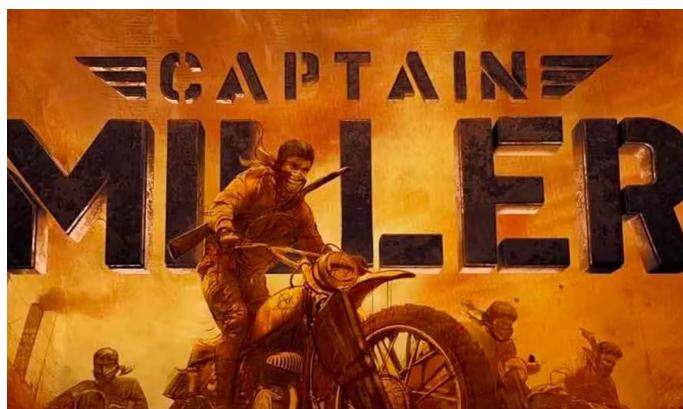


# Captain Miller Review: Dhanush Delivers Marvellous Performance in This Compelling Social Drama

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[Mumbai, India](#)

Dhanush plays the lead in Captain Miller directed by Arun Matheswaran.

**Captain Miller Review:** Dhanush's marvellous portrayal of a man torn between differing loyalties exemplifies his wonderful performance arc.

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Actor Dhanush plays the titular role in Captain Miller – a name thrust upon him by the ruling British, who found it difficult to pronounce his real name, Analeesan or Eesa. But he takes advantage of the English sounding name and adds Captain. And rightfully so, for he plays a saviour to his downtrodden tribe and arch enemy, the colonialists who brutalise the locals.

Unfortunately, we have seen dozens of films of how the English oppressed the especially the poor locals, often with the help of Indian kings and their Indian soldiers. Also, Captain Miller, now on Amazon Prime Video, could have been far better had it not been so dramatic to the point of being tiresomely exaggerated. Yes, the British ruled India for decades, plundered the country of its wealth, but surely they were not monsters, as we are shown. Yes, there were a few exceptions like General Dyer, who massacred innocent men and women who had peacefully gathered at Punjab's Jallianwala Bagh.

So, it follows that the movie has as its focal point British cruelty and how they escape with the presiding deity of the village, stealing it from the temple. Miller, who was initially taken by the power the English wield in their



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Kannaya (Elango Kumaravel). Somewhere, a switch takes place and Miller and the men realise that their real enemy is the English.

Interestingly, the women characters have their roles well etched out: Dr Velmathi (Priyanka Arulmohan) pardons Miller, when he was part of the English army, for having shot and killed her husband; and Thaenu (Nivedhithaa Satish) is amazing as a rebel, who fights alongside Kannaya and later Miller.

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In many ways, Captain Miller may be seen as a social document, set in the 1930s Tamil Nadu, when caste prejudices were so rampant that downtrodden Hindus were not allowed to step inside temples, and one of the most poignant moments in the film is the way Miller leads them inside the hallowed premises. Arun, who has made violence part of oeuvre (Rocky, Saani Kaayidham), steps back in his latest outing. It has violence, but, despite its orchestrated version, is somewhat subtle, and happily so. What is more, its social significance, though dated, makes the work compelling. Above all, Dhanush's marvellous portrayal of a man torn between differing loyalties exemplifies his wonderful performance arc.

Captain Miller was released in theatres on January 12. It is now streaming on Prime Video.

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