

***Iratta*: Unraveling Layers of Crime and Complexity in Rohit M.G. Krishnan's Gripping Thriller**

By Ketaki Patil

Screened at the Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) on January 19, Rohit M.G. Krishnan, the director of the Malayalam crime thriller *Iratta* (transl. Twin), shared valuable insights with PIFF on January 21. He explained his choice of plot, emphasising the convenience of predominantly shooting in one location.

Iratta unfolds a gripping narrative around the death of a policeman, Pramod (played by Joju George), during his duty hours at Vagamon police station. The subsequent investigation is led by his estranged twin brother, Vinod. Krishnan drew inspiration from a real incident in 1989, where a policeman was shot dead in a police station, reimagining it with new characters and circumstances.

As the film opens, Pramod is recovering from a panic attack in the hospital, attempting to repair his relationship with his estranged wife. However, an urgent call from the police station sets off a surreal sequence where Pramod discovers his own dead body on the floor – his twin brother Vinod. This symbolic death of his double foreshadows the figurative death of Pramod himself.

The film explores crime and investigation and delves into the complex dynamics of love and personality. According to Krishnan, the female protagonist's love interest, played by Malini, has a distinct personality and leads an independent life while respecting her love for Vinod.

Starring Joju George, Anjali, and Srindaa in pivotal roles, *Iratta* received praise for its well-executed sibling drama. 'Five years of effort have been invested in crafting this film; inputs from my network have played a crucial role in helping me make this film,' shared Krishnan. Krishnan also expressed confidence in Joju George's ability to portray the complex role of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Pramod, emphasising Joju's established reputation as a versatile actor.

Apart from Joju George's commendable performance, the supporting cast adds depth to the film. The storyline, set only a day apart, unfolds with superb execution, unravelling deep emotions and the complexities the brothers are facing.

Krishnan, driven by his passion for filmmaking since college, is currently working on two more scripts, promising to captivate audiences, one of it being a sports drama.