rama Rao 's character Anjaneya " Anji " Prasad . The soundtrack was marketed by HMV ; it was successful and all eight songs were well received . " Lechindi Nidra " , " Kolu Koloyanna " , " Aligina Velane Choodali " , and " Prema Yatralaku " achieved cult status in Telugu cinema , particularly for their lyrics .

= = Release and reception = =

Gundamma Katha was released on 7 June 1962 , with an approximate total length of 14 @,@ 999

feet (4 @, @ 572 m) in 18 reels , with a running time of 159 minutes . It was given a " U " (Universal) certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification . In the opening credits , images of the film 's cast were used instead of their names ; the leads and Rama Rao 's images are screened first , and are followed by those of Suryakantam and the other supporting cast . Upon release , Gundamma Katha received mixed reviews from the critics , who found the characters played by Jamuna and Suryakantam poorly written and under @-@ developed . They also found the characters played by Haranath and Vijayalakshmi " out of place " . Similar views were expressed after a special screening at L. V. Prasad 's residence but Chakrapani was confident of the film 's success when he saw children clapping in response to Rama Rao 's performance in comical sequences .

Gundamma Katha was a profitable venture for Vijaya Vauhini Studios ; it completed a 100 @-@ day run in 17 theatres across Andhra Pradesh , and completed a silver @-@ jubilee run at the Durga Kalamandir , Vijayawada . It became the first Telugu film to be run for 100 days with three screenings per day in Hyderabad . The silver @-@ jubilee celebrations were not held , and the planned budget for the event was donated to a fundraiser who was active during the Sino @-@ Indian War . Gundamma Katha received the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu for 1962 .

= = Remakes = =

Gundamma Katha was remade in Tamil as Manithan Maravillai (1962) by Vijaya Vauhini Studios . Chakrapani directed the remake and Gemini Ganesan reprised Rama Rao from the original . M. S. Sundari Bai , K. Sarangkapani , and E. R. Sahadev reprised the roles of Suryakantam , Ramana Reddy and Kaleswara Rao respectively . Manithan Maravillai was Nageswara Rao 's 100th film as an actor ; Gundamma Katha became a notable film for both Rama Rao and Nageswara Rao as they completed 100 films as actors with two versions of the same film . Unlike the original film , Manithan Maravillai was a commercial failure .

Rama Rao 's son Nandamuri Balakrishna and Nageswara Rao 's son Akkineni Nagarjuna , who established themselves as actors in Telugu cinema , planned to remake Gundamma Katha but withdrew after failing to find a suitable replacement for Suryakantam . In 2012 , D. Ramanaidu planned to produce the remake of the film with Rama Rao 's grandson N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and Nagarjuna 's son Naga Chaitanya playing the leading male characters but the plans were cancelled . In April 2016 , Mohan Babu expressed interest in remaking the film with his son Manchu Vishnu and Raj Tarun in the lead roles . He added that G. Nageswara Reddy would direct the remake which he would announce after acquiring the rights .

= = Sequel and digitisation plans = =

After Gundamma Katha 's release , Chakrapani wrote a story named " Gundamma Gari Kootulla Katha " (" The Story of Gundamma 's Daughters ") . It was serialised in Bharathi magazine . Its plot involves Ghantaiah creating a rift between Lakshmi and Saroja . Readers expected Chakrapani to produce a sequel to Gundamma Katha but he showed no interest . In 1982 , Rama Rao and Krishna acted in a film , Vayyari Bhamalu Vagalamari Bhartalu , whose story resembled " Gundamma Gari Kootulla Katha " .

In November 2007 , a Hyderabad @-@ based company named Goldstone Technologies acquired the film negative rights to 14 Telugu films produced by Vijaya Vauhini Studios , including Mayabazar (1957) and Gundamma Katha , to release colourised , digitally remastered versions . The remastered and colourised version of Mayabazar , released in January 2010 , was commercially successful but Goldstone Technologies decided not to remaster the remaining 13 films , including Gundamma Katha , saying most of the producers who sold the rights to the negatives to television channels lost control over them . Goldstone further explained that a number of legal issues over ownership and copyright issues arise whenever producers try to do something on their own .

= = Legacy = =

Gundamma Katha is regarded as the last film of Vijaya Vauhini Studios ' " Golden Age " . In commemoration of the Centenary of Indian Cinema , The Hindu listed Gundamma Katha , Pathala Bhairavi (1951) , Missamma (1955) , Mayabazar , Maduve Madi Nodu (1965) , Ram Aur Shyam (1967) , Julie (1975) , and Shriman Shrimati (1982) as the iconic films produced by Nagi Reddy . Gundamma Katha is a notable film in the careers of Suryakantam and Ramana Reddy ; Nagi Reddy said the latter played a key role in the film 's success .

In an interview with The Hindu in December 2005 , Telugu actor Mallikarjuna Rao cited the film and Mayabazar as examples of incidental comedy , arguing that the situation and the subject should go " hand in hand " . In May 2012 , Radhika Rajamani of Rediff.com mentioned Gundamma Katha for the letter G in her list , " The A to Z of Telugu Cinema " , calling it an " unforgettable film " . In November 2012 , The Times of India listed Gundamma Katha alongside unrelated films Missamma , Mayabazar , Narthanasala , and Bommarillu (2006) in its list of " Telugu classics to watch along with family this Deepavali " . The commentator for The Times stated that Gundamma Katha " touches many layers of human [emotions] and situations " and features " top class actors , a strong script , melodious and meaningful songs " . Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu (2013) , which was rumoured to be a remake of Gundamma Katha , adapted the style of its opening credits ? use of images rather than text to credit its principal cast . In their 2013 book Routledge Handbook of Indian Cinemas , K. Moti Gokulsing and Wimal Dissanayake wrote that Gundamma Katha , along with Appu Chesi Pappu Koodu (1959) , Missamma and Ramudu Bheemudu (1964) , " represented the scope comedy had in the 1950s and 60s . "

The story and treatment of Gundamma Katha inspired many other Telugu films , resulting in stereotypes in narration . The filmmaker Kadiri Venkata Reddy stated that Gundamma Katha had good dialogue and production design but lacked a proper story to narrate . In her review of screenwriter Trivikram Srinivas ' film Attarintiki Daredi (2013) , Sangeetha Devi Dundoo of The Hindu expressed hope that Srinivas " will give us something more innovative than relying on a story that ? s been rehashed since the time of Gundamma Katha " . In August 2015 , the filmmaker Teja admitted that the Telugu film industry is stuck with two types of narratives and concepts ? hero @-@ centric films and those similar to Gundamma Katha . During the promotion of Soukhyam (2015) , its director A. S. Ravikumar Chowdary said comedy is a dominant element in Telugu films , citing Gundamma Katha and Aha Naa Pellanta (1987) as examples .

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