

= Sukumar (director) =

Sukumar (born Sukumar Bandreddi , 11 January 1970) is an Indian film director , producer , and screenwriter who predominantly works in Telugu cinema . Born in Mattaparru near Razole , East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh , Sukumar worked as a mathematics and physics lecturer at the Aditya Junior college , Kakinada for nearly six years before pursuing a career in films . He began working as a writer and assisted Mohan and V. V. Vinayak .

Sukumar made his directorial debut with Arya in 2004 , whose success catapulted him to stardom . Sukumar won the Filmfare Award for Best Director ? Telugu and Nandi Award for Best Screenplay Writer for his work in Arya . His other notable films include Jagadam (2007) , Arya 2 (2009) , 100 % Love (2011) , 1 : Nenokkadine (2014) , and Nannaku Prematho (2016) . Sukumar is known for his complex , multi @-@ layered screenplays which earned him the reputation of being an intelligent screenwriter . He is also known for infusing grey shades in the character sketches of the protagonists in his films .

Under the banner Sukumar Writings , he made his debut as a film producer with Kumari 21F (2015) , whose story and screenplay were penned by him . He received the K. V. Reddy Memorial award for his contributions to Telugu cinema in the year 2014 . In 2016 , he hinted a possible retirement from directing films .

= = Early and personal life = =

Sukumar was born on 11 January 1970 , in Mattaparru , a village near Razole in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh . His father Tirupathi Naidu was a rice trader and his mother Veera Veni was a homemaker . Sukumar was the youngest of the six children of Naidu and Veni . At the age of 6 , following the slaughter of a rooster he loved , Sukumar began practising vegetarianism . He did his schooling from a Zilla Parishad High School , Razole and graduated with a master 's degree in mathematics . He later worked as a mathematics and physics lecturer in Aditya Junior college , Kakinada . After six years , Sukumar and his junior Prakash Toleti decided to do something creative as they opined that their life has become too mundane as a lecturer .

Sukumar and Toleti began their career as writers in Telugu cinema and worked as writers for a few films . After writing three scenes for Jayanth C. Paranjee 's Bavagaru Bagunnara ? (1998) , they were summoned by the college to help them in recruiting the students . They walked out of the film on moral grounds . Due to lack of earnings , Sukumar briefly continued to teach students , earned money , and returned to film industry . Sukumar later assisted Jayam Raja 's father Mohan for Kshemanga Velli Labanga Randi (2000) , and Hanuman Junction (2001) . Before making his directorial debut , Sukumar worked under V. V. Vinayak for Dil (2003) as an assistant director .

Sukumar had a relationship with Hamsini , whom he met first at the Sudarshan Theatre , RTC X Roads , Hyderabad during the screening of his directorial debut Arya (2004) . They married in 2009 in the presence of his parents and sister . Though Hamsini 's parents opposed Sukumar for being a film technician , they accepted their alliance later . The couple have a son and a daughter .

= = Film career = =

= = = Debut and breakthrough : 2004 @-@ 2011 = = =

Sukumar began working on the script of his directorial debut Arya (2004) in Vishakhapatnam before joining the sets of Vinayak 's Dil . Its producer Dil Raju assured that he would produce the film if Dil becomes a commercial success . Sukumar chose to narrate the story of a boy who confess his love to a girl right in the beginning , opposed to films like Darr (1993) , Kabhie Haan Kabhie Naa (1994) , and Kaadhal Kondein (2003) where the protagonist 's love / obsession for the female lead is revealed towards the end , as he found that idea an " obsolete " one . Raju was impressed with Sukumar 's script and Allu Arjun was selected as its protagonist after considering Ravi Teja ,

Nithin , and Prabhas . Anuradha Mehta and Siva Balaji were chosen for the other two lead roles . R. Rathnavelu and Devi Sri Prasad were chosen as the film 's director of photography and music director respectively ; they both collaborated with Sukumar in many of his future projects . Arya was commercially successful ; it grossed ? 160 million on a budget of ? 40 million . The success of Arya catapulted Sukumar into stardom overnight . He earned the Filmfare Award for Best Director ? Telugu at the 52nd Filmfare Awards South ceremony , and the Best Screenplay Writer award at the annual Nandi Awards ceremony .

Sukumar then began working on the script of Jagadam (2007) , a crime film starring Ram Pothineni and Isha Sahni . Unlike Arya , Jagadam focused more on violence and in an interview with South Scope , Sukumar called the film an " act of bravado " , adding that he " made it with an innocent passion " , without thinking about the audience 's response . Jagadam received mixed reviews and was a commercial failure . While Sify called the film a " not so much a plot @-@ driven film " albeit praising the work of its technical crew , Rediff called it a " good effort " . He then wrote and directed Arya 2 (2009) , which was promoted as the namesake sequel of his debut Arya . It featured Allu Arjun , Kajal Aggarwal , and Navdeep in the lead roles and narrated the story of Arya , a psychotic orphan whose love for his friend Ajay and his colleague Geetha is never reciprocated . Sify called it Sukumar 's " another celluloid misadventure " after Jagadam and stated that he " fails both as a writer and director as his plotline is confusing and his hero 's characterization is negative " . However , Arya 2 became one of the few successful Telugu films of the year , and was praised for its style quotient and music . Sukumar received a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Director ? Telugu at the 57th Filmfare Awards South ceremony , but lost it to S. S. Rajamouli for Magadheera . Rajamouli stated that he regards Sukumar as the best of the lot after watching Arya 2 , which was Sukumar 's " most precious and sweetest thing I have heard about myself " .

After a gap of two years , Sukumar 's next directorial 100 % Love (2011) was released . Sukumar envisioned the film 's concept 15 years ago , which dealt with the simple conflicts couples face and the way they solve them , and made changes based on the technological and behavioural developments of the students in the colleges . 100 % Love featured Naga Chaitanya and Tamannaah in the lead roles and was produced by Allu Aravind and Bunny Vasu . 100 % Love was commercially successful ; it received the Best Home @-@ viewing Feature Film award at the annual Nandi Awards ceremony . Sukumar earned another nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Director ? Telugu at the 59th Filmfare Awards South , and a nomination for the Best Director ? Telugu at the 1st South Indian International Movie Awards .

= = = Serious themes : 2014 @-@ Present = = =

After completing 100 % Love , Sukumar began working on 1 : Nenokkadine , a psychological thriller keeping Mahesh Babu in mind as the protagonist as he felt that Mahesh had a universal appeal in terms of looks . The incident of a bus driver talking about a young boy who claims that his parents were murdered in that bus was taken as the story 's base . He worked on the film 's script for two months , and considered it as his dream project . 1 : Nenokkadine was released on 10 January 2014 globally and received generally negative reviews from the critics . While Suresh Kavirayani of Deccan Chronicle opined that Sukumar " fails to deliver " and the story is " run of the mill " , Sangeetha Devi Dundoo of The Hindu stated , " Habitual to watching films that begin with a great premise only to fall into the commercial trap of force @-@ fit comic situations , it comes as a relief when Sukumar laces the psychological thriller with subtle wit that never takes the focus away from the plot " . 1 : Nenokkadine collected approximately ? 289 million worldwide on a budget of ? 700 million , thus becoming a commercial failure .

After writing and directing a short film I Am That Change produced by Allu Arjun , Sukumar provided the story and screenplay for Kumari 21F , his maiden feature film as a co @-@ producer which was directed by his assistant Palnati Surya Pratap . He took inspiration from his college days in Razole where a young woman went to a picnic with some young men ; a major undertaking for a woman at the time . Rumours were spread and the woman was labelled as a " loose " character , which stayed in Sukumar 's mind . Produced on a budget of ? 60 ? 150 million , Kumari 21F grossed ? 380 million

and became the 12th highest grossing Telugu film of the year . Siddharth Rao of The Times of India stated , " In an industry where a damsel @-@ in @-@ distress @-@ wooed @-@ and @-@ saved @-@ by @-@ an @-@ angry @-@ young @-@ man is the norm , this is refreshing . Kudos to the writer Sukumar for giving yet another off @-@ beat story with characters that can 't be put into a box " .

Following the demise of Naidu , Sukumar decided to direct Nannaku Prematho starring N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and Rakul Preet Singh in the lead roles . Nannaku Prematho , which was Rama Rao Jr . ' s 25th film as an actor , dealt with an emotional relationship between a father and his son in a span of 30 days . Released on 13 January 2016 , Nannaku Prematho received positive reviews from the critics . Pranita Jonnalagedda of The Times of India stated that the viewers see ups every time when Sukumar " decides to listen to his inner self and gives us some interestingly conceived sequences " and downs come whenever he " gives in to the prerequisite mandates of Telugu cinema " . An above average grosser at the domestic box office , Nannaku Prematho became the third highest grossing Telugu film of all time in the overseas .

Sukumar 's future projects include a film with Ram Charan and Devi Sri Prasad each , which marks the latter 's on @-@ screen debut as an actor . He also announced his plans to quit directing as he felt that his assistants can do a better job of directing his stories and that he would continue to write and produce films .

= = Craft , style , and technical collaborations = =

As a writer , Sukumar is influenced by the works of Gudipati Venkatachalam , Yandamuri Veerendranath , and Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani . In an interview with Deccan Chronicle , Sukumar revealed that each of the romantic scenes in his films are inspired from the writings of either Veerendranath or Sulochana Rani . Sukumar uses non @-@ linear screenplay for most of his films and few sequences of most of his films involve revelation of finest details and re @-@ visiting a scene again and again . His screenplays are mostly complex and multi @-@ layered which earned him the reputation of being an intelligent screenplay writer . In an interview of The Times of India in January 2014 , Sukumar said that emotions play a key role in his films , stating that a film " may have multiple subplots , but in the end , it 's the emotional curve that connects with the audience " . Because of improvising the sequences on the sets and making changes to already filmed portions , his films took long time to complete their production phases .

In most of his films , Sukumar 's protagonists are shown to be characterised with grey shades . Y. Sunita Chowdary of The Hindu commented that Sukumar " revels in giving a slight twist to his protagonist , in his background and character " and leaves the audience to understand him as he " unties the knots during narration and justifies his behaviour and makes us root for him " . Karthik Keramalu of CNN @-@ IBN , in his review of Kumari 21F , stated that Sukumar 's lead characters are " psychologically wired differently " , adding that at least one of the characters in his films " behaves in a way that will amuse the audience and the other characters present in the film " . Regarding the same , Sukumar said , " We all have a lot of emotions and we suppress most of them fearing rejection . Instead we sport a smile and move on in this world . Problems arise when we don 't enjoy all feelings like jealousy , selfishness and don 't express them . To achieve something , there must be a driving force and that could be jealousy which you term as negative " .

Except for the short film I Am That Change whose music was composed by Sai Karthik , Sukumar chose Devi Sri Prasad to compose the soundtrack and background score for the films he directed . Sukumar worked with cinematographer R. Rathnavelu for Arya , Jagadam , and 1 : Nenokkadine . When Raju asked Sukumar about the budget to be allotted to Arya , Sukumar said that he first wants Rathnavelu on board . In an interview to The Hindu in March 2012 , Rathnavelu said , " Sukumar 's speciality is he can give you five different ways to solve every problem you encounter . He can get to the crux of the problem and figure out the best possible method to resolve it " . Because of their friendship with Sukumar , neither Rathnavelu nor Prasad charged any remuneration for his maiden production venture Kumari 21F . For Arya 2 , he collaborated with R. D. Rajasekhar . He worked with Venkat R. Prasad and Vijay C Chakravarthy for 100 % Love and

Nannaku Prematho respectively .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =