

= Devadasu ( 1953 film ) =

Devadasu is a 1953 Indian bilingual romance film , directed by Vedantam Raghavaiah and produced by D. L. Narayana for Vinodha Pictures . Aluri Chakrapani wrote the script based on Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay 's novel , Devdas . C. R. Subbaraman composed the film 's music . The film was edited by P. V. Narayanan , while B. S. Ranga provided the cinematography .

The film focuses on Devadasu and Parvati , who have been in love since childhood . Parvati 's father objects to the relationship and forces her to marry a middle @-@ aged zamindar . Unable to cope with his failure to win Parvati , Devadas turns into a drunkard , and the rest of the film is about whether or not Devadas meets Parvati again .

The film was produced in Telugu and Tamil ( as Devadas ) with slightly different casts . Akkineni Nageswara Rao , Savitri , and Lalitha played the lead roles in both versions ; supporting roles were played by S. V. Ranga Rao , Chilakalapudi Seeta Rama Anjaneyulu , Dorasamy and Surabhi Kamalabai in the Telugu version , and by M. N. Nambiar , Sachu and Chandrakumari in the Tamil version . Devadasu is the inaugural recipient of the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu .

Devadasu was released on 26 June 1953 , and the Tamil version was released three months later , on 11 September 1953 . Both versions were critically and commercially successful . The Telugu version has since achieved cult status , with terms and phrases from the film being widely cited . Both versions proved to be a major breakthrough in Nageswara Rao 's career .

= = Plot = =

Devadasu , the son of Ravulapalle zamindar Narayana Rao , and Parvati , daughter of his poor neighbour Neelakantham , are childhood friends . The zamindar enrolls his son in a boarding school in the city . When the grown @-@ up Devadasu returns to the village after finishing his education , his childhood friendship with Parvati turns into love .

When Parvati 's grandmother talks of the alliance , the zamindar refuses the proposal . Irritated , Neelakantham vows to find a wealthier prospective son @-@ in @-@ law and arranges Parvati 's marriage with the zamindar of Durgapuram , an elderly widower with children . However , Parvati secretly meets Devadasu and asks him to accept her as his wife .

Devadasu is surprised at her visit , sends her away , and goes back to the city . He writes to Parvati that he cannot defy his parents , so Parvati marries the old zamindar . Unable to forget her , Devadasu is despondent . He takes to drinking alcohol excessively and is encouraged by his friend Bhagawan , who also introduces him to Chandramukhi , a prostitute .

While Parvati settles into her new house , Devadasu chooses the path of self @-@ destruction . On the advice of Chandramukhi , he leaves for his village , but goes to Durgapuram to keep a promise he had made to Parvati that he visit her before his death . Devadasu breathes his last in front of her house . Parvati rushes to see him , but the door is closed by her family and she collapses .

= = Cast = =

Telugu version

Akkineni Nageswara Rao as Devadasu

Savitri as Parvati

Lalitha as Chandramukhi

S. V. Ranga Rao as Narayana Rao

Chilakalapudi Seeta Rama Anjaneyulu as the zamindar of Durgapuram

Doraswamy as Neelakantham

Surabhi Kamalabai as Parvati 's grandmother

Peketi Sivaram as Bhagawan

Master Sudhakar as young Devadasu

Baby Anuradha as young Parvati

Tamil version

M. N. Nambiar  
Sachu  
Chandrakumari

= = Production = =

D. L. Narayana signed Vedantham Raghaviah to direct a bilingual film Devadasu in Telugu and Tamil under the production banner of Narasu Studios . The film 's script , which was written by Aluri Chakrapani , was based on Devdas by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay . The story of Devadasu revolves around a feudal lord 's son Devadas falling in love with a poor girl Parvati . Due to differences in their social and economic status , Devadas cannot marry his childhood love and Parvati marries an old man . Unable to forget her , he becomes alcoholic . Samudrala Raghavacharya and Udaykumar wrote the dialogue for the Telugu and Tamil versions , respectively . B. S. Ranga was recruited as the director of photography , and P. V. Narayanan edited the film . Vali and Kotwankar were the art directors .

Nageswara Rao and Sowcar Janaki were chosen as the lead pair . Arani Sathyanarayana portrayed the role of Devadasu 's man Friday . Peketi Sivaram , who went on to become a famous director , portrayed the role of Bhagawan . S. V. Ranga Rao , Chilakalapudi Seeta Rama Anjaneyulu , and Surabhi Kamalabai were selected to portray supporting roles . Seetharam appeared in a minor role as a cartman . Lalitha of the Travancore Sisters was signed to play Chandramukhi , the " golden @-@ hearted prostitute " .

After a week of shooting , the film was shelved due to the view that such a story might not succeed in Telugu ; the production company then produced Shanti , which became a failure . D. L. Narayana decided to revive the film after being encouraged by the success of Stri Sahasam . Janaki , who was originally chosen for the character of Parvati , opted out of the film as she could not spare the time ; she was then replaced by Savitri .

Principal photography commenced with Nagaraja Rao , a still photographer shooting some stills of Nageswara Rao in the guise of Devadasu , with a glass in his hand and the looks of a drunkard . Rao also took shots of Savitri in Parvati 's make @-@ up in Naarsu 's Studio . Impressed with these stills , Narayana decided to use the same make @-@ up for the real shooting of the film . He showed these make @-@ up stills to Mangaiah , the make @-@ up man , who followed the same . Nageswara Rao , who portrayed the titular character , recalled that Vedantam , being a Kuchipudi dance exponent and an experienced stage actor , used to enact the scenes before the actors , thereby making their job easy . He even recalled that the character 's half asleep makeup was a result of hard work by the make @-@ up man Mangaiah , and that the director shot him only at night so that he could get a " natural " feel to the hero 's drunken look ; those scenes were shot over 53 days .

= = Music = =

The official soundtracks of Devadas were composed by C. R. Subbaraman . The lyrics were written by Samudrala Raghavacharya and Thanjai N. Ramaiah Dass and K. D. Santhanam for the Telugu and Tamil versions , respectively . There was a controversy regarding crediting the lyricist in the film . Though Samudrala is credited as the lyrics writer in the film , the researcher V. A. K. Ranga Rao claims that Malladi Ramakrishna Sasthri actually wrote some of the lyrics . C. R. Subbaraman died before the film 's release , and the remaining songs were composed by his assistants M. S. Viswanathan and T. K. Ramamoorthy .

The soundtracks of the Telugu and Tamil versions were released on 31 December 1953 ; both were marketed by HMV . The soundtracks were a huge commercial success , with " Jagame Maaya " and " Kala Idani " , in particular , achieving cult status . Songs like " Ulage Maayam " and " O Devadas " became popular among the Tamil diaspora . The song " Kudi Yemaithe " was composed using the Kalyani raga . The song " Intha Telisi " is composed in various ragas .

The soundtracks received positive reviews from critics . Reviewing the Tamil version , Randor Guy

of The Hindu noted that the songs " contributed to the [ film 's ] success " . Reviewing the Telugu version , M. L. Narasimham from the same newspaper also praised the songs , noting , " The major contribution to the film 's success , however , came from the music director , a genius called C. R. Subbaraman . Every song he composed is a hit to this day . " S. Theodore Baskaran in his book The Eye of the Serpent noted , " One factor that sustains the popularity of this film to this is the songs [ sic ] " . On " Intha Telisi " , Dakshinamurthy M. of The Hans India noted , " The ' pallavi ' and ' charanam ' are in Kharaharapiya , second ' charanam ' is in Ranjani and the last one is in Mohana . The switching from ' charanam ' to ' pallavi ' and vice versa is so smooth , one forgets to notice the change in ' ragam ' and ' bhavam ' . "

= = Release and reception = =

The Telugu version , Devadasu , was released on 26 June 1953 , and the Tamil version was released three months later on 11 September 1953 . Both versions were released with an approximate final reel length of 5 @,@ 260 metres ( 17 @,@ 260 ft ) and were given a " U " ( Universal ) certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification , with a run time of 190 and 192 minutes , respectively . Both versions were commercially successful , with the Telugu version completing a run of 100 days . The film is the inaugural recipient of the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu .

Devadasu received positive reviews from critics upon its release . M. L. Narasimham of The Hindu praised the performances of the film 's cast , particularly that of Nageswara Rao . He added that B. S. Ranga 's " excellent " cinematography and C. R. Subbaraman 's music were the film 's highlights apart from Vedantham Raghavaiah 's direction . Reviewing Devadasu , Randor Guy wrote that the film was remembered for " empathetically brilliant performance of Nageswara Rao in the title role and equally impressive acting by Savithri " . Cinegoer wrote , " The superb direction by Sri Vedantham Raghavaiah made [ Devadasu ] an immortal classic " . Hindustan Times stated that Nageswara Rao 's performance " remains a classic portrayal of the character that has been adapted on @-@ screen several times " .

= = Legacy and influences = =

Devadasu and Devadas are regarded as among the most successful films in Telugu and Tamil cinema respectively . Later films that followed the same theme include Vasantha Maligai ( 1972 ) and Vazhvey Maayam ( 1982 ) . Upon release , the dialogue Thaagithe maruva galanu , thaaganivvaru , marichipothe thaagagalanu , maruvanivvaru ( English : If I drink , I can forget , but they don 't let me drink ; if I forget , I can drink , but they don 't let me forget ) became famous . The film proved to be a major breakthrough in Nageswara Rao 's career . The success of the film made him known as the " Tragedy King " of Telugu cinema and also led to his becoming typecast in similar roles . In order to shed the tragic @-@ romantic hero image , he accepted a comic role in Missamma ( 1955 ) . Savitri too appeared in Missamma , and her character in that film was described by Pa . Dheenadhayalan of Dinamani as an antithesis of her role in Devadasu .

In July 2007 , S. R. Ashok Kumar of The Hindu asked eight Tamil directors to list ten of their favourite films . Balu Mahendra named Devadas as one of his top ten Tamil films . He added that the film had " superb lighting by B. S. Ranga , excellent performances by A. Nageswara Rao and Savithri , and haunting music by C. R. Subbaraman " . Actor Sivakumar stated , " You can ? t reproduce movies like Parasakthi , Pasamalar , Devadas , Veerapandiya Kattabomman or Ratha Kanneer [ ... ] By remaking such films , you are lowering yourself , while it enhances the original artists ? image . " YVS Chowdary titled his 2006 comedy film Devadasu , though it had no similarity with this film . In May 2012 , Radhika Rajamani of Rediff.com mentioned Devadasu for the letter D in her list , " The A to Z of Telugu Cinema " . During a programme titled " Telugu Cinema Prasthanam " organised by the film society of Vishakhapatnam , writer and actor Ravi Kondala Rao placed Devadasu among other Telugu films like Raja Harishchandra ( 1913 ) , Bhakta Pahlada ( 1932 ) , Mala Pilla ( 1938 ) , Pathala Bhairavi ( 1951 ) and Lava Kusa ( 1963 ) during a speech on the role of

Telugu cinema in the hundred years of Indian cinema . In April 2013 , CNN @-@ News18 included the film in its list of " 100 greatest Indian films of all time " . Indo @-@ Asian News Service described Devadasu as one of Nageswara Rao 's " best films " . Dilip Kumar , who portrayed Devadas in the 1955 film directed by Bimal Roy , admitted that Nageshwara Rao 's performance as the character was better than his own , remarking , " There is only one Devadas ( 1953 ) , and that is Akkineni Nageswara Rao . "