

# 121: A psychological thriller

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**Abstract:** Social media has had become a part of everyone's lives and is being used by various walks of people and age groups for a variety of reasons. They use it for entertainment, education, awareness etc. The impact of short films are huge. The current research paper looks at the newest trending short film by Yuvaraj Krishnaswamy that created a lot a lot of buzz and has had been nominated under various categories across the globe. However, psychological short films are not made much in recent times. The research paper will critically review how the psychological aspects of the short film, 121 have been portrayed through iconography.

**Key Words:** Viral, Short film, YouTube, 121, Iconography,

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

### *Cinema and development*

Structuralist approaches to development were widely criticised in the 1960s for holding too rigid, linear and externalist views of social change and mostly failing in their application, Van der Ploeg (1994).

### 1.1 *Communication and development*

Since the end of the Second World War, academics and development practitioners carried out research dedicated to the analysis and building of theories related to the use of communication to promote social change in developing countries (Barranquero & SáezBaeza, 2010).

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

### 2.1 *Film and threats*

In the book Habit (1890), William James talks about how the human eye and mind can detect different kinds of threats. These threats include insects and animals that might be hostile, venomous or unpleasant in general.

### 2.2 *Film and suspense*

Granbacka (2016) quotes Philip L. Simpson's book Horror Film: Creating and Marketing Fear (2004), by pointing out that the poster for Hannibal (2001) gives the viewer the feeling that "nothing is over". The tagline "Break The Silence" suggests that there is a lot more gore, fear and horrific events to this film than its predecessor Silence of The Lambs.

## 3. METHODOLOGY:

The researcher has envisioned to analyse the various iconographic elements present in the short film '121.'

### 3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the various iconographic elements in the short film '121'.

## 4. ANALYSIS:

### ICONOGRAPHY:

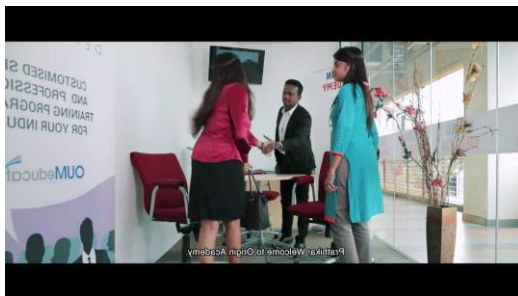


ICON 1 & 2 Courtesy: You Tube

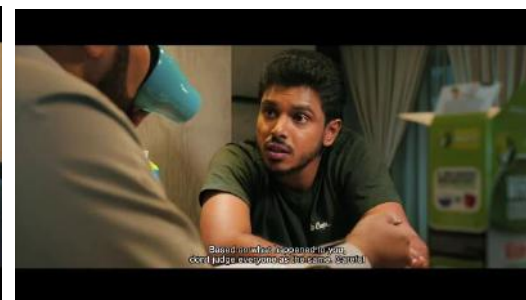


ICON 3 & 4 Courtesy: You Tube

The short film starts with establishing shots of the main protagonists viz. *Suresh Kayar as Suresh, Kritigah Nair as Pratika, Yuvaraj Krishnasamy as Purushothaman* and as the boyfriend of Prathika, *Priyamvadha Suresh as Pratika's and Suresh's boss*. (Icons 1 to 4)

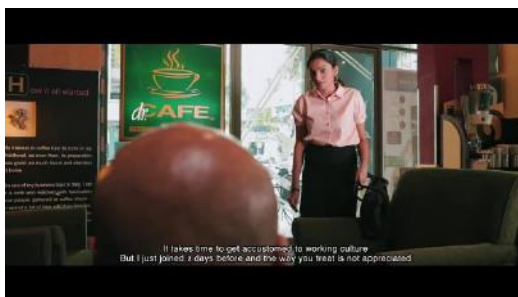


ICON 5 & 6 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 7 & 8 Courtesy: You Tube

The next sequences moves to the set of events to unfold and travels unto the actual story. Pratika joins Origin Academy but starts off on a sour note with Suresh who lectures her regarding the do's and don'ts as well as the expectations of him and the management. His friend Purushothaman asks Suresh why he is so harsh on her and says not to be on the thought that women are bad based on Suresh's past experiences. (Icons 5 to 8)



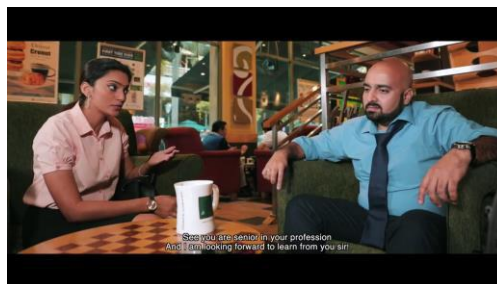
ICON 9 & 10 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 11 & 12 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 13 & 14 Courtesy: You Tube

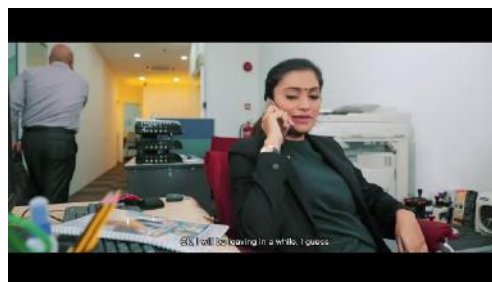


ICON 15 & 16 Courtesy: You Tube

The next sequences happens in a café between Pratika and Suresh. Pratika starts the conversation by asking Suresh to be soft by saying that new recruits need a bit of time to get accustomed to a new work environment and be more socializable with fellow colleagues.

Suresh retorts saying about himself and the reasons for him not of the socializing type. He tells Pratika how his parents considered him to be a burden and let him off only to be treated as a dog by his aunt and that even attempted suicide at the age of 12. He adds that he was bullied and tortured by those at a boarding school and didn't have friends. Suresh adds that Purushothaman is his only friend apart from a few novelists.

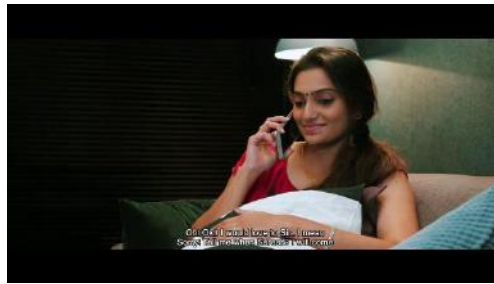
Pratika tells Suresh that there are there are good people like Purushothaman around him and says that she respects Suresh and is looking forward to learn from him. (Icons 9 to 16)



ICON 17 & 18 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 19 & 20 Courtesy: You Tube

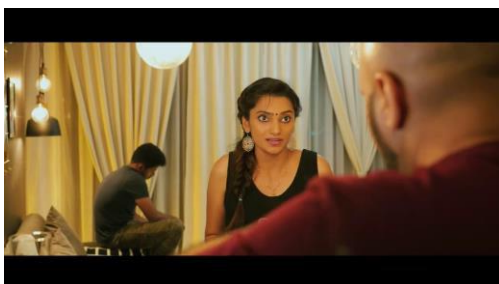


The next sequences shows Suresh developing feelings for Pratika over the workplace and Pratika telling her boyfriend that finally she is able to make Suresh happy with her work at the office. Back at Suresh's house, Purushothaman asks Suresh the reasons for his happiness. Suresh replies that it is because of Pratika. Purushothaman asks Suresh to invite Pratika to his home for dinner. Suresh calls Pratika and asks her if she could come to his home one day for dinner. Pratika replies in the affirmative and says she would come. (Icons 17 to 20)

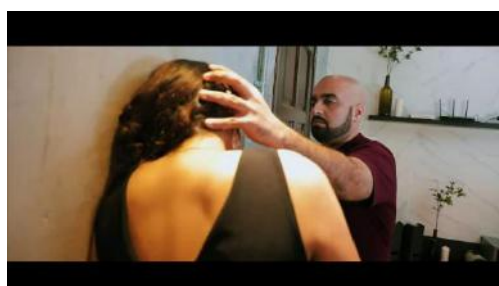
ICON 21 & 22 Courtesy: You Tube



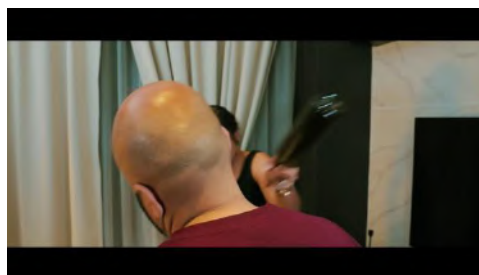
ICON 23 & 24 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 25 & 26 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 27 & 28 Courtesy: You Tube



The next sequences happens at Suresh's house where Pratika is welcomed by Suresh and asks her to make herself comfortable and that he'd complete the dinner in a couple of minutes. He later shows a photograph on the wall and says that it is him and Purushothaman in the photo.

Pratika asks Suresh if he is pranking and that there is no one in the photo apart from him. Suresh asks Purushothaman to say hi and speak with Pratika. Pratika asks Suresh not to behave like a psycho. Suresh asks if he is a psycho and stops her from leaving his house when Pratika makes an attempt to leave and hits her by pushing her to the wall. Pratika makes an attempt by smashing Suresh with a water bottle and makes it out of his house. (Icons 21 to 28)

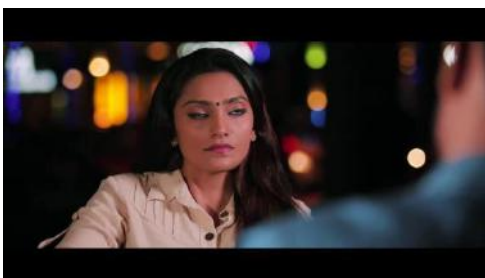
ICON 29 & 30 Courtesy: You Tube



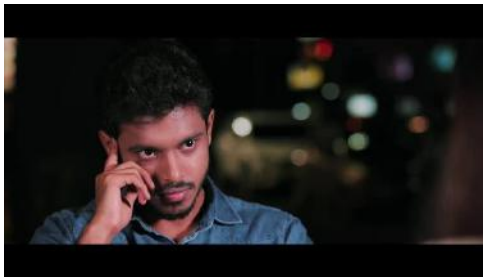
ICON 31 & 32 Courtesy: You Tube



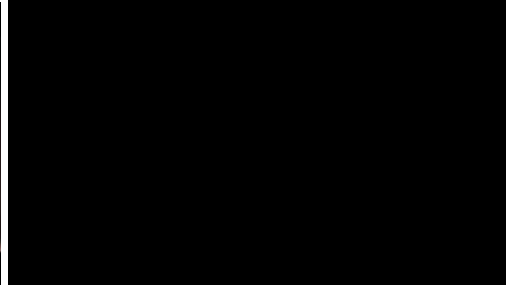
ICON 33 & 34 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 35 & 36 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 37 & 38 Courtesy: You Tube



ICON 39 & 40 Courtesy: You Tube

Pratika meets with a psychiatrist at a clinic and asks about Suresh. The psychiatrist tells her that Purushothaman could be a phenomenon as is the case with most people who don't socialize and believe it to be the reality. Pratika asks her if Suresh can be cured and the psychiatrist replies that it is possible and needs a few sittings with her.

The next scene shows Pratika reassuring Suresh that he is alright and that he can report to the office in a couple of days and asks if he needs any help with tea or coffee. Suresh replies that he'll manage on his own and bids goodbye.

Pratika then tells her boyfriend about Suresh and curiously asks her boyfriend as to how Purushothaman would have looked to Suresh. At this juncture, Purushothaman is shown as Pratika's boyfriend. His boyfriend then retorts that *How does he know, as he hasn't seen him so far*. He also adds that the character of Suresh is disturbing him and says it would be better to make Suresh have a one on one with them and Purushothaman is shown in the background. (Icons 29 to 40)

## 5. CONCLUSION:

The current research study was envisioned to look into the psychological aspects present in the 121 short film. The study revealed that although there are various genres present in short film making, psychological short films can also be made. The director has worked tremendously well to capture the essence of psychology through visuals and the engagement of the story and screenplay. Yuvaraj Krishnasamy has done a tremendous job of helming affairs and putting together a great team to work on this project that engages the audience right till the end.

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**Disclaimer: All the images used in this research paper work have been taken from 1, the short film : 121 in YouTube.**