

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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MANI RATNAM (1956 -)

Life

Mani Ratnam (Gopala Ratnam Subramanian) was born into a family of film-makers: his father was a distributor working for Venus Pictures in Madras; his uncle was a producer; and his two brothers would later produce some of his own films. Despite that background, he was not encouraged to watch films as a child growing up in Madras. His schooling was the alternative type, attending private institutions that encouraged creativity and independent thinking. By the time he gained his university degree, he was an avid movie fan. After completing business management school in Bombay and earning an MBA in 1977, he took his first job back in Madras as a management consultant.

Bored with business, and with financial backing from his uncle, Mani Ratnam directed his first film (in the Kannada language) in 1983. This was followed by a few moderately successful films, but his big breakthrough came in 1986 with *Mouna Ragam (Silent Symphony)*, a Tamil film portraying the everyday drama of urban life for a newly-wed couple. Later films, including *The Hero (Nayakan, 1987)*, *Rose (Roja, 1992)*, *Bombay (1995)* and *From the Heart (Dil Se, 1998)* catapulted him into international fame. His film *The Duo (Iruvar, 1997)* was also extremely popular within India, but most of his later films did not match the quality of those made in mid-career.

In 1988, Mani Ratnam married Suhasini, a successful actress in south Indian films, and they have one son. The family live in Madras, where he runs a production company, Madras Talkies.



(Mani Ratnam)

Achievements

Mani Ratnam was honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri award in 2002. Several of his films have been nominated for awards at major film festivals, such as Moscow, Berlin and Venice.

List of Feature Films

1983	Pallavi Anu Pallavi
1985	Pagal Nilavu
1986	Mouna Ragam
1987	Nayakan
1988	Agni Natchathiram
1989	Gitanjali
1990	Anjali
1990	Chatriyan
1991	Thalapathi
1992	Rose, Roja
1993	Gaayam
1994	Thiruda
1995	Bombay
1997	The Duo, Iruvar
1998	From the Heart, Dil Se..
2000	Alai Payuthey
2002	Kannathil Muthamittal
2002	Saathiya
2004	Yuva
2004	Three Dots
2007	Guru
2010	Raavan
2010	Raavanan
2013	Kadal
2015	OK Kanmani
2017	OK Jaanu
2017	<u>Kaatru Veliyidai</u>
2018	<u>Chekka Chivantha Vaanam</u>