FRIDAY AND EBIDAX

A FILM BY SATHAPRANAVAN
WRITTEN AND MAIN CAST BY ANTONYTHASAN JESUTHASAN

IBC TAMIL PRODUCTION - DA XIONGMAO - LAIDAK FILMS
Title: Friday and Friday
Language: French, Tamil
Genre: Drama, society
Runtime: 72’
Tech.: 4K - 2:35 color - 5.1 audio
Date of conclusion: May 2018
Production: IBC Tamil - Da Xiongmao - Laïdak Films
Countries: Sri Lanka – France – UK

Written and main cast by Anthonythasan Jesuthasan
Best actor (ICS, INOCA, Césars) for Dheephan, Cannes Palme d’Or 2015

Director: Sathapranavan (Sri Lanka / France)
Screenplay: Antonythasan Jesuthasan, Sathapranavan
Original music score: Antoine Duchêne
Director of photography: Thomas Migevant
Sound mixer: Eric Gattat
Chief editor: Julien Chardon
Casting manager: Marie-Charlotte Crétey
Executive producers: Baskaran Kandiah, Johann Chapelan
Associate producers: Antoine Liétout, Ivan Zuber

MAIN CAST & CREW
Antonythasan Jesuthasan               Lawrence Valin
Johanna Bros          Manmathan Basky

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La Chapelle, a vibrant melting-pot neighborhood in Paris, France. It is the Ganesh festival, elephant god of knowledge and obstruction. Tamil people are celebrating. With incense, drums and dancers, streets are submerged by the crowd.

Wandering through the streets, a homeless Tamil drinks wine with illegal immigrants and gets some comfort with an old prostitute. During the day he is begging for money to his Tamil “brothers” and to French people. Bad tempered and bitter, he makes up any reasons to get some change. He then crosses the road of a young French-Tamil filmmaker, Sathis, seeking to win back Laure, the French woman he loves.

Sathis tries to convince Laure to get back with him. She is pregnant and wants stability in her life. Despite many fails, Sathis continues to write screenplays. He wants Laure to believe in his imminent success.

Paths of Friday and Sathis cross and reflect in each other until a tragic end. On Hindu spirituality background, it draws a cruel but honest portrait of relationships within a rootless and anonymous community who has fled the Sri Lankan civil war for France.
INTENTIONS

It was important to talk about failure and beggars. These people are so badly considered in my community. My story is set in a multicultural context, the north part of Paris and its communities from all around the world who rub shoulders but don't really mix. With frequent violence and tension in La Chapelle, I wanted draw this personal narrative, the path of this man with his mysterious past, which evokes the fate of all my community.

Separated, dislocated family, trauma of the civil war, conflicting and pathological personalities, Friday combines these traits. Nasty and misanthropic at first sight, he also reveals his weaknesses and his broken link to his daughter and wife, separated from him.

In my youth I was revolted and carefree. I wanted to escape my community and my culture. But all my life, I have known the fear and anguish of falling so low, because of an illness, a dismissal or a separation... I am a children of emigration and the civil car. It means I have got this underskin feeling, this fear of losing everything one day. Friday and Friday is a tale somewhat sinister, even cynical. Behind Friday's miserable story, I depict the failure of Sathis, a young Franco-Tamil writer who seeks to write his screenplays and succeed into the close world of film industry.

Unfortunately suicide is unavoidable about Sri Lanka. In our Hindu culture, suicide is respected as an act of fate and determination. It's sad, but even as the civil war is over, in 2015 Sri Lanka became the first country in the world in amount of suicide rate per capita. Friday's tragedy does not have the ambition to reflect the despair of the Tamil people. However it evokes the failure, the tenacious and irresolvable bitterness that keeps all who has lost their beloved, their ties, their properties and country. In this, I wanted to carry a universal message which would speak to everyone.
SATHAPRANAVAN BIO

Uprooted from Sri Lanka at 14, I arrived in France to rebuild my life away from the civil war. Professional dancer in my youth, I toured in Europe with the mixed Indian-Hip-hop Avatharam dance group. For health reasons I could not pursue my passion. But with the emergence of digital technologies, I have made short films including the 2014 award-winning God is Dead. Friday and Friday is my first feature film, written with Antonythasan Jesuthasan, a long road fellow with whom I’m also writing my next feature about Tamil family issues in France.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

God is dead – 2014 – audience award, Mobile Film Festival, Paris – Best film, Olleh Smartphone film festival, South Korea – best film, IBC Tamil Short Express
Thinappayanan – 2013 – Best actor, Tamil Nadu Shortfilm Festival, Chennai, India – best film, IASF, Toronto
Poralikku itta peyar – 2012 – Critic award, best actor, International Tamil Film Festival, Toronto, Canada - Naavalar Short Film Festival
Merci la France – 2011 – Mobile Film Festival, Paris France
Naangal – 2007 – jury special award, Norway Film Festival, Oslo
Idimulakkam – 2006 – best film, TVI Short film Award – Sankiliyan Viruthu Festival