

= Moodu Pani =

Moodu Pani ( English : The Mist ) is a 1980 Indian Tamil @-@ language thriller film written , directed and filmed by Balu Mahendra and produced by Raja Cine Arts . Starring Shoba and Pratap K. Pothen in the lead roles , with N. Viswanathan , Ganthimathi , Mohan and Bhanu Chander in supporting roles , it is based on the 1978 novel Idhuvum Oru Viduthalai Thaan by Rajendra Kumar . The film tells the story of Chandru ( Pothen ) , who has a strong hatred towards prostitutes and would kill any such woman whom he encounters . He falls in love with Rekha ( Shoba ) and believes marrying her will end his psychological distress .

Moodu Pani was the third directorial venture of Mahendra and his second Tamil film after Azhiyatha Kolangal ( 1979 ) . It was the last film featuring Shoba to be produced before her death in the same year , and the first appearance of Mohan in a Tamil film ; he would later become a successful actor in the industry . Moodu Pani was shot mostly in Bangalore , with additional filming taking place in Ooty . The film 's similarities to Alfred Hitchcock 's Psycho ( 1960 ) and the Oedipal elements between Chandru and his mother have been widely discussed . The soundtrack was composed by Ilayaraaja , this being his 100th film , and his brother Gangai Amaran was the main lyricist .

Moodu Pani was released on 6 November 1980 to critical acclaim , with particular praise for the way the story was told visually with minimum dependence on dialogue and acting , though the performances of Pothen and Shoba and Ilayaraaja 's music also received wide praise , especially the song " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " . The film was a commercial success , running for 250 days in theatres . It was also responsible for a resurgence of the thriller genre in Tamil cinema at that point . Despite the film propelling Pothen to stardom , it also led to him being typecast in similar roles .

= = Plot = =

Chandru ( Pratap K. Pothen ) , the managing director of an export company in Bangalore , has a hatred for prostitutes since childhood , as he was the victim of a prostitute who ruined his family by taking his father away from his mother . Raghunath ( N. Viswanathan ) is a police inspector who knows Chandru and his mother . Raghunath 's son Ravi ( Bhanu Chander ) is engaged to Rekha ( Shoba ) .

Haunted by memories of the prostitute , Chandru lures two prostitutes to lonely places and murders them as he sees that woman in each of them . Rekha 's female friend Pallavi comes to Bangalore to meet her , and telephones her for her residential address . The conversation is overheard by the Madam of a brothel ( Ganthimathi ) , who misleads Pallavi . Instead of being taken to Rekha 's house , Pallavi is taken to the brothel and forced into prostitution . Rekha and Raghunath search for Pallavi . Chandru comes to the same brothel and takes Pallavi in his car , but kills her . Rekha learns of Pallavi 's murder through Raghunath ; neither Rekha nor Raghunath are aware that Chandru is the murderer .

Still photographer Bhaskar ( Mohan ) takes pictures of his lover with a motorbike in the background . Chandru , who had come on that motorbike , had parked it there and murdered a prostitute ( Vijaychandrika ) who enticed him near the same location , then rode away . Reading about the murder in a newspaper , Bhaskar shows Raghunath the pictures with the murderer 's motorbike in the background . Raghunath investigates and learns that the owner has lent it to his friend .

Troubled by his constant anger , Chandru meets with a psychiatrist who advises him to marry soon so that he will no longer be lonely , saying the loneliness is leading him to dwell on his past and indulge in extreme acts . Chandru meets Rekha at a theatre and then at a book stall . He proposes to Rekha and even pleads with her to marry him . Surprised at his extreme pleading , Rekha politely informs him that she loves someone else ( Ravi ) , and their marriage is already fixed . Raghunath is startled when Rekha tells him about Chandru 's marriage proposal .

Chandru keeps following Rekha ; one day when she goes to visit her friend , he makes her unconscious and takes her away to a bungalow in Ooty . When she regains consciousness , he tells her that he had purchased this house in Ooty only for her , and again asks her to marry him . When Rekha refuses and begs to be freed , he asks her to stay for at least a month so that she can

understand him better , and then reduces it to a week . He makes all the arrangements to ensure that she cannot escape . One day , Rekha slams Chandru with a spade and runs away . However , he catches and traps her in the garage of his house , but is hospitalised for his injury .

Raghunath visits Chandru 's office for an enquiry and learns that he has gone to Ooty . He also meets Chandru 's psychiatrist and learns about his hatred for prostitutes . He immediately connects this with the recent news of the prostitutes murdered in the city . He visits Chandru 's house . Hidden in the garage , he finds the same motorbike photographed by Bhaskar . With his suspicions growing stronger , he arrives in Ooty to meet Chandru and visits the police station , where he finds Chandru 's car . The area 's inspector tells Raghunath that an unknown person came in the car to the hospital and was admitted ; the car was brought to the police station for safety . Raghunath visits the hospital , but finds that Chandru has left . Raghunath is joined by Ravi , and both rush to Chandru 's house .

Meanwhile , Rekha escapes from the garage and enters the room where Chandru earlier claimed his mother stays . However , she finds only a skeleton and is cornered by Chandru , who tries to assault her . Ravi and Raghunath hear Rekha screaming and rush to the room . Raghunath subdues Chandru , who collapses and reveals that the skeleton is his mother 's . Raghunath understands Chandru 's love for his mother and his traumatic childhood , which had made him develop a hatred for women with loose morals . Chandru is arrested , while Rekha and Ravi unite .

= = Cast = =

Shoba as Rekha  
Pratap K. Pothen as Chandru  
N. Viswanathan as Raghunath  
Ganthimathi as the Madam of the brothel  
Mohan as Bhaskar  
Vijaychandrika as the prostitute  
Bhanu Chander as Ravi ( uncredited )

= = Production = =

Moodu Pani , which was Balu Mahendra 's third feature film and second in Tamil after Azhiyatha Kolangal ( 1979 ) , was based on Rajendra Kumar 's 1978 novel Idhuvum Oru Viduthalai Thaan . It was produced by Raja Cine Arts and edited by D. Vasu . In addition to scripting and directing the film , Mahendra also served as the cinematographer .

Pratap K. Pothen was cast as Chandru , the mild @-@ mannered and psychopathic serial killer of prostitutes . He had previously collaborated with Mahendra on Azhiyatha Kolangal . Shoba was chosen to play Rekha , the female lead . This was her last film to be produced ; she died after filming was complete . It was her third appearance in a film directed by Mahendra , following the Kannada film Kokila ( 1977 ) , and Azhiyatha Kolangal .

N. Viswanathan was cast as the police inspector Raghunath , and Bhanu Chander was chosen to play Raghunath 's son and Rekha 's fiancé Ravi ( although he was not credited ) , while Ganthimathi was cast as the Madam of a brothel . Vijaychandrika appeared as a prostitute murdered by Chandru . Mohan , who later became a leading actor in Tamil cinema , made his debut in Tamil with this film , playing the photographer Bhaskar . It was his second film under Mahendra 's direction , following Kokila .

Moodu Pani was shot in 30 days in Bangalore with 36 @,@ 000 feet of negative film . It was also shot at Ooty . According to cinematographer Rajiv Menon , Mahendra was " trying to capture that misty feel " while shooting the film in hilly places . In the post @-@ production phase , Mahendra had dubbed the voice for Pothen . In making Moodu Pani , Mahendra faced the challenge of distinguishing it from P. Bharathiraja 's Sigappu Rojakkal ( 1978 ) , which had a similar theme . The final length of the film was 3 @,@ 848 metres ( 12 @,@ 625 ft ) .

= = Themes = =

Although Moodu Pani is officially based on the novel Idhuvum Oru Viduthalai Thaan , it has frequently been described as also having been inspired by Alfred Hitchcock 's thriller Psycho ( 1960 ) . According to Rukmini Krishnan of Daily News and Analysis , it was Psycho that inspired Mahendra to make Moodu Pani . R. Ilangovan of Frontline stated that while Mahendra was inspired by Psycho , his camera work , the " mist @-@ covered nights " of Bangalore and Ooty , and the " weirdness " of the subject made the film " unique " . While Idhuvum Oru Viduthalai Thaan and its author were acknowledged in the opening credits of the film , Hitchcock and Psycho were not . According to Sify , there is a strong similarity between Moodu Pani and Psycho as the male leads in both films keep the skeletal remains of their respective mothers , which they continue to communicate with . Mahendra 's disciple Ameer noted the Oedipal elements between Chandru and his deceased mother .

Mahendra , in his now defunct blog Moondram Pirai ... , referred to the film as a suspense thriller , while N. Venkateswaran of The Times of India described it as a psychological thriller . Devika Bai , writing for the New Straits Times , referred to Moodu Pani as a whodunit film . K. Hariharan , director of the L. V. Prasad Film & TV Academy , noted that sexuality and the repression of desire were the dominant motifs in Moodu Pani , expressed through the mysterious misty atmospheres of Ooty where the protagonist confronts their psychological antagonist . He also noted that Moodu Pani , like many of Mahendra 's films , borrowed its themes and stylistic devices from French New Wave and New Hollywood styles of filmmaking . Ilangovan noted that Chandru 's character , which was depicted as having flashes of wickedness bordering on perversion , was new to Tamil cinema . Crime and detective fiction writer Pattukkottai Prabakar considers Moodu Pani , along with Sigappu Rojakkal and Nooravathu Naal ( 1984 ) , to explore the personalities and behavioural traits of psychopaths in detail .

= = Music = =

The film 's soundtrack and score were composed by Ilaiyaraaja , this being his 100th film . It was also the first film in which he collaborated with Mahendra ; Ilaiyaraaja would later compose for all of Mahendra 's films until Thalaimuraigal ( 2013 ) , the director 's last film before his death in February 2014 . According to Mahendra , " When I first met [ Ilaiyaraaja ] I explained him what my kind of movie is and what I expect from him . The background score should allow meaningful silences in my films . I believe silence conveys more than words or music " . The soundtrack cover shows a scene from the song " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " involving Chandru ( Pothen ) and Rekha ( Shoba ) . The scene shows Chandru 's dream of being together with Rekha , even though she dislikes him because he has abducted and taken her to Ooty , and she seeks to escape .

Moodu Pani marked A. R. Rahman 's first association with Ilaiyaraaja ; the former ( then known by his birth name Dilip ) worked as a keyboard player in the film . During the re @-@ recording of Moodu Pani 's soundtrack and score , Ilaiyaraaja fired his original keyboard player owing to the person 's drinking behaviour . At that time , another one of his troupe members asked Ilaiyaraaja to meet a boy named Dilip , who knew how to play the keyboard . Ilaiyaraaja agreed and sent for Dilip , whom he instructed regarding the notes and tune he had to play . Dilip , under Ilaiyaraaja 's supervision , successfully completed the re @-@ recording process .

The soundtrack was released under the label EMI Records . " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " was written in January 1980 , and had the longest prelude and interlude using a guitar . Ilaiyaraaja had composed the song " Ilaya Nila " which was initially supposed to feature in this film , but Mahendra rejected it and chose " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " instead . " Ilaya Nila " was subsequently used in Payanangal Mudivathillai ( 1982 ) . According to A. S. Panneerselvam of Frontline , the dominant genre of the music used in Moodu Pani was " modern jazz with a sprinkling of avant @-@ garde elements . " Ilaiyaraaja 's brother Gangai Amaran was the main lyricist of the soundtrack , except for the English language number " Sing Swing " ( also known as " Swing Swing " ) which was written by Viji Manuel ( credited as Vijaysamuel on the first soundtrack edition , and Vijaymanuel on the second ) ; the lyricist of " Aasai Raja " , is not credited . The first soundtrack edition did not feature "

Aasai Raja " ; the song was , however , included in a 1981 edition of the soundtrack .

The songs were praised for their superior quality . Due to the popularity of its music , Moodu Pani became the first Tamil film for which a cutout was made for Ilaiyaraaja and displayed in theatres . According to film producer and writer G. Dhananjayan , Ilaiyaraaja was the first music director to have been honoured with a cutout . Writing for The Times of India , Deepauk Murugesan praised " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " for showing K. J. Yesudas ' versatility as a singer . In July 2011 , D. Karthikeyan of The Hindu singled out the film 's re @-@ recording and ranked it alongside the music director 's other films such as Mullum Malarum ( 1978 ) , Uthiripookkal ( 1979 ) , Moondram Pirai ( 1982 ) , Nayakan ( 1987 ) and Thalapathi ( 1991 ) . Indo @-@ Asian News Service described " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " as one of Yesudas ' " best songs " . The song was included in Master Pieces , a compilation album featuring 14 songs composed by Ilaiyaraaja , which was released by Saregama in 2008 . Elements of " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " were incorporated by Ilaiyaraaja in his song " Baatein Hawa " from Cheeni Kum ( 2007 ) . A remix version of " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " is featured on music artist M. Rafi 's album Aasaiyae Alaipolae . In 2006 , Yesudas performed " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " during a programme held at PSG College of Technology , organised by Helpline Arts Academy to sponsor the education of underprivileged children in and around Coimbatore . In March 2010 , singer Vijay Prakash performed " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " as part of a medley , at the Star Vijay music show " Kaadhal Unplugged " . Singer Ajeesh also performed " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " live , at the Puthuyugam TV music show " Yugam Unplugged " in March 2014 .

Tracklist

= = Release and reception = =

Moodu Pani was released on 6 November 1980 and was commercially successful , running for 250 days in theatres . The film received critical acclaim , with critics praising the way the story was told visually with minimum dependence on dialogues and acting , though the performances of Pothen and Shoba also received praise . On 30 November 1980 , Ananda Vikatan said , " Half the dialogues in the film were spoken by the camera ... Balu Mahendra 's camera challenges and asks when I am there , where is the need for screenplay and dialogues ... " The 1991 book Indian Cinema by India 's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting states that Mahendra and Pothen " had brought superb craftsmanship to their sensitively told stories " such as Moodu Pani . English journalist Phil Hardy stated in his 1997 book The BFI Companion to Crime , " Finally , given the tendency in Indian cinema to remake successful Hollywood films , it is worth signalling Balu Mahendra 's remake of Psycho in Tamil , Moodupani ( 1980 ) . "

Bhama Devi Ravi of The Times of India said , " With his easygoing manners , Pothen was brilliant as a serial killer , and the last few minutes of the film were rivetting . " In an interview with India Today , cinematographer Natarajan Subramaniam called Moodu Pani his " eureka moment " . G. Dhananjayan , in his 2011 book The Best of Tamil Cinema called the film a " sleek thriller " , appreciating it for its " quality of making and camera work " . In February 2014 , S. Saraswathi of Rediff.com included Moodu Pani in her list , " The Best Films of Balu Mahendra " . K. S. Sivakumaran of Ceylon Today described the film as " halfway between artistic and merely entertaining . " The Telegraph called it one of Mahendra 's " masterpieces " , as did U. Tejonmayam , writing for The New Indian Express .

= = Legacy = =

After Sigappu Rojakkal , there was a resurgence of the thriller genre in Tamil cinema , as evidenced by films like Moodu Pani . According to G. Dhananjayan , the film became a " benchmark for every cinematographer on how it was shot frame by frame " , and it " inspired a generation to take up film @-@ making " . M. Suganth of The Times of India stated that Mahendra " changed the landscape of Tamil cinema with his distinctive visuals and eclectic films " such as Moodu Pani . Pothen recalled in January 2015 that it was the simultaneous release of Moodu Pani and his other film Varumayin Niram Sivappu that made him a star . However , both Varumayin Niram Sivappu , which depicted

Pothen as an eccentric director obsessed with an actress , and Moodu Pani led to him being typecast in similar roles . " Both roles caught the public imagination , and I admit I cashed in when I was offered similar stuff . Now , unless I 'm offered an unreasonable amount of money , I doubt I 'll accept these roles , " he said in a 2014 interview .

In Iruvar Mattum ( 2006 ) , Azhagu ( Abhay ) keeps the skeletal remains of his mother and frequently talks to her ; Sify compared this plot detail to that of Moodu Pani and Psycho . Malathi Rangarajan of The Hindu , in her review of Julie Ganapathi ( 2003 ) a film about a mentally deranged woman ( Saritha ) who saves an accident victim ( Jayaram ) from death , nurses him in her own home and also falls in love with him , but holds him captive there , stated that the film had " shades " of Moodu Pani . Actor Veera Bahu stated that he watched Moodu Pani in preparation for his role as a psychopath in the thriller Nadunisi Naaygal .

Mahendra 's 2001 film En Iniya Pon Nilavae was named after the song of the same name . Veena player Rajhesh Vaidhya 's 2005 album was also titled En Iniya Pon Nilaave . In Vaaranam Aayiram ( 2008 ) , when Suriya 's character first sees Sameera Reddy 's character and falls in love with her , he takes his guitar and performs " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " . Pothen expressed appreciation for Suriya 's version of the song in a May 2015 interview , saying that he had " enjoyed it " . In June 2014 during Ilaiyaraaja 's 71st birthday , singers Shweta Mohan and Aalap Raju collaborated to make a video in which they performed some of Ilaiyaraaja 's songs as a tribute to him ; one song was " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " . In May 2015 , the FM radio station , Radio City , commemorated Ilaiyaraaja 's 72nd birthday by broadcasting the composer 's songs in a special show titled Raja Rajathan for 91 days . " Yen Iniya Pon Nilavae " was one of the most requested songs on the show . Although no print of Moodu Pani has survived , the film is still available on home video .