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A like-minded venture

Niruttara wants to make a difference to the Kannada film landscape. With a mature cast, music is also one of its chief characters

MURALIDHARA KHAJANE



AN EXCITING JOURNEY Scenes from the film *Apoorva Kasaravalli* (centre)

At a time, when love, crime and horror are ruling the Kannada film scene, a team of sensitive minds have come together to offer a sensible film with music as its backdrop.

Bhavana, Rahul Bose, sitar maestro Neeladri Kumar, Apoorva Kasaravalli, Alindrita Ray, Kiran Srinivas, and Oscar winner Resul Pookutty have come together for *Niruttara*, a film based on a story by noted writer, Vikram Hatwar.

"With the intention of making a film to be remembered by the Kannada audience, Vikram Hatwar was asked to write a story for the film. The screenplay was written later," says Bhavana, who is essaying the title role of Hamsa in the film. Besides acting in *Niruttara*, Bhavana is also taking interest in every aspect of filmmaking, as her brother Arvind Hamanna is producing this movie.

Bhavana did not interfere with the script till it was completed. "I recuperated from the initial hiccups after three days. It is about the emotional conflicts of Hamsa, a married woman and a singer I essay," she said explaining the role of music.

sound recording and other technical details, which has made the film rich.

Rahul Bose is making his Kannada debut through *Niruttara*. The interesting thing is Rahul Bose himself dubbed for his role in the film. "I love to dub for my role, irrespective of the language in which the film is made. If someone dubs for my role, then what is so special in it? So I prefer to dub for the roles essayed by me," asserts Rahul.

Ask Rahul what made him accept the role and he says, "I accepted the role because the movie is being directed by Apoorva Kasaravalli, the son of the legend of parallel cinema in India, Girish Kasaravalli. When Apoorva approached me, I readily agreed, considering some things never go wrong," he replies, noting that he was convinced of Apoorva's sensibility after going through the script. Taking time between shots, Rahul says that labels don't matter to him. "Money does matter, but some movies are for satisfaction, *Niruttara* is one such."

Why Rahul Bose? Apoorva wanted someone suave and sophisticated to play the role of Pradeep, Hamsa's husband. "When I narrated the story, script and his role, Rahul agreed immediately."

Apoorva, in fact, describes his debut venture as an emotional and musical journey of four characters: Hamsa, Shreya, Anshu and Pradeep. "Journey of *Niruttara* began with the decision to make a good film. We have taken more time than expected. But the journey itself was exciting and a fantastic experience. I got whatever was needed to make the film. What more can a creative filmmaker expect?" he asks.

Niruttara according to Apoorva, follows the life of four different people and how their paths criss-cross. It is a story about relationships, not just between male and female protagonists.

Alindrita Ray, who is excited about her role says, "I was struck by the script and its complexities. It was totally different from the roles I have essayed so far. The character is close to my persona. Songs in this film are something special, as they are shot realistically." Describing the film as "simple and matured", Kiran Srinivasan says Apoorva is one of the best directors he has worked with since the beginning of his career. Apoorva wanted Neeladri Kumar to make music for his film, since he is enamoured by the sitar maestro. The signature of the film had to be music and with a sensibility that could blend several genres. Apoorva has managed to bring in the Afghan musician Humayun Sakhi to play the rabab along with Neeladri, June Banerjee and Mahan are the other playback singers for this musical venture.

Kaviraj, who penned songs for the film says that Neeladri Kumar "demanded words without stress." "He wanted me to write simple lines to suit his compositions." Another interesting aspect about *Niruttara* is the young musician Sawri Madgal from Delhi who has sung a song for the film. Her song *Hoomse Hani* has a slow and romantic flow to it. Music CDs of this film will be released shortly.