

= Kanche =

Kanche ( English : The Fence ) is a 2015 Indian Telugu @-@ language war film written and directed by Krish . It features Varun Tej , Pragya Jaiswal , and Nikitin Dheer in the lead roles . Y. Rajeev Reddy and J. Sai Babu produced the film under their banner , First Frame Entertainment . Kanche revolves around the enmity between two friends ? Dhupati Haribabu and Eeshwar Prasad . Haribabu and Eeshwar 's sister Sitadevi graduate from the University of Madras in the late 1930s and fall in love . Due to the prevailing casteism in their native village , Eeshwar opposes their relationship and kills Sitadevi accidentally . Years later , Haribabu joins the British Indian Army as a captain to fight against the Axis Powers in World War II and Eeshwar , now a colonel , is his commanding officer .

Krish began research on the film 's subject after seeing a bomb , dropped by the Imperial Japanese Army , preserved in a museum in Vishakhapatnam during the filming of Vedam ( 2010 ) . He worked on the film 's screenplay for nine @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half months and considered it his most ambitious project . Chirantan Bhatt composed the film 's soundtrack and score , marking his debut in Telugu cinema . V. S. Gnanasekhar was the film 's director of photography ; Sahi Suresh was the film 's art director , and Sai Madhav Burra penned the film 's dialogue . Principal photography commenced on 27 February 2015 in Hyderabad . Kanche was filmed in Tatipaka , Draksharamam , Kapotavaram , and in Peruru Agraharam near Palakollu . Major sets were erected in Ramoji Film City , Hyderabad . The war sequences were filmed in Georgia and the film 's unit was allotted 700 guns , four tanks , and a machine gun from the Georgia Military Institute a military training school . Principal photography was wrapped up on 6 July 2015 . Kanche was filmed in 55 working days , 35 of which were in Georgia .

Promoted as Telugu cinema 's first World War II @-@ based film , Kanche was released worldwide on 22 October 2015 , on 700 screens , and received positive reception from critics . It grossed ? 200 million on a budget of ? 180 million , and became the 14th highest grossing Telugu film of the year . Kanche earned the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu at the 63rd National Film Awards ceremony .

= = Plot = =

In 1936 , Dhupati Haribabu and Rachakonda Sitadevi meet at the Madras Cultural Club in Madras Presidency on the latter 's birthday and realise that they are studying at the same college , the University of Madras . Sitadevi is the princess of Rachakonda estate , whereas Haribabu belongs to a lower caste and is the grandson of a local barber . By the time they graduate , they have fallen in love , and leave for their native town , Devarakonda . Haribabu is introduced to Sitadevi 's brother Eeshwar and they become friends .

Eeshwar , and his grandfather Pedababu , learn of Haribabu and Sitadevi 's affair and instigate a fight between people of both castes . Hundreds of people from both sides die and a fence ( Kanche ) is erected to separate the two groups forever . While Eeshwar and Pedababu decide to marry off Sitadevi to a bridegroom of their choice , Haribabu arrives back from town and is severely injured when he is stabbed . Sitadevi looks after him secretly in her bedroom , and on the wedding day , a frustrated Haribabu marries Sitadevi , in the presence of her grandmother , and leaves . That evening , Eeshwar and Haribabu duel , and in the process Sitadevi is killed accidentally .

During World War II , as a member of the allied nations , the British Raj send over two and a half million Indian volunteer soldiers to fight under British command against the Axis powers . Haribabu joins them as a captain and Eeshwar , now a colonel , is his commanding officer . In May 1944 , the Nazis attack the Indian army in the Italian Campaign , and capture them . Haribabu , his friend Dasu , and three other soldiers escape . They decide to save the captured troops and follow the Nazis . They take shelter in an Italian baker 's house and his granddaughter saves them from the Nazis . She reveals that the Nazis want to kill a little girl whose parents were a German doctor and a Jew .

The Nazis find the doctor and a group of civilians , and Haribabu , along with his cohorts , rescues them . The soldiers find the captured troops in an old building and rescue them from the Nazis .

When Eeshwar asks Haribabu why he saved him despite the rivalry between them , he replies that Sitadevi 's love for Eeshwar made him do so . They leave with the civilians and find a German base near a river which they can use to escape .

When Haribabu formulates a plan , Eeshwar , who still hates him , points out that the plan is flawed . Haribabu reminds him that World War II commenced because of racism and he does not want to see the same bloodshed repeated here that happened in their village . The soldiers raid all the tents and find a boat in which the civilians and the other soldiers board . To divert the German army 's attention , Haribabu continues to fight alone until the boat reaches safety . Severely injured , Haribabu dies with a smile , thinking of the memories of his life with Sitadevi .

Eeshwar is shocked to see Haribabu die and carries his body back to his village . He also reads the letters Haribabu had written to Sitadevi during the war and realises that humans should not be divided by caste . He reaches the village and asks Haribabu 's grandfather to dig the grave . Eeshwar calls Haribabu a great human , soldier , lover , son and mainly a good friend whom he never recognised . He acknowledges that without the borderlines of caste , Haribabu would have been happy with Sitadevi and salutes him . Pedababu orders the fences ' removal and the people continue to live happily .

= = Cast = =

Varun Tej as Dhupati Haribabu

Pragya Jaiswal as Rachakonda Sitadevi

Nikitin Dheer as Eeshwar Prasad

Srinivas Avasarala as Dasu , Haribabu 's friend

Gollapudi Maruti Rao as Dhupati Haribabu 's grandfather

Sowcar Janaki as Sitadevi 's grandmother

Ravi Prakash as Janardhan Sastry

Singeetham Srinivasa Rao as a pianist in Madras Cultural Club ( cameo appearance )

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

During the filming of Vedam ( 2010 ) in Vishakhapatnam , Krish visited a museum which displayed a bomb dropped by the Imperial Japanese Army on the city during World War II . The bomb was used with the intention of creating a situation similar to the attack on Pearl Harbor . After further research , Krish learned that over 2 @.@ 5 million Indian soldiers participated in World War II , and 2000 Telugu people from Madhavaram , West Godavari were sent to the war by the British government in India . Krish worked on the film 's screenplay for nine @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half months , and cited the process of obtaining accurate details as the reason for the length of time it took to finish . Krish gathered most of the information using the Google search engine and two teams were employed ? one in India , the other in Italy . He chose to narrate a love story set in the 1930s and focused on the macro and micro divisions between people , countries , races and religions .

During the production of Gabbar Is Back , Krish 's collaboration with Varun Tej was reported in January 2015 ; Ramoji Rao was to produce the film under the banner Ushakiron Movies jointly with Krish 's banner First Frame Entertainment . Pragya Jaiswal , who auditioned for Gabbar Is Back , was signed as the film 's female lead . The film was officially launched on 27 February in Hyderabad and was titled Kanche . Kanche translates to fence in English and Krish relates that the film focuses on the effects of a fence on friendship . On the 75th anniversary of World War II , Krish told the Indo @-@ Asian News Service on 1 September that Kanche is his " most ambitious project " and also the first Telugu film set in World War II .

Sai Madhav Burra , who collaborated with Krish on Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum ( 2013 ) , was

signed to write the film 's dialogues . V. S. Gnanasekhar was signed as the film 's director of photography , and Sahi Suresh was selected as the film 's art director . Because of discontinuing his studies at a young age , Suresh was not knowledgeable about World War II , and spent three to four months watching old war films and reading about the war . Chirantan Bhatt , who collaborated earlier with Krish on Gabbar Is Back , was signed to compose the film 's soundtrack and score . Kanche marked Bhatt 's debut in Telugu cinema . Rama Krishna Arram and Suraj Jagtap edited the film . Kanche was produced on a budget of ? 180 million .

= = = Casting = = =

Varun Tej played the role of Dhupati Haribabu , a captain in the British Indian Army . Varun Tej described the first phase of Haribabu 's character as a 23 @-@ year old " college pass @-@ out , happy @-@ go @-@ lucky , chilled out guy " . He had to modify his diction according to the timeline and observed the dialogue delivery of actors in old Telugu films . For the second phase , Varun Tej was trained by an army officer on a soldier 's body language , and the way to hold guns among other things . He watched films like Saving Private Ryan ( 1988 ) , The Thin Red Line ( 1998 ) , Inglourious Basterds ( 2009 ) , and Fury ( 2014 ) as well . He underwent training in a boot camp for more than a week , during the gap between the Indian and Georgia schedules . During the filming of the war sequences in Georgia , Varun Tej was provided with an original Thompson submachine gun , which was manufactured in 1939 , and used during the actual war .

Jaiswal played the role of Sitadevi , a princess whose character was modelled on Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur . After auditioning for the role , Jaiswal watched Krish 's Vedam and Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum to understand his work and was " really touched " by the former . Krish advised her not to watch any old Telugu films but try to analyse old English and Hindi films instead . Jaiswal opined that her character needed to focus " more on expressions than acting " . She joined kathak classes after the film 's shoot began , and no workshops were conducted for her .

Nikitin Dheer was chosen to play Colonel Eeshwar Prasad in the film , because Krish , who wanted an actor to match Varun Tej 's persona , was impressed with his performance in Chennai Express ( 2013 ) . Srinivas Avasarala was cast as Dasu , Haribabu 's friend and another volunteer soldier from the British Indian Army , who quotes writer Sri Sri as his friend Srinivasa Rao . Avasarala was trained in the use of guns in Hyderabad and received training from an army officer along with Varun Tej on body language and other important aspects .

Gollapudi Maruthi Rao and Sowcar Janaki were cast as Haribabu 's grandfather and Sitadevi 's grandmother respectively . Filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao made a cameo appearance as a pianist in Madras Cultural Club , where Haribabu works as a part @-@ time employee . Krish described Rao 's cameo a " colourful " one and added that his look was inspired by that of Colonel Sanders , the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken . 700 people were required to form an army and the film 's unit selected nearly 100 Non @-@ resident Indians apart from the local people . They were given formal training before they went on the film 's sets .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography commenced on 27 February 2015 at Hyderabad . The second schedule commenced on 23 March at Tatipaka , a village near Razole in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh . Apart from Draksharamam and Kapotavaram , the village portions were filmed in Peruru Agharam , Palakollu as Krish wanted a primitive settlement with poor infrastructure and palaces , resembling one of the pre @-@ independence era . The film 's crew then put up flower and fruit markets , and purchased antiques from a flea market . The local people extended their support to the film 's crew in return for the laying down of proper roads . In other villages where there was better infrastructure , Suresh and his crew spoke to village heads and covered most of the roads with sand and mud . The houses were whitewashed for the film 's shoot and were restored with their previous colours later .

As all the houses in those villages were constructed using reinforced concrete , a team of 70

members were summoned from Hyderabad to recreate 1940s style . According to Suresh , the " nativity feel came alive " due to the presence of coconut trees . The steam engine and the interiors of the first class compartments in the train Haribabu and Sitadevi travel in from Madras to Devarakonda were designed in Ramoji Film City , Hyderabad . Suresh 's experience working as an art director on Venkatadri Express ( 2013 ) helped him . The construction of the palace where Sitadevi lives took four to five days to complete at a cost of ? 4 million . The war sequences were filmed in Georgia . The film 's crew finalised 20 locations and the filming of the war sequences lasted for 35 days .

With the assistance of the Government of Georgia , huge sets were erected , including a German military base camp fitted with trenches and bunkers . For the film 's shoot , Krish hired a few telegraph machines , typewriters , and coffee cups and saucers manufactured during the timeline of the World War II . Some key action sequences were filmed in a few old , dilapidated buildings located near Georgia and Varun Tej performed his stunts without a body double . A few sequences were filmed at the Ananuri Bridge in Tbilisi , Georgia .

700 guns , four tanks , and a machine gun used in the war were allotted from the Georgia Military Institute military school . The Georgian Armed Forces trained the film 's unit to use these weapons properly . The rent for each tank was 5000 dollars per day , and another tank was designed by Suresh and his crew . Thousands of bullets were used every day and 15 people were employed to load the guns . On the last day of the filming of the climax episode , Varun Tej used more than 7000 bullets . For filming few bomb @-@ blast sequences , the film 's unit consulted several Hollywood technicians . Principal photography was wrapped up on 6 July , after a shoot of 55 working days .

= = Music = =

The official soundtrack of Kanche composed by Chirantan Bhatt consists of six songs , including instrumental theme music . The lyrics for the remaining five songs were penned by Sirivennela Sitaramasastry . Kanche marked Bhatt 's debut in South Indian cinema . Krish worked with Bhatt on Gabbar Is Back and asked him to compose a song for Kanche . Impressed with it , Krish signed him as the film 's music director . Bhatt found Kanche to be " an intense and emotional story " and ensured that the music was not generic and in sync with the film 's scale .

Krish also provided a few references to the works of Ilaiyaraaja and M. M. Keeravani to Bhatt during the composing sessions . Bhatt used tabla tarang ( an Indian melodic percussion instrument consisting of more than ten drums ) and sarod ( an Indian lute @-@ like stringed instrument ) predominantly in the instrumentation as he felt that the songs had to : " depict a lot of mood and emotions " . The song " Nijamenani Nammani " was composed using Charukesi raga and Nandini Srikar , who provided the additional vocals along with Shreya Ghoshal who was not listed in the album 's credits . Abhay Jodhpurkar initially provided the vocals for the raw cut of the song " Itu Itu Ani Chitikelu Evvarivo " , which was recorded in two hours at his friend 's studio . Bhatt found his voice apt and retained it in the final version without any further improvements . The songs " Itu Itu Ani Chitikelu Evvarivo " , and " Bhaga Bhagamani " were composed using the Natabhairavi , and Kamavardani ragas ; Bhatt used both Charukesi and Kamavardani ragas for " Raa Mundadugeddam " .

After releasing a teaser of the song " Nijamenani Nammani " on YouTube , Varun Tej released the song " Itu Itu Ani Chitikelu Evvarivo " sung by Jodhpurkar and Ghoshal at the Radiocity FM station in Hyderabad on the eve of Ganesh Chaturthi ( 17 September 2015 ) . The soundtrack , marketed by Aditya Music , was released at a promotional event on the same day at Hyderabad with actor Ram Charan in attendance as the guest of honour .

Karthik Srinivasan of The Hindu called " Nijamenani Nammani " the soundtrack 's best song and praised the renditions by Ghoshal and Srikar . The Times of India gave the soundtrack 3 @.@ 5 stars out of 5 and opined that the themed style of the soundtrack is a : " delightful change from the song and dance routine seen these days " . Behindwoods gave the soundtrack 3 @.@ 25 stars out of 5 and called it a : " musical and lyrical feast for the ears " .

Track listing

All lyrics written by Sirivennela Sitaramasastry .

== Release and reception ==

Kanche was initially scheduled for a worldwide release on 2 October 2015 . The film 's release was postponed to 6 November to avoid clashing with the releases of Puli and Singh Is Bliing . Due to a delay in post -production activities , Akhil : The Power of Jua , which was initially scheduled for a worldwide release on 22 October , was postponed and Kanche was confirmed for release on 22 October during the Vijayadasami festival season . Kanche was released at 400 screens across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana , and at 150 screens in rest of India . Though 80 screens were booked initially in the overseas market for the film 's release , the screen count was later increased to 150 , of which 130 screens were in the United States .

=== Critical reception ===

Kanche received positive reviews from the critics . Sangeetha Devi Dundoo of The Hindu remarked that Kanche is a film that does not stand out " merely by being different , but also because it 's earnest " , and added that Krish " Step [ s ] across the fence to a new world of storytelling " . Praising Krish 's choice of genre , Suresh Kavirayani of the Deccan Chronicle gave the film 3 @. @ 5 stars out of 5 , stating , " If you are looking for a change from the regular action @-@ masala @-@ song @-@ dance @-@ drama kind of films , you should watch Kanche " . Kavirayani added : " The war scenes look authentic . Credit to cinematographer [ V. S. Gnanasekhar ] for capturing the war scenes . Kanche is no less than any Hollywood film as far as the war scenes are concerned " . Rajeswari Kalyanam of The Hans India also gave the film 3 @. @ 5 stars out of 5 and stated : " With Kanche , Jagarlamudi Krish has once again proven his ability to choose an offbeat theme , weave an engrossing tale and give it a technically brilliant cinematic rendition " .

Pranita Jonnalagedda of The Times of India gave Kanche 3 stars out of 5 and stated : " Kanche is a daring attempt for mainstream [ Telugu cinema ] . While there 's an interesting story which is told really well , you will be left with the lingering feeling that it could have been a lot better " . Sify too gave Kanche 3 stars out of 5 and called it a film that is " [ s ] uitable only for discerning audiences " and praised the storyline , performances , production design , and dialogues . Behindwoods gave the film 3 stars out of 5 as well and called it a " commendable attempt " and added :

You don 't get to see too many Indian films being made on war , especially South Indian industry hasn 't made many . ( sic ) Even the ones that have been made have not made a huge impact , especially with it comes to battle scenes . But that is where Kanche scores big time . The war sequence looks authoritative and intriguing . It travels throughout and the intensity has been maintained right through " .

=== Box office ===

Kanche grossed approximately \$ 55 million and collected a distributor share of \$ 38 @. @ 5 million globally , thereby performing better than Raju Gari Gadhi and Columbus . According to trade analyst Taran Adarsh , Kanche earned US \$ 53 @, @ 057 from its paid previews ; it amassed US \$ 46 @, @ 751 on its first day and US \$ 92 @, @ 998 on its second day , taking its two @-@ day United States box office total to US \$ 192 @, @ 806 ( \$ 12 @. @ 5 million ) . The first weekend global box office gross and distributor share figures stood at approximately \$ 130 million and \$ 70 million respectively .

In its first weekend at the United States box office , Kanche collected US \$ 380 @, @ 361 ( \$ 24 @. @ 7 million ) . It earned US \$ 6 @, @ 826 ( \$ 0 @. @ 443 million ) from two screens in Canada and MYR15,921 ( \$ 0 @. @ 243 million ) from 2 screens at the Malaysian box office in its opening weekend , thereby managing to recover 100 % of the overseas distributors ' investments . In ten days , Kanche collected US \$ 489 @, @ 701 ( \$ 32 @. @ 1 million ) at the United States box office , US \$ 9 @, @ 261 ( \$ 0 @. @ 607 million ) at the Canada box office , and MYR19,316 ( \$ 0 @. @ 295

million ) at the Malaysian box office respectively , taking its ten @-@ day overseas box office total to US \$ 503 @,@ 461 ( ? 33 million ) .

Kanche earned US \$ 522 @,@ 325 ( ? 34 @.@ 7 million ) in 17 days at the United States box office . After losing many screens due to new releases in the United States , Kanche 's 31 @-@ day total stood at US \$ 527 @,@ 724 ( ? 35 million ) . In its lifetime run , Kanche grossed ? 200 million globally , with a distributor share of ? 140 million , and was declared a commercial success and also the 14th highest grossing Telugu film of the year .

= = Awards = =

Kanche earned the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu at the 63rd National Film Awards ceremony .