

Contemporary Malayalam Independent Cinema: Limited Location Storytelling and It's Prominence in the Pandemic Era.

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Abstract : The COVID-19 Pandemic has had an impact on every part of our lives, and the film industry is no exception. The restrictions the pandemic has brought made filmmakers confine their films to limited spaces. In India, Malayalam cinema was the first to incorporate the pandemic into its stories and started producing films within existing constraints. The purpose of this study was to study how the limited location storytelling concept influenced Malayalam independent and lockdown films. To answer this question, the three of the most popular films that we shot during the pandemic: The Great Indian Kitchen, Joji and Joyful Mystery, were dissected through text analysis and in-depth interviews were conducted with the makers of The Great Indian Kitchen and Joyful Mystery. The study revealed that the pandemic had had an influence on the way filmmakers visualize their stories and shoot them, especially while working within the restrictions of the pandemic. It was also observed that working with limited locations was the only way for filmmakers to make films during the times of pandemic. But rather than a hindrance to their work, filmmakers saw it as a new possibility to create in times of confinement. The findings of this study expanded the work of previous researchers about films shot in limited locations and the significant changes the pandemic has brought to the film industry.

Keywords : limited location storytelling, pandemic, pandemic restrictions, lockdown cinema, pandemic films, Malayalam cinema, OTT revolution, cinema, films

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