

PEDDLERS directed by Vasan BALA

SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE

SYNOPSIS

PEDDLERS follows the intersecting lives of three social outcasts in Mumbai, leading eventually to love and its destruction. The first is aNarcotics Control Bureau officer who is forced to live a lie due to intimacy issues arising from physical problems. Determined to be seen as a playboy in spite of his condition, he is in love with his married neighbor but a relationship seems impossible and this leads to an explosion of frustration...

The second is a terminally ill Bangladeshi immigrant who has come to Mumbai to work as a "mule" (human carrier) to make enough money to pay for medical treatment and take care of her child back home. For her too, the question of love arises, but will she give in or betray it? Whatever it takes to survive ...

The last is a young boy whose mistaken notions of rebellion and freedom have driven him from the comforts of his upper middle-class home into Mumbai's dark and dangerous underbelly. An innocent, he drifts without purpose until he meets the woman - frail, lost, mysterious yet beautiful. She's not his type at all, he's sure of that, but he can't let her go ...







«The film follows 3 very guarded and scarred people and talks about how childhood experiences shape them into complex individuals. It shows how under a calm demeanour, beneath an articulate, civil facade, everyone is a vulnerable ticking bomb.»



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

'Peddlers'is an attempt to get into the scarred guilt ridden minds lurking around the Massive Metropolis that's Mumbai. For whom growing up and coming of age has been more of an accumulation of guilt and covering up their short comings and out-casting themselves than learning profound life lessons and finding love or a career.

At another level it also follows these characters who are ticking timebombs with a self destructive streak. Of course it's not a prequel to a serial killer movie or a sociopath spreading the idea of dooms day or anything but just a journey testing the threshold of these self-designated outcasts in a bustling city with lonely souls.

Through these characters in the film I wanted to explore a rather subtle simmering undercurrent of abandonment and wanting. Also exploring the padding etiquette, education and civil society has given to a race which will eventually resort to it's basic survival instincts, which can be seen in the age old tales of Love and Betrayal.

The treatment is in the garb of $\,2$ parallel love stories. Vasan BALA



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