

A TALE ABOUT BROTHERS

Arun Vijay and Karthik take on the lead roles, writes **Gautaman Bhaskaran**



Up in arms: Karthik and Vijay

MAANJA VELU

cast Arun Vijay, Dhanshika, Karthik, Prabhu, Anu Haasan

director A Venkatesh

rating G

Director A Venkatesh's latest Tamil film *Maanja Velu* comes just after his acting debut in *Angaadi Theru*. His excellent performance as the sadistic showroom supervisor Karungali Venkatesh was appreciated by fans and critics alike. So, will *Maanja Velu* erase that image of Venkatesh? An action movie, it has a simple storyline. Or, at least that's what is being revealed at the moment.

Arun Vijay, an actor who was written off after several of his films

flopped, hopes for a comeback of sorts with *Maanja Velu*. The movie sees him shaving his head at the temple town of Palani and praying for help to patch things up with his elder brother played by Karthik, who returns to the big screen after a six-year hiatus.

"Although I was initially apprehensive about going bald, the director convinced me that it would create a great impact. Also, I knew this look had worked wonders in the past for many stars, including Rajinikanth in *Sivaji*," says Vijay.

Now, what exactly does the title mean? *Maanja* is a string coated with a paste of ground glass and other ingredients, used to fly kites and cut off rival kites. Venkatesh says this describes the basic plot of the film. "If you are careless, the string can cut you."

Incidentally there were many "cutting" incidents during the shoot. Vijay was hurt while performing a stunt in Chennai's Binny Mill and was hospitalised. Interestingly, this accident was

captured on camera and forms the backdrop for the rolling credits.

Maanja Velu sees Prabhu in a guest role, Anu Haasan (Kamal Hassan's niece) in a pivotal role and Dhanishka as Vijay's lover.

Shot in several cities, the movie has two songs filmed in Bangkok. But Venkatesh is tight-lipped about these shoots and isn't willing to divulge the cost of the shoot or even tell us whether these songs form part of a dream sequence or not.

SPECIAL SCREENING

Marathi film *Target* to be screened in Dubai. By **Dr Mandar V Bichu**

Yet another week, yet another Marathi film premiere. The trend for special screenings seems to be continuing. The star-studded Marathi film *Target* is set to make its world premiere at Dubai's Grand Cineplex tomorrow.

Directed by Vivekanand Gore and Rajesh Kolan, *Target* tells a story of five boys and three girls of diverse family backgrounds.

Their relationship starts off on a negative note but finally they end up being friends. While enjoying life to the fullest, the youngsters end up on the wrong side of the law and this incident leads them to something more sinister. How will it all end?

With its mix of romance, comedy, suspense and thrills, *Target* promises something for

TARGET

cast Sanjay Narvekar, Siddharth Jadhav, Swapnil Joshi, Ankush Choudhary, Kranti Redkar, Tejaswini Pandit, Smita Ghondkar

director Vivekanand Gore, Rajesh Kolan

rating G



Setting the target right

everyone. It is the first Marathi film to use the digital-imaging technology and also features the first Marathi rap song. The acclaimed cast of Sanjay Narvekar, Siddharth Jadhav, Swapnil Joshi, Ankush Choudhary, Kranti Redkar, Tejaswini Pandit and Smita Ghondkar is an attraction in itself and many of these stars will be attending the premiere.

With many recent Marathi blockbusters doing better than their Hindi counterparts, there are a lot of box-office expectations from *Target*.

EVENT DETAILS

When April 16, 9.30am

Where Grand Cineplex, Dubai

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