

"Based on the true story of a doctor  
who served in the killing fields of Sri Lanka"



Dr. T. Varatharajah in

# புதிய உண்மை

The Lamp of Truth

SCREENPLAY & DIRECTION **THANESH GOPAL** | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **KRIS A. CHANDAR** | MUSIC BY **JITHIN ROSHAN** | EDITING BY **R.G. ANAND**  
ART DIRECTOR **B. RAVINDRAN BFA** | STUNTS BY **JOHN MARG** | COSTUMES BY **SELVAM** | GUNS & EXPLOSIONS **GUN RAJENDRAN** | COLOURIST & DI **ANTONY BEBIN**

CREATIVE AND SUPPORT TEAM:

SIVAKUMAR K, SHASTRI DFT, STEPHEN RAJ DFT, ABEESH KUMAR DFT, AJANTHAN (AJ), THIRU, SIVARUBAN S, VIJI RAJARATNAM, DHEVA, RAHUL, CHRISTU DAS, WINSTON & ENAYAM PUTHENTHURAI FRIENDS

[www.TheLampOfTruth.com](http://www.TheLampOfTruth.com)

Ambuli Media

TRANSIMAGE

WHITE CONCH  
STUDIOS



Title The Lamp of Truth  
Title in Primary Language பொய்யா விளக்கு  
Primary Language Tamil  
Other Languages English, Sinhala  
Aspect Ratio 2:39:1  
Running Time 1:30:30  
Sound Mix 5.1  
Resolution 2K

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The Lamp of Truth is a film based on true events. In certain cases, the timeline and the characters are changed for dramatic purposes.

This film is dedicated to all the medical professionals who fearlessly served the people during the final stages of the Sri Lankan civil war.

In memory of those who endured mental health issues to a war.

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# THE LAMP OF TRUTH - SYNOPSIS

In the height of Sri Lanka's Civil War, more than three hundred thousand innocent civilians were trapped in the war zone. There were only a handful of doctors to treat the thousands of injured civilians.

Dr. Varatharaja, the director of health services of the region, was one of those doctors. The Sri Lankan government ordered all the medical personnel from the warzone to vacate the area.

However, Dr. Varatharajah defied the order of the health ministry saying that he would not leave the region abandoning the thousands of injured civilians. He struggled to treat the patients with the very limited medical supplies. As the war progressed, the hospitals were also came under artillery fire. Risking his own life, he continued to serve the people. Eventually, he too was injured and was taken into military custody.

Instead of taking him to a hospital to be treated, he was taken to an unknown location and threatened. Then he was taken to be executed only to be saved by a last minute call from the military higher ups.

He was taken to Colombo and imprisoned at the crime investigation department. In the prison, he was repeatedly threatened and denied medical care. Finally, he was paraded in-front of the media, and forced to downplay the number of war casualties. Thereafter, he was released with very strict conditions. He was able to get the help of USA embassy, and was able to flee Sri Lanka. After moving to the USA, the doctor struggled with severe PTSD. As an important witness of the war crimes committed in Sri Lanka, he has testified to the United Nations council.

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## DR. T. VARATHARAJAH LEAD ACTOR

Dr. Thurairajah Varatharajah was born in Eastern province of Sri Lanka. He completed his medical studies at the University of Jaffna in 2004. He had his medical training at the Teaching Hospital, Jaffna and worked as a medical officer in several districts in the island nation. He was promoted to become the regional director of health services in the Mullaitivu district in Northern province of Sri Lanka. During this time, the region was severely affected by the civil war. The Lamp of Truth is a film based on the true events happened during this time. He currently lives in the USA and work as a medical doctor.

He is one of the official witnesses for the United Nations investigations on war crimes and human rights violations in Sri Lanka

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## THANESH GOPAL

### DIRECTOR



Thanesh Gopal was born in Sri Lanka and migrated to Canada when he was twenty years old. He completed his studies in Computer Engineering at the Queen's University, Canada and started working in telecommunications field. During this time, he started to work on his life long passion of filmmaking with few short films along with a group of friends. His script for the short film, "Manal Nadu" won the best screenplay award at the Toronto Tamil Film Festival. He is mostly self taught on film making and has taken online workshops from various leading film schools. The Lamp of Truth is his first feature film.

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## KRIS A. CHANDAR

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Kris. A. Chandar (Kc), the director of photography for "The Lamp of Truth" is a graduate of MGR Film and Television Institute of Tamilnadu. Kc graduated in cinematography (Batch of 1985) and started his career as an assistant cinematographer with Shaji N Karun. Adding a memorable & valuable experience working with a renowned cinematographer he was inspired to explore various fields that he could use his skills and learn from. As an ardent lover of nature his primary focus and line of work became documentary films and working on real life subjects. Not limiting himself to one field, Kc continued involving himself to work along with his colleagues from film school.



Kc's cinematographic work also was recognized internationally and his contribution as a director of photography expanded its horizons to directors from France, Belgium and Germany. Kc's work as director of photography includes numerous documentaries, commercials, and feature films. Currently settled in Canada, Kc owns a production firm Transimage Productions and enjoys writing for film, directing, working as a DP and producing films.

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## JITHIN K. ROSHAN

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jithin is an Indian composer, violinist, singer and music producer who works predominantly in Tamil and Telugu film industry. Jithin is a 8th grade Violin winner from the Trinity college, London. He has performed in various stage shows and recordings under many leading musicians from India and abroad.

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## WHITE CONCH STUDIOS

### PRODUCER



White Conch Studios is a Canadian film production company founded in 2018 with the vision of crafting stories for life. It's upcoming movie "The Lamp of Truth" is the first movie produced by White Conch Studios. White Conch Studios's goal is to produce quality films that are unique in nature and able to make an impact in the industry. The company has partnered with several artists and technicians from Toronto, Ottawa and Tamil Nadu in order to produce its films.

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## TRANSIMAGE PRODUCTIONS

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Transimage produces its own films and also offers creative production solutions to its clients. As a creative team, Transimage is always more than willing to experiment with the imaginations and blend them creatively using the most modern technology available out there!



As the maiden project of White Conch Studios, "The Lamp of Truth" had tight timelines and budgetary limitations. As an executive producer, Transimage accepted the challenge of working on the subject with an intense backdrop and completing the task and it indeed accomplished the goal successfully as planned and within the designated budget.

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## CREW

SCREENPLAY & DIRECTION THANESH GOPAL  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KRIS A. CHANDAR  
MUSIC DIRECTOR JITHIN K. ROSHAN  
EDITING R. B. ANAND  
ART DIRECTION B. RAVINDRAN, BFA  
STUNTS JOHN MARC  
DI & COLORIST ANTHONY BEBIN  
COSTUMES SELVAM  
SOUND MIX BOOPATHY

## CAST

DR. T. VARATHARAJAH  
JEYCHANDRAN  
EASWAR  
SHANTHI SATHI  
ARUNA  
THAS MOORTHY  
JASHANA  
JEEVITHA  
KUZHALI  
SIYA



Scenes from the film "The Lamp of Truth"



# REVIEWS

"With Poyyavilakku (The Lamp of Truth), the young writer-director Thanesh Gopal and his energetic team, the experienced cinematographer Kris A Chandar, editor R.G. Anand, and music director Jithin K. Roshan, have deftly rendered on screen the intricate life and times of Dr. Varatharajah, who is a significant witness to the torture and killings of Sri Lankan Tamils, particularly towards the concluding period of the war.

What is remarkable about Thanesh Gopal's debut feature is its ambition of capturing on a modestly budgeted indie film, the epic canvas of the doctor's life, which extends from the US where he presently lives to the backdrop of the war. The film begins with the doctor's struggles with PTSD and leads us to its source. The dark and inhumane episodes have been understandably staged through their reenactments in Tamilnadu with finesse".

SWARNAVEL EASWARAN  
Director and Film Critic

"Through the doctor's story we meet the people and experience a bit of their suffering – The unexpected bombings that mercilessly butcher them, the doctors' non-stop attempts to treat them and perform surgeries with no adequate OR or tools, the refugees' helplessness of watching their loved ones die and the unbearable yet humane endeavor at a daily routine

The doctor's performance was on point and his eyes alone gave out all the information I needed in order to feel his pain. The cinematography and use of location gave the film the authenticity it deserved and captured the serenity the site should have had versus the brutality it actually possessed".

ADVA REICHMAN  
Cult Critic Magazine

"With the daughter waking up with nightmares of the wars and the doctor himself seeking a psychiatrist for help, the film correctly portrays the affects of the war on everyone. Overall, the visuals, symbolisms and the acting were beautifully done in this film. Congratulations to director Thanesh Gopal and his team for making this story so well thought out. It is the moral duty of all of us to support them."  
(Translated from Tamil)

SRI RANJANI VIJENTHIRA  
Writer

"The film is a true portrayal of events with Dr Varatharajah playing his character quite remarkably. It gives you a true account of the pain and suffering of civilians caught in the war zone - a tale of death, destruction and inhuman cruelty inflicted on innocent people... The story is an illustration of courage and forbearance in strife displayed by him and some brave Tamils who refused to leave, although they had the opportunity to leave; they put their life on the line and opted to stay. They were witness to a tragedy..."

USHA SRISKANTHARAJAH  
Political Activist



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Poiyaa Vilakku

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