

Sivaji Ganesan

Viluppuram Chinnayyapillai Ganesan Manrayar, popularly known as Sivaji Ganesan, was born in the Tamilnadu state in 1927. His father was a freedom fighter. Sivaji's early life was spent without seeing much of his father as he was in and out of jails as a freedom fighter. Sivaji was raised mostly by his mother.

Sivaji was drawn to stage early in his life. It was his magnificent portrayal as Chhatrapati Shivaji in the play "Shivaji Kanda Hindu Rajyam" that earned him the nick name of "Sivaji" which stuck with him for the rest of his life.

A versatile actor, who played many types of roles in his movie career, got a break in films with his role of the male lead in "Parasakthi" in 1952 in Tamil.



Later it was L.V. Prasad's "Manohara" that catapulted him to unprecedented fame. Sivaji went on to perform in over 300 films in a professional career spanning 50 plus years.

Even though most movies Sivaji played in were Tamil, he did appear in Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, and Telugu movies as well.

Sivaji was originally a member of the DMK party. Later he switched to the Congress Party. But soon he defected and became a member of the Janata Party. He contested for a Parliamentary seat three times unsuccessfully. Eventually he ended up as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Sivaji was the first South Indian actor to be honored as the Best Actor at the Afro-Asia Film Festival in 1959. Other honors include the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award. He was also honored by the Government of France. He received the "Chevalier de Orre des Arts ET Letters" by the Ministry of Culture, France. Tamilnadu State Government in honor of Sivaji declared October 1st, Sivaji's birth date, as an "Actor's Day".

Sivaji passed away in 2001 in Chennai from the complication of heart and kidney ailments.

In Savithri's Tamil movie career she mostly worked with both Ganesans; Gemini and Sivaji. The following are the movies in which Savithri and Sivaji were together, most of the movies are in Tamil, with exceptions noted...

1. Pempudu Koduku (1953) (Telugu)
2. Amara Deepam (1956) (Telugu)
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4. Pennin Perumayi (1956)
5. Vananga Mudi (1957)
6. Annaylin Aanaya (1958)
7. Kattavarayan (1958)
8. Pathi Bhakthi (1958)
9. Pathi Bhakthi (1958) (Telugu)
10. Kuravanchi (1960)
11. Vimala (1960) (Telugu)
12. Adarsha sahodarulu (1961) (Telugu)
13. Ellam Unakkaga (1961)
14. Kappalottiya Thamizhan (1961)
15. Pasamalar (1961)
16. Pavamannipu (1961)

17. Bandha Pasam (1962)
18. Padithal Mattum Podhuma (1962)
19. Parthal Pasi Theerum (1962)
20. Vadivukku Valaikappu (1962)
21. Karna (1963) (Telugu)
22. Mamakaram (1963) (Telugu)
23. Raktha Thilagam (1963)
24. Kai Kodutha Deivam (1964)
25. Karnan (1964)
26. Navarathiri (1964)
27. Shiva Leelalu (1965) (Telugu)
28. Thiribilayadal (1965)
29. Kandan karunai (1967)
30. Thiruvaruth Chelvar (1967)
31. Praptham (1971)