

**REPRESENTATION OF MEN AND MASCULINITY  
IN MODERN SRI LANKAN CINEMA:  
FILMS PRODUCED AND RELEASED BETWEEN 2016 - 2022**

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Since 1947, Sri Lankan cinema has evolved to reflect a wide array of themes, with early films prominently representing traditional notions of masculinity. This concept of masculinity encompasses a set of attributes, behaviours, and societal roles assigned to individuals based on their biologically assigned sex at birth. Traditionally, in Sri Lankan society and culture, masculinity has been closely associated with strength, assertiveness, and leadership qualities, often reinforcing rigid gender roles. These early representations of masculinity were largely unchallenged and accepted as the societal norm. However, contemporary Sri Lankan cinema has aimed to present a more nuanced and complex understanding of masculinity, recognizing that it is not a monolithic concept but one that encompasses the multifaceted aspects of human identity. This study examines how modern Sri Lankan cinema represents masculinity and its evolving meaning in society through selected films produced and screened between 2016 and 2022, such as *Sansaraye Dadayakkaraya*, *Alborada*, and *Saho*. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of these films and engaging in in-depth discussions with their respective directors, this research seeks to uncover a balanced and informed understanding of the portrayal of masculinity in contemporary Sri Lankan cinema. Secondary sources, including books, online materials, and academic journals, were also used to support film analysis and director interviews. The findings of this study reveal that modern Sri Lankan cinema presents masculinity with a certain level of sophistication and depth. Through nuanced storytelling, character development, and the exploration of complex themes, these films challenge the traditional interpretations of masculinity that have long been prevalent in society. By exploring various aspects of male identity, contemporary Sri Lankan cinema offers a more comprehensive, inclusive, and progressive representation of masculinity, reflecting the ongoing shifts in societal attitudes and values.

**Keywords:** Men and masculinity, modern Sri Lankan cinema, Sri Lankan clutter, representation

*The author acknowledges Senior Chair Professor Patrick Rathnayake and Dr. Anusha Edirisinghe for advising and guiding.*