

A TIMELESS CINEMATIC CLASSIC



This is the story of a Prince who changed the world.

Who lived his life
the way no other man has done before or since.

#### STORYLINE

This is an extraordinary tale from over 2600 years ago, of a Prince who is endowed with everything he needs and more. Luxury, Palaces and all heart's desires, are provided to him by his father, a warrior King of the Kingdom of Sakya.

The story unfolds dramatically with the Prince leaving the Palace on an unknown journey....

The Prince, born auspiciously, is named Siddhartha,
meaning, the one who fulfills his aim.
Brahmins and Prophets predict the Prince to be a
Universal Monarch, while highly respected Sage Asita and
Brahmin Kondanna predict firmly, to the King's disappointment,
that the Prince will leave all his worldly possessions and
attain enlightenment.

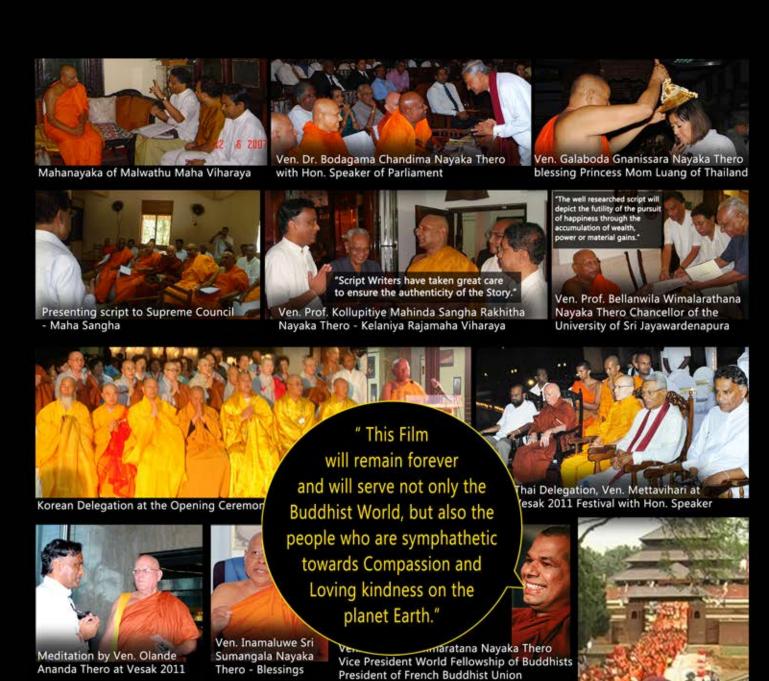
At a tender age, the Prince enters into marriage with beautiful Princess Yashodhara, in spite of the Prince giving a list of qualities which are almost impossible to meet in a perfect match. King Suddhodhana strategically appoints the Prince as Yuvraj, to further tie him down to worldly life.

Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yashodhara fall deeply in love and enjoy life happily for several years. In spite of this bond, Siddhartha is in search for the truth which he finds difficult to discover within the luxury of the Palace walls.

During brief tours of duty around the Kingdom, he witnesses the life of commoners and is confronted with the harsh reality of life decay, disease and death.

He decides to leave his Kingdom to seek the path to end human suffering. After fulfilling his dear wife's wish to keep her from loneliness, Siddhartha leaves the palace into the unknown, in search of the truth...

#### MAHA SANGHA - BLESSINGS & ADVICE







Film Set sponsored by

Nayaka Thero

Ven. Dr Bodagama Chandima

#### **OVERTURE**

THE RIGHTEOUS BUDDHIST EMPEROR ASHOKA OF INDIA
IN 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC

SPREAD THE ESSENCE OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA
COMPASSION
LOVING KINDNESS
LIMITLESS TOLERANCE

IN ONE OF HIS ROCK EDICTS
THE EMPEROR DECLARED

ONE'S OWN RELIGION

AND CONDEMN THE RELIGION OF OTHERS,
BUT SHOULD HONOUR OTHERS' RELIGION

FOR THIS OR THAT REASON.

SO DOING, ONE HELPS ONE'S OWN RELIGION

TO GROW AND RENDERS SERVICE

TO THE RELIGIONS OF OTHERS TOO."

'A GIFT TO HUMANITY'

Presented by the

LIGHT OF ASIA FOUNDATION

NAVIN GOONERATNE Honorary Chairman

#### INT. KING'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

#### KING SUDDHODANA

To leave the Palace ?
What about your wife Yashodhara ?
Your unborn child ?

#### PRINCE SIDDHARTHA

This is not easy for me Father.
I see no other path for
humanity's salvation...

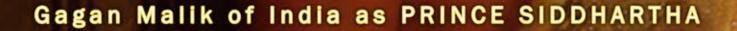
"I wanted to be a Super Star and worked tirelessly for eight years in Mumbai - the capital of Bollywood.

When I got this rare opportunity of playing the sacred role of Prince Siddhartha, my perceptions gradually changed...

I was overwhelmed by the sacrifice made by this noble Prince for humanity.

Now, I do not want to be a Super Star, instead serve humanity as best I can..."

Gagan



Actor, Model and Sportsman

Lead role in the Musical 'Bharathi', staged in

Germany, France, Belgiam, Holland, Switzeland and Austria.

Role of 'Sri RAM' in the Megahit Ramayan and

'Kum Kum', 'Saath Sath', 'Sakuntala' and 'Upnishad Ganga'.

#### FOREIGN DIGNITARIES SAY:

Sri Siddhartha Gauthama

# A gift for humanity

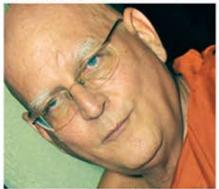


Queen Prajapati & Mahamaya

**RUWINI JAYAWARDANA** 

t is an epic in every sense of the word. Inspired from the legend of Prince Siddhartha, the noble prince who gave up all his luxuries to attain enlightenment and teaching beings on how to reduce their suffering by understanding themselves better, comes The Light of Asia Foundation's newest motion picture Sri Siddhartha Gauthama.

The sumptuous visual tribute to Prince Siddhartha unfolds with the leisurely gait of an imperial elephant. The extraordinary tale of over 2600 years back has been captured through the cinematic lens by K D Dayananda. Directed by Saman Weeraman, the project is spearheaded by Light of Asia Foundation (LAF) founder Navin Gooneratne. Indian actor



ven Olande Ananda Thera

I was literally moved to tears at several moments of the film. Even though I know the story, the movie revives the old tale. It projects the pre Buddha life as it is. It is very authentic

HOLLAND

Gagan Malik essays the role of Prince Siddhartha while Anchal Singh portrays Princess Yashodara's role.

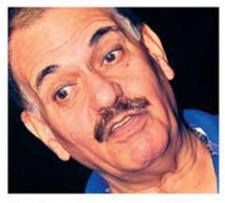


Chandigarh Rural and Industrial Development Centre for Research Executive Vice Chairman

#### Rashpal Malhotra

You need to look at 'Sri Siddhartha Gauthama' as a universal venture because these ideologies are more relevant to the contemporary world. I believe that this is a movie which should be seen by the heads of the states. It has the ability to change the mindset of people.

INDIA



Chandigarh Rural and Industrial Development Centre for Research visiting professor

#### C Bakshi

For me 'Sri Siddhartha
Gauthama' was not merely a
movie but a pilgrimage into
the life of a person who had a
great impact upon my life. It
raises questions which should
be known to the new generation. It embodies a pure and
simple message conveyed in
very basic terms.

INDIA

#### IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN SRI LANKA SAYS

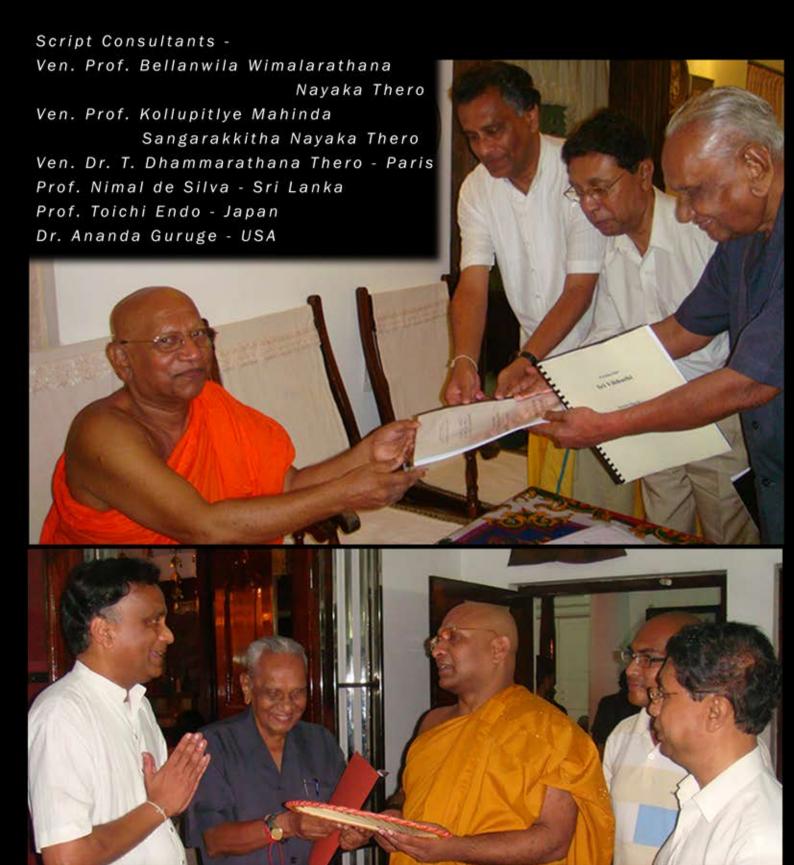
"All of humanity should see this movie"



#### INT. PALACE PAVILLION - DAY PRINCE NANDA A beautiful face.. PRINCE SIDDHARTHA She should not be proud of her looks... Also, loving and kind like a mother or a sister ... "The whole experience of Sri Siddhartha Gautama has been very spiritual, pure and a divine journey for me. I got an amazing opportunit to understand the meaning of life closely. Imagine a mother with a new born child letting her husband go..., This sacrifice, this understanding for Siddhartha's completion of his dream...is real love... So, this is what I learnt. Anchal

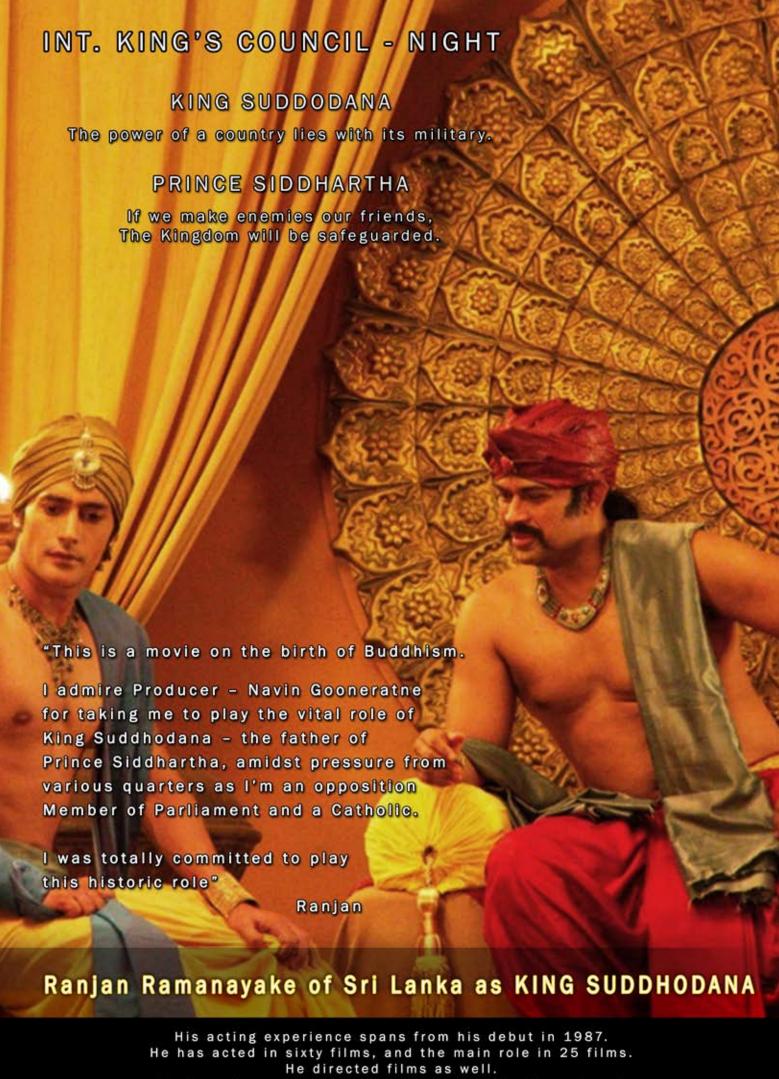
Anchal Singh of India as PRINCESS YASHODARA

Her acting began Dena Bank TVC.
She is a famous TV Commercial Star
credited with a large number of commercials,
working with Priyanka Chopra, Hema Malini ect:

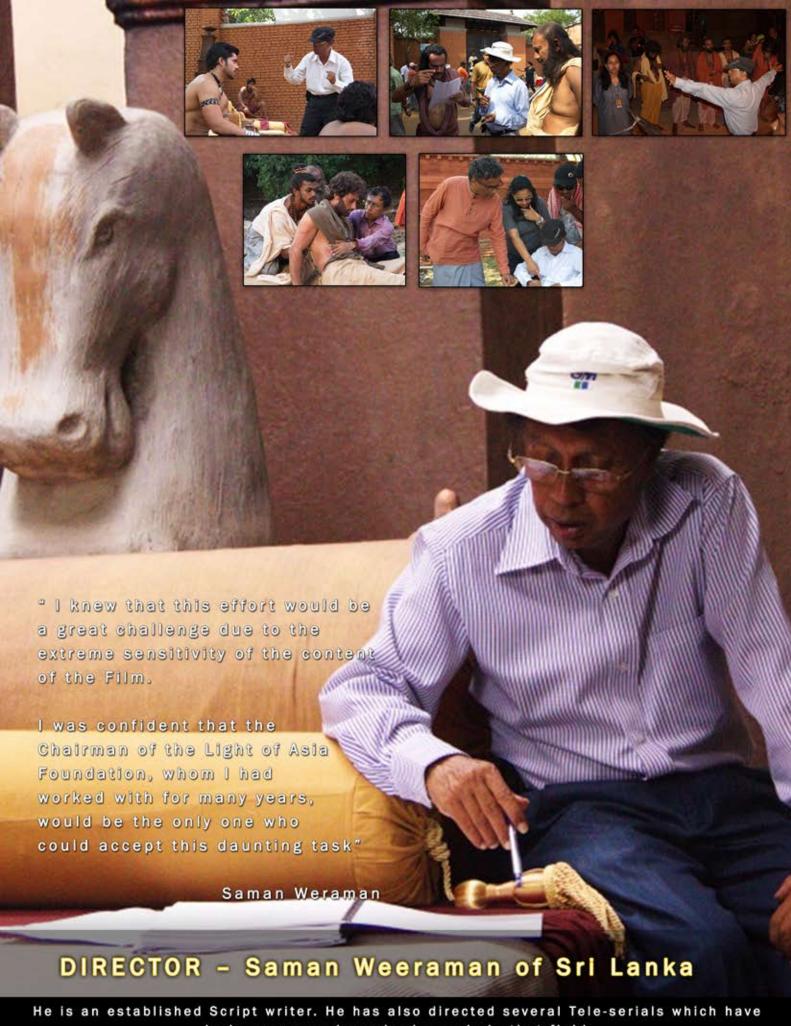


#### SCREENPLAY

Several Script Writers were engaged over a period of four years to provide a script for the Epic Motion Picture. Finally, the original script prepared by Saman Weeraman in Sinhala was translated by Kala Keerthi Edwin Ariyadasa to English. The Script was fine tuned by George Paldana and Navin Gooneratne. The script was approved by the Supreme Council of the "Maha Sanga".



He has also won many Awards including the 'Best Actor'.



had success and received awards in that field.

He was instrumental in initiating 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama' as the General Manager

of the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka,

which he finally directed and was also co-screenplay writer.

Professionally he is an attorney-at-law.

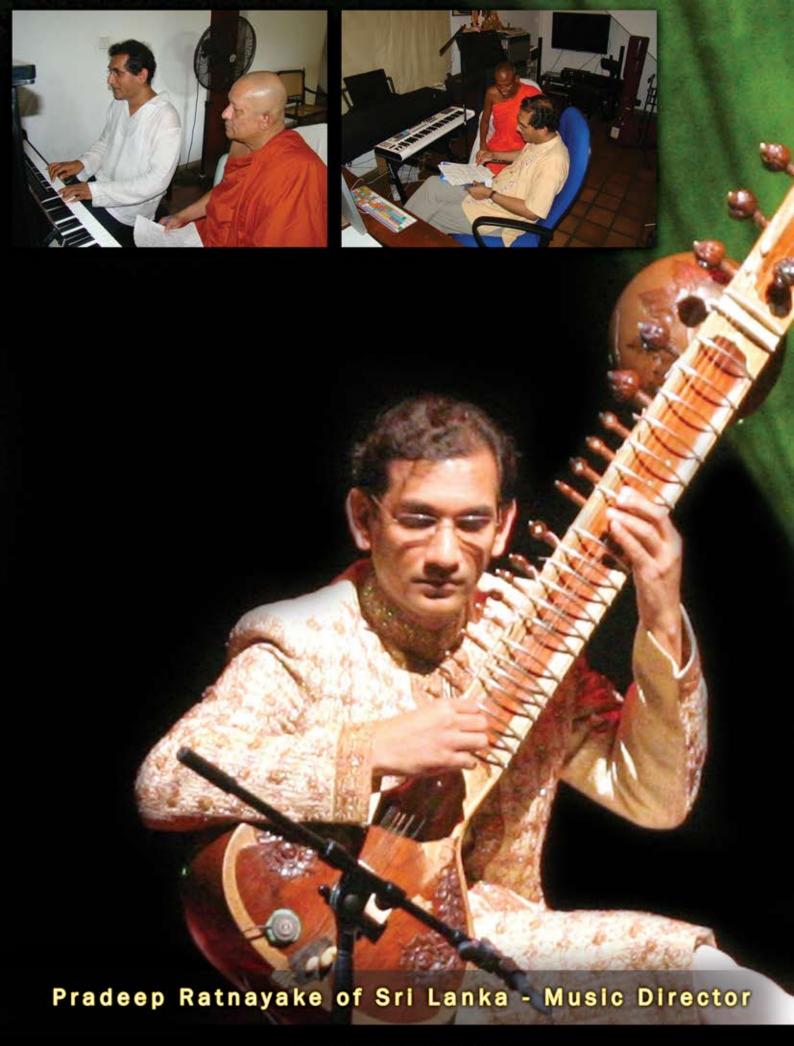


Anshu Malik of India as QUEEN MAYA



He is a veteran Cinematographer with a record of over sixty films to his credit. He has won the Award for Best Cinematographer on several occations for his creative work.





He is an internationally acclaimed Sitarist whose creativity has been acknowledged in Sri lanka and overseas.

He has created musical scores for several films.



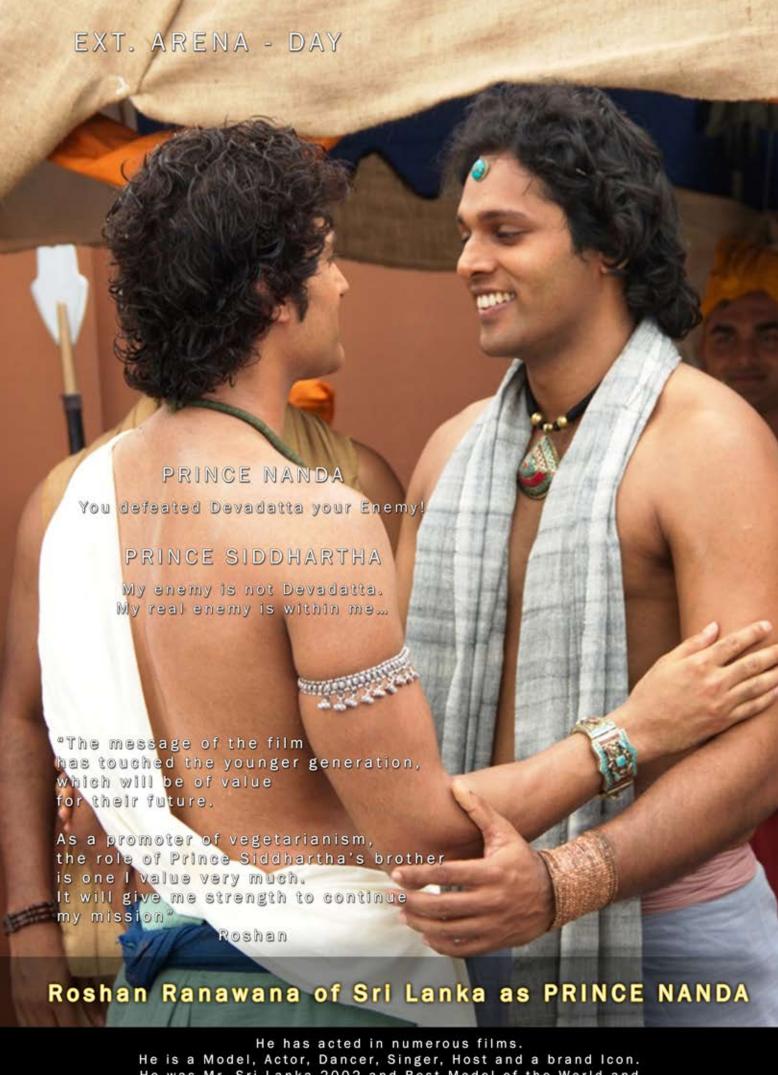


#### Pravin Jayaratne of Sri Lanka - Editor & Sound Designer

He is head of a leading firm which has over forty years experience in the film industry, providing all facilities for motion picture production and Post Production.

He has edited over fifteen feature films and is a sound engineer as well.

He has also produced several films



He is a Model, Actor, Dancer, Singer, Host and a brand Icon. He was Mr. Sri Lanka 2002 and Best Model of the World and Manhunt International Pageant, 2002.



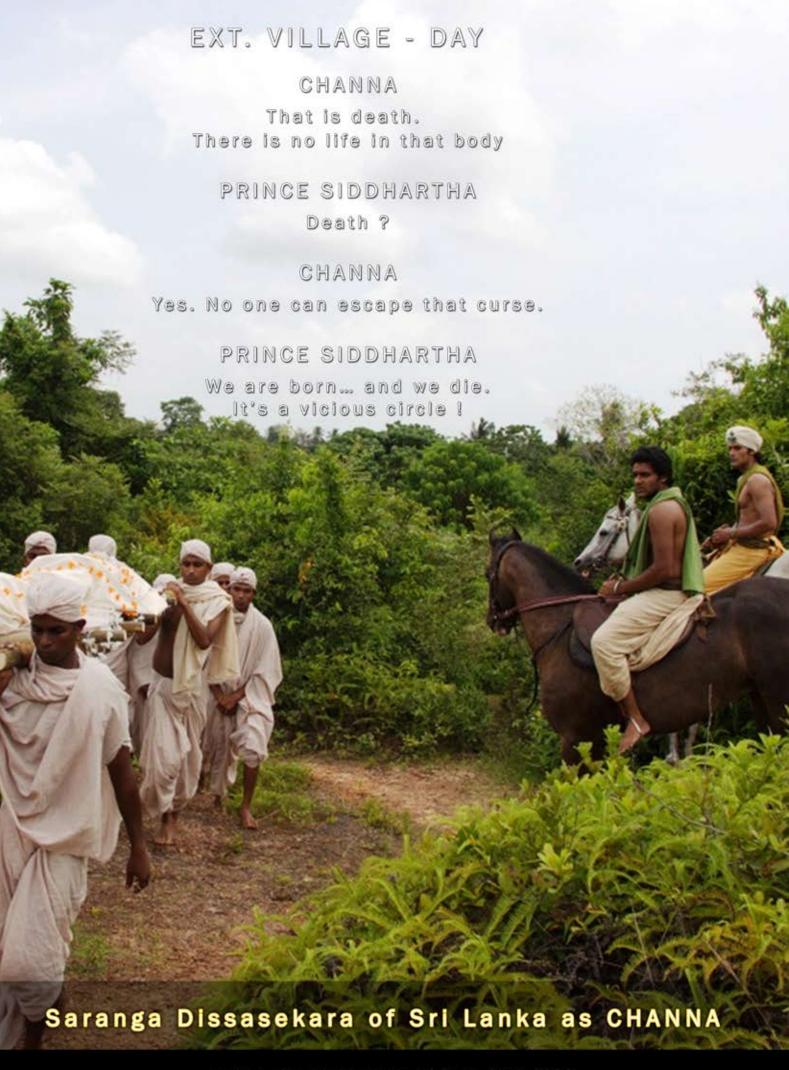






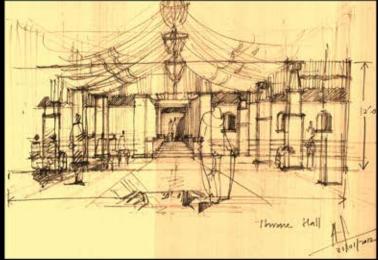
#### CHOREOGRAPHY

Choreographers, Channa Wijewardene, Ravibandhu Vidyapathi & Rangana Ariyadasa reflecting the mood of each event.











Production Designer
Navin Gooneratne,
Chief Architect Roshan
Chandrarathne,
Archeologists Basanta Bidari
(Chief Archeologist of Lumbini &
Kapilavastu, Nepal) & Prof. Nimal
de Silva (Director General - Central
Cultural Triangle, Sri Lanka)
researched for several years and
visited the principal locations where
Prince Siddhartha lived over 2600
years ago, to design the film sets
of the "Kingdom of Sakya".



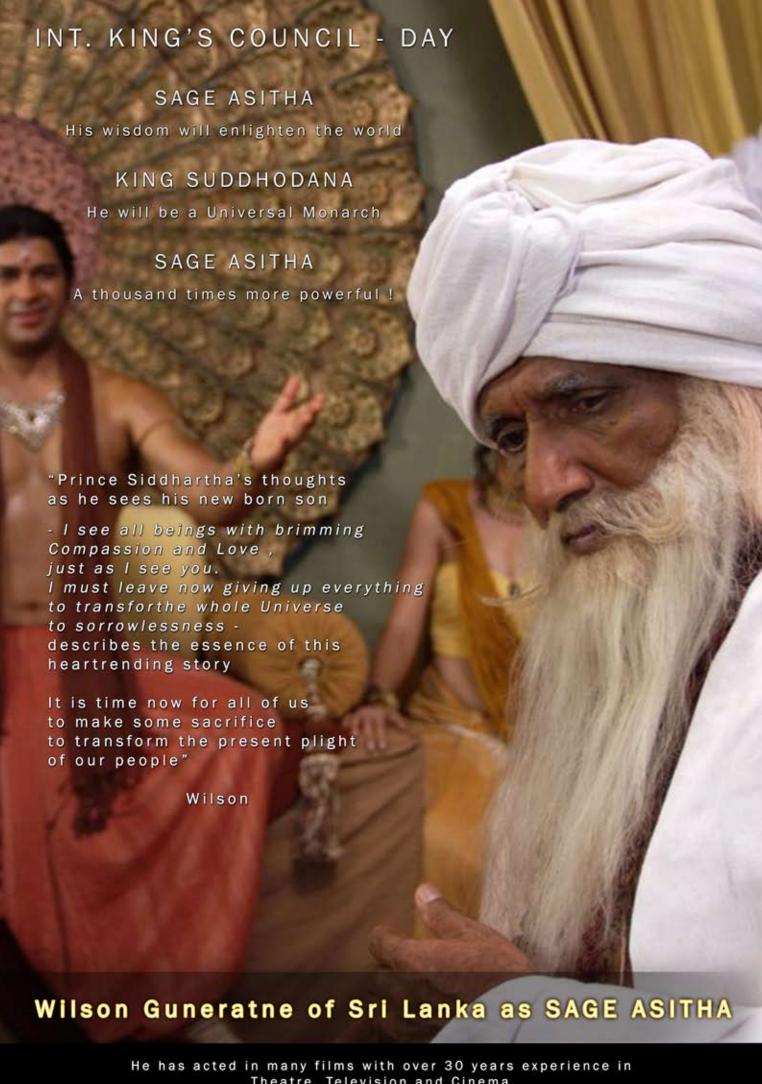
Designing of Sets with Chief Archaeologist of Lumbini and Kapilavasthu and 124 Design team

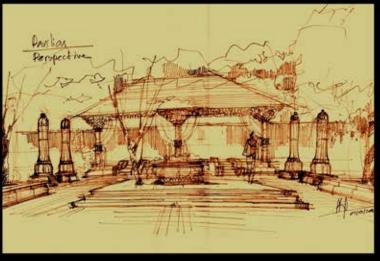
Today, the Complex of Palaces are permanent monuments, the only life size replicas of a by-gone era, giving a sense of reality to the Epic Production.

#### PRODUCTION & SET DESIGN

Production Designer
Consultant
Set Design Consultant

- Navin Gooneratne
- Roshan Chandrarathne
- Baratha Liyanage



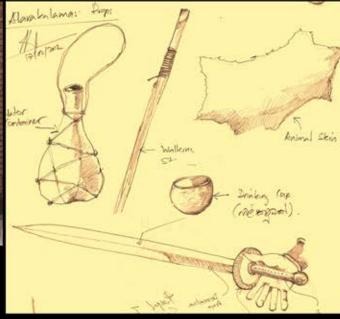










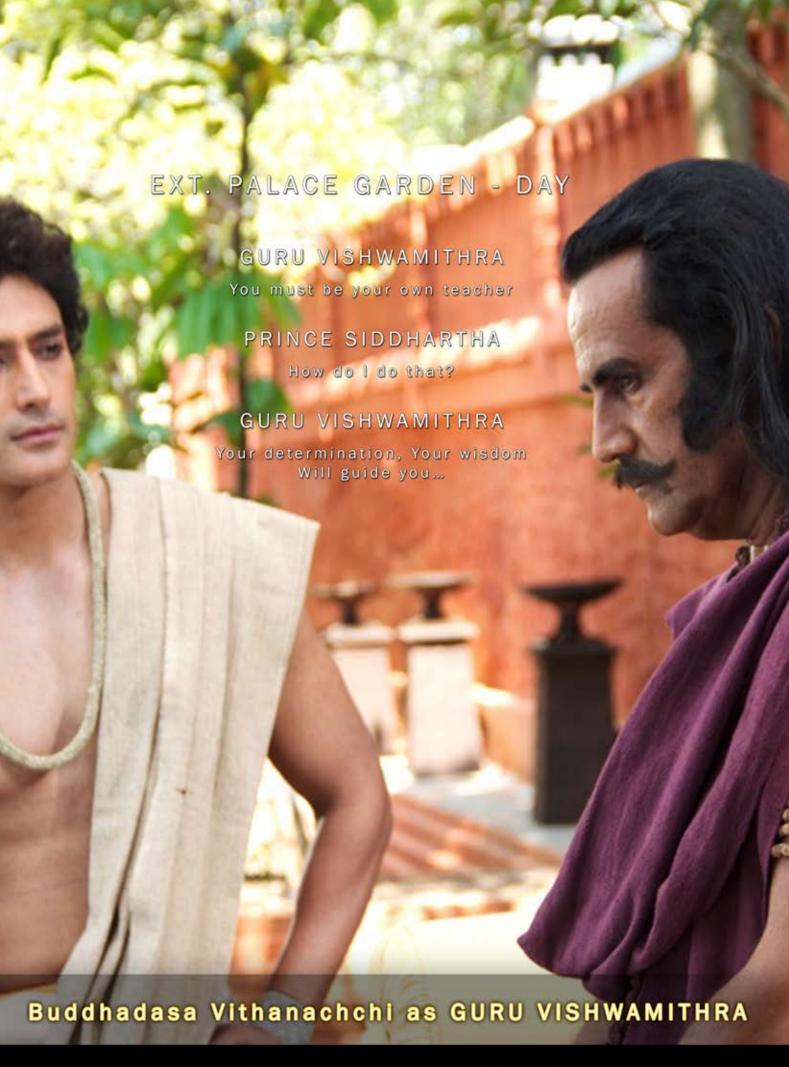


Research and innovation were combined in creating the Interiors and Props by the Production and Art Direction team to interpret the techniques and material used dating back over 2600 years.

#### ART DIRECTION

Art Directors

Roshan Chandrarathne Sumith Hiran Fernando











For the first time in film history, the entire wardrobe for stars were executed with drapes and knots without any stitched or tailored costumes.

The fabrics were specially hand woven reflecting the technology of the era with colour schemes and Jewellery to blend with the complexion of each character enhancing the roles played by the stars.









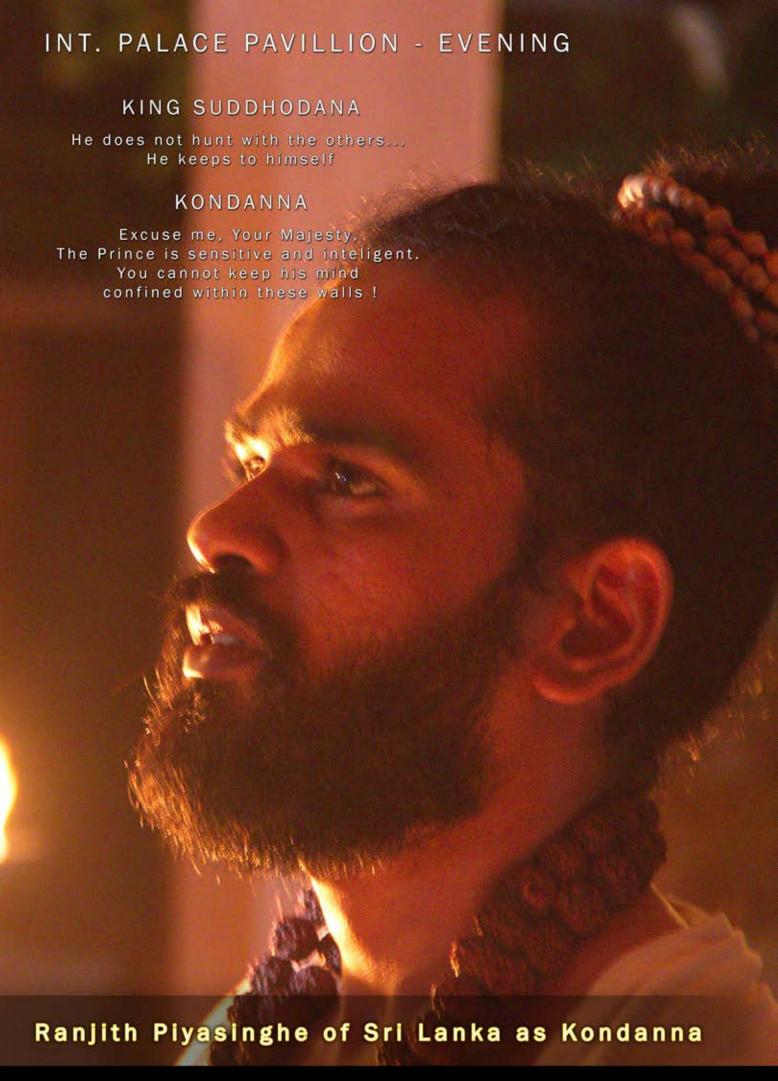


#### COSTUME AND JEWELLERY DESIGNS

Production Designer Concept Designers

Costume Designer Footwear Designer

- Navin Gooneratne
- Ayanthi Gooneratne, Charminie Hemachandra Architects of 124 Designs
- Omesh Wijeratne
- L.P.S. Karunadasa



This is his debut role in Cinema



#### **LOCATIONS - SRI LANKA**

The Production Team searched for lacations in the Asian Region for a period spanning over 03 years. Several visits were made to Thailand, Nepal, India, Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia and Japan for this purpose. Finally, locations in Sri Lanka where selected for the making of the film.

#### INT. PALACE COURT - DAY

#### KING SUDDHODANA

I entrust you to name my son...

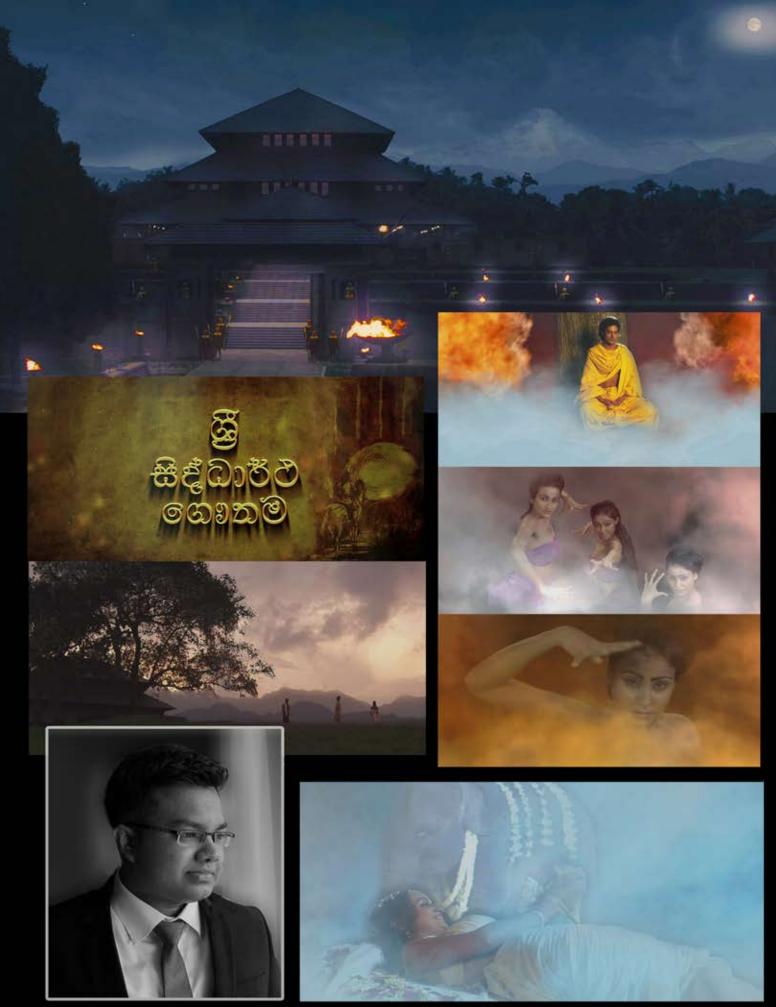
#### BRAHMIN RAMA

Signs are unique.....
Siddhartha.... Siddhartha.....

"This Epic to my mind is the best moment in World Cinema.
This is because it communicates the greatest need for todays anxiety-ridden humanity-compassion and friendly co-exsistance eschewing violence, disharmony and discord."

Edwin

Edwin Ariyadasa of Sri Lanka as BRAHMIN RAMA



Gayan Soysa of Sri Lanka - Visual Effects Editor

## Sri Siddhartha Gautama sets Indian stars on a spiritual mission



ndian actors Gagan Malik and Anchal Singh, who played Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yashodhara in the latest Sri Lankan blockbuster 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama', say that the film has put them on a spiritual mission.

"For me it is not just a film. It has made me passionate about taking the message of the Buddha to society at large, "said Gagan Malik. An actor hailing from New Delhi, Gagan is already famous for his role as Lord Rama in Zee TV's mega serial 'Ramayan'.

Anchal Singh, a model from Mumbai with a string of TV commercials to her credit, has also come under the Buddha's sway. "I'm part of your journey. Whenever a requirement arises, I will be right there," Anchal told producer Navin Gooneratne in an e-mail she sent him on return to India.

A devout Buddhist, a Gandhian and Chairman of the Light of Asia Foundation, Gooneratne sees his US\$ 2 million magnum opus as part of a lifelong project to spread the message of the Sakya Muni across the globe through the universal language of the arts. The film has been running to packed houses in Sri Lanka, with 388,000 patrons having already seen it within the first 22 days, whetting the appetite for exhibition overseas.

"Gagan is ready to sacrifice everything for this spiritual journey,"
Gooneratne said, pleased with the response of his Indian protégés.
Gagan and Anchal are, in a sense, his protégés, because they are his finds for the silver screen. For both, 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama' is the first feature film. Gagan had been a TV star and Anchal an advertising model before the Sri Lankan assignment.

#### Unusual approach

It appears that it was
Gooneratne's unusual approach to
film- making which swayed the two
Indian stars. The Lankan producer
did not want to make just another
commercially successful film. His
goal was to convey Buddha's doctrine in an authentic way.

"It was a five year struggle to rope in the right people, get the right script written and secure the funds, " he reminisced.



# Shri Siddhartha Gautama: A review An exquisite cinematic treat

#### BY RAMANI GUNATILAKA

Tsaw Shri Siddhartha Gautama on Saturday night and have not been able to get the images out of my mind.

Seeing the film was a spiritually and emotionally moving experience. Directed by Saman Weeraman and produced by Navin Gooneratne and Jeff Goonewardena, the film's appeal to Buddhists lies in its credible and sensitive portrayal of the characters of the Bodhisatva and his family, and its exploration of what motivated them. It is believable because of the script's steadfast adherence to the biographical details available in the discourses, recounted by the Buddha himself. And the director and producer of the film have cleverly held back from embellishing this basic framework, keeping the story line as simple as we know it. Instead, the film provides exquisitely beautiful visuals which imprint themselves indelibly on the mind so that after seeing the film, one thinks of Prince Siddhartha as looking exactly like Gagan Malik, Yasodhara as Anchal Singh and Suddhodana as Ranjan Ramanayaka.

The film is a visual treat. Almost every detail has been looked into for authenticity and artistry, and made to go with the whole. Having an architect as producer must have helped. For example, the sets of the palace at Kapilavatthu were designed by Navin Gooneratne and approved by the archaeologist in charge of the original site in Nepal. Inspired

by the Ajantha frescoes, the costumes have beautiful lines, the colour combinations subtle yet uplifting. Navin Gooneratne has also designed the jewellery and it is fabulous. Prince Siddhartha appears in several costumes each with its own enhancing set of Jewellery and ornaments, the grand ones in white gold, others in silver, a few encrusted with lapis lazuli and turquoise, and another in yellow and brown stone. All were, without exception, beautiful. Pradeep Ratnayake's brilliant musical composition and direction struck exactly the right note at exactly the right moment, haunting without being melancholic, pulsing with restrained excitement as the occasion demanded it. The music evoked the emotions in the poetical lyrics of the three songs composed by Ven. Rambukkhana Siddhartha and Ven. Pallegama Hemarathana, adding yet another layer to the emotional and intellectual enjoyment of the experience.

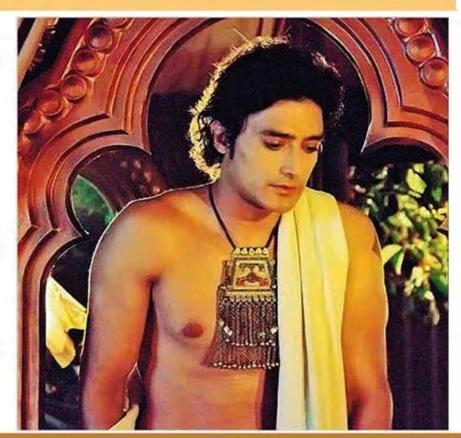
It was a full house at the Liberty on Saturday evening. There was a scrum as people shoved and pushed and broke the queue to scramble into the theatre, behaving as if the film would start before they could find their seats. But the crowd that emerged afterwards was transformed. Quiet and disciplined, patiently waiting their turn, some even moved to tears. It was a fitting tribute to the transcending power of the film and the greatness of the man who inspired it.

#### Sri Siddhartha Gautama

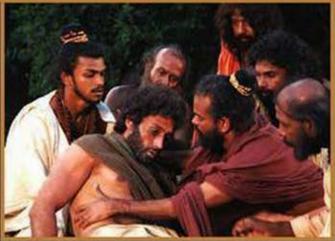
#### BY FATHIMA RAZIK

ears of hard work have finally borne fruit – a motion picture classic – Sri Siddhartha Gautama will be released shortly to audiences in Sri Lanka and later the world over, in which for the first time, a story on the life of Prince Siddhartha will draw the attention of the world through a cinematic statement.

It all began nearly seven years ago when Navin Gooneratne put his mind, heart and soul, in addition to his finances, to make his dream a reality in the form of a story on screen, depicting the life of Prince Siddhartha Gautama from birth up to the time of his renouncing this material world, and taking the path to Enlightenment.



## Film review gift given to the humankind



Ascetic Siddhartha nearing death

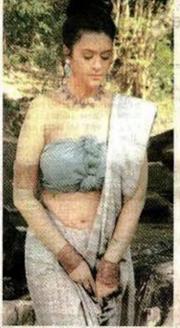
This movie is miles ahead in every conceivable way to "Siddhartha", the film based on the novel of the same name by Herman Hesse, directed by Conrad Rooks in 1972.

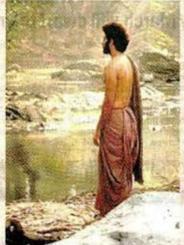
#### King Suddhodana and Queen Mahamaya

This is a movie for the global community; not only for Buddhists. It is an epic in every sense of the word. It is known only to very few Sri Lankans that Navin Gooneratne has produced an International feature Film 'A 1000 flowers' in 1982.

It was filmed in France, Thailand and Sri Lanka. This anti war feature film was selected to two International Film Festivals. If Navin's "Sri Siddhartha Gautama" was made in Hollywood it would have been nominated for many Oscars and certainly would have won some.

There are very few movies that can be classified as 'absolutely must be seen'. Navin's 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama' is certainly one of them.







### Sri Siddhartha Gautama









ommemorating the 2600 Buddha Jayanthi, the Light of Asia Foundation launch of the Timeless Cinematic Classic, "Sri Siddhartha Gautama" which is now being screened by EAP films.

The film depicts the life of Prince Siddhartha from his birth to his attainment of enlightenment as ascetic Siddhartha. The long sansaric link between Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yasodhara runs right through the work on a subdued note. It is a story that has been visualised by every Sri Lankan during their journey in life. It captures the spirit of the lay life and the reasons for the noble prince's change of thought.

The creation of the script was achieved by a team committed to make this a reality. Navin Gooneratne the Chairman of the Light of Asia Foundation said that several attempts had been made before achieving success. The story is based on a book written by Ven Balangoda Ananda Maithri Nayaka Thero.

The Script was approved by the Advisory Board headed by the Chancellor, Professor Ven. Belanwila Wimalaratne Thera, the chief incumbent of the Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya.

"The production included a specially developed set, in line with the research done, specially selected cast to match every role, props and costumes, music, choreography make up to create an authentic experience. All in all it was an enormous creation.

The film Sri Siddhartha Gautama' supersedes the finances expended in production of any other film so far in Sri Lanka. Can proudly proclaim, Sri Siddhartha Gautama is the first cinematic production anywhere in the world which is complete in all aspects, from the birth to attainment of Buddha hood. The films, "Little Buddha" (Hollywood) nor "Siddhartha" (India) did not fulfill the expectations of the Buddhist community in the world. Furthermore it is a blessing this film could be produced in Sri Lanka: the pioneer seat of Theravada Buddhism. This is not a Buddhist film, even though 70 percent of population of Sri Lanka is Buddhist, this story can be appreciated by anybody, and it's about supremely

sagacious person and embodies a subtle love story; after which he spends 40 years in the way to end suffering for all humankind. This film will be valued not only by the 41 Buddhist countries but the entire world" he added."

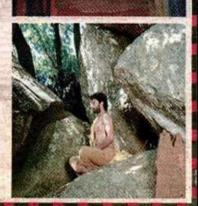
The cast of the movie includes
Gangan Malik, Anchel Singh, Gautham
Gulati, Douglas Ranasinghe, Dilhani
Perera, Roshan Ranawana, Buddhadasa
Withanarachchi, Wilson Gunaratne,
Edwin Ariyadasa, Ranjith Piyasinghe,
Anshu Malik, Ranjan Ramanayake and
many more. The music score is by Pradeep
Ratnayake.

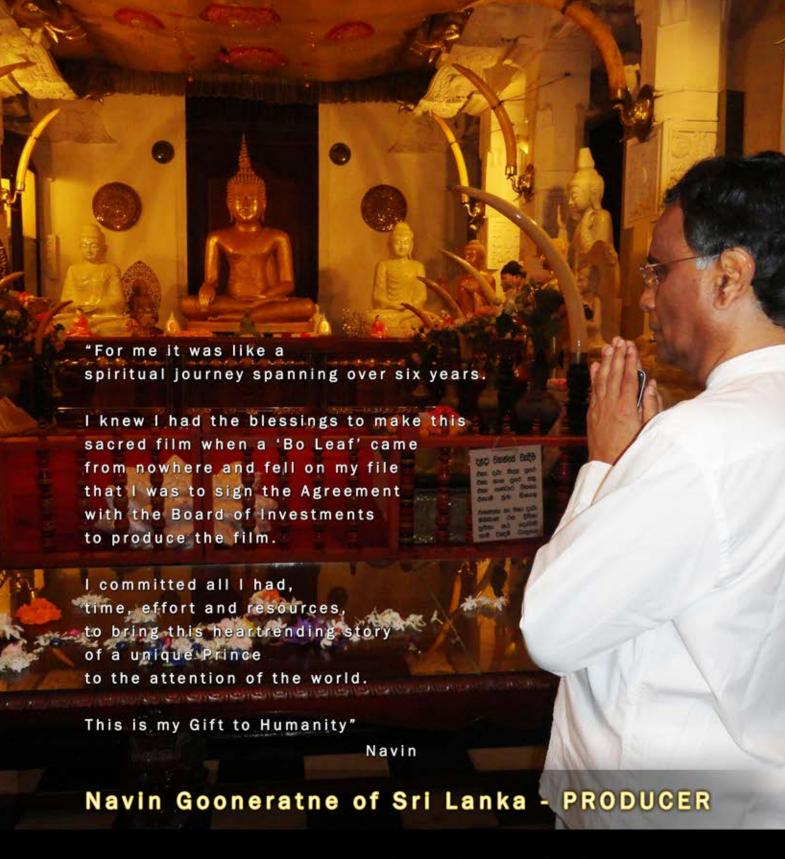
"Sri Siddhartha
Gautama is the first
cinematic production
anywhere in the world
which is complete in
all aspects, from the
birth to attainment of
Buddha hood. The
films, "Little Buddha"
(Hollywood) nor
"Siddhartha" (India)
did not fulfill the
expectations of the
Buddhist community

The Light of Asia Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the Buddhist Philosophy in Sri Lanka, and is actively involved in organising many activities to support their work. The Foundation wishes the movie will be viewed as a 'Gift to Humanity'

in the world."







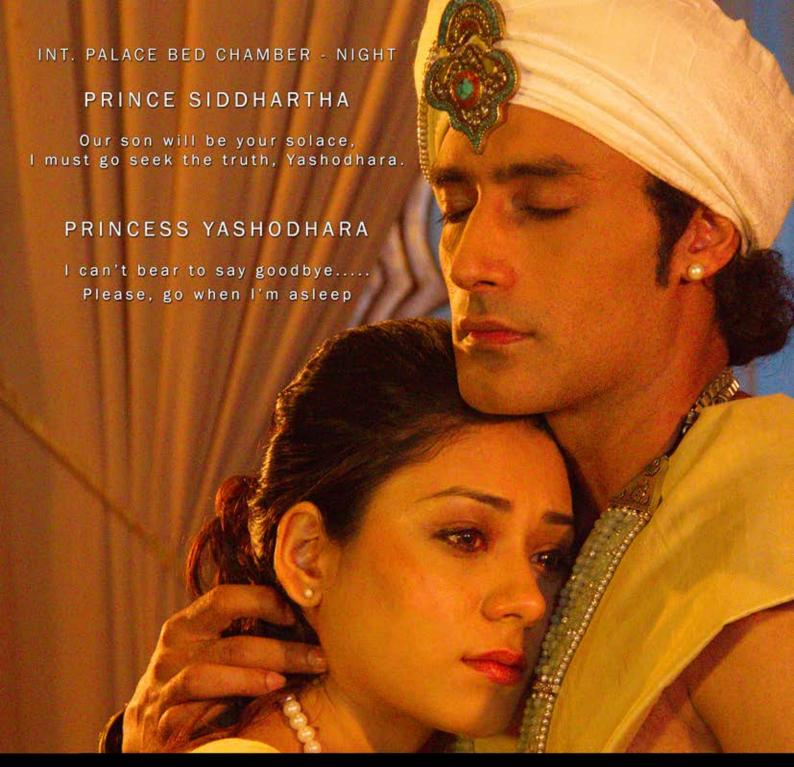


Founder, Honorary Chairman of the "Light of Asia Foundation" and the Patron of the "Mahathma Gandhi Centre" in Sri Lanka has devoted greater part of his time for humanitarian programmes spanning over thirty years.

He is also the Honorary Chairman of the "Sama International Trust" - an interfaith organization for peace, who was invited by the then President of Sri Lanka as a Member of the "Peace delegation" in 1997-8.

Professionaly he heads a leading firm of Architects & Engineers.

Presently he is in the process of creating the concept of a Lotus World - which is a Global platform for Goodness, Friendship & Mindfulness.



LIGHT OF ASIA FOUNDATION PRESENTS A RADIANCE FILMS PRODUCTION

SCREENPLAY SAMAN WEERAMAN, EDWIN ARIYADASA, GEORGE PALDANO, NAVIN GOONERATNE

CINEMATOGRAPHER K.D. DAYANANDA, MUSIC DIRECTOR PRADEEP RATNAYAKE

EDITOR & SOUND DESIGNER PRAVIN JAYARATNE

PRODUCTION DESIGNER NAVIN GOONERATNE, CONSULTANT ROSHAN CHANDRARATHNE CHOREOGRAPHY CHANNA WIJEWARDENE, RAVIBANDU VIDYAPATHY, RANGANA ARIYADASA ART DIRECTORS ROSHAN CHANDRARATHNE & SUMITH FERNANDO,

COSTUME & JEWELLERY DESIGNERS NAVING GOONERATNE, OMESH WIJEYRATNE

MAKE UP JAYANTHA RANAWAKA, PRADEEP KANAIYALAL

CASTING SHAHID HASSAN, KAUSHALYA WICKRAMASINGHE LINE PRODUCER PREETHI WARAWITAGE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS NIMAL DE SILVA, BASANTA BIDARI, ALSTON KOCH

CO-PRODUCERS JEFF GOONEWARDANA, KANTHI PERERA, RANGA DIAS

ADVISOR TO THE PRODUCTION VEN. METTAVIHARI THERO, PROMOTIONS VEN. OLANDE ANANDA THERO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VINODH SENEVIRATNE

PRODUCER NAVIN GOONERATNE DIRECTOR SAMAN WEERAMAN

www.siddharthathebuddha.com