

flying fish

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A FILM BY SANJEEWA PUSHPAKUMARA



Asia Digital Entertainment (Pvt) Ltd & Sapushpa Expressions (Pvt) Ltd
present

flying fish
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HUBERT BALS
FUND

Produced with financial support of the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival Rotterdam

a film by Sanjeewa Pushpakumara

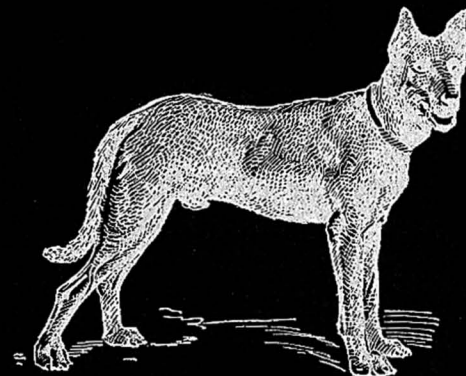
Sri Lanka | Colour | Sinhala & Tamil with English Subtitles | 124 min | Dolby Surround



SYNOPSIS

WASANA AND SOLDIER

Twenty-three-year-old Wasana is a good looking young village girl who falls in love with a twenty-five-year-old army soldier. She is the eldest daughter of the family of three sisters. Her father happens to see her having sex with the soldier. She becomes pregnant and makes a failed attempt to abort. As the war intensifies, adult villagers are recruited into the civil defense force in order to protect the village border. Among these recruits is her father who is punished and humiliated by soldiers for not being on guard one day. Demoralized, he shoots himself at inside an empty bunker. Meanwhile the soldier and his platoon receive a transfer to a distant posting leaving Wasana in great agony. Beaten with feelings of guilt owing to her father's suicide, and rage of the soldiers escape leaving her pregnant, she escapes from the village.

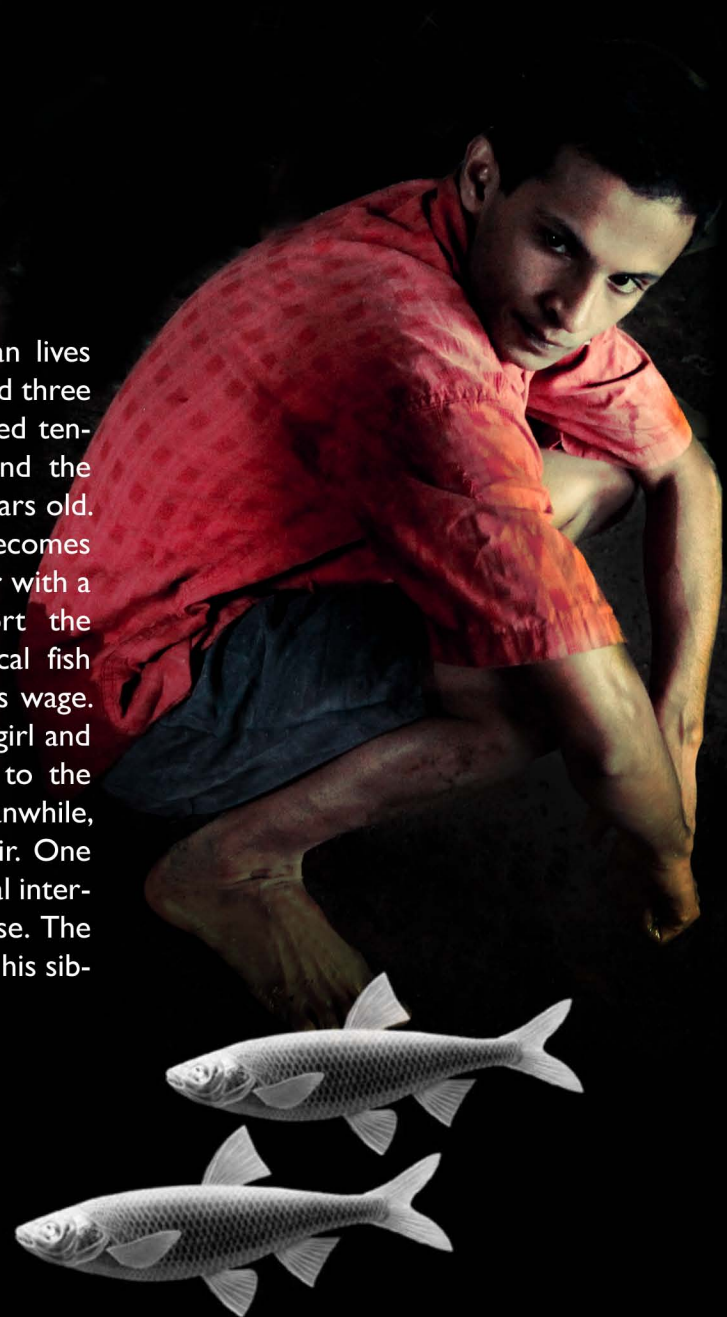




SYNOPSIS

A widowed thirty-seven-year-old woman lives with her eight children, five little boys and three girls in a remote village where the armed tension between the government army and the L.T.T.E escalates. Her eldest son is 15 years old. Stricken with extreme poverty, she becomes curd vendor. She also involves in an affair with a twenty-five-year-old villager. To support the family, the elder boy works in the local fish market and sells the fish he earns as his wage. Meanwhile he falls in love with a schoolgirl and involves in an affair, which is revealed to the school leading to humiliation. Meanwhile, rumors spread about his mother's affair. One day, the boy sees his mother having sexual intercourse with her lover in a broken house. The enraged boy stabs his mother in front of his siblings in the same evening.

SON & MOTHER




A thirteen-year-old Tamil girl experiences her first menstrual period while in a bus on her way home after school. This is revealed when an army soldier subjects her to a security check at an army controlled road-block. Her forty-year-old father is a clerk, and thirty-five-year-old mother is a housewife; they live in a rural village in Eastern Sri Lanka, where the war between the state Army and the L.T.T.E. Tamil Tigers has been intensifying. The Tamil Tigers secretly conduct their propaganda lectures in schools demanding a separate Tamil Elam state and justifying their war against the Sinhala dominated southern government army. One night, the L.T.T.E. Tamil Tigers forcibly enter the Tamil girl's house and demand a ransom of that they can scarcely afford. They threaten to conscript girl if her family fails to pay the ransom money within one month. On the night that her parents are supposed to pay the demanded money, the child slips away from the house just as the L.T.T.E Tigers visit them. Since the Tigers get neither the money nor the girl, they gun down her parents.



SYNOPSIS

TAMIL GIRL



A man and a woman are standing on a small pile of debris at the base of a large, dark, textured rock wall. The man is wearing a light blue shirt and shorts, and the woman is wearing a red dress. They are looking towards the camera. The rock wall is made of large, dark, textured stones. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights on the rock surface.

I come from the Eastern province of Sri Lanka. My film 'Flying Fish' narrates the war I experienced, resulting cultural & economic poverty that entraps society with violence, distress and hopelessness. Forced recruitment of children as soldiers and sexual exploitation of women are indivisibly related to the war I witnessed which happened in front of eye. I have lived through most of these incidents directly or indirectly. I have seen some fathers commit suicide as they happened to witness their loving daughters and wives were raped. Some of them were my sisters, aunts and neighbors, whom I still I happen to meet on the local streets. I have seen how material devastation is overpowered by emotional conflicts and spiritual decadence. This film plead for everything human: identity, dignity, freedom and developed cultural practice. The text of this film is a representation of the reality I have experienced: in other words, a series of true incidents. The inescapable irony of the film is that all characters are victimized by those from whom relief is hoped for.

DIRECTOR'S **STATEMENT**

CAST

Chaminda Sampath Jayaweera - Soldier

Chaminda entered the arena of theatre as an actor in 1998. With his debut performance in Jerome de Silva's stage production 'Macbeth' infusing life to the role of King Macbeth, Sampath was recognized by many leading and renowned stage drama directors, which gave him the opportunity to act in outstanding theatre productions such as Albert Camus's 'Cross Purpose' [Directed by Bhanu Prasanna], Euripides's 'Trojan Women' [Directed by Dharmasiri Bandaranayake], Henrik Ibsen's Master Builder [Directed by Piyal Kariyawasam], William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet [Directed by William Scot Richards]. Sampath has his performed in international award winning Sri Lankan movies such as 'August Sun' directed by Prasanna Vithanage, 'Shades of Grey' directed by Sudath Mahadivulwewa, and 'Between two Worlds' directed by Vimukthi Jayasundara ' Flying Fish his first title role in cinema.

Gayesha Perera - Wasana

Gayesha, who entered the profession of acting first in teledramas and Flying Fish is her debut appearance in cinema.



Rathnayaka Marasinghe – Muthubanda/ Home Guard

Rathnayake has been working with theatre and cinema for many years. In cinema he worked as an art director then some years ago he relinquished his work to cinema and occasionally appeared in theatre. Flying Fish is Rathnayaka's debut appearance in cinema.

Siththi Mariyam - Tamil girl

Siththi was born and grew up in a slum environment in Colombo city, Sri Lanka. She acted in a few short films. This is her debut appearance in wide screen.



Sanjeewa Dissanayake – Tamil Father

Sanjeewa came to cinema when he was kid by giving his acting contribution to the film of Madolduwa, which was directed by Dr.Lester James Peris (the father of Sri Lanka cinema). Then he became one of the most acclaimed stage actors. Some of his remarkable performances were seen in Shakespeare's "Midsummer night dream" (Sinhala production -directed by German theater director Helena), "Pramatho jayathi sooko"by Prof.Ediriweera Sarathchandra (the father of modern Sinhala theatre),"Socratis" by Dr.Sunanda Mahendra, Henrik Ibsen's master builders by piyal kariyawasam (Sinhala Production), Sanjeewa won several awards for his stage achievement including, Best Supporting actor in 1990 and 2007 at Youth Drama Festival.

Sumathy Sivamohan - Tamil Mother

Sumathy is a senior lecturer in the Department of English, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. So far she has directed a few short films and Flying Fish is her debut job as an actress.

Kaushalya Fernando - Sinhala Mother

Kaushalya came to the national theatre with her role in “Marat Sade” directed by a veteran Sri Lankan theatre director Sugathapala De Silva and she was able to secure the Best Actress’s Award at the State Drama Festival, 1986.

Kaushalya’s career in acting took a new turn when she displayed her talents in Asoka Handagama’s highly acclaimed teledrama ‘Dunhinda Addara’ (by the Dunhinda Falls). She won OCIC award for Best Actress for her performance in “Dunhinda Addara” in 1994. She has so far contributed to many teledramas. In 2004 she received the Bunka Award (from the Japan – Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation) in recognition of her contribution to theatre acting.

In 1996, she played her debut lead role in Asoka Handagama’s film ‘Sanda Dada-yama’ (‘Moon Hunt’) for which she won the Critics’ award for the Best Actress for her portrayal from Sri Lanka Film Critics’ Forum. In 2000, she played the main supporting role in “Me Mage Sandai” (This is my Moon), a feature film by Asoka Handagama and the film won several international awards, including The Young Cinema Award at 14th Singapore International Film Festival, 2001. Boradiya Pokuna (2003) directed by Satyajith Maitipe is Kaushalya’s third cinematic expression. Her portrayal as “Gothami” has been internationally acclaimed and the film was nominated for Tiger Award for the Most Promising New Directors of 2004, at Rotterdam International Film Festival. In 2005 Kaushalya played a lead female role in Vimukthi Jayasundara’s “Sulanga Enu Pinisa” (Forsaken Land). The film won the Camera d’ Or award at 58th Cannes International Film Festival in 2005. Kaushalya took part in Ahasin Wetei (Between Two Worlds), Vimukthi Jayasundara’s second feature film in 2008 (Golden Lion Nominee at 66th Venice film festival). In 2009, Kaushalya played lead supporting roles in “Akasa Kusum” (Flowers in the Sky) by Prasanna Withanage and “Ira Handa Yata” (Beneath the Sun and the Moon) by Benet Rathnayake. Although her career on screen is small in terms of the number of films she has taken part, her impression in the modern Sri Lankan cinema is not so small.

Nilanka Dahanayake -Son

Nilanka is an upcoming theatre actor in Sri Lanka. In 2009 he received best Actor award in the Drama category at the National Youth Awards Festival in Sri Lanka. Flying Fish is his debut performance in Cinema.

Thissa Bandaranayaka -Monk

Thissa Bandaranayaka’s acting career spans for more than two decades. Hailing from the stage, Thissa began his acting career in 1984 with the stage play “Ekaadhipathi”, which was directed by the illustrious stage and film director Dharmasiri Bandaranayaka. In 1991, Thissa joined hands once again with Dharmasiri for the two films “Bhava duka” and “Bhava karma” as an Assistant Art Director while also acting as a Buddhist monk which was a pivotal role in the two films.

Wasanthi Ranwala – Mother of Wasana

Wasanthi came to acting with her performance to the theatre where she secured several awards as a best actress in years of 1992, 1998 etc. at the Youth Drama Festival. She has also appeared in several films.

Mohammed Ali Rajabdeen – LTTE Regional Leader

Mohammed entered the profession of acting first in theatre then in short films and teledramas. Recently he appeared in Benett Rathnayake’s Ira Handa Yata was his debut appearance in cinema. Flying Fish his second in cinema.



SCENES FROM THE MOVIE





PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS MOVIE

Presented By
Asia Digital Entertainment (Pvt) Ltd & Sapushpa Expressions (Pvt) Ltd
Produced & Directed By
Sanjeewa Pushpakumara
Executive Producer
Chandana Aluthge
Story
Sanjeewa Pushpakumara
Script
Sanjeewa Pushpakumara & Chinthana Dharamadasa
Director of Photography
Viswajith Karunaratna
Executive Editor
Ravindra Guruge
Editor
Ajith Ramanayake
Production Designer, Art Director & Costume Designer
Bimala Dushmantha
Music
Tharindu Priyankara De Silva
Make up
Priyantha Sirikumara



Production Manager
Deepal Gunarathne
Production Manager-Field
Harald Karunathilaka
Casting
Kaushalya Fernando, Aloka Sampath, Chaminda Sampath Jayaweera
Sound Engineer & Recordist
Aruna Priyantha Kaluarachchi
Assistant sound engineer & Recordist
Pubudu Dananja Wanigasekara
Foley sound
W.G.Podirathna, Priyantha Niroshan
First Assistant Directors
Aruna Thilakarathna
Lakruwan Vithanage
Second Assistant Director
Priyantha Malhamiarachi
Third Assistant director
Sasanka Indunil
Focus Fuller
W.M.Kapila Sugath
Camera Assistant
Asanka Jayawardene
Still Photographer
Isuru weerakkodi
Assistant Make-up artist
Isara Lakmal
Art Department
Asiri Udakara, Tharaka Kariyawasam,
Madhuranga Roshan kumara, Kapila Sanjeewa
Lighting Department
Sanjeewa Wikum, Stanley Ramanayake, Dilanga Dinushan
Lalith Weerasekara, Suresh Madusanka
Track Dolly Operator
Manjula Nilantha
Tea Boy
Indika Samankumara
Drivers
Vipulasena Jyayasinghe, Amara Maddumage, Nihal Wijerathne

SCENES FROM THE MOVIE



CHANDAN ALUTHGE, PH.D.- EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Chandana obtained his first degree in Economics in 1992 from the University of Colombo and subsequently he has completed a number of post graduate degrees in Economics in Sri Lanka and abroad. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 2001. He is currently a senior lecturer in Economics attached to the Department of Economics of the University of Colombo. Chandana's filmography began in 2003 when he took part The Scent of the Lotus Pond (a feature film) by Satyajith Maitipe as executive producer. Since 2003 he has worked to The Forsaken Land (a feature film) by Vimukthi Jayasundara-2005, Between two Worlds (a feature film) by Vimukthi Jayasundara-2008, As Executive Producer. Flying Fish is fourth contribution to the media of cinema.

CHINTHANA DHARMADASA - CO-WRITER

Chinthana graduated from the university of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and made his first short film 'Afterwards, he fell asleep'. This was selected to best category in shorts 2005 film festival organized by National Film Corporation, Sri Lanka. For that film he received a one year film training scholarship at the highly reputed Lodz Film School, Poland. His second short film 'Insignificant' which was about the lives of people on the beach after the Tsunami disaster won the special jury award at the environmental film festival held by Asia Pacific television. He co-wrote and co-directed his debut film 'How I Wonder What You Are' with Udaya Dharmawardhana. He collaborated with Sanjeewa on the screen play for 'Flying Fish'.

RAVINDRA GURUGE - EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The most commended film editor in Sri Lanka with over 24 years of experience in this specialized field and has handled editing for many award winning and internationally acclaimed film and TV Directors, editing from documentaries to feature films, from teledramas to TV commercial spots. Guruge started his career as a photographer in late 1970s, later he was trained in photography under the UNESCO Youth Training programme. Guruge introduced nonlinear film editing to Sri Lanka and adjudicated as the Best Film Editor at the Presidential Film Awards From the year 2001 through 2009.

AJITH RAMANAYAKE - EDITOR

Ajith Ramanayake has worked as the Assistant Editor in over 45 films edited by the veteran editor, Ravindra Guruge. Ramanayake who has edited 08 films up to date including, Yahaluwo' (Friends) by Mrs. Sumitra Peiris, 'Ira Handa Yata' (Under the Sun and Moon) – by Benet Rathnayake, 'Bambara Walalla' (Whirlwind) by Athula Liyanage.

VISHVAJITH KARUNARATHNA - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Vishva joined a film crew as a unit boy about seven years ago. Then he became a camera assistant under various directors. Flying Fish is his debut attempt as a cinematographer.

THARINDU PRIYANKARA DE SILVA - MUSIC

Tharindu is one of leading young music composers and song writer in Sri Lanka. Flying Fish is his debut attempt in making music for cinema.

PRIYANTHA SIRIKUMARA - MAKE-UP

Priyantha has been working for films, teledramas and stage plays. One of his best contributions to the cinema was in Sankara a film by Prasanna Jayakody.

BIMALA DUSHMANTHA - PRODUCTION DESIGNER,ART DIRECTOR & COSTUME DESIGNER

Bimal is as a capable young art director for music videos, TV commercials and teledramas. Flying Fish is his debut feature film.

ARUNA PRIYANTHA KALUARACHCHI - SOUND

Kaluarachchi was trained under an Indian Sound Engineer while a software package was installed. He has worked as the sound engineer in 05 films including Bambara Walalla' (Whirlwind) by Athula Liyanage, Vidu by Asoka Handagama.

DEEPAL GUNARATNE - PRODUCTION MANAGER

Deepal began his career in the television industry and later shifted to cinema. He is one of the most acclaimed production managers in the country and has rendered a great service to Sri Lankan cinema.

HARALD KARUNATHILAKE - PRODUCTION MANAGER [FIELD]

Harald began his career in the field of teledrama as a technician in 1991. Then he succeeded to become a production manager for teledramas. Flying Fish is his first contribution to cinema, as a Production Manager.

Sanjeewa Pushpakumara was born in 1977 and hails from the poverty stricken and war-battered, Eastern province of Sri Lanka, where he grew up among violent raids against Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim villagers, marching army, and gunfire of the guerrillas, sometimes finding refuge in camps for the internally displaced.

Sanjeewa came to the capital Colombo at the age of 18, and managed to become a presenter for a FM radio channel. Displeased, he left the job soon to become a freelance newspaper journalist where he wrote about film, Drama and other cultural events and mostly contributed to Ravaya newspaper, considered to be the pioneer in alternative journalism in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile he became as a television presenter, a scriptwriter and producer for Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation and Sirasa TV. Still managing with a his stingy means, he completed Bachelor in Arts Degree from the university of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka in 2005 and in 2008 he obtained Master degree in Mass Communication from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. In 2005/2006 Sanjeewa pursued a Diploma in Filmmaking from National Film Corporation, Sri Lanka. There he became the batch top. In 2007 He received a Scholarship from Korean Culture and Tourism ministry under its cultural exchange program (CPI), to study filmmaking in the Asian Young Film Forum (Korea) and also to learn Korean language at Chonbuk National University (Korea). Again in 2009 he underwent training in the Asian Film Academy in Korea (a project of Pusan Film Festival).

Sanjeewa made his first short film in 2007 called Touch, which won the Special Jury Prize at Youth New Wave International Film Festival (YNWIFF) in Sri Lanka, 2008. Same year, he shot his second short film, Wings to Fly, the film received official selection at YNWIF. In 2009 he took part in making another short film titled An Encounter in the Wood in Korea as the Production Designer. The film was a collective project of Asian Film Academy.

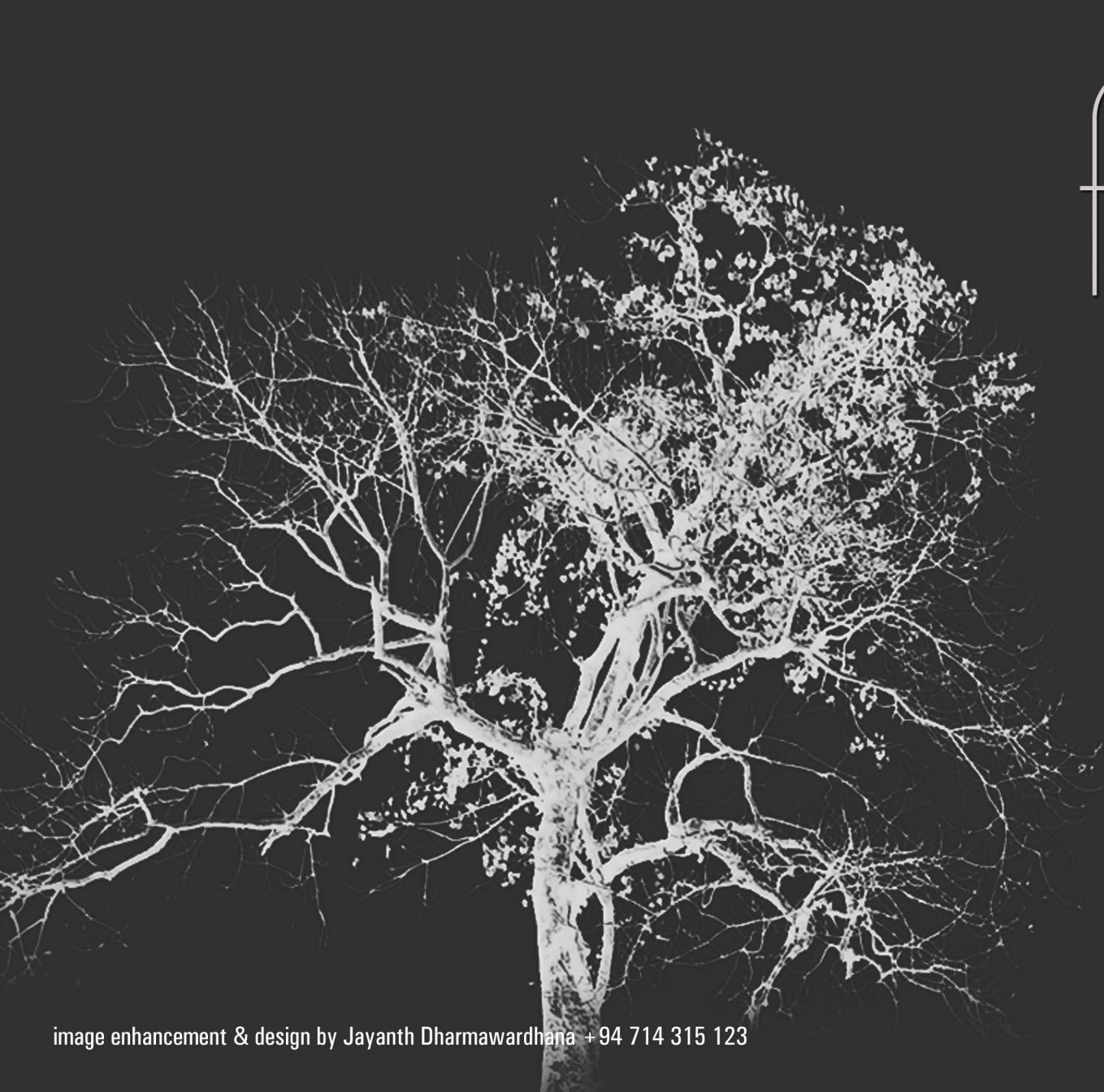
Sanjeewa has also written and published three books on cinema, namely Athmabadda Cinema Rupa (Prasanna Vithanage's Cinema) in 2007 which is an analytical book on Prasanna Vithanage's Cinema. Jump cut ekak (A Jump Cut- cinema from sky to earth) in 2008 which introduced filmmaking trends and movements such as Dogme and guerilla filmmaking to local audience. The next book Korean Cinema and Kim Ki -duk's film Language was published later in 2009.

In 2010 Sanjeewa directed his debut feature film, Flying Fish. At present Sanjeewa doing his postgraduate degree in filmmaking in Chung – Ang University in South Korea, under the Korean government scholarship programme.



SCENES FROM THE MOVIE





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A FILM BY SANJEEWA PUSHPAKUMARA

CONTACT INFO

www.flyingfishmovie.com

Manohan Nanayakkara
mano@nanayakkara.com
manohan@gmail.com
+ 94 - (0)714 730 313

Sanjeewa Pushpakumara
sapushpa@gmail.com
sapushpamail@yahoo.com
www.pushpakumara.com
+ 82 - (0) 8050 - 4083

image enhancement & design by Jayanth Dharmawardhana +94 714 315 123