

GREEN

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From past to present

Cinematographer
**N. Nataraja
Subramanian** talks
about his work in
Love Aaj Kal
that depicts
two eras

Popularly known as Natty, the cameraman believes that man behind the camera is one of the most important persons in the making of a film as he brings to fore the nuances and the brightness to a film, he says.

Talking about *Love Aaj Kal*, Natty says, "The film focusses on two different eras. Achieving the right effect of both the eras was quite a challenge. One was the life in the mid-'60s and the other was contemporary. We were practically bringing back the past. Since it was the demand of the script

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and with the help of director Imtiaz Ali, producer Dinesh Vijan and actor Saif Ali Khan, who is also co-producing the film, we managed to get the right effect throughout the film."

According to Natty, making a film is a teamwork and compositions have to be made as per the requirement of the scenes. "As the cameraperson, I had the basic idea and it was a challenge putting it across. However working on *Love Aaj Kal* was a smooth-sailing effort as we had a very good team with us," smiles the young

technician, adding that the DSAT (Digital Storage Architecture for Tape) camera was used to enhance the past. "Believe me with this the past looks very different from the present era," he says. The Panavision camera was used to bring to the fore the present era as its lenses are strong in terms of visual capture. "We also used a lot of colour, in the costumes, background and lighting, etc." Natty discloses that the film has been processed at Prasad Lab. "We chose Prasad Lab because it is a very good lab with the best of facilities available for filmmaking. It is one of the finest labs we have today," states the cinematographer.

Natty is very happy with the way *Love Aaj Kal* has turned out and is eagerly awaiting the release, since his work in Imtiaz Ali's last film *Jab We Met* was also highly-appreciated. "That film was also a big challenge for me. It is one of the finest love stories and Imtiaz Ali is one of the finest directors we have today. As for both his films, what matters is that they are vastly different in every way as also from the cinematographic point-of-view," he states adding that even the location where it is shot makes a difference to the look of the film. "While *Jab We Met* was shot mostly in India, *Love Aaj Kal* has been shot in London and surroundings, San Francisco and various places in India, mostly Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. And the effect is mind-blowing," smiles Natty, who has never had any formal training in cinematography or acting and has yet made a name for himself in both the areas. Natty has done the camerawork for *Last Train To Mahakali*, *Paanch*, *Black Friday*, *Parineeta*, *Eklavya*, *Halla Bol*, *Yahaan* and *Jab We Met*, to name a few. He has played the role of a hoodlum in the 2006 Tamil film *Naalai* and the lead in *Chakkara Viyugam*. He says while he doesn't feature in any role in *Love Aaj Kal*, he will be playing the lead in a forthcoming Tamil film titled *Mulaka* (Chilli) along with four other directors from the South.



■ Namita Nivas