

Remembering Legendary Filmmaker SP Jananathan: A Tribute Organised by Media Departments of Loyola College

By Annal Prathiba A, 20-PDJ-011



Department of Visual Communication, BMM, DDU KAUSHAL Kendra & LIVE of Loyola College arranged a fitting tribute to the legendary filmmaker SP Jananathan on 22 March 2021. The media departments roped in people closely connected with him such as Mr. Lenin, ace editor, Mr. Ponvannan, actor and director, Mr. Balaji Sakthivel, filmmaker, Mr. Ekambaram, Cinematographer, Mr. Ajayan Bala, Writer, Mr. Raajasangeethan, co-ordinator, TamilNadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association. Organiser of the event Rev. Dr. A. Irudhayaraj, Head, Department of Visual Communication fired up the session with his welcome address throwing light on how S. P. Jananathan (1959-2021) brought communist ideology to the masses with his films. He recalled his association with LIVE, VisCom and the meaningful interactive sessions he conducted at Loyola.

Mr. Lenin, ace editor, providing an insight into the perfectionist SP Jananathan. Mr. Ekambaram, Cinematographer, took it up further and shared the experiences of his 22 years of bond with SP Jananathan. His sharing of how they travelled together to locations for shoots provided a glimpse of the behind the screens persona of Mr. SP Jananathan. He emotionally broke down speaking about Jananathan saying, "he was more a brother to me. He will forever live in my memories".

A Man of Simplicity and Grandeur



S. P. Jananathan was a "man of Simplicity " said Mr. Ajayan Balaji. "He was a great fan of MGR." Mr. Ajayan continued saying that he had been a director who always showed complicated themes such as Marxism and Communism in a more simpler way to the audience through his movies. "I'm surprised how he has maintained his reputation, simplicity and living up to his ideals in real life too. I've been working with him as an assistant director for 20 years and feel proud about it. He takes at least 4 years gap in between 2 films and does a keen research before starting any direction process and has always provided powerful, beautiful portraits through incisive dialogues. He emphasized on SP Jananathan's production design. "Especially his death is a huge loss to the cinema industry at this period of time when we need him the most," he said.

Mr. Raajasangeethan appreciated S. P. Jananathan's cinematic nuances in dialogue deliveries. "He made tough concepts reach the public." The speech by Mr. Ponvannan was poignant. "The pain of a wound and the pain created by memories of a person who's no more are not the same", said Mr. Ponvannan who was close to SP Jananathan. "Jana met and travelled with me through love. He has hardly changed in appearance. We worked as assistant directors for Cholaikuyil in the 1987 movie under the direction of Mr. Rajan. He loved the aesthetics of everything around him. He never cared about his health or about managing money. I've always said to Jan that "the world is connected to money", and insisted to start saving some of his profits for himself" he said. Mr. Ponvannan also shared Mr. Lenin's mentoring of many film makers including Jananathan.

"Meaningful dialogues related to Marxism & Communism is what that is unique about Jananathan", said Mr. Balaji Sakthivel. It was a fitting tribute for a filmmaker who conveyed so great messages even with dialogue connected with a single chalk piece.