

**PRASANNA VITHANAGE: AN 'AVANT-GARDE' FILMMAKER OR  
SIMPLY AN AUTHOR?**

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By the 1990s Sri Lankan cinema industry faced a crisis due to several reasons. However, a few young film directors made an attempt to introduce new concepts to the contemporary cinema during this period.

Prasanna Vithanage, who was a member of this group, has achieved national and international acclaim.

The objective of this investigation was to carry out a comprehensive study on Vithanage's contribution to a new trend in Sinhala cinema. This study examines how Vithanage's work has become a landmark in the Sri Lankan film landscape. An evaluation of the role played by him in the field of Sinhala cinema was examined with the purpose of deciding whether his achievements have made him an 'avant-garde' film maker or just another author.

Mainly electronic and print sources and interviews were used in this study.

Up to the end of 1990s Prasanna Vithanage provided a new perspective to the Sinhala cinema as an author compared to the early realistic cinema. It can be concluded that he has become an 'avant-garde' filmmaker with the production of his latest film 'Ira Mediyama' (The August Sun), in which a new narrative style has been used.