



Biography Of
Bapu



Bapu (15th December, 1933 – 31st August, 2014).

Sattiraju Lakshminarayana, popularly known as Bapu, is an artist, illustrator, cartoonist and director of movies in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil. Bapu's works are celebrated for their aesthetic sensibility, simplicity, keen observation of life, subtle humour and authentic representation of Indian and Telugu culture and values. He, along with Mullapudi Venkataramana, created & produced large volumes of works that are adored by many across the world, making Bapu-Ramana a household name amongst the Telugu speaking people.

Bapu was born in Narsapuram (West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India) to Sathiraju Venugopala Rao and Suryakanthamma. He was the third child out of five. His father was a lawyer at the Madras High Court. As an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, Venugopala Rao called his third child "Bapu" and that became young Lakshminarayana's nickname for the rest of his life.

Bapu met his childhood friend & alter ego Mullapudi Venkataramana while doing radio shows for children with the Balaananda Sangham (a children's club). Bapu completed his schooling at P.S. High School (Chennai), and Ramana completed his schooling at Kesari High School (Chennai).

Bapu's illustration was first officially published in the Telugu childrens magazine "Bala" in the year 1945 when he was 12 years.

Bapu graduated with a B.Com degree from Loyola College in 1953. As per his father's wish, he also graduated with a B.L degree from the Madras Law College in 1955.

As a freelance artist, Bapu quickly became famous for his illustrations to stories, book covers, and cartoons in Telugu, Tamil and English periodicals. Known for his brilliance in conveying the essence of a literary work through a few simple strokes, Bapu enhanced every famous literary work in Telugu, from classic epical poems to the modern verse and short story, with his illustrations. His charming portrayal of the female form made the "Bapu bomma" (Bapu's picture) universal in Telugu language as the way to describe a beautiful woman.

Bapu made his directorial debut in 1967 with the Telugu film, Saakshi (The Witness), scripted by Mullapudi Venkataramana. The film was shot completely in the outdoors and Saakshi became a path breaker in the Telugu film industry. It was screened at the Tashkent Film Festival

(1968). Bapu & Ramana made 48 films together.

More than 100 one-man shows of Bapu's artwork were held in India, UK, USA and other countries. Bapu had the honour of his unique and much imitated style of hand writing captured as a widely used Telugu font as Bapu Font.

Bapu and Ramana, at the request of the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri N.T. Ramarao, produced audio-visual lessons for primary school children. Bapu also developed lessons for adult literacy.

Bapu was honoured as the Asthana Chitrakar of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam in 1979. His artwork illustrated the keerthana songs of Saint Poet Annmayacharya in praise of Lord Venkateswara. Bapu was commissioned by Bhadradi Rama Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam, Telangana to do a series of illustrations based on the keerthana songs of the Saint Poet Bhakta Ramadasu, in praise of Bhadradi Sri Rama. These are displayed at the temple premises. The Devasthanam of Koteswara Swamy Siva temple at Kottappa Konda, Andhra Pradesh, commissioned him to illustrate the sthala purana of the temple. These are also displayed in the temple premises

Bapu is the recipient of numerous State, Central and International awards and honours.

In 2013 he was honoured with the Padmashri award by the President of India.

[Visit Bapu's website: www.bapuartcollection.com](http://www.bapuartcollection.com)



Dr. Bapu (Sattisaija Lakshmi Narayana)
 4 Greenways Rd Est. R.A. Ravam, Chennai 600018

Parents: Sattisaija Venugopala Rao, Suryakumamma
 Birth: 15 Dec 1933 - Nandigam (W.G.D. A.P)
 Family: Wife: S.V Bhagavathi. Children: one daughter, two sons
 Education: B.Com (1955) B.L (1955) Madras University

As a freelance artist, contributed story illustrations
 cover designs, cartoons, strip cartoons, to Telugu, Tamil, English
 periodicals and designed greeting cards, film publicity since 1945

Worked as Art Director in Advertising Agencies 1960-1965

Prepared along with Muralidhar Venkata Ramana Audio Visual
 lessons of Primary School Education for Govt of Andhra Pradesh 1968-1980

Directed a 40 hour TV serial of Sri Bhagavatiam 1996-2004

Honours: Ashoka Vidan Tempati Devasthanam - 1979
 A.P. Govt's Rajinipati Venkian Award 1987
 Kalappanna - Honorary Doctorate - Andhra University 1991
 Visista Parasharama, Pelli Srinivasa Telugu University 2007
 Kavali Jananar Bharathi Vigneshya Hon Life Membership 2009
 Honorary Doctorate - Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati 2008
 Tempati Telugu Sanskritika Vikasa Vedita Teluchikam 2016
 Honoured as one of 9 Telugu Telugus by the Govt of AP
 and President of India at the World Telugu Supercongress
 Honoured by the President of India at the 100th year of
 Indian film celebrated by the Tamil Nadu Govt 2013
 Honoured at the 95th year of Telugu film celebrations at
 Ramoji Film City Hyderabad A.P
 Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award in Fine Arts
 and Film Direction by Gulf Anchor Arts Awards at
 Dubai UAE 2014

Lifetime Achievement Awards from:

Indian Institute of Cartoonists - 2001

A.P. Film Academy 2002

A.P. Govt and Crossquill Academy 2002

World Telugu Federation 2009

Commissioned to do Paintings for the Bhadrachala
 Rama Temple (1999) and Kalappakonda Temple (2003)

A.P. Govt's Kalayabina Hamisa Award 2006

Lifetime Achievement Award from Filmfare 2013

Honoured with Padmasri Award by the President of
 India at New Delhi 2013

Since 1967, Directed 37 Telugu Films of which
 three received National Awards and three State Awards

'Sitakalyanam' (Telugu) was selected for the
 London and Chicago Film Festivals in 1978

Also Directed 9 Hindi Films and one Tamil Film

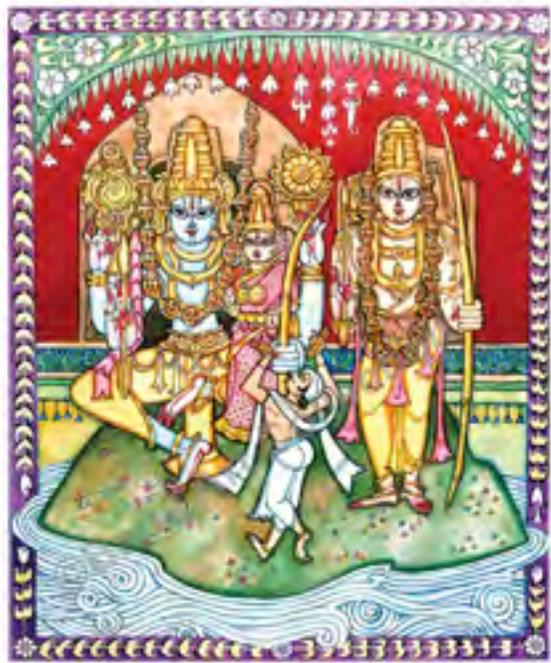
Bapu





WORKS RELATED TO THE RAMAYANA





శ్రీ వేంకటేశ్వరస్వామి వారికి సమర్పించిన వస్తువులను పునరుద్ధరించుటకు ప్రయత్నించిన వారిపై కఠిన చర్యలు తీసుకోవబడతాయి. వీటిని నివారించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం ద్వారా చర్యలు తీసుకోవబడతాయి. వీటిని నివారించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం ద్వారా చర్యలు తీసుకోవబడతాయి.





RAMAYANA

THE STORY OF RAMA

RETOLD AND ILLUSTRATED BY BAPU



Sampoorna Ramayanam

Year: 1971
Director: Bapu
Writers: M. Venkatarama, Arudra
Music: K.V. Mahadevan
Actors: Soban Babu, Chandrakala, S.V. Ranga Rao, Arja Janardhana Rao

Awards: South Indian Film Director's Association Award for Best direction (1972)

Tyagayya

Year: 1981
Director: Bapu
Writer: M. Venkataramana
Actors: J.V. Somayajulu, K.R. Vijaya, Raogopalrao
Music: K.V. Mahadevan



Sri Ramanjaneya Yuddham

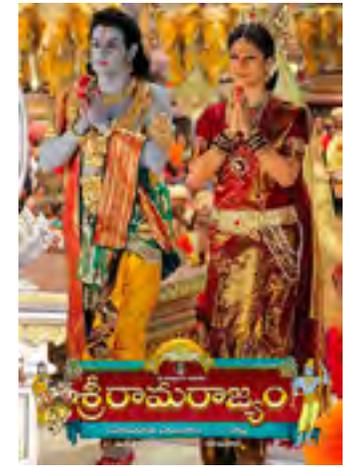
Year: 1974
Director: Bapu
Actors: N.T. Rama Rao, B. Saroja Devi, Arja Janardhana Rao
Music: K.V. Mahadevan



Sri Rama Rajyam

Year: 2011
Director: Bapu
Dialogues M. Venkataramana
Actors: N. Balakrishna, Nayanthara, A. Nageshwara Rao, K. R. Vijaya
Music: Ilaiyaraaja

Awards: The film won 7 Andhra Pradesh State Nandi Awards, including the Nandi Award for Best Feature Film – (Gold) for the year 2011



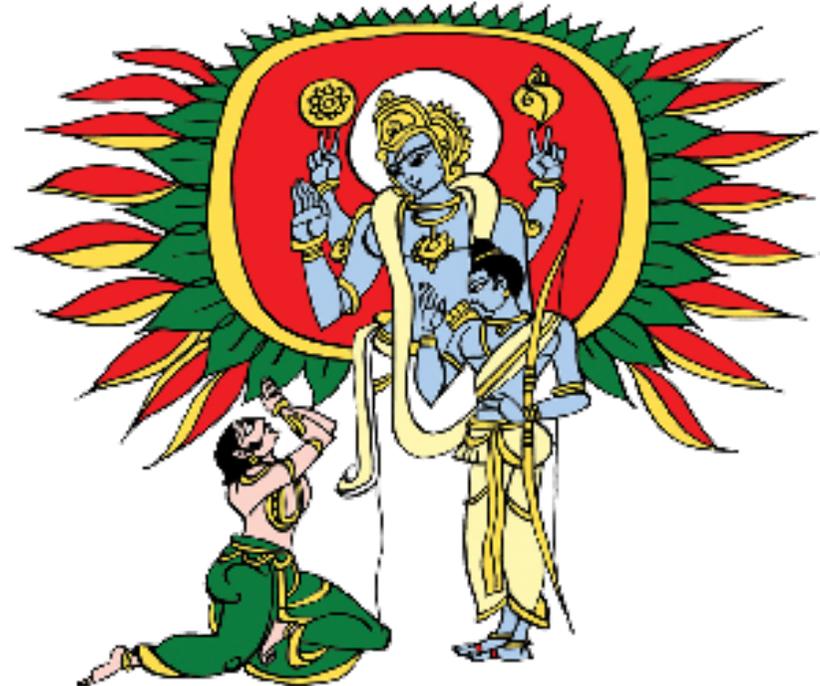
Seetha Kalyanam

Year: 1976
Director: Bapu
Screenplay & dialogue: M. Venkataramana
Actors: Ravi Kumar, Jayapradha, Gummadi, Satyanarayana
Music: K.V. Mahadevan

Awards: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) – Bapu

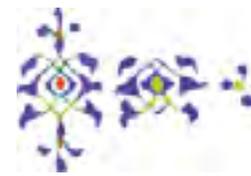
Screened at the BFI London Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, San Reno and Denver International Film Festivals in 1978

Sanskriti International released a book on Ramayana in 1974. The story was retold and written in Telugu by Mullapudi Venkataramana with artwork by Bapu. It was published in English and French also.





WORKS RELATED TO THE DIVINE



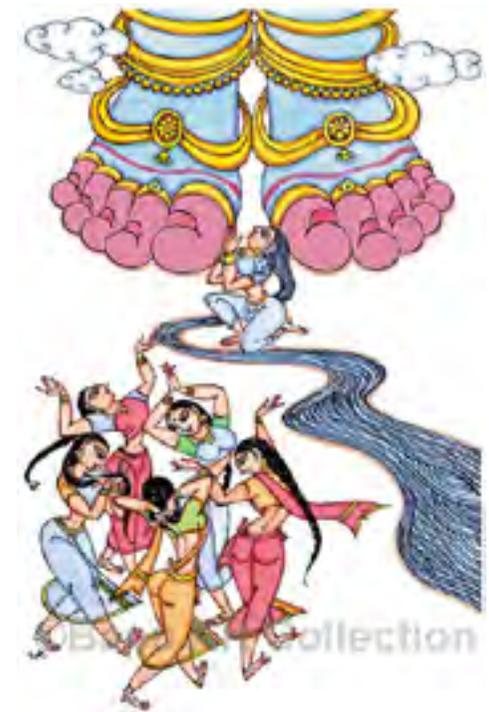
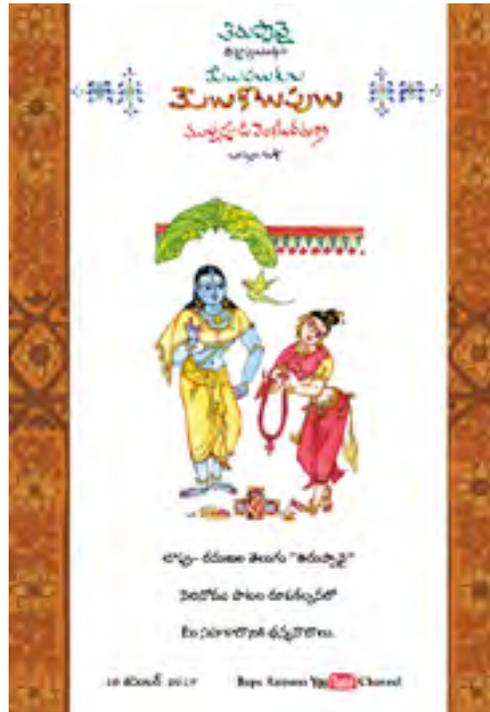


Potanamuthyulu: A set of 13 artworks based on the Bhagavatham verses written by the poet Sri Pothana.



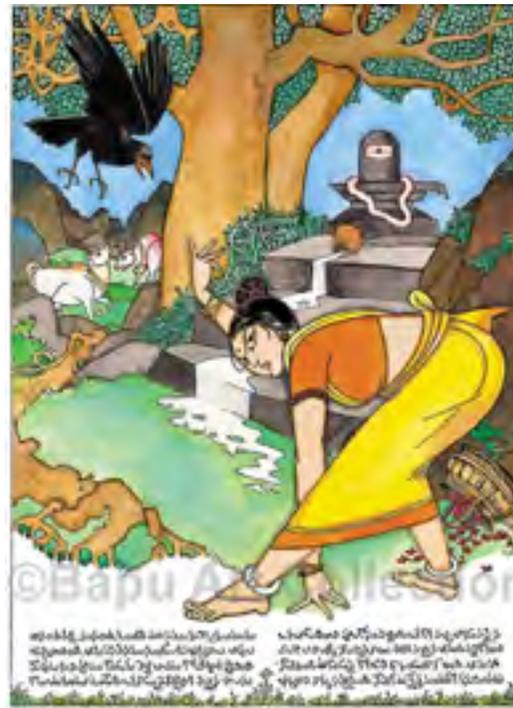
Thiruppaavai: In November 2007, Emesco Books published Bapu-Ramana's book on Alvar Andal Amma's Thiruppaavai with 30 pasurams (songs) translated into Telugu by Mullapudi Venkataramana with artwork by Bapu.

In December 2019, several prominent musicians and singers created music for the 30 pasurams. The artwork of Bapu along with the music is now available on [Bapu-Ramana YouTube channel](#).



Kotaapakonda: A set of 10
 Kartworks from story of Kundiri
 and Sri Koteswara Swamy.

These are sthala purana illustrations
 that are displayed permanently in
 the premises of the Kotesawara
 Swamy Siva temple at Kottappa
 Konda, Andhra Pradesh.



Vayupuranam: In 2010 Bapu created artwork for 16 slokas from the Vayupuranam. These 16 slokas relate to Pindapradhanam.



యమద్వారే మహా ఘోరే భయానా శైవో నాథో, వేద్యో వేద్యులకాశ్చయో, హస్తమీదం వేదపద్యం || యమద్వారం మూడు వేదాధిపతుల శైవోనాథులు, వేద్యులకాశ్చయో, హస్తమీదం వేదం వేద్యులకాశ్చయో, హస్తమీదం వేదపద్యం



శ్రేణులం ప్రసాదోచ్చ్యతే, హస్తా మూలం వేదమీదం || వేదం అయిన వేదాధిపతులు, వేదాధిపతులకాశ్చయో, వేదం ప్రసాదోచ్చ్యతే, హస్తా మూలం వేదమీదం



వేద్యుల కార్యే మూలం వేదం వేదం వేద్యులకాశ్చయో, హస్తమీదం వేదపద్యం || వేదం వేదాధిపతులు, వేదాధిపతులకాశ్చయో, వేదం వేదాధిపతులు, వేదాధిపతులకాశ్చయో, వేదం వేదాధిపతులు, వేదాధిపతులకాశ్చయో



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Sri Krishna Leelalu Book.

Republished in 2018 with story retold by M. Venkataramana in Telugu and artwork by Bapu. Books are available in Telugu and English (translated).



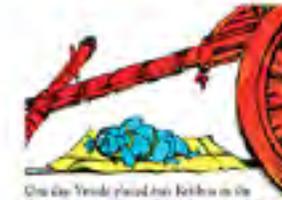
శ్రీకృష్ణ
లీలలు
M. Venkataramana
Bapu



He did not stop there. His Ganga and Anand grew further. He banished Devaki and Vasudeva from the palace and imprisoned them, handcuffed, like common prisoners.



His father, King Ugrasena, reproached him for his evil act. But his new Karna imprisoned him along with his mother Padmavathi and declared himself the King of Mathura.



One day Yama placed his fetters in the shape of a cart in front of their house and left him to play while the rest slept but they awoke. Padmavathi and Kunti were crying their eyes out of the pain.



He said the cart was for Krishna and ordered in. The cart slowly rolled by as Kunti Krishna. (Kunti) crying cheerfully.



But Krishna was sweating everything to be played.

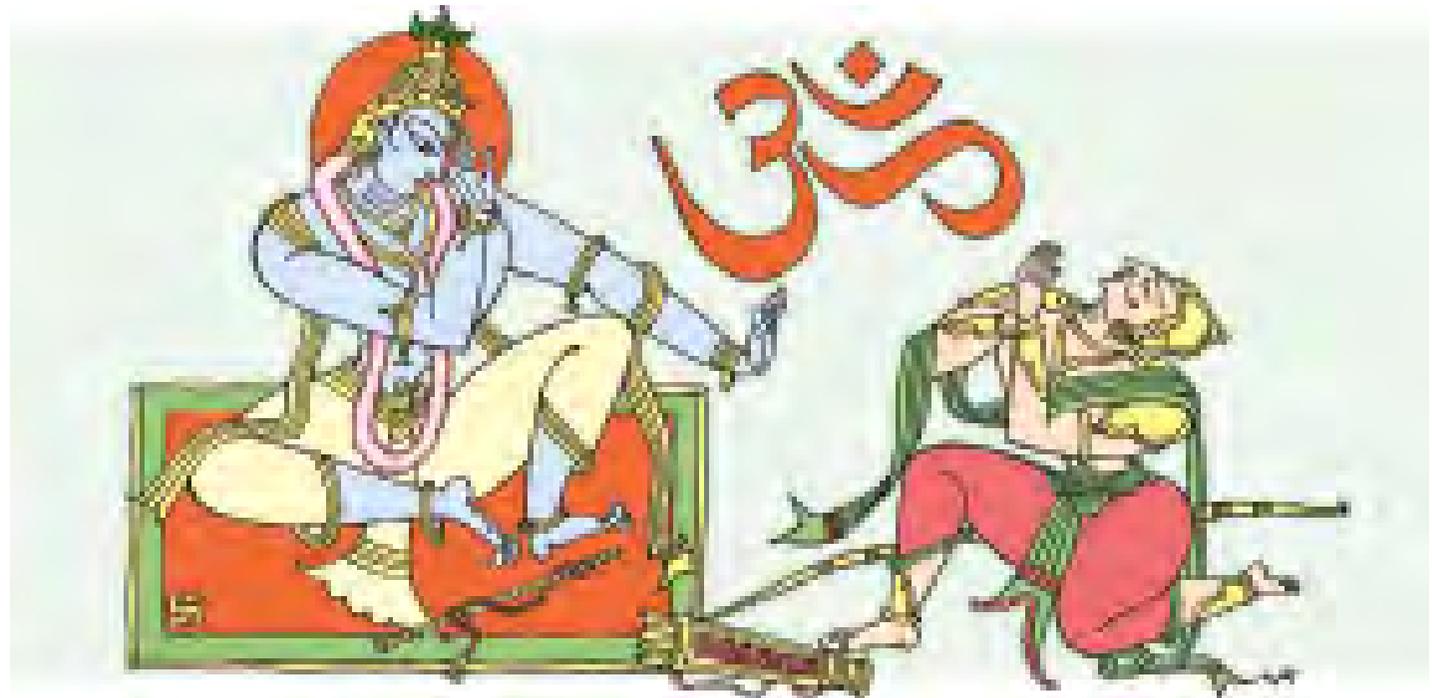


The cart started to move on its own due to the demonic power of Ugrasena.



The demon roared loudly and charged forward with a malicious laugh.

Mahabharata book with Bapu's artwork, retold & written in Telugu by Mullapudi Venkataramana.





BAPU BOMMA



Bapu Bomma, synonymous to Telugu culture and traditions.

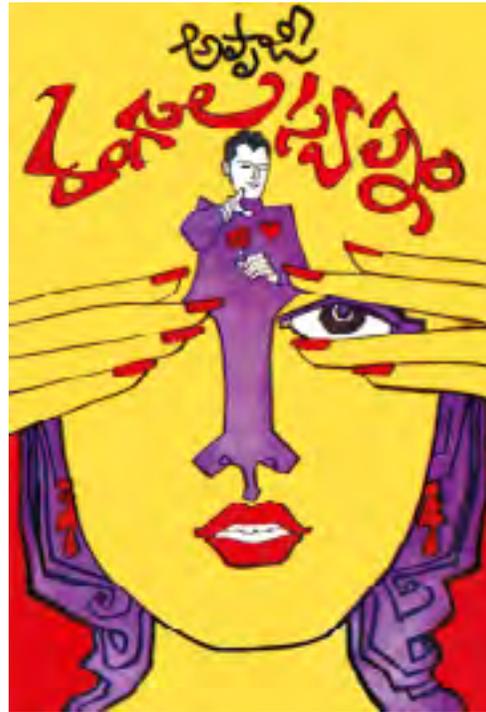




ILLUSTRATIONS



With a few simple strokes, Bapu's illustrations enhanced every famous literary work in Telugu. The range is from classic epical poems to the modern verse and short stories.





CARTOON CHARACTERS



Bapu, along with his childhood friend Mullapudi Venkataramana, created beloved characters that are adored even today. Budugu, a child's view of life, is a classic in Telugu literature.

Bapu created several others on his own such as Bangaram Singaram, Kireeti, Raju Raithu that appeared in magazines in the 1960s.

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©Bapu Art Collection

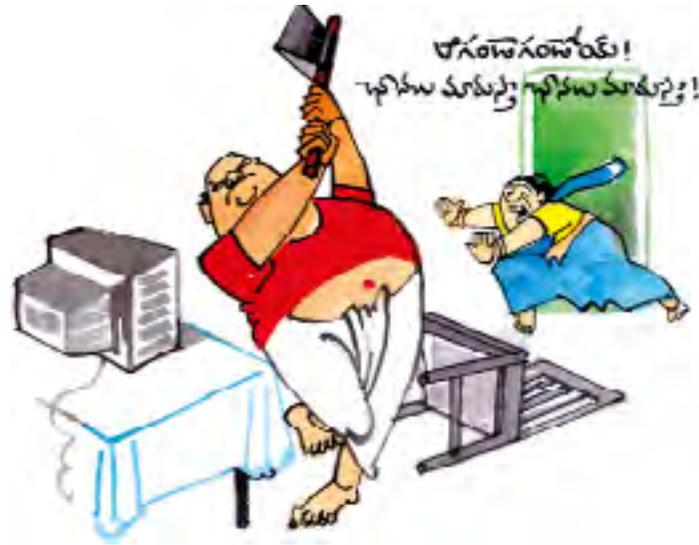




CARTOONS



Bapu's humour and cartoons are cherished by Telugu speaking people. His cartoons appeared in several leading magazines in Andhra Pradesh.





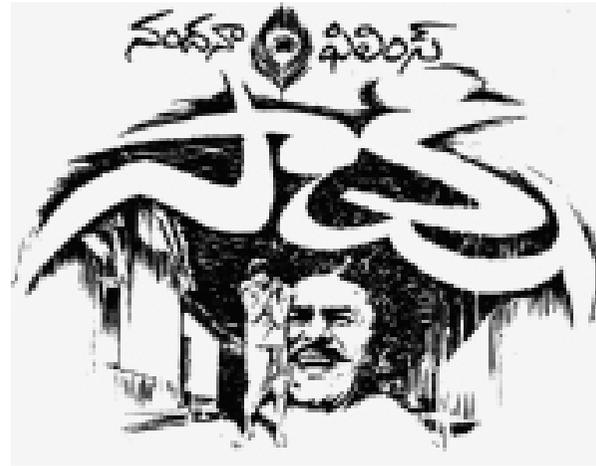
FILMS



Bapu & Ramana collaborated on several successful film projects. Their first film was Saakshi released in 1967.

Together they made 48 films in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil. As a masterful director, Bapu blended his style with Mullapudi Venkataramana's screenplays and dialogues. Their joint storytelling on the cinema screen attracted many fans from the early days.

Their films won several awards, including National Awards. And their films were screened at international film festivals - London Film Festival, Chicago Film Festival.



Filmography:

1. Saakshi, 1967
2. Bangaru Pichika, 1968
3. Buddhimantudu, 1969
4. Inti Gowravam, 1970
5. Balaraju Katha, 1970
6. Sampoorna Ramayanam, 1971
7. Andala Ramudu, 1973
8. Sri Ramanjaneya Yuddham, 1974
9. Mutyala Muggu, 1975
10. Seeta Kalyanam, 1976
11. Shri Rajeshwari Vilas Coffee Club, 1976
12. Bhakta Kannappa, 1976
13. Sita Swayamvar, 1976
14. Sneham, 1977
15. Manavoori Pandavulu, 1978
16. Gorantha Deepam, 1978
17. Toorpu Velle Railu, 1979
18. Vamsa Vruksham, 1980
19. Rajadhi Raju, 1980
20. Kaliyuga Ravanaasurudu, 1980
21. Hum Paanch, 1980
22. Tyagayya, 1981
23. Radha Kalyanam, 1981
24. Bezubaan, 1981
25. Krishnaavataram, 1982
26. Pelleedu Pillalu, 1982
27. Neethi Devan Mayangugiran - Tamil, 1982
28. Edi Dharmam Edi Nyayam, 1982
29. Mantri Gari Viyyankudu, 1983
30. Woh Saat Din, 1983
31. Sitamma Pelli, 1984
32. Mohabbat, 1985
33. Pyari Behna, 1985
34. Bullet, 1985
35. Jackie, 1985
36. Mera Dharam, 1986
37. Kalyana Taamboolam, 1986
38. Diljala, 1987
39. Prem Pratigyaa, 1989
40. Pelli Pustakam, 1991
41. Mr. Pellam, 1993
42. Srinatha Kavi Sarvabhowmudu, 1993
43. Pelli Koduku, 1994
44. Paramaatma, 1994
45. Rambantu, 1996
46. Radha Gopalam, 2005.
47. Sundarakanda, 2008
48. Sri Rama Rajyam, 2011.



AWARDS & HONOURS



Civilian honours

- Padma Shri – Government of India – 2013

National honours

- Life Time Achievement Award from Indian Institute of Cartoonists – 2001
- Academy National Award, Tirupati - 1987. Presented by the then President Sri Giani Zail Singh)

National Film Awards

- National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu – Mutyala Muggu
- National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu – Mister Pellam

Filmfare Awards South

- Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) – Seeta Kalyanam (1976)
- Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) – Vamsa Vruksham (1980)
- Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award – South – (2012)

Nandi Awards

- Raghupathi Venkaiah Award – Life Time Achievement in Telugu cinema – 1986

Nandi Award for Best Feature Film (director)

- 1971: Balaraju Katha
- 1973: Andala Ramudu
- 1975: Mutyala Muggu
- 1991: Pelli Pustakam
- 1993: Mr. Pellam
- 2011: Sri Rama Rajyam

Other Honours

- Asthana Vidwan(Chitrakar) Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams
- South Indian Film Director's Association Award for Best Direction – Sampoorna Ramayanam – 1972
- Visishta Puraskaramu from Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University – 2002
- Life Time Achievement Award from Telugu Association of North America
- “Shiromani” award from American Telugu Association – 1992
- Honorary Doctorate “Kala Prapoorna” from Andhra University – 1991
- Honorary Doctorate from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi - 2005
- Raja-Lakshmi Award in 1982 from Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation, Chennai – 1982



Receiving the National award for his film Mutyala Muggu from the President of India



SEETHA KALYANAM

directed by

Bapu

was selected as

an outstanding film of the year

for presentation at the

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

1978

Gerry Rawlson



Sri Bapu
15 December 1933 - 31 August 2014



Sri Mullapudi Venkataramana
28 June 1931 - 24 February 2011