



Sanath and Kumara

by Dinusha Damayanthi

I was asking myself whether this is a fairy tale. No, it is not. It is prominent actor Sanath Gunatilake's maiden effort *Ekamath Eka Rateka* (Once upon a time). No need to introduce him because he is a well known actor in this country. He is a versatile actor in the Sri Lankan film industry and his role as Aravinda in *Viragaya* is unforgettable and it can be considered as a turning point in his cinematic career.

His maiden direction, *Ekamath Eka Rateka*, an adaptation of French writer Emile Zola's short story *Pour Une Nuit d'Amour*. After watching the film I read the French short story which is very philosophical. It's fascinating the way how Sanath has written the script. It's an excellent work which should be appreciated (hope that one day he would be able to obtain the award for the Best Scriptwriter in a local or an international film festival). In the French book, Emile Zola names his protagonists as Julien (unknown man), Therès (unknown girl), Colombel (unknown boy). Sanath Gunatilake has adapted the story to silver screen without naming his characters.

The hideous looking middle aged man (Sanath Gunatilake) is living with a dog. Emile Zola doesn't give a priority to this fact in his book but Sanath Gunatilake has sculpted an imaginary human being in dog's character. I will say that the dog is his imaginary "girlfriend". He talks, dances and sleeps with him. He concerns his dog very much and he asks, talks gently: "Are you sleepy?" "You are still sleeping?" etc. The dog's name "Good Girl" is more interesting and the audience can suddenly grab the image hidden behind the dog. The dog was only person existing in his dull and strictly regimented world till the day he sees the young beautiful girl (Nirosha Perera). The following day he forgets to close the door. The dog runs away and he met with an accident. He finds its dead body. He goes to the cemetery and prays for him.

Love is not only the main theme; the film symbolises a fraction of two classes in the society: The young girl belongs to an elite family. Her young lover (Roshan Ravindra) is nanny's son who belongs to the working class. The girl and nanny's son have a close relationship from their childhood. The nanny tells at the beginning of the film that "the little lady loves my son and my son too" The boy is like a beast and he treats the girl like a queen. The nanny is very courageous and with the help of the family the boy completes his studies and become a lawyer. The nanny wants to eliminate the gap between her social class and the noble family. She proposes her son to give piano classes to the young girl. She is happy when the young couple is together. She repeats that young girl loves his son. The question of the struggle of working class life is one of Zola's central preoccupations in his novels for example: *Germinal*,

*L'Assommoir*. Even though this social conflict might not be the main objective of the director and a viewer might not capture. But it is significant the way the director has adapted the story to screen.

The girl has a strange behaviour



Nirosha and Roshan

# Ekamath Eka Rateka

## Film Review

since her childhood. During their childhood it's a non-sexual relationship. The girl humiliates the boy. When she was a child she satisfies herself by hitting the boy. She hits him and asks him to not cry. She sits on his body and asks him to carry her. The girl ignores and destroys the ego of the boy. He is helpless in front of the aristocratic girl. The girl enjoys the feeling of power of and authority. When they grow up, one day the girl reminds

him of their childhood but that day young girl became a victim of the young boy. The boy tries getting back his ego which was destroyed during his childhood. The young girl hates the hideous man who plays the flute in spite of his marvellous music. One day she expresses her love to this ugly man as she needs his help. She knows that he will definitely obey because of beauty, love and power. She satisfies a part of his sexual greed by kissing him.

To conclude, I will say that the director has well understood and well explored Emile Zola's concepts and he has written a very good script. If he had edited the monotonous life of the ugly man in the first part of the film, the film would have been more interesting. The ugly man's loneliness represented by Maestro Premasiri Khemadasa's music is excellent. The director of photography should have highlighted more on the expressions of the protagonists and sometimes the scenes are very dark.

The director has selected the correct artistes. Nirosha Perera, Roshan Ravindra, Chandani Seneviratna and others have done their performances well. While directing, Sanath Gunatilake has played a main role (unknown man) in the film and his acting is commendable. Sanath proves that he is talented not only as an actor in the silver screen but also in scriptwriting, directing and in production. *Ekamath Eka Rateka* is his maiden cinematic depiction and should be encouraged to do many other films in the future.



Sanath

# The Island LeisureLAND

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## Gang culture may be due to 'warrior gene'



A warrior gene could make teenagers more likely to join gangs

A warrior gene could make teenagers more likely to join gangs, scientists believe. Boys who carry the gene are likely to be dangerous, violent and carry weapons, according to the research.

The gene affects levels of the brain chemicals dopamine and serotonin - which affect behaviour and mood.

But the gene defect has no effect on girls, it emerged.

Scientists have previously linked the gene to anti-social behaviour but have not been able to confirm the link with gangs and guns until now.

It is also more common for boys from warring or aggressive cultures with the variation of the Monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) gene, to join gangs, it was found.

Biosocial criminologist Kevin M. Beaver, from Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, who led the study, said that the research sheds new light on the interplay of genetics and environment.

"While gangs typically have been regarded as a sociological phenomenon, our investigation shows that variants of a specific gene play a significant role," he said.

"Findings apply only to males. Girls with the same variant of the MAOA gene seem resistant to its potentially violent effects on gang membership and weapon use.

"Previous research has linked low-activity MAOA variants to a wide range of antisocial, even violent, behaviour, but our study confirms that these variants can predict gang membership.

"Moreover, we found that variants of this gene could distinguish gang members who were markedly more likely to behave violently and use weapons from members who were less likely to do either."

The study examined DNA data and lifestyle information drawn from more than 2,500 respondents to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

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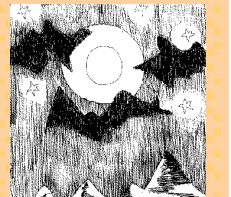
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