

= Karthi =

Karthik Sivakumar (born 25 May 1977) , better known by his stage name Karthi , is an Indian film actor who works in the Tamil and Telugu film industries . The younger son of actor Sivakumar , Karthi holds a Bachelor 's degree in Mechanical Engineering and master of business administration in Industrial Engineering . Since he had always wanted to become a film director , he returned to India and joined Mani Ratnam as an assistant director . He was offered acting roles and made his acting debut in Paruthiveeran in 2007 as the title character , a careless village ruffian , winning critical acclaim and several accolades including the Filmfare Award for Best Actor and a Tamil Nadu State Film Award . His next role was that of a coolie in Aayirathil Oruvan (2010) , an adventure film directed by Selvaraghavan . He achieved consecutive commercial successes with his subsequent releases ? Paiyaa (2010) , Naan Mahaan Alla (2010) and Siruthai (2011) . After appearing in a series of box office flops , he starred in successful films such as Biriyani (2013) , Madras (2014) and Oopiri (2016) which established him in the Tamil film industry .

Apart from his film career , Karthi has also been involved in social welfare activities , encouraging fans to do likewise through the " Makkal Nala Mandram " , a social welfare club that he inaugurated . In 2011 , he became a cause ambassador to promote awareness of lysosomal storage disease . As of 2015 , he is the treasurer of the Nadigar Sangam .

= = Early life = =

Karthi was born on 25 May 1977 in Madras (now Chennai) , Tamil Nadu , India . He had his schooling at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan and St. Bede 's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School , Chennai . He gained a bachelor 's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Crescent Engineering College , Chennai . After graduation , he worked as an Engineering consultant in Chennai and considered higher studies abroad . " I was earning about ? 5000 , per month and found the work monotonous . That was when I thought , I should do something more " , he recalled in an interview . Karthi got a scholarship for his higher studies in the United States , and enrolled at Binghamton University , New York , where he earned his Master of Science in Industrial Engineering . While pursuing his masters , he also attended lectures on filmmaking .

During his stay in New York , Karthi worked as a part @-@ time graphic designer . He then decided to pursue a career in film @-@ making ; he attended two courses in basic film @-@ making at State University of New York . He stated , " I always knew I wanted to be in films but I did not know exactly what I wanted to do . I loved movies and watched a lot of them . But my father insisted that I get a good education before I joined the film industry " .

= = Career = =

= = = 2007 : Debut success = = =

When Karthi returned to India , he met director Mani Ratnam , who offered him the role of Arjun (later played by Siddharth) in the film Aayutha Ezhuthu . He declined the offer and worked as an assistant director on the same film and its Hindi version Yuva because he wanted to become a film director and preferred directing to acting , though he did appear as an extra in Aayutha Ezhuthu . He continued to receive acting offers and his father convinced him to take up acting , telling him " ... one can always direct films but one will not get a chance to act once you grow older " . He accepted his first acting assignment in April 2005 . When director Ameer approached him to play the titular character in the film Paruthiveeran , he accepted the offer because the film was " ... so compelling " . The film was released in July 2005 and experienced financial difficulties , and was almost abandoned by mid ? 2006 . It was released in January 2007 , to critical acclaim and became commercially successful .

Critics unanimously praised Karthi 's portrayal of a careless village ruffian . Behindwoods said : " He

has done away with every trace of sophistication in his body language and even handles the sickle with consummate ease . He looks every inch a hot blooded youngster from some rural part of Tamil Nadu [and] appears seasoned in the romantic scenes ... Uninformed people might not believe that this is the young man ' s big screen debut . Look out for this guy ... " . Sify said : " It ' s hard to believe that it is Karthi ' s debut film as he is just spectacular . His expressions , anger , laughter and anguish are all so realistic that you can feel the fire in him . " Rediff called his performance " excellent " , and " ... one of the top performances of 2007 " . Karthi received several accolades for his performance , including the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in Tamil .

= = = 2010 ? 2011 : Break after Paruthiveeran = = =

In October 2006 , Karthi signed his second project under Selvaraghavan ' s direction , Idhu Maalai Nerathu Mayakkam , which was supposed to be a romance film , featuring Sandhya as the female lead . Karthi ' s character was a " ... sophisticated upmarket stylish guy ... " . Selvaraghavan abandoned that project and in July 2007 , he announced the production of an adventure film titled Aayirathil Oruvan with Karthi in the lead role . Filming began later that year and was expected to be completed by February 2008 . The producers planned to release it in mid @-@ 2008 , but production was delayed and filming continued until early 2009 . He had agreed to play the lead character in Linguswamy ' s next film , Paiyaa , in September 2007 . Because of the slow progress of Aayirathil Oruvan , Paiyaa was postponed several times . He later said that he became anxious because he received several film offers but could not work on them because he needed to maintain the continuity of his looks . During the filming of Aayirathil Oruvan , producer Ravindran complained that Karthi was trying to change his look and move on to Paiyaa before finishing his commitments .

Aayirathil Oruvan was released in early 2010 . Karthi ' s portrayal of a chief coolie was often compared to that in his debut film . Sify called Karthi ' s performance " ... a scream . " , and said , " Right from his introduction scene till the end , he is lovable and provides humour . " , and that he had " ... made a sensational comeback ... " .

In April 2010 , Linguswamy ' s Paiyaa released . A romantic road @-@ trip film , featuring a blockbuster album by Yuvan Shankar Raja , it was very successful . For the first time , he enacted a character that lives in an urban area . He said that he accepted the film because he desperately wanted to play a cool dude on screen . Karthi ' s performances in Aayirathil Oruvan and Paiyaa earned him further nominations at the 58th Filmfare Awards South in the Best Actor category . Both films were dubbed into Telugu as Yuganiki Okkadu and Aawara , respectively , and were successful .

Karthi ' s third film in 2010 was Suseenthiran ' s thriller Naan Mahaan Alla , in which he played a middle class youth from Chennai whose life is disrupted when his father is killed . It received good reviews , was very popular , and Karthi ' s performances was praised by critics . Sreedhar Pillai wrote for Sify : " [Karthi] nails the character to perfection " ... He is one good reason to see the film . " Bhama Devi Ravi of Times of India wrote : " ... what a pleasure to see Karthi deliver his best performance to date ... " . Rediff wrote that " Karthi has simply had a ball ... " and " It ' s been a long time since you saw an actor who can be as convincing in sadness and rage , as in happiness . " Naan Mahaan Alla was dubbed into Telugu and released as Naa Peru Shiva in 2011 ; it was very successful and earned Karthi some Telugu film offers .

Karthi ' s next film was the action ? masala Siruthai (2011) , a remake of the 2006 Telugu film Vikramarkudu . He played two roles ; a thief and a police officer . Karthi ' s performances received favourable reviews . Malathi Rangarajan of The Hindu wrote : " Karthi looks and performs better with every film . Siruthai exemplifies the observation " . Pavithra Srinivasan of Rediff wrote : " But the film belongs to Rocket Raja (Karthi) , the sort of adorable ruffian Tamil cinema has been missing for a while . He picks pockets , slices off handbags , charms women and even bashes (!) them up without a single jolt to his conscience . " Despite gaining mixed critical response , the film achieved financial success , becoming one of the highest @-@ grossing Tamil films of 2011 . In 2011 , Siruthai became Karthi ' s biggest commercial success , cementing his position in the Tamil film industry . Sify said that Karthi had become " ... one of the hottest stars in Kollywood " . He made a

special appearance in a song in K. V. Anand 's Ko (2011) , alongside other prominent actors from Tamil cinema .

= = = 2012 ? present : Career slump and resurgence = = =

In May 2011 , Karthi began working on a political comedy film , Saguni , directed by Shankar Dayal and featuring him amongst an ensemble cast of supporting actors . He played Kamalakannan in the film , a villager who comes to the city to save his palatial house in Karaikudi from being destroyed for a politician 's personal gain and unknowingly transforms to become a kingmaker in Tamil Nadu politics . The film opened to negative reviews from critics , and became a box @-@ office failure . He later appeared in the 2013 Pongal release Alex Pandian , opposite Anushka Shetty , which also opened to negative critical response upon release .

Karthi 's next release was Rajesh M 's All in All Azhagu Raja , which featured him opposite Kajal Aggarwal and Santhanam . The film was released on Diwali 2013 , and received mostly negative reviews from critics , with Behindwoods saying " Though the laughs are spread across a few moments , when [All in All Azhagu Raja] is pitted against Rajesh 's other wholesome ' laughathons ' such as OKOK and Boss [Engira Bhaskaran] , it falls way short " and Sify saying " The trouble with [All in All Azhagu Raja] is that it lacks basic storyline and took the audiences for granted . The film has no real script to speak of , at best a skeletal plot . " His next film was Venkat Prabhu 's Biriyani , which was released in December 2013 , opening to positive reviews and became a box office success . He also sang the song " Mississippi " under Yuvan Shankar Raja 's direction for both the Tamil and Telugu versions of the film . In 2014 , Karthi appeared in Pa . Ranjith 's Madras , a critical and commercial success . His next release was the 2015 action drama Komban . His first release in 2016 was the Tamil @-@ Telugu bilingual film Oopiri . The film received positive reviews . Karthi 's performance was also praised , with Baradwaj Rangan of The Hindu stating (in his review of the Tamil version Thozha) , " At a time every leading man (including Karthi) seems to be participating in a game @-@ show titled Who Wants To Be The Next Rajinikanth ? , here ? s a simple ? buddy movie ? (in the Hollywoodian sense) , with no punch dialogues , no action sequences , with just one duet (with Tamannaah , who plays Vikram ? s secretary ; her romance with Seenu is strangely unresolved) . We see , all the time , character actors striving to become larger @-@ than @-@ life heroes . For a change , here ? s a hero scaling himself down to play a life @-@ sized character . " Karthi has signed on for director Gokul 's Kaashmora in which he plays three characters . Karthi is an actor who is never tired of trying different roles and stories .

= = Personal life = =

Karthi is the second son of actor Sivakumar and his wife Lakshmi . He has two siblings ; an elder brother , Suriya , also an actor in the Tamil film industry , and a younger sister named Brindha . Tamil film actress Jyothika is Karthi 's sister @-@ in @-@ law . On 3 July 2011 , Karthi married Ranjani , who graduated with a master 's degree in English literature from Stella Maris College , Chennai . They were engaged on 29 April 2011 at Ranjani 's native village , Goundampalayam in Erode District , and the wedding was held at the CODISSIA trade fair complex in Coimbatore . The wedding was arranged by the elders of the family . They have a daughter named Umayaal , born on 11 January 2013 .

= = Other work = =

Karthi has been involved in several charities and social service activities . On his 31st birthday , he inaugurated the Makkal Nala Mandram , in order to encourage his fans to become involved in welfare activities . During the event , Karthi donated blood , donated bicycles to handicapped people , sewing machines to women and schoolbags to children . He presented a cheque of ? 50 @,@ 000 to YRG Care Centre , which helps AIDS affected children . In 2011 , Karthi became a cause ambassador for promoting awareness of lysosomal storage disease . He had also adopted a white

tiger cub at Vandalur Zoo and contributed ₹ 72 @, @ 000 to protect and preserve the animal . On his birthdays , Karthi visits orphanages and donates funds to them . He told Indiaglitz ; " When I see people in need , I make sure I go and help . If I am going on birthdays to reach out to kids in orphanages , it is for my own satisfaction . I feel happier to be with them and it 's nice to make them smile on that particular day . "

On September 2010 , Karthi signed a contract with Bharti Airtel to become its brand ambassador in South India and appear in its " Indraikku enna plan " advertising campaign . He has also appeared in advertisements for Bru Instant Coffee along with Kajal Aggarwal , who had earlier acted opposite him in Naan Mahaan Alla and All in All Azhagu Raja .

In 2015 , Karthi joined fellow actors Vishal , Nassar , Karunas , and Ponvannan to campaign against the concurrent office bearers of the Nadigar Sangam , led by R. Sarathkumar and Radha Ravi . He was successful in the election , becoming the association 's treasurer .

= = Filmography = =