

Pushpak

"Pushpak" with the screen name "Pushpak Vimana," is a silent black comedy film by Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, produced in the year 1987. The setting of the film is unique when it comes to storytelling without any dialogues, using visual narration as well music in the background to showcase its story. "Pushpak" which is Set in an unnamed city, is the story of a poor and jobless man who ends up in a rich man's life by nearly chancing events.

The movie opens with the hero, a man played by Kamal Hassan, surviving on the streets, but cannot manage to find work or food. On the other day a job-holding drunk gentleman, Sameer Khakhar, lies on the road in an unconscious state. Sensing his chance, the hero takes the businessman's clothes and identity, pretending to be the businessman and staying in a grand hotel.

When the hero reaches the hotel through a crowded street, he meets a stunning young lady, Amala Akkineni (a rich man's fiancée). The protagonist starts to like his new found companion and is trying to woo her. Moreover, the authentic businessman now lays on the street with a memory loss that he cannot recall. On a quest for his own identity, our hero starts a string of funny and crazy situations.

As the narrative develops, we see the lives of the protagonist, the rich man, and the woman taking different paths that meet in a surprising and touching ending that leads the audience to think about truth and beauty of human life, money and wealth.

The filmmakers' aim appears to be complex in the movie "Pushpak" From the superficial standpoint, the movie can be looked at as a satirical depiction of social problems like homelessness, unemployment, and the discrepancy between the rich and the poor. The transformation of the protagonist from the poor person to the rich imposter symbolizes the malleability of the identity and the unsatisfying nature of the social status.

On the other hand, the movie digs deeper into the themes of loneliness, missing someone, and happiness. But this is a rich life without real human interaction and love. This implies the filmmakers' meditation on the essence of happiness and the hollowness of the materialistic desires.

Furthermore, the fact that "Pushpak" is a silent film makes its worldwide appeal, which puts language barriers aside and allows the viewers to adhere to the characters and themes of the film. In this way, the dialogue is stripped away and the power of filmmaking is highlighted through the creative and skillful expression of feelings and story without words.

In a technical manner, "Pushpak" is a masterpiece of cinematography and visual narration. The film's light and shadow, camera angles, and composition help the audience to enjoy a captivating and immersive experience. The absence of dialogues is made up by captivating performance of the actors and the wonderful background music that not only increase the emotional depth of this movie but also the impact of the film on the viewer.

The art direction of "Pushpak" is also worth mentioning, especially the contrast between the main character's simple life in street and the luxury of the hotel. This conflict is not only a

visual image of the protagonist's transformation but also draws attention to the hard truth of social inequities.

"Pushpak" is an interesting and aesthetically pleasing film that crosses the boundaries of language and culture. Its poignant story telling, together with its innovative way of story telling, has made it an eternal classic that still connects with audiences of today.

The film is an invitation to explore the themes of identity, wealth and happiness and they are still very relevant today. "Pushpak" serves as a powerful reminder of cinema's ability to express the deepest feelings and reflect life in a captivating and meaningful way, not to be missed by both cinephile and moviegoers alike.