

POETS AND PANCAKES Part- 1

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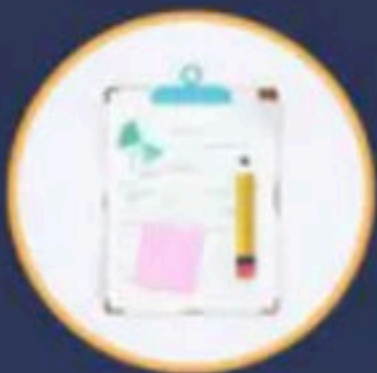
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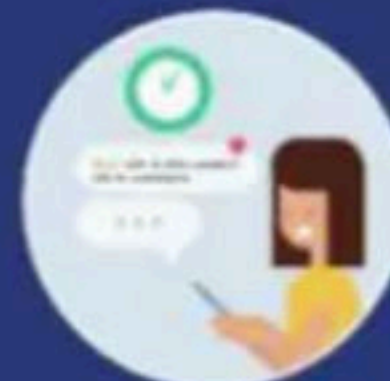
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POETS & PANCAKES

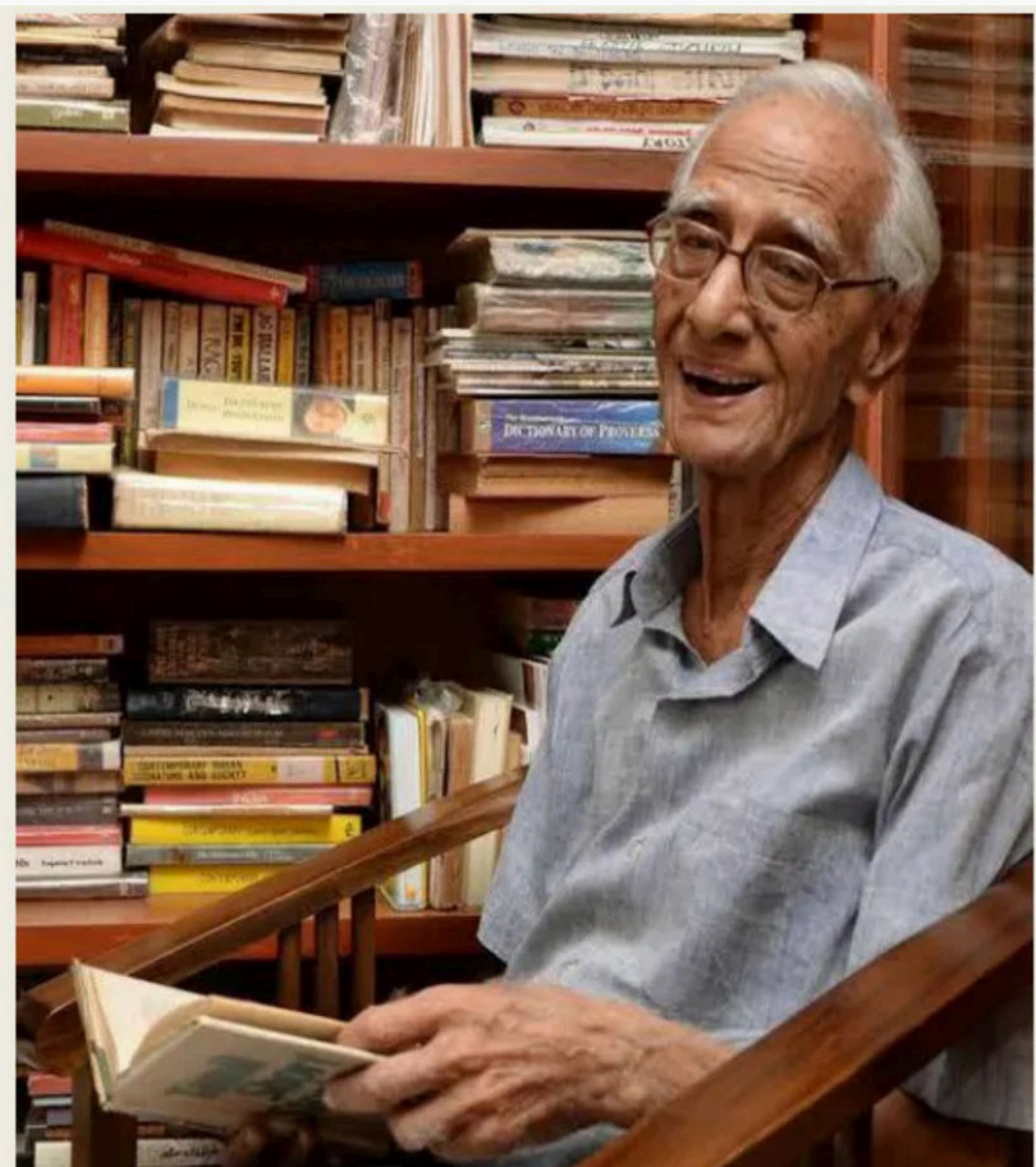
Asokamitran

Asokamitran:

The pen name of Jagadisa Thyagarajan, an Indian author widely considered as one of the most important characters in Tamil literature since independence (22 September 1931 – 23 March 2017), was Ashokamitran. After scripting the award-winning drama "Anbin Parisu" to start his career as a prolific writer, he went on to write and publish more than 200 short tales as well as novellas and novels. He served as the editor of the literary journal "Kanaiyaazhi" and was a well-known essayist and critic. Along with other prose works, he has written about 200 short stories, nine novels, and about 15 novellas. The majority of his writings have also been translated into Hindi, Malayalam, and Telugu as well as English.

His writings, which drew from both his professional and personal experiences, are known for their simplicity and clarity of thought. For instance, he drew inspiration from his experiences working in public relations for the motion picture industry at Gemini Studios for his novel Karainta nizhalkal (Star-Crossed).

For et. "

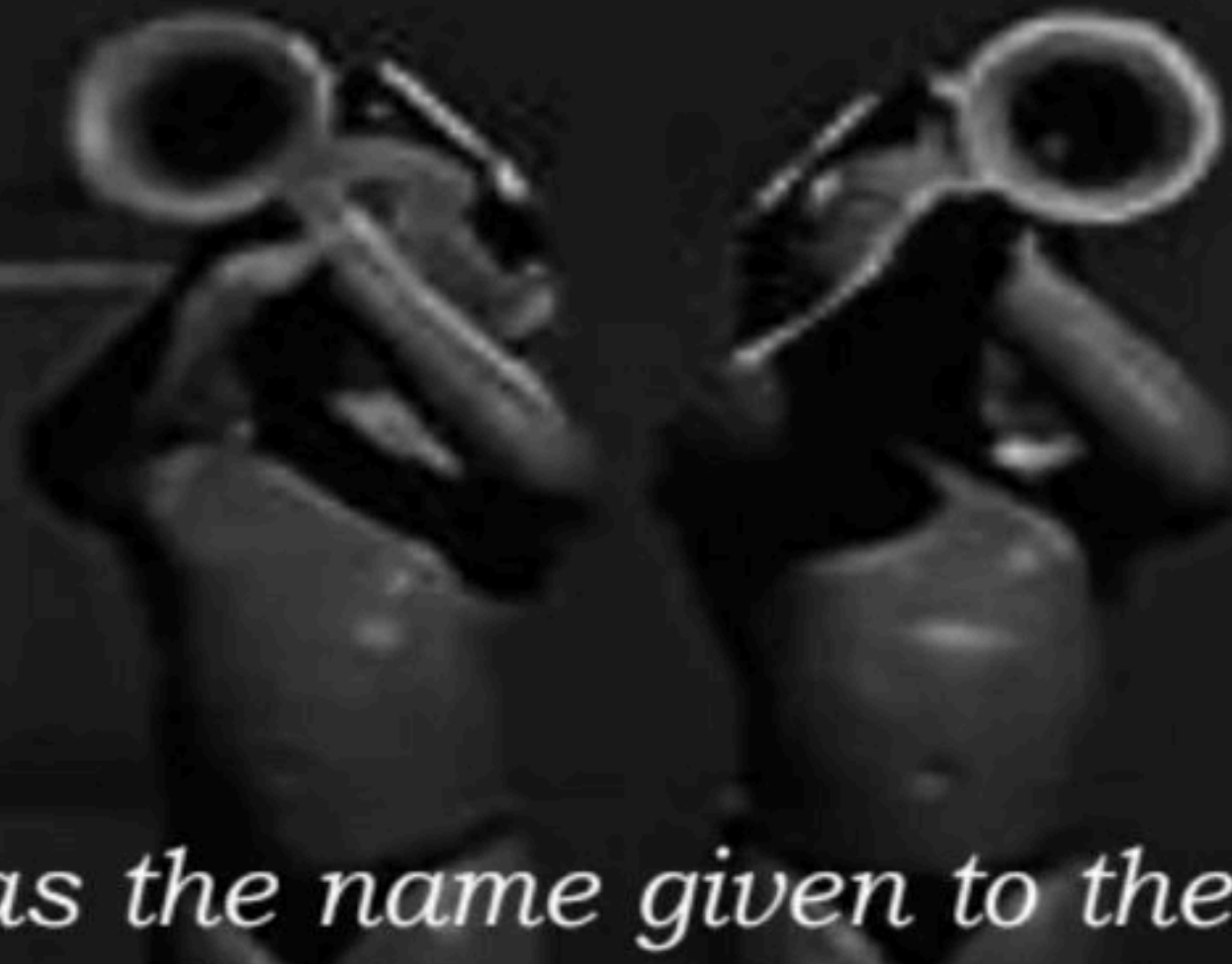


Gemini Studios

Gemini Studios was a Madras, Tamil Nadu-based production house for Indian films. When S. S. Vasan, a businessman with a number of projects (among them the ownership of Ananda Vikatan), acquired Motion Picture Producers' Combines from Krishnaswamy Subrahmanyam and renamed it, it was then put into operation. The recording studio reopened as Gemini. Despite the widespread notions that a lucky racehorse or his wife's horoscope was responsible for the moniker, Vasan chose the logo. A photograph of his young boys blowing on toy trumpets while nude had been provided to him by Subrahmanyam.



GEMINI



Gemini—The Twins was the name given to the group when Vasan chose a pose for the logo. The "Gemini Twins" statues blowing the bugle were included on the new facade. → Mask

Numerous artists and technicians for the south Indian film industry were raised in Gemini Studios. The Gemini flypast was called after the first studio at the location and the Gemini twins became a household emblem. Along with AVM, Modern Theatres, Thenandal Films, and other companies, Gemini Studios is one of the few in Tamil filmmaking to have produced more than 100 films.

Chapter Overview:

The chapter has been taken from the book 'My Years with Boss' by Asokamitran. It is about his time when he worked in Gemini Studios. It was quite a famous film studio back in those days. We learn that Asokamitran's job is to cut newspaper clippings concerning different topics and maintaining a file of the same. In this story, we shall learn about a lot of things relating to the film industry, especially the one in India. We get an inside glimpse of the working it and also of the beginning of India post-independence. He first writes his take on the make-up department. Moreover, he makes fun of the looks the actors try and the glaring lights. After that, we learn that 'pancakes' is actually the name of a makeup brand used by the Gemini studio.

The chapter tells us about the different ways in which people work together . We also come to know the difference between reel life and real life. The narrator gives us an idea of the back stage happenings that took place at the Gemini studio , the relationship between the various artists, poets and other team members. The process of preparing the artists to perform in movie roles is also talked about.

Subbu:

Kothamangalam Subbu has been portrayed as a man whom everyone at Gemini Studios held in high esteem. He was born a Brahmin and perhaps due to this virtue, rose to the position of No. 2 at Gemini Studios. He had contacts with affluent people. He was cool, calm and composed and even a flop film, in which he was involved, never made him sad or unhappy. He looked cheerful all the time. He was very loyal to his boss and that endeared him to the boss. He was a man who could be inspired when commanded. He was creative and displayed this skill when effortlessly, he could give fourteen alternative ways to handle a particular scene. Subbu was a poet of calibre and had a separate identity as a poet. His success in films overshadowed his literacy achievements. He was an amazing actor yet never aspired to play lead roles. He loved everyone genuinely and selflessly. He was charitable and improvident. The author Asokamitran has portrayed him as an extremely talented, creative and lovable human being.

Office Boy

The office boy was a forty year old makeup artist in Gemini studios, who was not satisfied with his present job as he wanted to become a successful director. He was jealous of Subbu, as he was closer to his boss. Due to his unsuccessful career, he had a tendency to criticize others. The office boy demonstrates the plight of those people who are not able to realise their dreams and spend their life in misery.

Stephen Spender:

Stephen Spender was a renowned British poet and intellectual, who played an important role in the literary and cultural scene of the 20th century. He was educated at Oxford University and became a part of the literary circle known as the "Auden Group," He was a prolific writer and wrote numerous poems, essays, and books throughout his career. In the chapter "Poets and Pancakes Spender is portrayed as a reserved and introspective individual who is deeply committed to his art. He is shown as being slightly aloof and detached from the other poets in the group, but also deeply thoughtful and introspective. He is depicted as being deeply committed to social justice. He is shown as being interested in exploring the complexities of human relationships and the emotional struggles that people face in their lives.

The Lawyer:

The Lawyer in the chapter "Poets and the Pancakes" is shown as a cunning and opportunistic individual. He has a reputation for taking on issues that are morally dubious but could make him rich and famous. The lawyer is an assured and persuasive public speaker who is skilled at using the legal system to his advantage. He also demonstrates an ability to look for opportunities that might be used to his advantage. He has a reputation for being somewhat harsh and unsympathetic. As long as his clients can afford his fees, he is willing to represent those who have committed terrible acts of violence. Additionally, he appears unconcerned about utilising his legal expertise to take advantage of others or to get ahead in his career.

Vyjayantimala:

An Indian actress whose performance was widely appreciated in Bimal Roy's *Devdas*. She won three Best Actress awards for her acting. She is now an active politician.

Greta Garbo:

A Swedish actress, in 1954 she received an Honorary Oscar for her unforgettable screen performances. The Guinness Book of World Records named her the most beautiful woman who ever lived. She was also voted Best Silent Actress of the country.

Robert Clive:

Robert Clive was an English soldier and statesman who expanded British power in India. Many other buildings in the city are identified as the place of his residence which is evident of the fact that he moved frequently. He is believed to have fought some impossible battles (1757 Battle of Plassey, Siraj Ud-Dhaura) in remote areas of India. He married a young woman in St. Mary's Church in Fort St. George in Madras.

Sovereign

1764

Bihar

Bihar
Orissa
Bengal

EXPLANATION:

Gemini Studios' department of makeup:

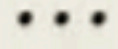
The word 'Pancakes' from the title 'Poets and Pancakes' is the name of a make-up brand that Gemini Studios used in large amounts. It is a very popular brand used by famous celebrities like Miss Gohar, Greta Garbo and Vyjayantimala. The writer says that another actress named Rati Agnihotri may not have even heard of the brand of makeup as she entered the industry later and probably, the brand was no longer in use then. The lesson begins with a brief description about the make-up room of Gemini Studios which was situated on a higher level floor of the building. The place was earlier believed to be Robert Clive's stables.

A Detailed Description of the Makeup Room and national integration:

The make-up room looked just like a salon with around 6-7 large mirrors surrounded by large bulbs all around them. The bright lights emitted a lot of heat and were a source of discomfort for those getting their make-up done. At first, a Bengali was the head of the make-up studio but then he outgrew Gemini Studios and left it for better opportunities. After him, it was supervised by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. The fact that people from different cultures and religions worked together puts forward the post-independence national integration scenario. It shows that people were united way before All India Radio and Doordarshan raised the concept.

The author mentions that this team of nationally unified men had the ability to turn only simple-looking individual into an ugly creature using heaps of Pancake products, customized lotions, and potions.

The author clarifies that in those days, near about 5 percent of movies were shot outdoors and the rest of them were shot indoors. Thus, indoor shooting set-up, and lights required the actors to wear loads of make-up in order to look presentable in front of the camera even if it made them look ugly in real life.



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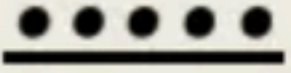




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