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Maaran Movie Review: Dhanush Disappoints in an Absurd Drama with Senseless Screenplay



The scripting of Maaran is so shoddy that the two-hour long movie becomes an unbearable watch with even a cursory modicum of authenticity missing.

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GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN

Maaran makes an effort to highlight political corruption tempered with journalistic probe carried out by Dhanush's titular character, but it fails to convince.

Maaran

Director: Karthick Naren

Cast: Dhanush, Malavika Mohanan, Samuthirakani, Smruthi Venkat, Jayaprakash, Ramki

Disney+ Hotstar's latest offering, Maaran, written and directed by Karthick Naren (Dhuruvangal Pathinaaru), drowns in absurdity. A senseless screenplay makes an effort to highlight political corruption tempered with journalistic probe carried out by Dhanush's titular character, Mathimaaran. It fails to convince.

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A few minutes into the film, Maaran's father, journalist Sathyamoorthy (Ramki), is butchered on the street as he is taking his pregnant wife to hospital. She dies giving birth to a baby girl, who grows into Shwetha (Smruthi Venkat). Her elder brother, Maaran, follows in his father's footsteps, fearlessly reporting societal and administrative misdeeds. And things come to a head when he exposes a scam involving electronic voting

machines – the man behind being a powerful ex-Minister, Pazhani (an effective Samuthirakani).

Admittedly, the plot resonates with the prevailing political climate in which allegations of the machines being tampered with are common. But the scripting is so shoddy that the two-hour long movie becomes an unbearable watch with even a cursory modicum of authenticity missing.

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Imagine Maaran walking into a newspaper office – which resembles a fashion studio – for an interview and clinching the job in the most illogical manner. Is this how media employees are hired? His uncle (Aadukalam Naren), lives in a swanky house. Nothing wrong, except that he is presses clothes for a living and his mobile unit is stationed outside this posh building!

Midway, the movie slips into the thriller genre with Shwetha being kidnapped and burnt alive – provoking Maaran into a frenzied stupor. In the end, when revelations come, this sequence would fall flat on its face.

The film crawls into the same old slot of Maaran taking on dozens of men singlehandedly – that is when he is not lecturing about why the media should strive to be fair, free and fearless. When he is not into either of these, he is on a romantic mode with his office colleague, Thara (Malavika Mohanan). Or, we are thrown into the sister-brother ties of chivalry and protective guardianship. Brother Maaran cannot even visualise his little sister getting married and flying away some day.

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All of these have been done to death in Tamil cinema, and here in Naren's work, they have all been programmed to prop up Dhanush as a do-gooder, an unblemished journalist and, above all, a hero who cannot be vanquished! Suspension of disbelief? Come on, there is a line here as well.

It is sad that despite the common notion that Dhanush is a good actor, I am yet to see any definitive performance arc in him. In movie after movie, he sports the same appearance and expressions – a kind of sad sack figure! Maybe, he needs a good director like the ones which his father-in-law, Rajinikanth, had in the beginning of his career, when he did some memorable stuff. The ones that strike me even today are K. Balachander's Apoorva Raagangal and Moondru Mudichu. It is another story that he gave up "acting" for showmanship later. Or, he might have transformed into the Amitabh Bachchan of Tamil cinema.

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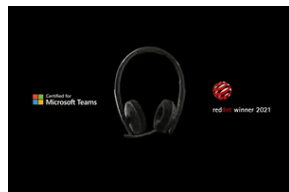
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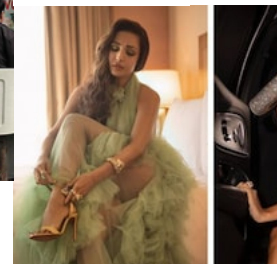
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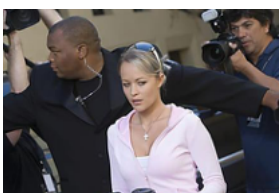


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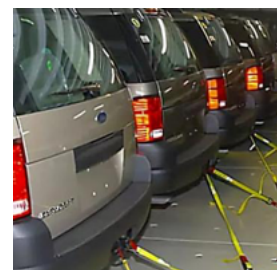
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Kim Kardashian Makes Relationship With Pete Davidson Insta Official, Fan Says 'The Content We Were Waiting For'



The latest social media post comes just over a week after a Los Angeles court declared Kim Kardashian a single woman amid divorce from former partner Kanye West.

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Kim Kardashian's latest Instagram post has received some exciting reactions from fellow Kardashians and celebrities.

American businesswoman and reality television star Kim Kardashian just made her relationship Instagram official with her boyfriend Pete Davidson. In her latest post, Kim was seen getting goofy and cosy with her comedian boyfriend. The latest social media post comes just over a week after a Los Angeles court declared the 41-year-old a single woman amid divorce from former partner Kanye West.

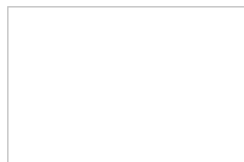
In her latest Instagram post, Kim is seen wearing a sparkling silver winter coat over a shimmery gown and knee-high silver boots. The founder of clothing brand SKIMS accessorised her look with big black sunglasses. Pete, on the other hand, was seen dressed casually. The 28-year-old comedian was dressed casually in wide-legged jeans and a flannel layered with a suede bomber jacket. Pete glammed up his look in Prada sunglasses.

Sharing the series of pictures on Instagram, Kim added in the caption, "Whose car are we gonna take?!", which is a dialogue from the 2010 thriller film The Town. Kim also shared a screenshot of that scene where Ben Affleck and Jeremy Renner were seen having the dialogue.

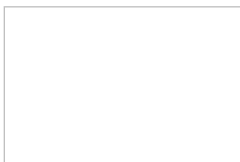
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Kim's latest Instagram post has received some exciting reactions from fellow Kardashians and celebrities. Kim's sister Khloe Kardashian commented, "I love this." Sarah Howard, a close friend of Kourtney Kardashian, commented, "This is the post I've been waiting for."

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In a recent interview with Variety magazine, Kim opened up about her relationship with Pete and revealed if he would make an appearance in her upcoming reality show The Kardashians. The founder of the KKW beauty and fragrance line said, “I actually don’t talk about him. Well, they were trying to get me to, and I do later on, but you’ll see my family members and friends always asking me questions.”

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Kim also mentioned that for her, it is important what her children see on the upcoming show. Kim and her former partner Kanye are parents to four children, North West, Chicago West, Psalm West, and Saint West.

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