

TAMIL FILMS

Two movies from Bharath on Dec. 8



Bharath, keen to continue with his good run after *Em Mahan*, is looking forward to his *Veyyil* and *Chennai Kadhal*, which will be releasing on the same day.

*Veyyil* is from the banner which shot Bharath to fame namely, S pictures. Bhavana plays the female lead in this film, which is directed by G. Vasanthabalan.

*Chennai Kadhal* is directed by Vikraman for V Creations. Genelia plays the heroine in this film. Since both the banners are names to reckon with, Bharath is anxiously looking forward to these two films.

Sneha back at the helm



After Pudhupettai, Sneha chose to concentrate on Telugu films for a while. Now she is back with a bang in Tamil.

Sneha has been chosen to do prominent roles in a couple of big projects in Kollywood. Sneha plays the lead character in cinematographer-director Thangar

Bachan's Pallikoodam.

She is also cast opposite Jeevan in the remake of yesteryear classic Naan Avanillai. The movie would be produced by noted film distributor Japak. He has reportedly acquired the remake rights of the yesteryear classic featuring Gemini Ganesan in the lead role.

The new version will have Jeevan in the role of Gemini Ganesan. It is an extension of the role played by Jeevan in his *Thiruttu Payalae*. He plays a womaniser. Veteran actress Lakshmi had donned the role of a revolutionary woman in the original. Now, Sneha has been assigned to do the role enacted by Lakshmi.

Also Namitha has been cast in the movie. It looks like Sneha is ready to go all guns blazing again.

Why was Aamir's RDB horse scene deleted?

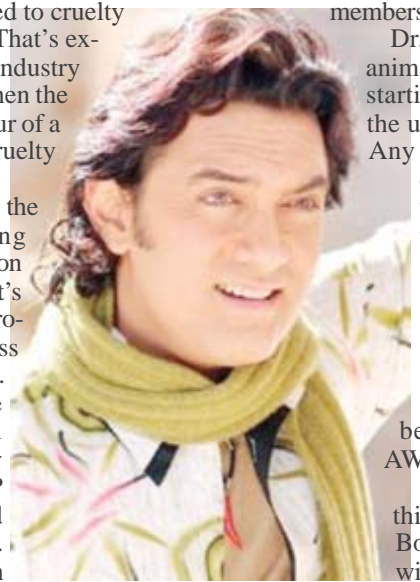
The outrage attained glaring proportions when a fabulous scene with Aamir Khan riding on top of a horse was deleted from the title track of *Rang De Basanti*. Why? It amounted to cruelty against animals. Bizarre. But true. That's exactly the tortuous effect the film industry has been subjected to since 2001 when the High Court passed a verdict in favour of a PIL filed by PETA claiming gross cruelty against animals in Hindi films.

A lack of clarity was rampant in the film industry known for being disorganised with lack of a proper union being its biggest shortcoming. That's exactly what a few leading film producers wished to sort out at a press meet with Major General Dr. R.M. Kharab, Chairman Animal Welfare Board of India at a hotel in Mumbai recently. The meeting was chaired by Pahlaj Nihalani, President, AMPTPP (Association of Motion Pictures and TV Programme Producers). T.P. Agarwal of IMPPA (Indian Motion

Pictures Producers Association), Ramesh Taurani, Vice President, AMPTPP and Sangram Shirke, President, Western Indian Film Producers Association were the other members present on the dais.

Dr. Kharab informed that all the trained animal owners need to register with AWBI starting from December 1st onwards for the usage of trained animals in any film. Any animal which is part of the ambience and is not doing any stunts in the film did not come under that purview, he explained. Dr. Kharab also stressed that he wishes to make things more transparent for the producers. But when asked on what grounds was the scene in *Rang De Basanti* deleted, Dr. Kharab simply stated that it was a matter that arose before he became the president of AWBI so he can't say anything on that.

It remains to be seen how effective this new directive of Animal Welfare Board of India is in making shooting with animals, easier in films.



Mayya Mayya in Guru set to be Mallika's Hamma Hamma

Sonali Bendre became an overnight sensation when she gyrated seductively to Rahman's *Hamma Hamma* in *Bombay*. While the song was crooned by Remo Fernandes on a male dancer, the person who benefited most was Sonali Bendre who was the song's highlight in motion.

Though Mallika's superstar status is not dependent on her song and dance appearances alone, especially after 'Pyaar Ke Side Effects'



where she has given a good account of herself as an actress who knows what she is doing, she would certainly gain immensely if her next guest appearance clicks.

Yes, we are talking about the number *Mayya Mayya* in which she is shown shaking a leg or two along with Abhishek Bachchan for the film *Guru*. With usual suspects like A.R.Rahman and Mani Ratnam around, the song is set to recreate the magic of *Mayya Mayya!* Watch out for it!

It's not Perizaad, but Isha in Salaam-E-Ishq

Since the time *Salaam-E-Ishq* came on floors, it was believed that Perizaad Zorabian has a role to play in the film. It was announced that she would be paired opposite Sohail Khan and together they would be playing one of the couples of the film. With the release of the film around a couple of months away, the news has come in that it is Isha Kopikar

and not Perizaad who plays Sohail's wife in the film. Also, the characterisation of both Sohail and Isha has changed a bit too. While earlier Sohail and Perizaad were supposed to play a Parsi couple, now Sohail and Isha would be shown as a lower middle class Hindu couple belonging to a small town in North India.



Bollywood

Raghav Sachar: future of Hindi film music

Raghav Sachar is a young dude.

With a heluva lot of musical attitude. His score in *Kabul Express* is an absolute revelation. And no, he is not your run-of-the-mill stuff. But at the same time, he is not diametrically 'hat ke' so that the masses don't identify with him. *Kabul Fiza* is the no. 1 number on my car stereo. And it's a pleasure when it blares from a mobile mp 3 in a stuffed local train at peak hours. Raghav has sung the number besides composing it. And yes, he plays wind instruments like clarinet and flute with the prowess of a master.

The surprising aspect of his debut as a music composer is the manner in which he has made seasoned singers like Shubha Mudgal, Sunidhi Chauhan and KK sing the number *Banjar*. The moods are different each time. And the attitude is different too. The production values, music arrangements and the confidence while shelling out one quality composition after another is the hallmark of this twenty something singer-composer. Moreover, this album carries the feel of a private album and not the typical film album.

Raghav Sachar is the man to look out for. He is the future of Hindi film music. And the future is bright.....and melodious.



Mahima and Kim invite invitation to their room



Rekha - Mahima Kim- Vasundhara starrer chick flick *Kudiyon Ka Hai Zamaana* has something to look forward to as it gets readied for a release. To bring the film to the audience, a hot new promotional number for the film has been shot. Titled *Kamre Mein Aaja*, it prominently features Mahima, Kim and Vasundhara and is shot in dark with shades of black throughout. The song composed by DJ Sanj has just been aired on the small screen and is quickly gaining attention.

Amar Butala directs the film and is also it's co-producer along with Mejo Khan. Sachin Khedekar, Gaurav Kapoor, Nikhil Chinnappa, and Kabir Sadanand form the male cast of the film.

Spidy calls it quits

Bigscreen Spiderman, Tobey Maguire is considering hanging up his Spandex suit for good after appearing in his third superhero movie next year.

The actor, who became a first-time dad earlier this month, is keen to spend more time with his daughter Ruby and confesses it would be a good time to retire from the hit franchise.

He says, "This might be a good place to stop—I am not tied contractually to anymore *Spider-Man* movies.

"I am not completely closed to the idea of another one if it made sense but I would say the odds were in favour of this being the last one."

Last month Maguire's co-star and onscreen love interest Kirsten Dunst hinted she's keen to ditch the movies too and take up art instead.

She said, "I'm not the type of actress who does movie after movie."



Spears notoriously photographed

Newly single, pop star Britney Spears has again been photographed without wearing any underwear in public. Censored pictures of the panty-less Spears filling her car up with gas near her home in Malibu, California, have been published in today's British newspapers.

Just last Friday, the 'Oops!... I Did It Again' star was photographed bare underneath while stepping out of a car outside West Hollywood nightclub Hyde.

Spears has been partying with Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan over the last week and a half.



Kidman is the leading paid lady



Nicole Kidman is Hollywood's leading lady when it comes to her salary, according to sources say. The *Cold Mountain* actress has claimed the top spot on the new list thanks mainly to the paycheck she'll receive for next year's sci-fi blockbuster *The Invasion*.

Six of the top 10 women on the list are Oscar winners, with only *Charlie's Angels* stars Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz, Kirsten Dunst and Jennifer Aniston yet to pick up an Academy Award.

The new top 10 list is:

1. Nicole Kidman (\$16 to \$17 million per film)
2. Reese Witherspoon (\$15 million)
3. Renee Zellweger (\$15 million)
4. Drew Barrymore (\$15 million)
5. Cameron Diaz (\$15 million)
6. Halle Berry (\$14 million)
7. Charlize Theron (\$10 million)
8. Angelina Jolie (\$10 million)
9. Kirsten Dunst (\$8 to \$10 million)
10. Jennifer Aniston (\$8 million)

Longoria engaged

Eva Longoria and her on-off basketball star Tony Parker are engaged.

The *Desperate Housewives* actress, 31, and the French-born sports star, 24—a point guard for the San Antonio Spurs—met in November 2004.

Longoria's representative Liza Anderson confirms, "Eva and Tony are officially engaged. The couple have never been happier."

The pair split briefly in September, but quickly rekindled their relationship after a romantic trip to Paris.

This is the second marriage for Longoria, who was previously married to actor Tyler Christopher from 2002 until 2004. This will be Parker's first marriage.



Movie world with Arthur Wamanan and Warren Balthazaar

Hollywood

50 cent claims Oprah is white

Rapper 50 Cent has accused talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey of deserting her African-American roots to pander to the middle-aged white female demographic.

Winfrey, who shot to fame starring in 1985 race drama *The Color Purple*, has since found huge success with her popular daytime show.

But hip-hop star 50 Cent feels her current status is at the cost of her former beliefs and original fan base.

He says, "(She) started out with black women's views but has been catering to middle-aged white American women for so long that she's become one herself.

"I think the idea of being publicly noted that she's a billionaire makes (black women) interested in seeing her views. But it's even more exciting to the demographic of white American women she's been aiming at to see that she has the exact same views that they have."

It's not the first time the rapper has hit out at Winfrey—last month the 'Candy Shop' star joined Ludacris and Ice Cube in criticising Winfrey's perceived negative attitude towards hip-hop's big names after she refused to have him as a guest on her show.

