

= Siva (1989 Telugu film) =

Siva (also spelt Shiva) is a 1989 Indian Telugu @-@ language crime drama film written and directed by Ram Gopal Varma in his directorial debut . Produced by Akkineni Venkat and Yarlagadda Surendra under their banners of Annapurna Studios and SS Creations , Siva starred Akkineni Nagarjuna , Amala , and Raghuvaran . The film 's basic plot , adapted from Bruce Lee 's Way of the Dragon (1972) , revolves around the conflict between college student @-@ turned @-@ gangster Siva and Bhavani , a reputed crime boss mentored by the politician Machiraju . Siva explores the concepts of student exploitation by anti @-@ social elements and the impact of crowd psychology .

Varma 's script was based on his experiences as a student at Siddhartha Engineering College in Vijayawada . Tanikella Bharani wrote the dialogue . Ilaiyaraaja composed Siva 's soundtrack and score , and S. Gopala Reddy was its director of photography . Thota Tharani and Sattibabu were the film 's art director and editor , respectively . Its principal photography began on 16 February 1989 , and was completed in 55 working days . Except for three days of shooting in Madras (now Chennai) , Siva was filmed in Andhra Pradesh .

Produced on a budget of ? 7 @.@ 5 million , Siva was released on 5 October 1989 to critical acclaim , primarily for its technology and sound design . Although Venkat and Surendra expected the film to have average earnings , it was commercially successful ; Siva completed a 100 @-@ day run in 22 centres and a 175 @-@ day run in five centres . It was the only Telugu film screened at the International Film Festival of India , held on 19 January 1990 . In addition to the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu , Siva won three Nandi Awards : Best Director (Varma) , Best First Film of a Director , and Best Dialogue Writer (Bharani) . A documentary titled Exploring Shiva after 25 Years was released on the film 's silver anniversary ; it is the first documentary about a Telugu film .

Siva , which attained cult status , is considered Nagarjuna 's breakthrough film . It is credited with the introduction of steadicam and new sound recording techniques in Telugu cinema , encouraging filmmakers to explore a variety of themes and make experimental films . For the April 2013 centennial of Indian cinema , CNN @-@ News18 included Siva on its list of 100 greatest Indian films of all time . Its Tamil @-@ dubbed version , Udhayam , was also successful . Varma remade the film twice in Hindi with the same title . The first , starring Nagarjuna , Amala and Raghuvaran , performed well at the box office , but the second , with Mohit Ahlawat and Priyanka Kothari , did not .

= = Plot = =

Siva , a student , comes to Vijayawada from a nearby town to pursue his education . He lives with his brother Sharath 's family , and enrolls in the VAS College of Arts and Sciences . Although Sharath and his daughter Keerthi get along well with Siva , his wife considers him a financial burden . Siva befriends a group of students and falls in love with Asha , sister of the honest police inspector Venkat .

The college 's (unopposed) student @-@ union president , J. Durga Rao (known as J. D.) is the lowest rung in a gang ladder reaching through the gangster Ganesh to crime boss Bhavani . Bhavani uses the network to support his mentor Machiraju , a politician . Although J. D. is arrested many times , Bhavani continues to bail him out . When J. D. teases Asha on campus , Siva attacks him with a bicycle chain ; a rivalry then develops between him and Ganesh .

The incident encourages Siva 's friends to ask him to stand for the student @-@ union presidency , but he wants them to nominate Naresh (one of the group) instead . Ganesh 's attempts to pacify Siva fail , and Bhavani learns about him . He considers Siva a potential replacement for J. D. , whose weakness annoys him .

Naresh is fatally assaulted by J. D. and Bhavani 's henchmen , and is taken to hospital . Siva retaliates , infuriating Bhavani . When Siva 's friends attend a wedding , they are attacked by Ganesh and others . One of Siva 's friends , Malli , is murdered and Siva swears revenge . Sensing a risk to Sharath 's family after an attempt on Keerthi 's life , Siva leaves their house and moves into his friend Chinna 's hostel .

He agrees to contest the student @-@ union presidential election . Bhavani cheats labour @-@ union leader Krishna Reddy , who changes his allegiance to Siva . Around this time , Asha and Siva marry . Bhavani begins attacking and murdering Siva 's close aides , and Siva ensures that Sharath relocates to Visakhapatnam as a part of his job . Siva attacks Bhavani 's henchmen , and helps Venkat arrest Ganesh .

Machiraju sees Siva as a potential replacement for Bhavani , and stops supporting the latter . Bhavani learns about Siva 's relationship to Sharath , and kidnaps Keerthi . Ganesh appears in court , and an arrest warrant is issued for Bhavani . Insulted and humiliated , Bhavani kills Keerthi and Machiraju . Siva and Bhavani later duel on a shopping @-@ complex terrace . Bhavani commits suicide , and Siva walks out as Asha and Venkat watch in dismay .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

After he graduated with a degree in civil engineering from Siddhartha Engineering College in Vijayawada , Ram Gopal Varma opened a video @-@ rental shop in Ameerpet . Noting his son 's interest in films , Penmatsa Krishnamraju (a former sound recordist for Annapurna Studios) helped Varma join the teams of Collector Gari Abbai (1987) and Rao Gari Illu (1988) as an assistant director . Varma befriended actor Akkineni Nagarjuna , and filmmakers Akkineni Venkat and Yalagadda Surendra . He presented his script for Raathri to them . When Nagarjuna rejected it , Varma presented another script based on his life as a student in Vijayawada . He earlier narrated this script to filmmaker Kovelamudi Raghavendra Rao who suggested few changes because of its serious tone . Varma watched Rao 's Kaliyuga Pandavulu (1986) and backed out after understanding Rao 's point of view .

When Rao Gari Illu was nearly completed , Varma asked co @-@ director Siva Nageswara Rao to join him . He approached Tanikella Bharani to write the dialogue after observing his work in Ladies Tailor (1985) and Shri Kanakamalaxmi Recording Dance Troupe (1987) . Bharani found the plot (as described by Varma) similar to those of K. S. R. Das ' films . Varma rejected Bharani 's comic version , and asked to rewrite it as a crime drama . Although Bharani 's usual fee was ? 25 @,@ 000 , he received ? 35 @,@ 000 for Siva . Gunasekhar and Teja , who later pursued career as filmmakers , joined the film 's crew as assistant directors .

Venkat and Surendra produced Siva under their banners of Annapurna Studios and SS Creations , respectively . The production began in February 1989 . Varma wanted M. M. Keeravani to compose the film 's soundtrack and score , since Keeravani had assisted K. Chakravarthy on Rao Gari Illu . As both were inexperienced , Keeravani suggested that Varma choose a more seasoned technician and Ilaiyaraaja was signed instead . S. Gopala Reddy , Thota Tharani and Sattibabu were the film 's director of photography , art director and editor , respectively . Gopala Reddy was inspired by Gordon Willis ' work in Francis Ford Coppola 's crime drama , The Godfather (1972) .

= = = Casting = = =

Siva is Nagarjuna 's 17th film as an actor . Varma found him the only actor who could understand his perspective . Nagarjuna and Varma had discussed astronomy and realised that they shared similar sensibilities . That , and Varma 's passion for and dedication to films , prompted Nagarjuna to work with him . Amala , who worked with Nagarjuna in Prema Yuddham (1990) , was chosen as the female lead . Siva was the first film in her career where the script was explained shot by shot . When Varma approached Rohini to dub Amala 's portions , she agreed to dub for Amala only after watching about three reels of footage .

Varma chose Raghuvaran to play the local crime boss , Bhavani . Varma wanted him to underplay the character , which was based on real life . Before accepting the role , Raghuvaran studied the mannerisms and lifestyles of mob leaders and criminals in Mumbai for 20 days . Varma wanted to name the characters played by Nagarjuna and Raghuvaran as Bhavani and Siva respectively . At Nagarjuna 's request , he reversed the names . Varma chose newcomers Chakravarthy , Jithendra , and Ramjagan to play J. D. , Chinna , and Naresh after auditioning them at Annapurna Studios . Uttej , one of Varma 's assistant directors , played a comic role of a server in the college canteen . He recommended Varma to cast Sushma for Keerthi 's role .

Saikumar was initially supposed to play J. D. , but the role went to Chakravarthy . Varma met the latter on the film 's sets and asked him to perform a scene of his choice . Despite an unsuccessful screen test , Varma selected Chakravarthy after a meeting on the next day after observing the depth in his expression . Seasoned actors such as Murali Mohan , Gollapudi Maruti Rao , Kota Srinivasa Rao , Subhalekha Sudhakar , and Saichand played supporting roles . Bharani agreed to play Bhavani 's assistant , Nanaji , at Varma 's insistence . Producer Akkineni Venkat made a cameo appearance as one of Bhavani 's clients , and Siva Nageswara Rao dubbed his portion . Brahmaji was cast as Bhavani 's henchman .

= = = Filming = = =

Varma read about steadicam in American Cinematographer , and enquired about the possibility of a similar camera in India . After learning that steadicam was available in Chennai for four years and was already obsolete , Varma decided to use it despite Gopala Reddy 's apprehension . Varma chose Rasool Ellore over Rajiv Menon and Deenpal to assist Gopala Reddy with the steadicam . Principal photography began on 16 February 1989 , and wrapped in 55 working days . Except for three days in Chennai , the film was shot in Andhra Pradesh .

The scenes of the protagonist 's college life were filmed at Keyes High school , near Secunderabad Junction railway station . A school wall was demolished and a gate was repaired for the film 's opening scene . Raghuvaran was carried away during the shoot of few action sequences and slapped Brahmaji for nearly six times in a row . To avoid such issues in the case of murder scenes , Varma decided to complete few of them by using plain close @-@ ups of the victims . Sudhakar 's murder scene was filmed near Keesara in Ranga Reddy district . Gopala Reddy and Ellore placed a camera in a bag and ran behind him for a shaky effect . In the cycle @-@ chain scene in which Siva uses a cycle chain to fight with J. D. , the hand pulling the chain was Ellore 's ; in the next shot , Nagarjuna is shown holding the chain . The scene in which Naresh is killed near his home was filmed in the streets of Vengala Rao Nagar . The cycle chase scenes were filmed in Somajiguda and the slums behind Yashoda Hospitals . The bus chase scene was shot in Yusufguda . The film 's climax was filmed at the Swapnalok complex in Secunderabad , and Bhavani 's suicide was filmed on a set at Venus Studios in Chennai .

Several romantic scenes with Nagarjuna and Amala were initially filmed at Ushakiron Movies in Secunderabad . Dissatisfied with the results , Varma reshot them at the Osman Ali House . Mugur Sundar choreographed the songs , and " Anando Brahma " was filmed at the Borra Caves in Vishakhapatnam . The film crew had to crawl into the caves , making Siva the first Telugu film shot in its interiors . The remaining songs were filmed on sets at Annapurna Studios . Srinivasa Rao filmed his scenes in one day . The fights , choreographed by Varma , featured hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat and attacks with hooks as he was trained in kickboxing .

= = Themes and influences = =

Siva explores the exploitation of students by anti @-@ social elements against a mafia backdrop and the impact on them of crowd psychology . It also focuses on politics and betrayal in the scene where Bhavani murders Machiraju and his enemy Viswanadham . As a student , Varma observed and participated in gang wars and student politics besides analysing the impact of a gangster 's lifestyle and body language on students . Those experiences inspired him to begin writing Siva .

Most of the characters , including Bhavani , were inspired by real life . Bhavani was based on Radha , an actual crime boss with a reputation for violence in Vijayawada ; Bhavani , like Radha , is also a woman 's name . Siva 's character was comparatively fictitious whom Varma considered an " ideal person " making the society " too dramatic " . Siva was partially based on Varma 's friend , Golla Ravi , who lived in Punjagutta . Assistant director Krishna Vamsi found the film 's story similar to Rahul Rawail 's Arjun (1985) . Varma said that Arjun was an inspiration for Siva , since Sunny Deol 's title character in Arjun was a hero who " does not bend to forces larger than himself " . Apart from Arjun , Varma was also inspired by Govind Nihalani 's Ardh Satya (1983) and Dilip Shanker 's Kaal Chakra (1988) .

The basic plot of Bruce Lee 's Way of the Dragon (1972) was adapted by Varma for Siva . In Way of the Dragon , Lee comes from Hong Kong to work in a Chinese restaurant in Rome and fights local gangsters who try to intimidate the owners ; this leads to a rivalry with a crime boss (played by Chuck Norris) . In Siva , Nagarjuna comes from a nearby town to Vijayawada to further his education , fights gangsters and develops a rivalry with Raghuvaran . While Lee and Norris fight at the Colosseum at the climax of Way of the Dragon , Nagarjuna and Raghuvaran duel on a building terrace in Siva .

In addition to Way of the Dragon , Varma adapted scenes from a number of other films . Malli 's mother slapping a police inspector for failing to save him was inspired by Steven Spielberg 's Jaws (1975) , and the cycle chase scene was based on a similar scene in Arjun . A scene in which goons demand donations to build a temple for Ganesha was from Kaal Chakra . Although Varma wanted to film a fight between Nagarjuna and Chakravarthy during a football match (based on a similar scene in 1978 's Damien : Omen II) , Venkat was indifferent to the idea .

= = Music = =

The five @-@ song soundtrack album and background score of Siva were composed by Ilaiyaraaja , with Veturi Sundararama Murthy writing the lyrics of " Anando Brahma " , " Enniyallo " , and " Kiss Me Hello " . Sirivennela Sitaramasastry wrote the lyrics for the remaining two songs : " Botany " and " Sarasalu " . S. P. Balasubrahmanyam , S. Janaki , K. S. Chithra , and Mano were the singers . Due to a strike in Madras , Ilaiyaraaja and Varma completed the background score in Mumbai . The producers suggested Varma to use stock tunes instead for the score . Nagarjuna noticed this and asked them to provide what Varma asked for , and offered to pay the additional expenses incurred if any . For an action scene , Ilaiyaraaja used moving string music ; when Varma asked why , he answered : " They have come here to study and they are fighting . So I just felt sad for them " .

Varma was impressed with Deepan Chatterjee 's work in Sindhoora Puvvu (1988) and recruited him as Siva 's sound designer . Ismail Darbar , who later composed the music for Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam (1999) and Devdas (2002) , worked with Ilaiyaraaja on Siva as a violinist . The soundtrack was successful , and Chatterjee 's sound design was critically acclaimed . Varma dedicated the background score of his Rowdy (2014) , composed by Sai Karthik , to Ilaiyaraaja . Adapting the background score of the cycle @-@ chase scene in Rowdy , Varma said that his main interest was " to bring back this composition to express the great idea of the genius [Ilaiyaraaja 's] 1989 soundtrack (of Siva) to 2014 " .

= = Release and reception = =

Siva was produced on a budget of ? 7 @.@ 5 million . Venkat and Surendra retained the distribution rights for Nizam , Vishakhapatnam and the East and West Godavari regions . Released on 5 October 1989 , it was critically acclaimed , with major praise directed towards its usage of technology and sound design . The distributors were concerned about the film 's violence , saying that it would alienate women and families (whom the film industry believed were the majority of the audience) . Although Venkat and Surendra expected that the film would have average earnings , Siva was a commercial success and earned ? 10 million in the Nizam region alone (a first in Telugu cinema) . In addition to ? 50 @,@ 000 , Varma received five percent of Siva 's profits . The film had

a 100 @-@ day run in 22 centres and a 175 @-@ day run in five centres . It was the only Telugu film screened at the International Film Festival of India , held on 19 January 1990 at the Empire Theatre in Kolkata . For the April 2013 centennial of Indian cinema CNN @-@ News18 included Siva on its list of 100 greatest Indian films of all time , calling it a " completely new take on student politics and the ideologies driving it " and saying that the film 's ideas " found a reflection in many university elections during a later stage " .

The Tamil remake rights to Siva were initially sold for ? 100 @,@ 000 . After the film 's release , Venkat and Surendra dubbed it into Tamil as Udhayam and sold its distribution rights for ? 8 @.@ 5 million . Released on 12 January 1990 in 24 centres , Udhayam was commercially successful and earned more than ? 20 million . Akkineni Nageswara Rao advised Varma to place an advertisement thanking the audience for the film 's success . Varma opposed it , believing that a film 's success should be credited to the production team and its failure attributed to the director . When Varma 's second film , Kshana Kshanam (1991) under @-@ performed at the box office , Siva 's success was considered accidental . In addition to the Filmfare Award for Best Film ? Telugu , Siva won three Nandi Awards : Best Director (Varma) , Best First Film of a Director , and Best Dialogue Writer (Bharani) .

= = Remakes = =

Siva was remade by Varma in Hindi as Shiva in 1990 , and was Nagarjuna 's acting debut in Hindi cinema . It was the last Hindi film with Amala in a lead role . Minor changes were made to the remake 's cast and crew . All the songs in the Telugu version were used unchanged except for " Botany " , which was reshot at Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University in Rajendranagar . Telugu filmmaker Puri Jagannadh was cast as one of Nagarjuna 's friends in the remake . Jagannadh wanted to assist Varma and approached him for an opportunity . Varma insisted Jagannadh to act and he obliged , feeling that this experience would teach him something . Produced in association with Atluri Purnachandra Rao on a budget of ? 11 @.@ 5 million , Shiva was released on 7 December 1990 and was successful in Mumbai and Kolkata .

During the production of James (2005) , Varma planned to remake Siva . The second remake , also entitled Shiva , featured Mohit Ahlawat and Priyanka Kothari as the characters played by Nagarjuna and Amala in the original . Unlike Siva , the protagonist in the second remake is an honest man who joins the Mumbai Police as a new recruit ; the cycle @-@ chain scene and Raghuvaran 's character were omitted . Shiva received negative reviews ; Sukanya Verma of Rediff.com wrote that the film " dare [d] to ridiculously rest on the incapable shoulders of a non @-@ acting cast " , and nastiness was " defined as a scowling ogre " . Director Riingo Banerjee acknowledged Siva as a source of inspiration for his 2006 Bengali film Kranti .

= = Documentary , digitisation , and sequel plans = =

In September 2014 , Siva was digitally remastered for theatrical release . Supriya Yarlagadda of Annapurna Studios said that the decision to remaster and digitise was made after observing the challenges in storing and preserving old film prints . The process (carried out in Mumbai) took a year , and the film 's colour and sound quality were enhanced to meet current standards . At the time , Varma said that he would release a documentary on the making of the film entitled Exploring Shiva after 25 Years . The first documentary based on a Telugu film , it provided a " holistic view of the film " and featured interviews with the cast and crew and segments on its sound and filming locations . The documentary was released on 5 October 2014 , coinciding with Siva 's silver anniversary .

A silver jubilee event was held on 7 October 2014 in Hyderabad , where Nagarjuna announced that Siva 's digitised version would be released on 17 October 2014 on nearly 100 screens . In April 2015 , Varma told Indo @-@ Asian News Service that the digitised release was postponed until 15 May because of restoration delays . In September Nagarjuna said that a sequel to Siva would be a viable alternative to a digitised version , and proposed a film about Siva , Asha , and their two sons .

Advising Varma to develop a script , he asked the director to cast Amala , Naga Chaitanya and Akhil Akkineni . The sequel would reportedly be produced by Annapurna Studios .

= = Legacy = =

= = = Influence on film personalities = = =

Siva , which attained cult status in Telugu cinema , is one of the first Telugu films produced after the migration of Telugu film industry from Madras to Hyderabad to feature characters speaking the Telangana dialect . The film made Nagarjuna a superstar in Telugu cinema ; it changed his career , and earned him a reputation for encouraging new directors . Nagarjuna considered Siva a milestone in his personal life as well since he and Amala , who were in a relationship during the film 's shoot , decided to marry after its completion . According to filmmaker V. V. Vinayak and writer Pulagam Chinnarayana , Siva divided Telugu cinema into two eras : before and after the film . With Siva , Varma was credited with the introduction of steadicams and new sound recording techniques in Telugu films . Within a year of the film 's release , more than ten steadicams were imported into India . Siva attracted the young audience during its theatrical run , and its success encouraged filmmakers to explore a variety of themes and make experimental Telugu films .

Bharani broke through as an actor and dialogue writer with the film . Chakravarthy , Jithendra and Ramjagan achieved success with Siva , and the former two adapted J. D. and Chinna as screen names . Kannada actor and filmmaker Upendra reworked the narrative of Om (1995) when he found the previous version similar to Siva . Telugu filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli understood the importance of heightening tension in action sequences , and the impact created by proper use of sound after watching Siva . Sreenu Vaitla , Sudheer Varma , and Praveen Sri were inspired by Siva to pursue careers as directors ; Sri assisted Ram Gopal Varma before he made his directorial debut with Gaayam 2 (2010) . Music director Munna Kasi was inspired by Ilaiyaraaja 's work in Siva , and wanted to work with Varma after he graduated . On the rise of antisocial @-@ element @-@ based scripts in Tamil cinema , trade analyst Sreedhar Pillai said in May 2002 that Siva 's Tamil @-@ dubbed version (Udhayam) was the " forerunner " of city @-@ based crime films .

Tamil actor Ganesh Venkatraman was " mesmerised " as a child by Siva , admiring Nagarjuna and carrying a cycle chain in his schoolbag . About the impact of Baahubali : The Beginning (2015) on Indian cinema , Rana Daggubati said that regional films can gain national acceptance for their content and cited the success of Siva and Roja (1992) as examples . In March 2016 , Karthi said that he admired Nagarjuna after seeing Siva and Idhayathai Thirudathe (1989) and found working with him in Oopiri (2016) " a great chance to know him . "

= = = In popular culture = = =

The cycle @-@ chain scene became popular , with people telling Varma that they broke a cycle chain after seeing Siva ; the director called them the " ultimate example of how imagination can take over and become a reality in time " . The chain used in the film is currently owned by Chakravarthy . Film @-@ poster designers Anil and Bhanu said that posters should be designed to make a subconscious impact on the viewer , citing the title logo of Siva (with Nagarjuna and the cycle chain) as an example . Inspired by Varma 's work in Siva , Rajamouli composed the action sequence during the intermission of his directorial debut Student No. 1 (2002) , and followed the shot division of the cycle @-@ chain scene for the same .

Chakravarthy agreed to play the antagonist in Naga Chaitanya 's acting debut , Josh (2009) , and said that its makers are " trying to get JD of Shiva who actually ran away mid way from college " . Bangalore Mirror and other reviewers noted similarities between Josh and Siva , which Chaitanya called a " coincidence " . Chaitanya 's films , Bezawada (2011) ? produced by Varma ? and Autonagar Surya (2014) , were noted for similarities to Siva . Siva was parodied in several films such as Lakshmi (2006) , Oosaravelli (2011) , Katha Screenplay Darsakatvam Appalaraju (2011)

(also directed by Varma) , and Sudigadu (2012) .

Amala listed Siva with Pushpaka Vimana (1987) , Vedham Pudhithu (1987) , Agni Natchathiram (1988) , and Karpooora Mullai (1991) as her most memorable films . Geethika Chandrahasan Sudip of The Hindu listed Siva for the letter S in the July 2015 " ABCD of Telugu cinema " . In August 2015 , Pooja Darade of The Times of India included the film on her list of " Telugu movies one must watch before dying " . Fahad Usmani of The Hindu compared Siva to Mother India (1957) , Sholay (1975) , Mr. India (1987) , Agneepath (1990) , and Ghayal (1990) , noting that their antagonists became more popular than their heroes .