

63 MINUTES
17 CHARACTERS
MULTIPLE THEATRES
COUNTLESS STORIES
1 DOCUMENTARY FILM



**CINEMA
PE CINEMA**

THE THEATRES. THE MOVIES. AND US

A FILM BY VANI SUBRAMANIAN

www.vanishes.in/cinemapecinema



CINEMA PE CINEMA

THE THEATRES. THE MOVIES. AND US

THE WORD 'CINEMA' IN HINDI, India's dominant language, speaks of both, the theatres as well as the movies.

So the title of my documentary film, *Cinema Pe Cinema*, can be translated loosely in multiple ways: as *Theatre upon Theatre*, *Movie upon Movie*, or in the sense that I use it, *A Movie on Theatres / Movies*.

Much like the theatres and quite often, the films that play within them, I am excited by the prospect that mine too may mean different things to different people.

Vani Subramanian, Director



FOR SOME, INDIA'S SINGLE SCREEN CINEMAS

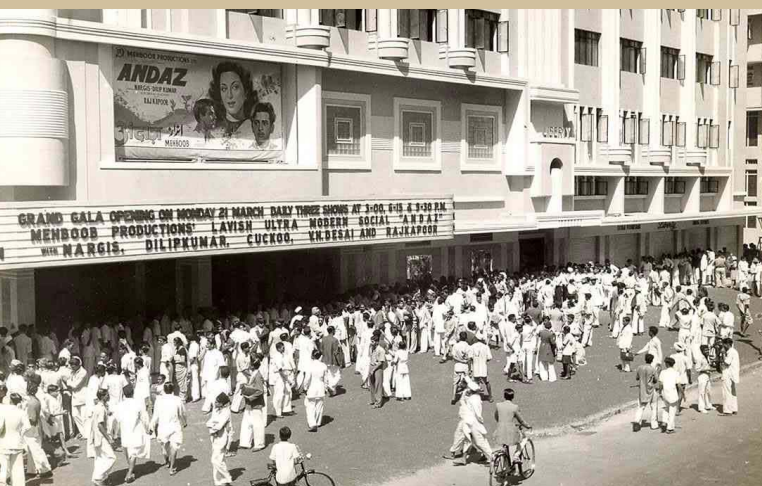
are a glorious architectural and cultural legacy to be celebrated, preserved and cherished. For others, they remain a place still frequented to see the movies. Yet others lament their widespread demise, remembering how, within their now crumbling edifices, the magic of the movies was first encountered, that thrill of being transported to worlds beyond our imagination experienced, or a lasting connection discovered with what was unfolding on the screen.

However, cinema theatres are much more than just sites of nostalgia and personal memory.



WHEN MY PRODUCER AND RESEARCH PARTNER, MARY N WOODS* AND I SET OUT on this journey, we were drawn to the architectural and human resilience of Indian cinema halls. Designed by some of the first professionally trained Indian architects, they are representative of much more than just popular modernism. They have been symbols of family, neighbourhood, city and small town life, and even national pride. Monuments to an inclusive India, single screens were often the only spaces where audiences of different classes, castes, genders, and religions could come together.

* Professor Emerita, Cornell University <http://www.marynormanwoods.com/>



BUT IN THE VOLUMINOUS AND DARKENED HALLS OF THE THEATRES, many other stories are constantly playing out.

Chronicles of hope and passion as they meet harsh economic realities.

Accounts of traditional mores confronting contemporary ideas and narratives.

Stories of millions of people across class, caste, gender, religion and age

coming together to share the familiar and unfamiliar, joy and tears, song and dance, action and emotion.

Anecdotes of how, despite the intimacy of the space and the kinships formed while watching a movie together, we often remain segregated across aisles of power, culture and difference.

Meandering through theatres and meeting theatre owners, audience

members and academics in small towns and big cities across India,

Cinema Pe Cinema creates a memoryscape of some women and men whose lives touch, or have been touched by single screen cinemas in India.

As the conversations deepen and we delve into their personal, emotional and institutional archives, more twists in the tale emerge than we may have been prepared for.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



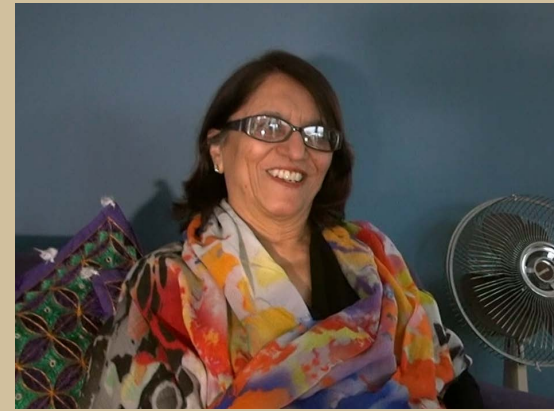
Late NAZIR HOOSEIN
Owner of the iconic
Liberty Cinema, Mumbai



A R VINOD & A R PRAKASH
Co-Owners, Crown Cinema
Calicut



SHOHINI GHOSH
Film enthusiast and academic
New Delhi



DAMAYANTI RADHESHWAR
Film enthusiast and architect
Mumbai and New York



JAL J TATA
Co-Owner, Capitol Cinema
Mumbai



BIPIN PATEL
Film enthusiast and businessman,
Calicut



MOHD JAVIR & FARID SHEIKH
Film enthusiasts and migrants to
Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh



AJMAT ULLAH KHAN
Owner of the famed music store,
Allan Sahab and Sons, Lucknow



MOHAMMED FAROOQ
Manager, Palace Talkies
Mumbai



SANJAY KAPOOR
Co-Owner, Ashok Cinema
Lucknow



Voice in the crowd, Delhi
LAKSHMI M SWAMY



Voice in the crowd, Mumbai
Late **SONAL SHUKLA**



Voice in the crowd, Goa
SALIL CHATURVEDI



Voice in the crowd, Lucknow
VANI SUBRAMANIAN



Voice in the crowd, Mumbai
MOHD. SHEIKH ALAM

FILM CREDITS

Director
VANI SUBRAMANIAN

Producer
MARY N WOODS

Edit
NIHARIKA POPLI

Cinematography
POOJA SHARMA
RANGOLI AGARWAL

Colour & Mastering
DESMOND ROBERTS

Sound Design
PRATIK BISWAS
GANGOTRI MISHRA

Script
VANI SUBRAMANIAN

Location Sound
AMRITA SINGH

Concept & Research
VANI SUBRAMANIAN
MARY N WOODS

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