

= 16 Vayathinile =

16 Vayathinile (English : At Age 16 ; read as Pathinaaru Vayathinile) is a 1977 Indian Tamil language drama film written and directed by P. Bharathiraja in his directorial debut . The film features Kamal Haasan , Sridevi , and Rajinikanth in the lead roles , with Ganthimathi , Sathyajith and Goundamani in supporting roles . 16 Vayathinile 's soundtrack album and background score were composed by Ilaiyaraaja , with cinematography by P. S. Nivas . P. Kalaimani wrote the film 's dialogue .

The film focuses on the strengths and vulnerabilities of Mayil (Sridevi) , a 16 @-@ year @-@ old schoolgirl , and the challenges she faces and overcomes . The film , originally titled Mayil , is set in rural Tamil Nadu and is Rajinikanth 's first colour film . 16 Vayathinile is the first Tamil film to be shot completely outdoors ; Tamil films were primarily filmed in Chennai studios .

The first Tamil film distributed by a producer across Tamil Nadu , 16 Vayathinile was released on 15 September 1977 to critical praise for Bharathiraja 's script , Ilaiyaraaja 's music and the performances of Kamal , Sridevi and Rajinikanth . It was commercially successful , with a 175 @-@ day theatrical run .

16 Vayathinile , considered a Tamil cult film , is the bellwether of films featuring realistic portrayals of rural life . Making stars of its director and lead actors , the film won the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for S. Janaki , the Filmfare Award for Best Actor (Tamil) for Kamal and five State Awards , including Best Film (First prize) , Best Director and Best Actor for Kamal . It was remade in Telugu by K. Raghavendra Rao as Padaharella Vayasu (1978) and in Hindi by Bharathiraja as Solva Sawan (1979) , with Sridevi reprising her role in both versions .

= = Plot = =

Mayil (Sridevi) is a 16 @-@ year @-@ old schoolgirl who lives in a village with her mother , Guruvammal (Ganthimathi) . Guruvammal also takes care of the limping orphan Gopalakrishnan (Kamal Haasan) , who is called " Chappani " (" Lame ") by the villagers and does whatever he can to earn a living . Mayil 's ambition is to become a teacher , and she hopes to marry a sophisticated , educated man ; although Chappani is in love with her , she ignores him .

An urban veterinarian named Sathyajith arrives in the village to work and falls in love with Mayil . Mayil , believing that Sathyajith is the man for her , falls in love with him , to the point of refusing an opportunity to attend a teacher @-@ training course in Madras to remain with him . Despite loving Sathyajith , she does not allow him to exploit her sexually , which disappoints him . Never intending a serious relationship with Mayil , he proceeds to his native place to get married to another woman . When Mayil begs Sathyajith not to leave her , he says he befriended her for pleasure ? not marriage .

A dejected Mayil confesses this to Guruvammal , who quickly plans to betroth her to someone else . The village ruffian Parattaiyan , alias Parattai (Rajinikanth) ? who lusts for Mayil ? spreads rumours about her relationship with Sathyajith . Because of this , Mayil 's engagement plans are halted and the village becomes hostile to her . Unable to bear the shame , Guruvammal commits suicide and leaves Chappani to take care of Mayil .

Chappani takes good care of Mayil , cheering her up when she needs it . She warms to Chappani , making him more confident and assertive and grooming him and his manners , to the surprise of many in the village . Mayil tells him to slap anyone who calls him " Chappani " and to respond only to those who address him by his name , Gopalakrishnan . When Sathyajith and Parattai call him " Chappani " despite his request to use his real name , Gopalakrishnan slaps them . Mayil and Gopalakrishnan celebrate his newfound courage . An insulted Parattai later beats Gopalakrishnan badly . Mayil saves him , spitting on Parattai for the brutal attack .

Mayil decides to marry Gopalakrishnan , and sends him to the nearby town for buying wedding supplies . Learning of Gopalakrishnan 's absence , Parattai goes to Mayil 's house and tries to rape her . Gopalakrishnan returns to Mayil 's house and pleads with Parattai to leave her . When Parattai refuses , Gopalakrishnan kills him with a rock and is arrested . He promises Mayil that he will return ,

and she waits everyday for him .

= = Cast = =

Kamal Haasan as Gopalakrishnan (Chappani)

Sridevi as Mayil

Rajinikanth as Parattaiyan (Parattai)

Ganthimathi as Guruvammal

Sathyajith as Sathyajith

Goundamani as Koothu , a friend of Parattaiyan

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

16 Vayathinile was P. Bharathiraja 's directorial debut and his first screenplay . He originally planned to make a film funded by the National Film Development Corporation of India under the title Mayil , with Nagesh and Roja Ramani in mind for the lead roles , but the NFDC rejected his script . In an October 2013 interview , Bharathiraja said that the script was rejected at the last minute without a reason .

When singer S. P. Balasubrahmanyam heard about the rejection he introduced Bharathiraja to S. A. Rajkannu , and Bharathiraja told Rajkannu about his ideas for Sigappu Rojakkal (1978) and Mayil . Although Rajkannu was uninterested in the first , he agreed to produce Mayil . Feeling that 16 Vayathinile sounded more artistic than Mayil , Rajkannu asked Bharathiraja to change the film 's title . A few alterations were made to the screenplay , and the dialogue was written by P. Kalaimani .

Although Bharathiraja was initially hesitant to direct the film , Rajkannu insisted and he received an advance of ? 500 . 16 Vayathinile was initially made on a low budget of ? 425 @,@ 000 . P. S. Nivas was signed as cinematographer , Somnath @-@ Kamalasekharan as art director and R. Bhaskaran as editor .

= = = Casting = = =

Bharathiraja wanted Chithra Lakshmanan (assistant director with K. Bhagyaraj) to sign Kamal Haasan for the role of Chappani , expecting to pay Kamal ? 15 @,@ 000 since the actor had received ? 17 @,@ 000 for Aayirathil Oruthi (1975) . When Kamal asked for ? 30 @,@ 000 , Lakshmanan suggested that Bharathiraja offer the role to Sivakumar since the production unit could not afford Kamal 's request ; however , Bharathiraja saw Kamal as the ideal choice and agreed to pay him ? 27 @,@ 000 . For his character , the actor grew his curly hair long and wore lungis and khadi high @-@ buttoned shirts . Dhananjayan states in his 2011 book The Best of Tamil Cinema that Sridevi received ? 9 @,@ 000 for her role as Mayil .

Bharathiraja , who had been an assistant director to Puttanna Kanagal , included Rajinikanth in the film after seeing his performance in Katha Sangama (1976) . Although he had finalised ? 3 @,@ 000 as the salary for Rajinikanth after the latter initially charged ? 5 @,@ 000 , he had paid ? 2 @,@ 500 to Rajinikanth . 16 Vayathinile marked Rajinikanth 's first appearance in a colour film . Since the actor was not fluent in Tamil at the time , Bhagyaraj read him his lines and Rajinikanth repeated them until he mastered them . For Mayil 's mother Guruvammal , Bharathiraja wanted someone who could speak the village dialect fluently and chose Ganthimathi for her acting style . Receiving a salary of ? 150 , Bhagyaraj was initially considered for the veterinarian 's role but wanted to concentrate on directing ; that role finally went to Sathyajith . Although comedian Goundamani made his major film debut with Annakili (1976) , it was 16 Vayathinile which made him popular .

= = = Filming = = =

Shot in 25 days in Mysore , Sivasamudram , Velakkadu , Kolakkadu and Kollegal , 16 Vayathinile was the first Tamil film made completely outdoors and no sets were used . The actors wore normal village clothing and wore no make @-@ up . According to Kamal , due to budgetary constraints the technical crew could not afford a camera which could film slow motion and Sridevi had to run in slow motion for the song " Chendoora Poove " . Kamal 's salary helped increase the budget from ? 425 @, @ 000 to ? 500 @, @ 000 .

The scene in which Mayil spits on Parattai required several takes before Rajinikanth insisted that Sridevi actually spit on him for realism . Rajinikanth finished his part of the film in five or six days . While Bharathiraja wanted the film to follow a linear narration , it was Bhagyaraj 's idea to begin the film with a flashback sequence . After the film completed its shoot , it was screened at least 20 times for the distributors and the narrative switched every time between the linear and non @-@ linear versions . Eventually , the producer himself released the film , with the flashback narrative . A total of 8 @, @ 534 metres (27 @, @ 999 ft) of film negative was used , and its final length was 3 @, @ 822 m (12 @, @ 539 ft) .

= = Themes = =

16 Vayathinile focuses on rural Tamil Nadu , and the vulnerabilities of Mayil . Film critic Naman Ramachandran compared Parattai to Rajinikanth 's character Kondaji from Katha Sangama (1975) , stating " Like in that film , Rajinikanth is a card @-@ playing wastrel with henchmen in tow . Just like the Thimmaraya character in Katha Sangama runs errands for Kondaji , here Chappani / Gopalakrishnan performs services for Parattai , but the similarity ends there because Thimmaraya is evil and Chappani is good . " He also described the film as the first instance when a villainous character played by Rajinikanth does not have a change of heart or get away without getting his just deserts : " Here he pays for his deeds with his life . " According to film scholar Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai , the film is marked by " ambiguous and dark protagonists , new subjectivity , [and] avoidance of clichéd and cathartic closures " .

= = Music = =

The soundtrack album and background score for 16 Vayathinile were composed by Ilayaraaja with lyrics by Kannadasan , Gangai Amaran and Alangudi Somu . Ilayaraaja , in an April 2015 interview with Maalai Malar , stated that Kannadasan accepted salaries ranging from ? 1 @, @ 000 to ? 1 @, @ 500 . Ilayaraaja requested Kannadasan to accept ? 750 citing the film 's budget constraints , to which Kannadasan agreed . The album was released on EMI Records . The album cover shows a scene from the film where Mayil (Sridevi) pours water on Gopalakrishnan (Kamal) , with several other women from the village awaiting to do the same to him .

16 Vayathinile was Ilayaraaja 's first collaboration with Kamal . Bharathiraja insisted that the director and Rajkannu meet Ilayaraaja , although Rajkannu doubted if Ilayaraaja would sign on since he had become well @-@ known after his debut film Annakili (1976) . Ilayaraaja initially refused because of an earlier bet with Bharathiraja that Ilayaraaja 's mentor , G. K. Venkatesh , would compose the music for Bharathiraja 's first film . Venkatesh later insisted that Ilayaraaja compose the music .

Although Ilayaraaja wanted S. P. Balasubrahmanyam to sing " Chavanthi Poo " and " Aattukkutti " , the singer had pharyngitis at that time and was replaced by Malaysia Vasudevan . " Chavanthi Poo " , the first song recorded , was the first written by Kannadasan for the film , and Gangai Amaran 's debut as lyricist . Ilayaraaja also debuted as a singer with this film , singing the number " Solam Vidhaikkaiyile " , although it does not appear on the soundtrack . According to film critic Baradwaj Rangan , " Chendoora Poove " used Viennese musical tropes . B. Kolappan of The Hindu wrote that the song " employs a rush of violins to set up the intro for the folk melody that follows . "

The album , a blend of folk and Western classical music , was praised by critics and " Chendoora Poove " remains popular among the Tamil diaspora . Film producer and writer G. Dhananjayan wrote that Ilaiyaraaja " achieved great heights with the music and background score " of the film . About " Chendoora Poove " , B. Kolappan of The Hindu wrote , " The maestro ? s genius is most evident in his ability to combine forms seamlessly . " Tribune described " Chendoora Poove " as a " silver lined melody that paced the film and added to its brilliance . Do not miss it at any cost . " The song inspired the title of a 1988 film starring Vijayakanth , and a television serial of the same name . The film 's songs were remastered in DTS 5 @.@ 1 six @-@ channel audio by A. Muthusamy of Honey Bee Music in June 2013 .

= = Release = =

16 Vayathinile was released on 15 September 1977 . During its early theatrical run , the audience could not understand the film and there were catcalls outside theatres . Within a week its box office improved due to positive reviews and word of mouth , and it became commercially successful . 16 Vayathinile completed a theatrical run of 175 days , making it a silver jubilee film .

The film earned \$ 1 million at the box office according to a 2010 estimate by South Scope , and the producer went into hiding to avoid income @-@ tax raids . It was the first Tamil film released by a producer across Tamil Nadu without distributors . When 16 Vayathinile became successful , distributors bought the theatrical rights for a number of areas across the state . The film was remade in Telugu by Kovelamudi Raghavendra Rao as Padaharella Vayasu (1978) and in Hindi by Bharathiraja as Solva Sawan (1979) , with Sridevi reprising her role in both . In October 2009 , Kannada actor Ganesh revealed that he and his wife bought the remake rights of 16 Vayathinile for Kannada .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The film received critical acclaim , with praise for Bharathiraja 's script , Ilaiyaraaja 's music and the performances of Kamal , Sridevi and Rajinikanth . According to the Tamil magazine Ananda Vikatan 's original review , " If four more films come with the quality of this film , Tamil cinema will achieve greater heights " . The magazine gave the film 62 @.@ 5 marks out of 100 , their highest rating for a Tamil film . G. Dhananjayan wrote that 16 Vayathinile was " truly a marvellous film which has an universal appeal even today for the way it was made " . Rediff called 16 Vayathinile a " new genre of pastoral film , which was true to village life in characterisation , costumes and dialect " . The Times of India stated that it " showcase [s] the best of the superstar [Rajinikanth] and the universal hero [Kamal Haasan] " .

= = = Awards = = =

In addition to the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer for S. Janaki , 16 Vayathinile won Kamal the Filmfare Award in the Best Tamil Actor category . The film won five Tamil Nadu State Film Awards , and Rajinikanth won the Arima Sangam Award for Best Actor for his role as Parattai .

= = Legacy = =

I am [Bharathiraja 's] very first fan ... These are not empty words . Before 16 Vayathinile 's release , when he showed me the film , I wrote him a letter of appreciation . That 's why I say that I 'm his first fan and proud to be so .

16 Vayathinile is considered a cult film and a landmark in Tamil cinema , diverging from traditional Tamil films of the time . With Annakili , the film was a bellwether for realistic portrayals of rural life and made stars of Bharathiraja , Kamal , Sridevi and Rajinikanth . According to Naman Ramachandran and S. Shiva Kumar of The Hindu , Kamal 's performance was considered a tour de

force by critics since he was typecast as a romantic hero at that time . The dialogue " Idhu Eppadi Irukku ? " (" How 's this ? ") , the first catchphrase of Rajinikanth 's career , became very popular ; IANS and Rediff included it on their lists of lines popularised by Rajinikanth . Manisha Lakhe , writing for Forbes India , noted that 16 Vayathinile " paved the way for unkempt villains who had a singularly disgusting laugh . " A digitally remastered version of the film was being planned for a late 2013 release ; although its trailer was released in October that year , the film has yet to see a theatrical release as of 2016 .

In July 2007 , S. R. Ashok Kumar of The Hindu asked eight Tamil directors to list their all @-@ time favourite Tamil films ; seven ? C. V. Sridhar , K. Balachander , J. Mahendran , K. Bhagyaraj , Mani Ratnam , K. S. Ravikumar and Ameer ? named 16 Vayathinile . According to Ratnam , the film was " memorable for its script , high standard and realism . " The magazine South Scope included Kamal 's performance on its list of " Kamal 's best performances " in July 2010 . S. Shiva Kumar of The Hindu included the film on his December 2010 list of " Electrifying Rajinikanth @-@ Kamal Haasan films " with Moondru Mudichu (1976) , Avargal (1977) and Aval Appadithan (1978) . In April 2013 CNN @-@ IBN included the film on its list of " 100 greatest Indian films of all time " , saying that it was a " decisive move away from the studio @-@ bound productions and paved the way for successful integration of subaltern themes and folk arts into mainstream commercial cinema . " In December 2014 , The Times of India included 16 Vayathinile on its list of " Top 12 Rajinikanth movies " . In August 2015 , CNN @-@ IBN included the film in its list of " 10 performances that make [Sridevi] the ' Last Empress ' of Indian cinema " . In November the same year , Daily News and Analysis included the film in its list of " Films you must watch to grasp the breadth of Kamal Haasan 's repertoire " . Actors Vijay Sethupathi and Vikram included 16 Vayathinile among their favourite films . After seeing the film , director K. Balachander wrote in a letter of appreciation to Bharathiraja , " You have hit the bull 's eye " .

16 Vayathinile was spoofed in Murattu Kaalai (2012) by Vivek , whose character Saroja is called " Mayil " by Cell Murugan 's character (a veterinarian similar to Sathyajith 's character in the film) . Sridevi 's line , " Aatha Naan Passaayitten " (" Mother , I 've passed the exam ") , was the title of a 1990 film starring Arjun Sarja . In Sivaji (2007) , Vivek 's character delivers one of Rajinikanth 's catchphrases and finishes by saying : " Idhu eppadi irukku ? " . The film 's title and characters have inspired other film titles : Parattai Engira Azhagu Sundaram (2007) , Mayilu (2012) and 36 Vayadhinile (2015) . In 2000 Bharathiraja 's son , Manoj , and the actress Meena released a low @-@ profile pop album entitled Pathinaaru Vayathinile .

= = Explanatory notes = =