

A STOP WHINGING FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH
LOVELY FRAMES UNCOMBED BUDDHA S4 CINEMA

PAULY VALSAN
DILEESH POTHAN



CHEVITTORMA

T H E S O U L W H I S P E R E R

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
LEO THADDEUS

CREATIVE PRODUCER AND SCRIPT EDITOR
STEPHEN ZACHARIAS

PRODUCERS

LOKAN RAVI , JACOB ZACHARIAS , ADITYA GROVER , HARSH AGARWAL , SAJAN BALAN

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH

EIGHTH DAY PRODUCTIONS , GIRELLE PRODUCTIONS , VERITE PICTURES , TOURNAGE PRODUCTIONS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SWAROOP SOBHA SANKAR EDITOR CARLO FRANCISCO MANATAD PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOSEPH NELICKAL ORIGINAL SCORE MILAD MOVAHEDI (IRAN)

MAKEUP RONEX XAVIER SYNC SOUND & SOUND DESIGN RAJESH SASEENDRAN SOUND MIXING TAPAS NAYAK COSTUME RENJINI MARY REJI ART DIRECTOR ROSMY ANUMOD

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER NOBIN KURIAN COLOURIST ROBERT LANG TRAILER CUT DON MAX ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AMRUTHA PALASSERI GRAPHICS BINROY SIMON PUBLICITY DESIGN YEDHU MURUKAN



Logline

A woman known for guiding the dying through whispered prayers is summoned to the home of a powerful landlord, where death refuses to come and buried memories begin to surface, unsettling the family and the past she thought she had left behind.

Short Synopsis

In the hills of Kerala, Theresia is known for a solemn calling — she sits beside the dying and whispers prayers believed to guide the soul peacefully to its end. She is invited to the ancestral home of Varkichan, a powerful landlord lying unconscious after a sudden illness. As relatives gather and prepare for his passing, death does not arrive. The waiting stretches into days, and the stillness inside the house begins to change. Old tensions surface, forgotten memories return, and Theresia senses that her presence in this house is not accidental. As Varkichan drifts between life and death, the past slowly reveals itself, forcing both of them to confront what was left unresolved.



Long Synopsis

In the hills of Kerala, Theresia is known for a quiet and solemn calling. She is invited into homes when death is near, sitting beside the dying and whispering prayers believed to guide the soul toward a peaceful end. For years, families have trusted her presence in the final hours, when ritual replaces words and the living prepare to let go.

She is summoned to the ancestral home of Varkichan, a powerful landlord who lies unconscious after a sudden illness. As relatives gather, the house settles into the familiar rhythm of waiting for death. Candles are lit, prayers are recited, and the family prepares for a final farewell.

But death does not come.

As the days pass, the stillness inside the house begins to change. What was meant to be a brief vigil becomes an uneasy suspension of time. Old tensions surface, forgotten memories return, and the presence of Theresia slowly unsettles the order of the household.

During her stay, Theresia begins to sense that her arrival at this house is not accidental. The man she has been called to accompany carries echoes of a past she has spent years trying to leave behind. As Varkichan drifts between life and death, memories resurface, revealing a history of guilt, silence, and unfinished forgiveness.

In a place where death is expected but refuses to arrive, the living are forced to confront what they buried long ago.



Leo Thaddeus

Soul Whisperer is a film about waiting — waiting for death, waiting for forgiveness, and waiting for the past to reveal itself. In many parts of Kerala, death is not only a private moment but also a ritual shared by the family and the community. I was interested in exploring what happens when this ritual is interrupted, when death does not come as expected.

The character of Theresia represents a bridge between the living and the dying. She enters homes at the most vulnerable moment, carrying faith, silence, and memory. Through her presence, the film slowly uncovers the hidden emotional history of a family that believed time had erased its past.

I wanted the film to move slowly and patiently, allowing the audience to feel the weight of time inside the house. The stillness, the pauses, and the quiet moments are important, because they reflect the emotional state of the characters who are trapped between life and death.

The film also draws from the Christian rituals and cultural traditions of Kerala, where prayer, faith, and guilt often exist side by side. For me, Soul Whisperer is not only about death, but about the possibility of redemption that can appear even in the final moments of life.



Cast



Dileesh Pothan

Dileesh Pothan is a prominent Indian filmmaker and actor in Malayalam cinema, celebrated for spearheading the industry's realistic "new wave" movement. He is a dual National Award-winning director, earning back-to-back Best Feature Film in Malayalam honors for his highly acclaimed directorial ventures, Maheshinte Prathikaaram and Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum.



Pauly Valsan

Pauly Valsan is a critically acclaimed veteran Indian actress best known for her celebrated character roles in Malayalam cinema and an extensive 50-year career in theatre. She has won the prestigious Kerala State Film Award for Best Character Actress and Best Dubbing Artist.



Srikanth Murali



Jeo Baby



Haritha Parrakkod



George Kora

Territories Sold

UK

 Channel 4

Australia

 SBS Australia

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- OFFICIAL SELECTION

Co-Production Market, NFDC Film Bazaar
-
- OFFICIAL SELECTION

Co-Production Day, Cannes Marché du Film
-
- OFFICIAL SELECTION

Work-in-Progress Lab, NFDC Film Bazaar
-
- AWARDS

Won multiple awards at the Work-in-Progress Lab
-

Key Crew



DIRECTOR
Leo Thaddeus
Filmography: Panthrandu, Lonappante Mamodeesa



DOP
Swaroop Shankar
Filmography: Panthrandu



EDITOR
Carlo Francisco Manatad (France)
Filmography: Tiger Stripes (Cannes Critics' Week)



MUSIC
Milad Movahedi (Iran)
Filmography: Critical Zone (Golden Leopard, Locarno)



SOUND DESIGN
Tapas Nayak
Filmography: Maadathy (Busan), Chola (Venice)



SOUND MIX
Rajesh Saseendran
Filmography: Nirvana Inn, Mosquito Philosophy



COLOUR GRADING
Robert Lang (Norway)
Filmography: Bayaan



ART
Joseph Nellikal
Filmography: Bheeshma Parvam



MAKE UP
Ronex Xavier
Filmography: Kaanthara

PROJECT MENTORS



Sandrine Cassidy



Philippa Campbell



Kiki Fung

Stills



Producers

Producer

Stephen Zacharias
Nirvana Inn, Rapture

Producer

Jacob Zacharias

Producer

Aditya Grover
Nirvana Inn, Rapture

CO-PRODUCERS

Co-Producer

Johann Chapelin
I the Song

Producer

Lokan Raveendran

Producer

Harsh Agarwal
Nirvana Inn, Rapture

Co-Producer

Maksud Hossain
Saba

Credits & Tech Specs

Country	India	Language	Malayalam
Duration	93 minutes	Format	4K / DCP
Year	2026	Premiere status	World premiere available

Contact

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Australia / India