



ANIMATION DESIGN - PROJECT 2

ODIYAN - *An Animated Short Film*

Project by:
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Reg No: 216340008
June 2023

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Project Co - Guide
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IDC School of Design
अभिकल्प विद्यालय



IIT Bombay

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this written submission submitted to IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay, is a record of original work done by me. This written submission represents my idea in my words, I have adequately cited and referenced the original source.

I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misprinted or falsified any Idea/ fact/ source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shrikant S Menon', with a stylized circular mark at the beginning.

Shrikant S Menon

Date : 25/07/2023

Place : IDC, IIT Bombay.

Approval Sheet

The Design Project 3 Titled “ ODIYAN ” by **Shrikant S Menon , Roll Number 216340008**, is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the ‘Master of Design’ in the Animation and Film Design at Industrial Design Center, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

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I am thankful to all the Professors for their feedback and suggestions during the project presentations. I would like to thank my colleagues for helping me improve my ideas and animation for this project.

I'm deeply grateful to people who contributed their valuable time to me and shared their stories, experiences, and knowledge for the project.

ABSTRACT

This project is about a folklore that was spread across northern Kerala 50 to 100 years ago. The 2d animated short film is about “Odiyan”, who were people who practiced occult art of shapeshifting into animals and been hired as assassins. The aim was to show how the caste discrimination and other tortures by the upper caste people led to the rise of Odiyans during those times. I have tried to convey the feeling of oppression that was faced by the people from the lower caste back then.

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01 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Kerala had one of the most cruel divisions of caste system. Starting from approximately around 800 AD, till the 1950s. The Namboodiris and the Nairs who were from the upper caste and who mainly worked with the temple system and with the king, were the ones who ruled the place. These people wouldn't allow lower caste people to walk around in front of them or even look at them. It was considered a crime and was punished severely, even by death.

During the 1800s is when people started revolting against this system by breaking the rules that were meant for the lower caste people. After long struggle, in 1936, they were given the access to temples in Travancore.

Somewhere during this struggle was when there was the birth of Odiyans. Odiyans are people who practiced an occult art called Odi. It was practiced by the oppressed people about a century ago in the parts of Malabar in northern Kerala. It started as a form of protest against the landlords and the upper caste and it was their strategy to survive against them.

It was mainly seen in the tribal castes of Kerala, mostly in the Panan, Parayan and Pulluvan castes. It is said that the people who practice 'Odividya' are said to have supernatural powers to transform into different animals they want. Initially, their motive was to protect things from others. The landlords hired them to safeguard their agriculture, wealth etc from thieves. Odiyans safeguard them and scare away people who try to steal the harvest. But over the course of time, they started to be hired as assassins, to kill people. They were hired by these upper caste people to kill their rivals.

Odi in malayalam means to break. People say they break the neck of the victims and hence the name Odiyan. Some say they break their bones to transform into different animals and hence the name.

02 RESEARCH

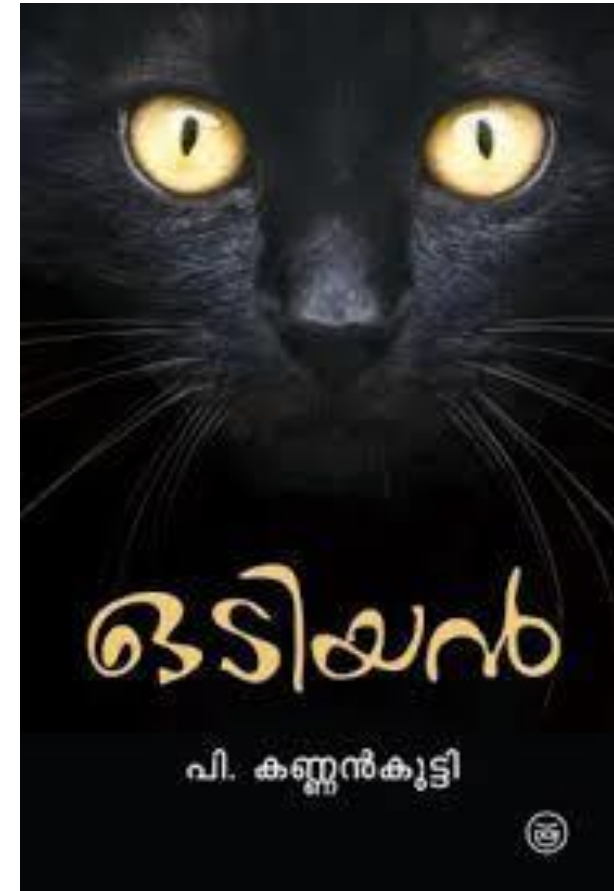
Secondary Research

Odiyan by P.Kannankutty

Odiyan is a book which explores the cultural and magical elements happening around a village called Paruthippally. It is about a Parayan family where an Odiyan meets with an accident and is not able to work as an Odiyan again.

The book explains the lifestyle and the language and accent of the people back around 1950s clearly. This helped me understand how the people used to talk to each other back then and how they used to live. The characters in this book does not experience much joy in their life. Even the upper caste Nairs are always facing with problems.

The story is a simple one which has elements of mystery and magic. It also has a religious element which in turn shows some divine powers that help people who truly believe in the powers.



Source :
<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/3634537-6-odiyen-otiyen>

Secondary Research

Online research

There are many references online for the topic Odiyan. But most of the interviews where the people explain of Odiyans haven't faced a situation with the Odiyan.

Odiyans use a medicine and magic to transform into an animal they could think of. For the making of this medicine, they use foetus from a pregnant woman, mostly from the upper caste. People used to be scared due to this reason. And then after making and applying of the medicines and performing mantras, they will be hired and then they will decide the person and day to assassinate. After the work is done, the Odiyan has to return to his wife or mother who will be waiting with hot water with cow dung in it. She has to splash that water on the Odiyan in order to return back to the human form, or else he will be trapped in the animal form for ever.

Odiyans initially were hired to guard the agriculture fields and granary storage. Later they were started to get hired for assassination.



പാലക്കാട്ടെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ ഒടിയൻ കഥകൾ 3 | Odiyan stories from Palakkad villages

Source :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCIINpBFzqA>

03 MOOD

Mood Board

The story happens during the 1950s. Hence the idea was to create the mood which had fresh colour to it. Also the intention and the mood of the film is horror. So the colours to use for those mood will mostly be red at nights which have blue or greenish tint.

The Wildfire film by Gobelins is one such 2d animation film which has very strong colours to it. This gives a contrast and visual power to the viewers eyes. This is something which is intended to use in the film Odiyan.

Animator Alexandre Diboine has a unique style of animation for his films. The 2d films made by him have vibrant colours which creates a nice mood of a village scene. The line quality of his films are more rough which gives another visual strength to it. I got inspired from this style to make the film have more rough lines.



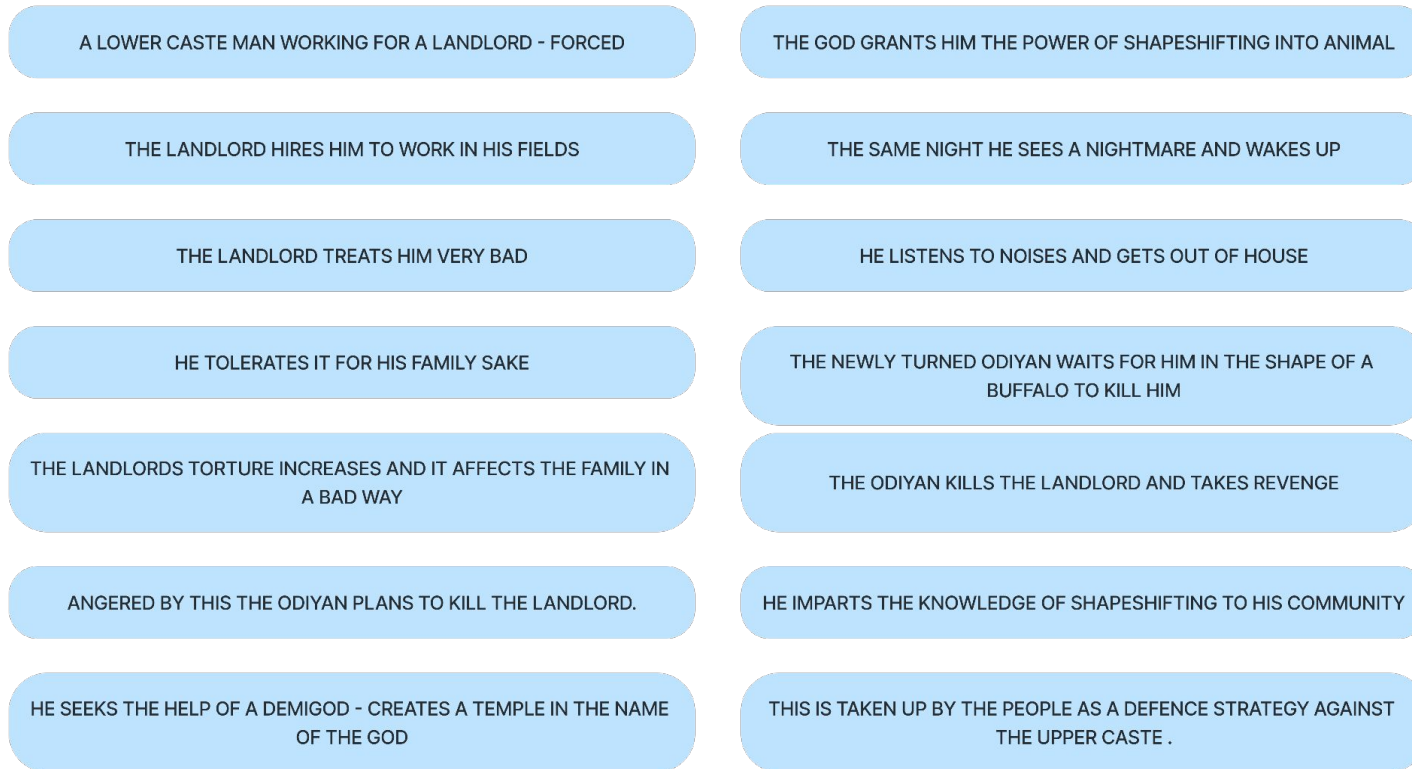
Source : <https://www.gobelins-school.com/>



Source : <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/4011087156693336/>

04 STORY DEVELOPMENT

CONCEPT 1

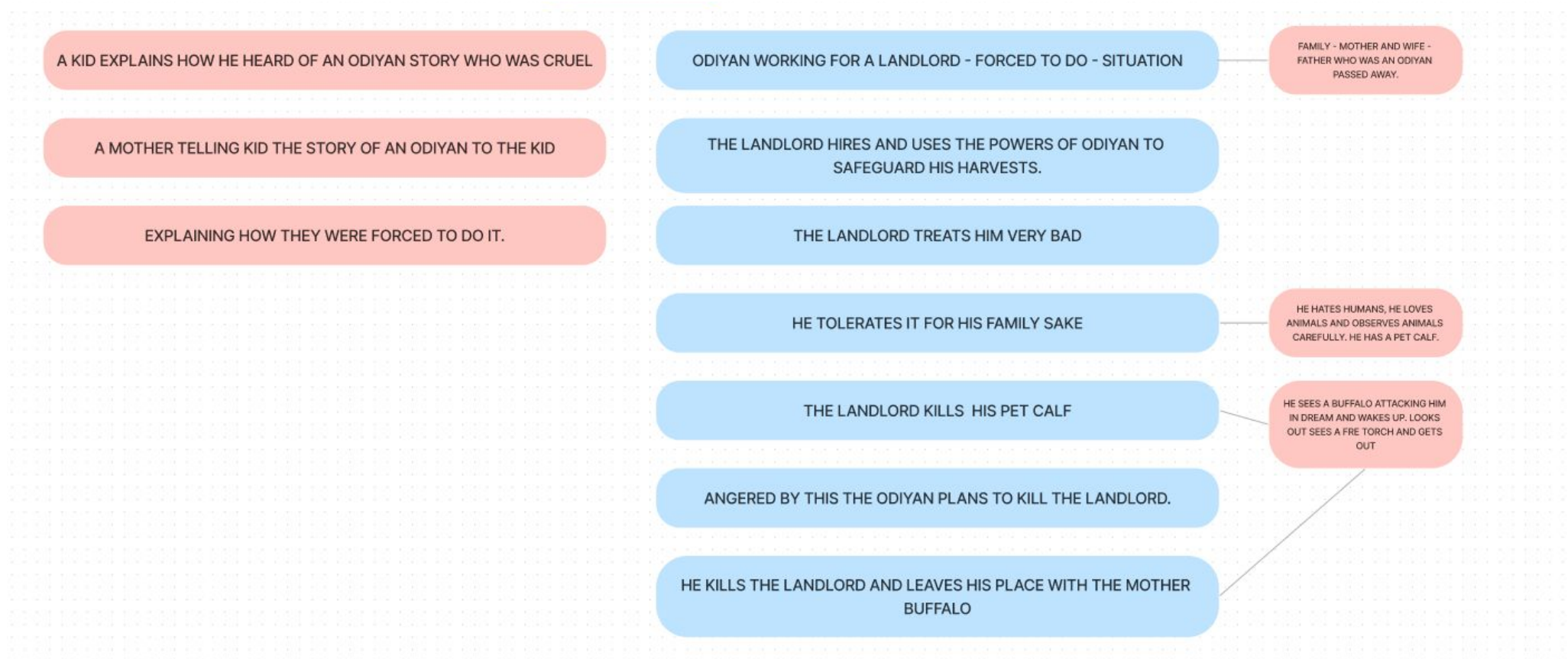


FEEDBACK

The Story was long and couldn't be completed in this time duration.

There is no relation shown of the protagonist with his family.

CONCEPT 2



FEEDBACK

The backstory of the kid and the mother will make the movie very long.

The reason for the revenge is too small, it doesnt create an impact.

05 FINAL STORY AND STORYBOARD

FINAL STORY

Present day.

The story starts with an upper caste landlord walking through the tracks to his home at night, holding a raandal (fire torch). It is raining heavily and he is holding a banana leaf to cover himself.

He sees a dead carcass on the tracks from far and goes near it. He sees a huge buffalo lying dead with its guts out. He feels sad for it thinking it was hit by a train and walks away around it. The buffalo has a bell tied to its neck.

After walking for some time, he hears the sound of a bell from away fading in. He looks back. In the very small light he has he sees the same buffalo walking towards him. The sound of the bell and the footsteps of the hooves coming closer. He gets scared (faster breathing and heartbeats).

The buffalo is in the same form where its bones are visible and. He takes a step back. Suddenly the buffalo gives a loud roar which makes him run away.

He runs away with the torch. The buffalo chases him. He trips over the tracks and falls down.

The scene changes to next morning where we see the landlord dead on the tracks and people are standing around it.

Backstory.

(a day back)

The protagonist, Odiyan, is working in a field with co-workers. His son comes near and asks permission to go and play. He gives the permission and the kid runs away. While going, the kid happens to cross the path of the landlord. He becomes furious and asks the kid to bow down to him and move away from the road. The kid refuses to do that as there was no need for it. The landlord gets very furious and asks his bodyguard to get the kid and drag him to the town.

FINAL STORY

The kid is brought to the center of the town and the landlord calls out to the people there. He says that the kid crossed his path and is refusing to even bow to him. He says that if the kids in this generation are doing this then what will happen in the future. There will be no value for people like us. They should know their place. These people will learn only if there will be a punishment. The people start murmuring and one of them throws a stone at the kid. The others do the same and the kid gets hurt very badly. The kid is then left on the streets alone, bleeding.

His father, the odiyan learns about this and runs to the place, but it is too late. The kid dies in his fathers arms. The odiyan cries out loud promising revenge to those who did this.

He goes back to the small shrine to his demigod 'Karu' and cries the whole night. One of his friends comes to him and inform to him that the landlord is coming back from Shoranur from train at night.

The odiyan makes up his mind to kill him that night. He prays to his demigod and does the mantras. The demigod appears in the shadows and blesses him. We see firelights glowing from the shrine. It turns off and we see Odiyans shadow running out of the shrine in some different form. He runs and climbs the tree and jumps through them to reach the landlord.

Present day.

The scene cuts to the initial scene where the landlord trips and falls on the track.

Close up - the landlord was scared. There's the fire torch lying beside and in the same glow, we see the face of the odiyan (bull cum human face) coming into the frame close to the landlord.

The creature gives a loud roar when the landlord dies of a heart attack.

FINAL SCRIPT

Year : 1952

Scene I

Ext : Railway track at night in the Shoranur Palakkad lane.(raining)

The landlord Shankaran Nair walking through the tracks in the rain holding a banana leaf in one hand and a small lamp in the other, heading towards home.

SHANKARAN NAIR

(cursing)

“Such a worse night, I wish I had never gone to meet Namboodiri, his rants made me late today. I hope Devaki cooks something delicious, I am so hungry”

(After walking for sometime he notices a huge body on the tracks and walks towards it)

“Where is this foul smell coming from?”

(He reaches near and sees a huge buffalo dead, lying on the tracks. It seems like it was hit by a train and its shape is difficult to understand. Its bones are visible and blood can be seen all over in the small lamp light he is carrying. It still has a bell attached to its neck.)

“Poor thing, a train might have hit it. But such a bad smell, I should reach back home soon, it's not a good omen.”

(He starts walking fast towards home. But after a few steps, he hears the sound of a bell from behind. He stops and slowly looks behind to see that it is the same buffalo standing upright around 20 feet from him. Shankaran raises the lamp to the buffalo. In the small amount of light, we can see blood dripping from the buffalo and its bones still visible. It takes two steps towards him.)

Whispering to himself

“God, what beast is this, how come it is alive?”

FINAL SCRIPT

(Shankaran takes two steps back. The Buffalo gives a huge loud roar which scares Shankaran and he starts running fast. The buffalo chases him fast. Shankaran trips on the track and falls down, hitting his head.)

The camera is from top, showing Shankaran lying on the tracks.

Title card.

Scene II

A few days back.

Ext : Noon, Paddy fields near Mayans house.

(Odiyan Mayan is working in the middle of paddy fields with other people nearby. His son ,Tami, comes to the edge of the field.)

TAMI

“Father, can I to Karuppans house to play for sometime, Mother has allowed me to go”

MAYAN

“You can go, but come back by evening, okay?”

TAMI

“Yes father, will come on time”

MAYAN

(To his fellow workers)

“Haha, The kid has become mischievous these days.”

FELLOW WORKER 1

“Yes, but he is much more mature than other kids of his same age.”

MAYAN

“That is true, after all he is my son, the next Odiyan.”

(They both laugh)

FINAL SCRIPT

Scene III

Ext : Noon, near an unpaved road.

(Landlord Shankaran and his bodyguard is walking through the unpaved road and Tami crosses their road from front)

SHANKARAN NAIR

(Angry)

“How dare this filthy creature cross my path???”

(Tami looks at him)

“Lower, your eyes, you rascal.”

BODYGUARD

“Bow to the Lord and go away the same path you came!!!”

TAMI

“Why should I, I didn't do anything wrong, I won't bow down to anyone else except my parents and Kali Muththi (Goddess kali)”

SHANKARAN NAIR

(Furious)

“Guards, drag him to the marketplace with us!!!”

(The guards hold Tami's hand and drag him through the road.)

Scene IV

Ext : Evening, Centre of a marketplace.

(The guards are still holding onto Tami and the Landlord standing beside. He starts shouting to the people watching.)

SHANKARAN NAIR

“Look what has become now, these low lying creatures have started to speak against us. They started to talk back to people like us. Today he crossed my road, tomorrow this might happen to you people and it will be even worse at that time. We have to teach these rascals a lesson so that this won't happen again.”

(Saying that, he actions his bodyguards to hit him. The guards start hitting Tami with the stick they have.)

FINAL SCRIPT

Scene V

Paddy fields near Mayans house

(One of Mayan's friend rushes to the paddy field and shouts to Mayan.)

“Mayaaa.....the Landlord took your son to the marketplace....”

(Mayan rushes to the marketplace.)

Scene VI

Evening, Centre of a marketplace.

TAMI

“Apppaaaa.....Goddess Kali.....save me.....”

(People nearby start throwing stones at Tami. Tami cries for help. He passes out and falls down. The landlord and others leave him on the ground. It is late evening. Mayan reaches to his son and sees him bleeding)

MAYAN

“Son...!!!!!”

TAMI

“Apppaaaa.....save me.....”

(Saying this, Tami closes his eyes. He passed away. Mayan cries out loud)

Scene VII

Int : Shrine of the demigod Karu. Night.

(He lays down on the stone demigod and cries. His friend comes to him.)

“Mayaa, Shankaran is going to Shoranur today, he will return tomorrow evening”

(He wakes up. Close up of his eyes showing anger. Fast montage sequences of him getting ready for the puja. Magical firelights coming out of the shrine. The light fades and a creature runs out of the shrine.)

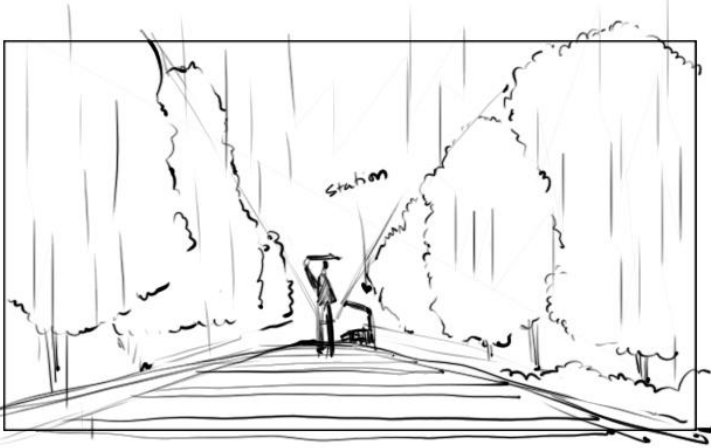
FINAL SCRIPT

Scene VIII

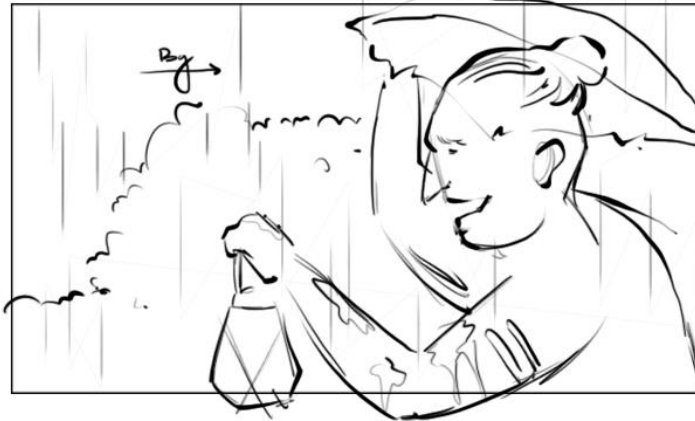
Ext : Railway track at night in the Shoranur Palakkad
lane.(raining)

(The landlord is lying on the track, scared. The lamp light glow reaches his face. The Human-Buffalo face comes close to Shankaran. The creature gives a huge loud roar due to which Shankaran dies of a heart attack. The Odiyan runs away, climbs a tree nearby and vanishes.)

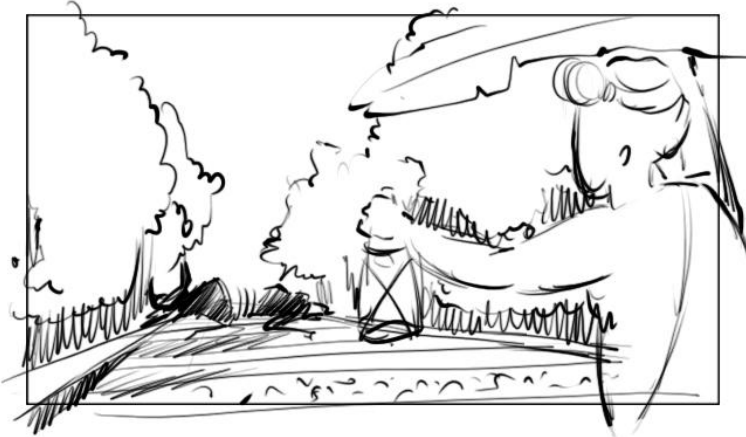
STORYBOARD - Few of the storyboards done for the film.



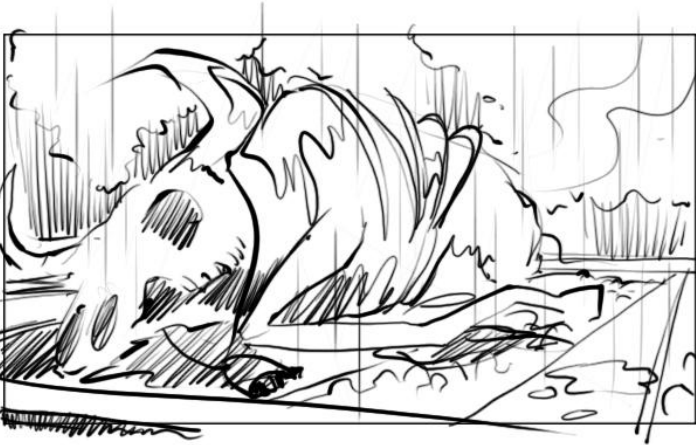
The landlord Shankaran Nair walking through the tracks, heading towards home.



in the rain holding a banana leaf in one hand and a small lamp in the other. He is humming some tune. He says "Such a worse night, I wish I had never gone to meet Namboodiri, his rants made me late today. I hope Devaki cooks something delicious, I am so hungry"



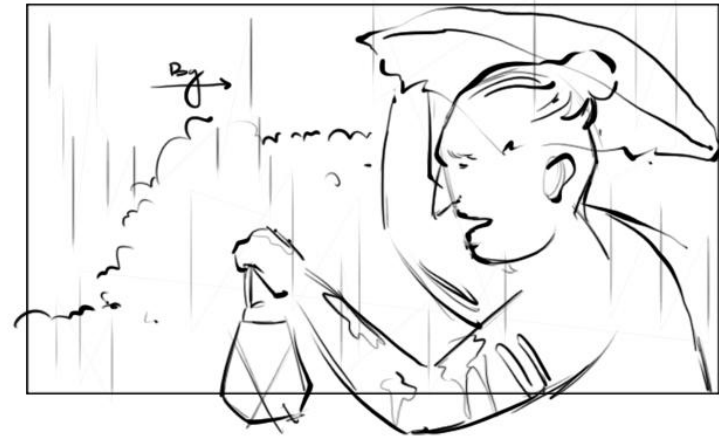
After walking for sometime he notices a huge body on the tracks and walks towards it
"Where is this foul smell coming from?"



(He reaches near and sees a huge buffalo dead, lying on the tracks. It seems like it was hit by a train and its shape is difficult to understand. Its bones are visible and blood can be seen all over in the small lamp light he is carrying. It still has a bell attached to its neck.

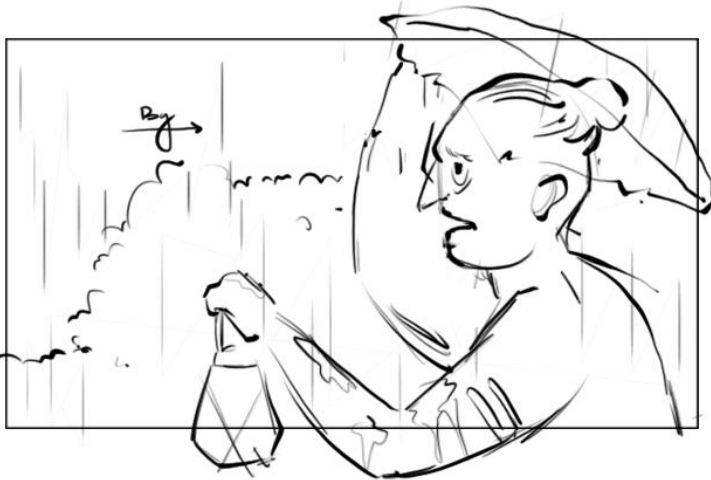


"Poor thing, a train might have hit it. But such a bad smell, I should reach back home soon, it's not a good omen."

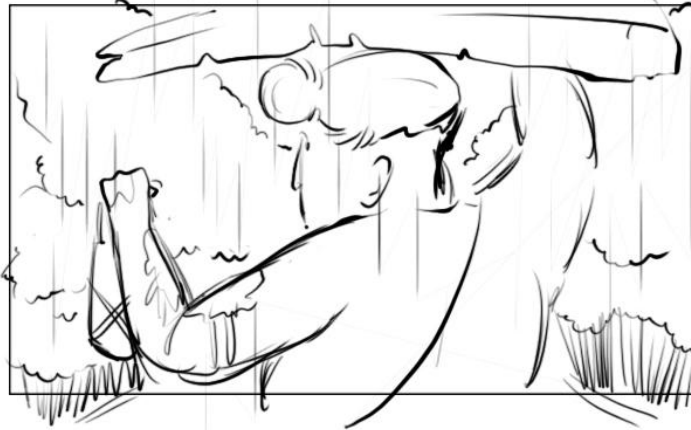


He starts walking fast towards home.

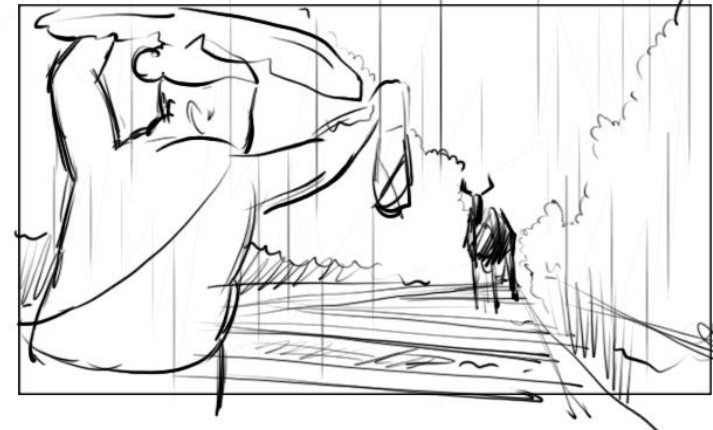
STORYBOARD



But after a few steps, he hears the sound of a bell from behind.



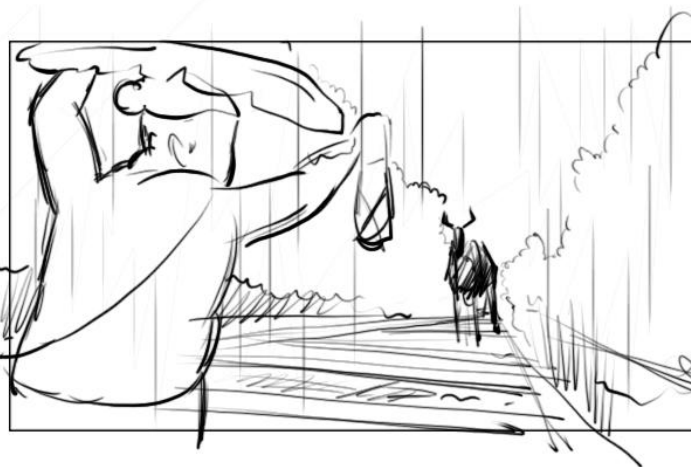
He stops and slowly looks behind to see that it is the same buffalo standing upright around 20 feet from him



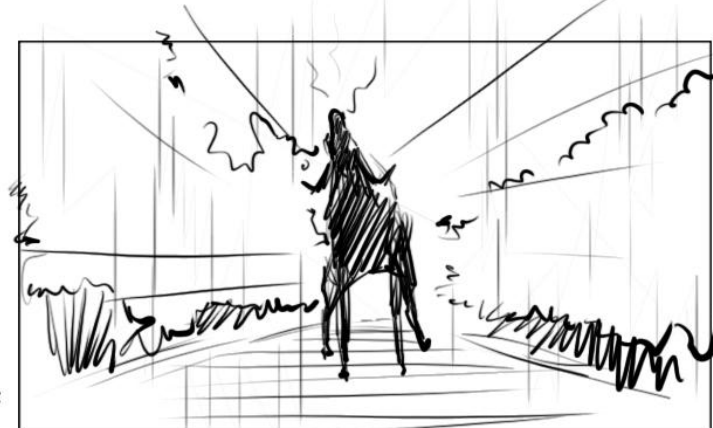
Shankaran raises the lamp to the buffalo. In the small amount of light, we can see blood dripping from the buffalo and its bones still visible.



Whispering to himself
"God, what beast is this, how come it is alive?"



It takes two steps towards him. Shankaran takes two steps back

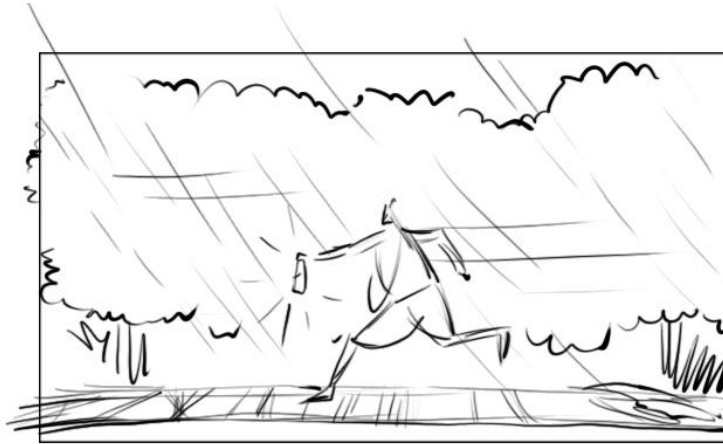


The Buffalo gives a huge loud roar

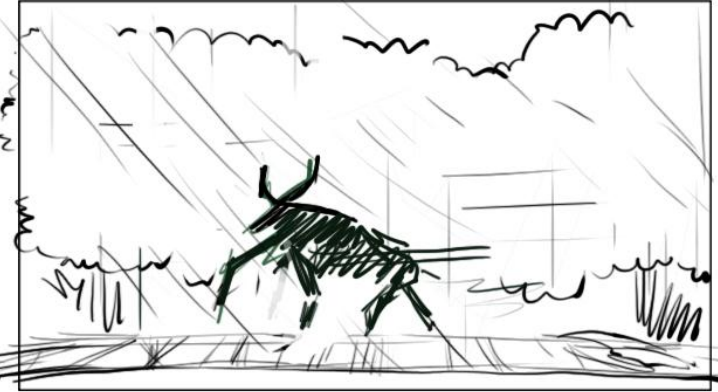
STORYBOARD



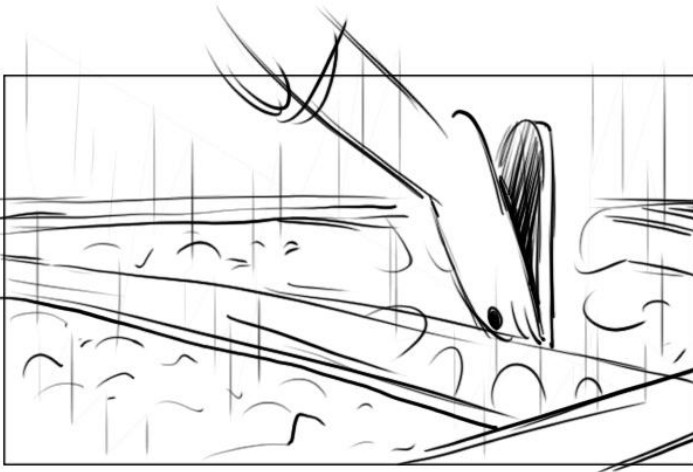
which scares Shankaran



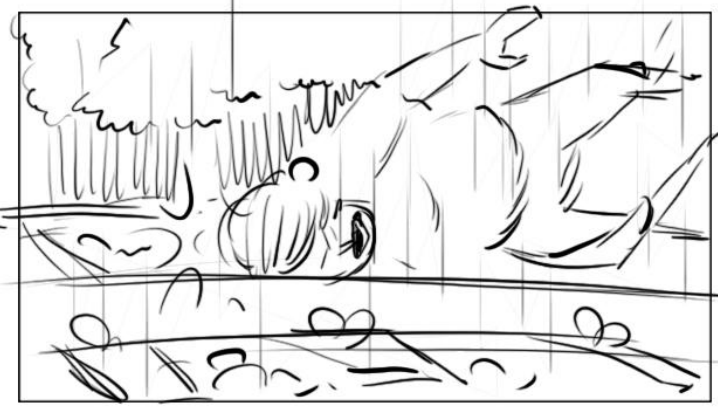
and he starts running fast.



The buffalo chases him fast. S



hankaran trips on the track and falls down,

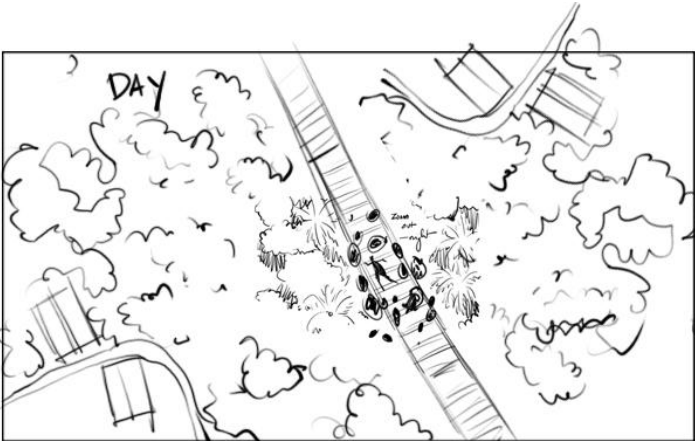


hitting his head.

STORYBOARD



Shankaran lying on the tracks



The night transitions to day, and people stand around to see that he is dead.



The buffalo chases him fast. S



Odiyan Mayan is working in the middle of paddy fields with other people nearby. His son ,Tami, comes to the edge of the field.



Father, can I to Karuppans house to play for sometime, Mother has allowed me to go"

STORYBOARD



MAYAN
"You can go, but come back by evening, okay?"

TAMI
"Yes father, will come on time"



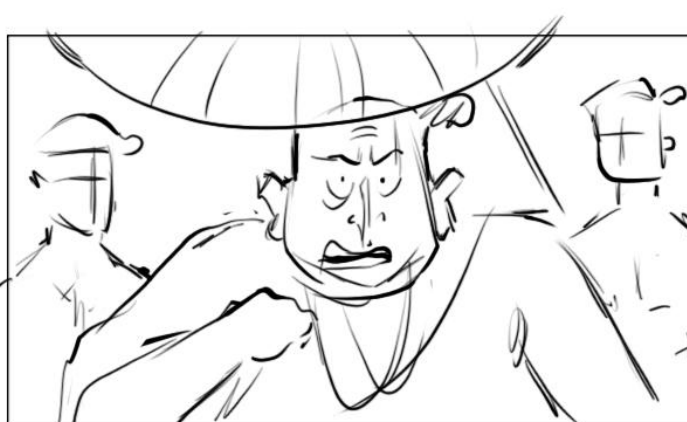
MAYAN (To his fellow workers)
"Haha, The kid has become mischievous these days."
FELLOW WORKER 1
"Yes, but he is much more mature than other kids of his same age."
MAYAN
"That is true, after all he is my son, the next Odiyan."
(They both laugh)



(Landlord Shankaran and his bodyguard is walking through the unpaved road)



and Tami crosses their road from front)



SHANKARAN NAIR
(Angry)
"How dare this filthy creature cross my path???"



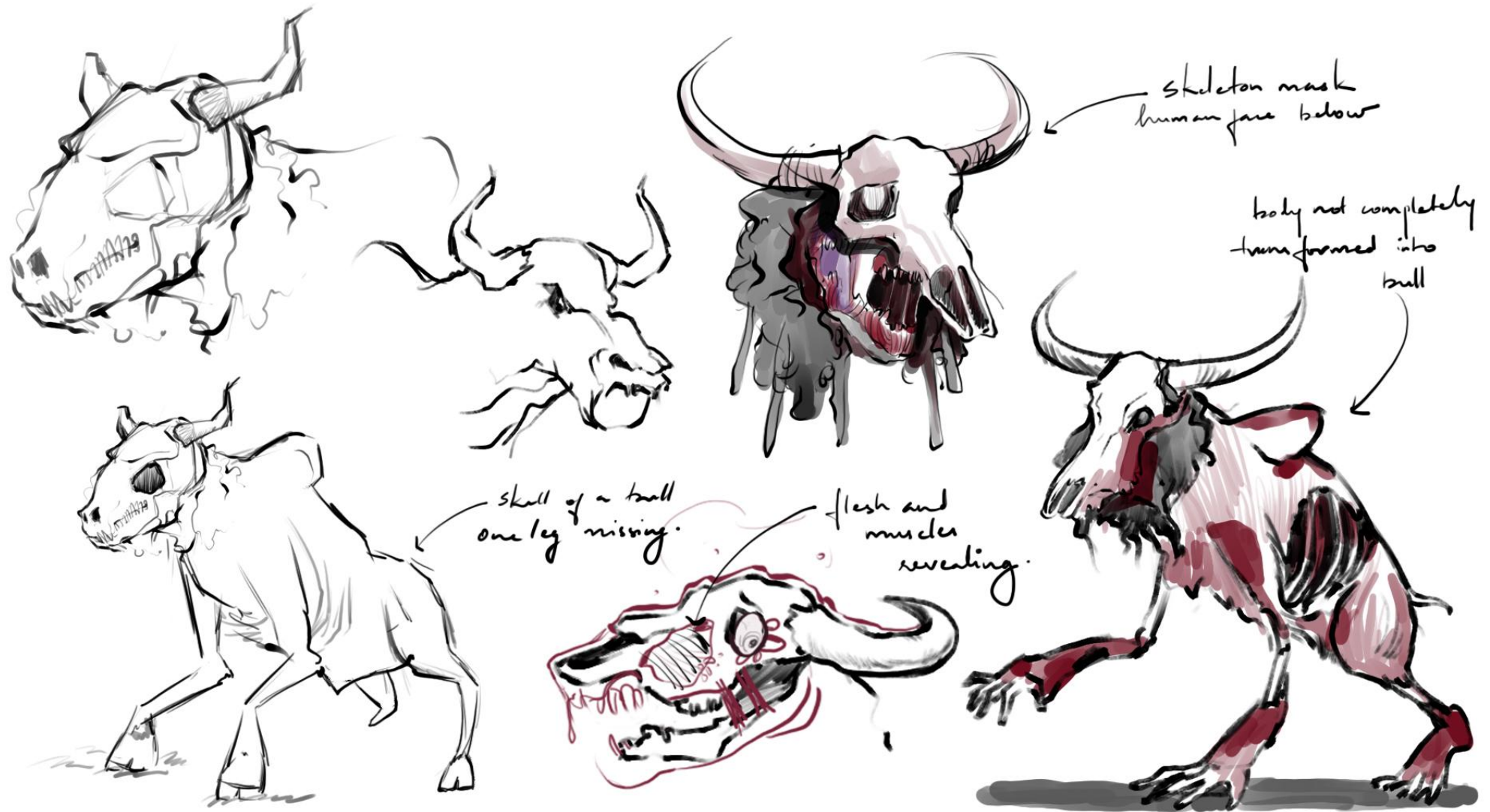
(Tami looks at him)

SHOT BREAKDOWN

Description	Duration (in seconds)	Difficulty level	Background no.	Layout	Animation				Color	Background color
					Rough Animation	Cleanup of keyframes	In between	Cleanup of Inbetweens		
Aerial shot of palakkad railway station	4		1							
Shankaran walking, back view	3		2							
Shankaran walking, side view	3		3							
Tree blocking the road	4		4							
Railway track view, shankaran walking, rain starts	2		5							
Shankaran walking side view	2		3							
Shankaran notices dead buffallow, walks towards it	4		6							
Shankaran walks towards buffalo low angle	3		7							
Buffalo lying on tracks	3		7							
Shankaran walks away from the carcass, hears a sound and turns back to look	8		8							

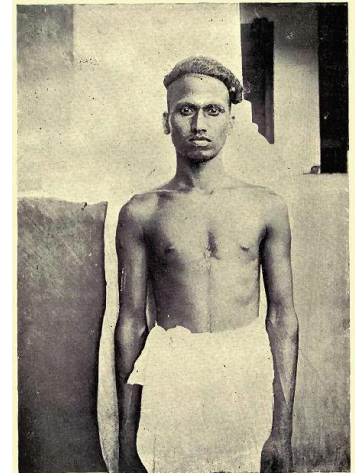
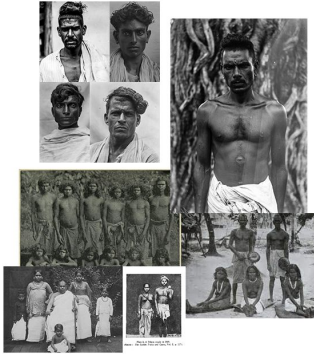
06 CHARACTER DESIGN

CHARACTER DESIGN - ODIYAN ANIMAL



The monster character was intended to have a bit of human and a bit of bull characteristics in it.

CHARACTER DESIGN - REFERENCE



AKATTUCHARNA NĀYAR.



Paraiyans.

Character reference for people from old Kerala.

CHARACTER DESIGN - SHANKARAN LANDLORD



Shankaran is an evil and mean landlord who tortures the people from lower caste.

CHARACTER DESIGN - ODIYAN MAYAN



Mayan is an hardworking Odiyan, who has a good physique.

CHARACTER DESIGN - TAMI



Tami is the son of Odiyan Mayan, who has a very good resemblance with him.

07 CONCEPT ART AND SKETCHES

CONCEPT ART



Initial concept sketches and color explorations for the movie.

CONCEPT ART

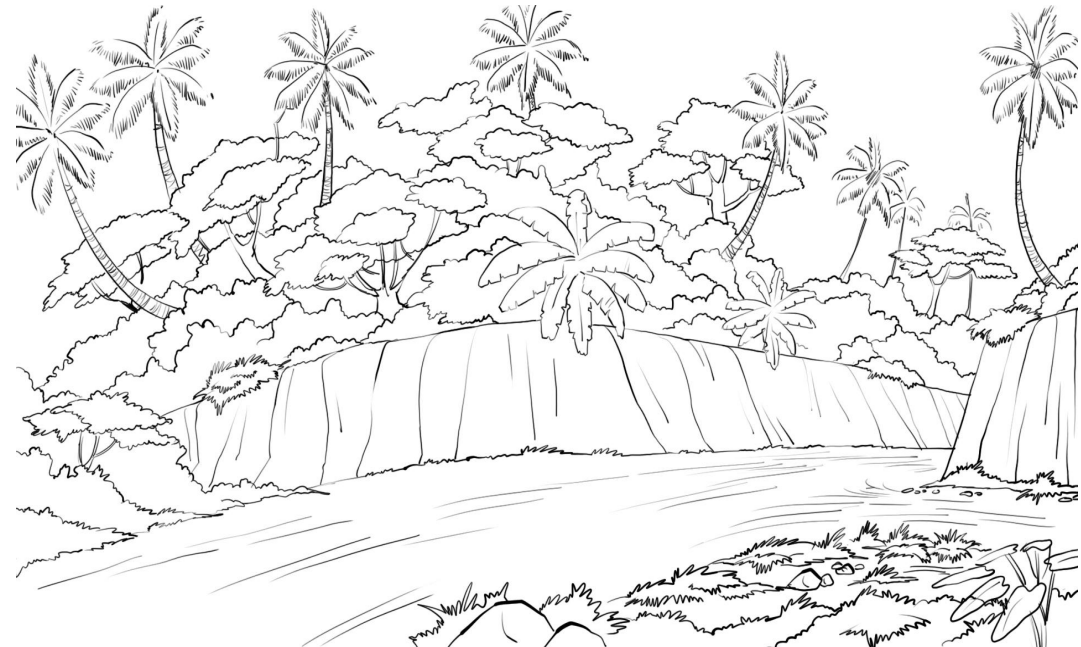
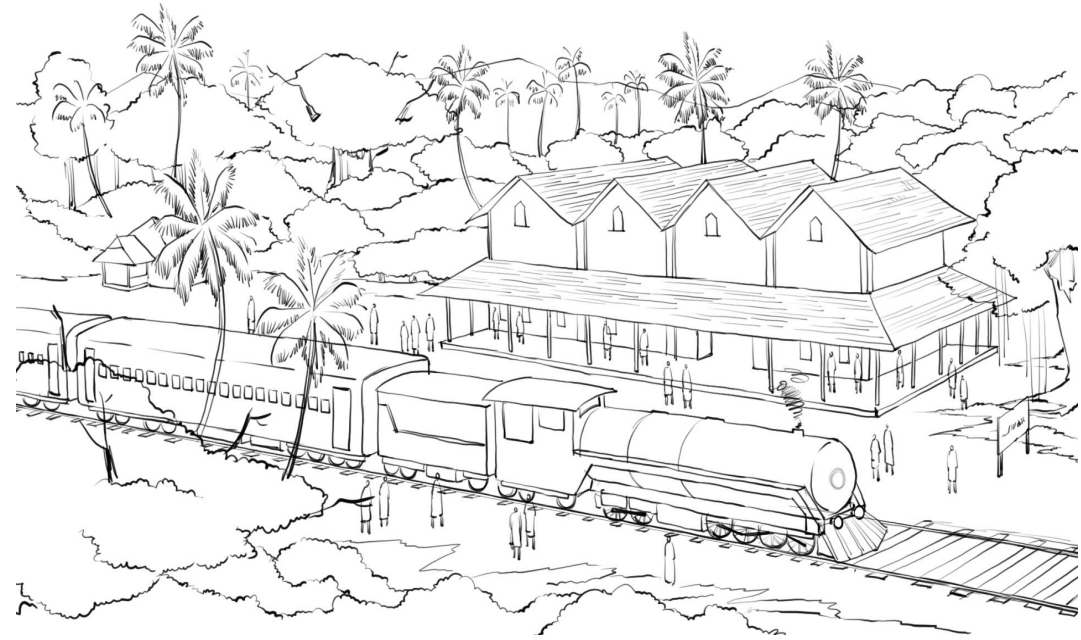
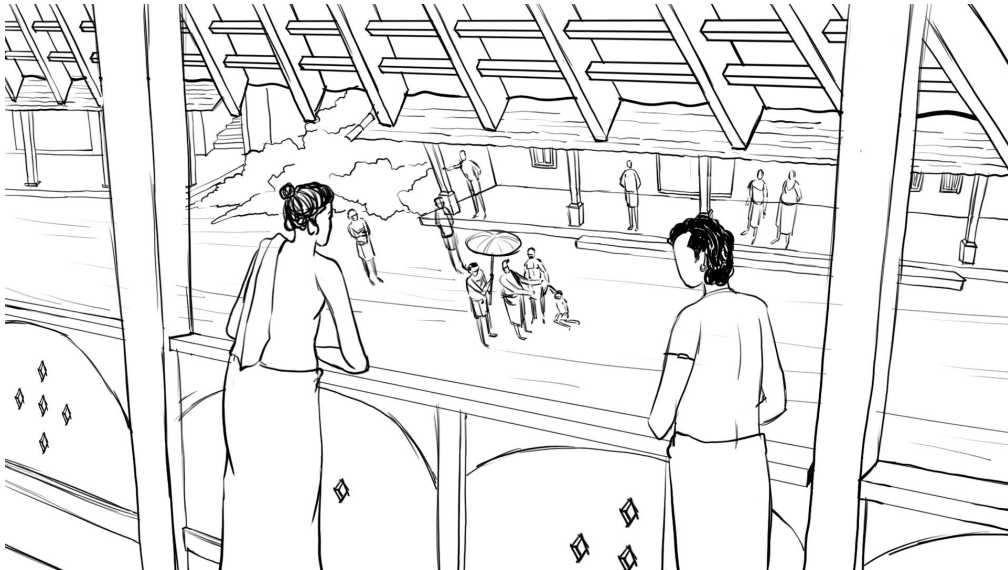


Final explorations for the film.

08 PRODUCTION

LAYOUT DESIGNS

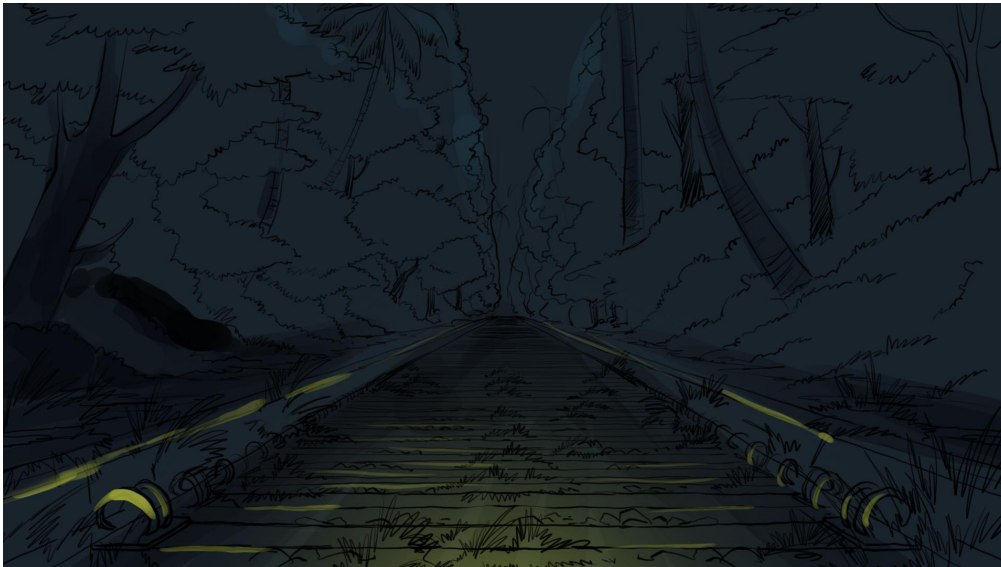
Initially, started finalising the layout designs to get the complete idea of the location and how to place the characters. After designing the layouts, I got a clear idea of how and where the camera should be placed and moved. The layouts were done larger than the canvas size of the film allowing me to set the camera.



COLOURED BACKGROUNDS

Backgrounds were coloured using photoshop. The colours were decided according to the mood of the scene.

Warmer colours were taken for scenes which depicted morning and evening. Dark green and blue hues were taken for horror and night scenes.



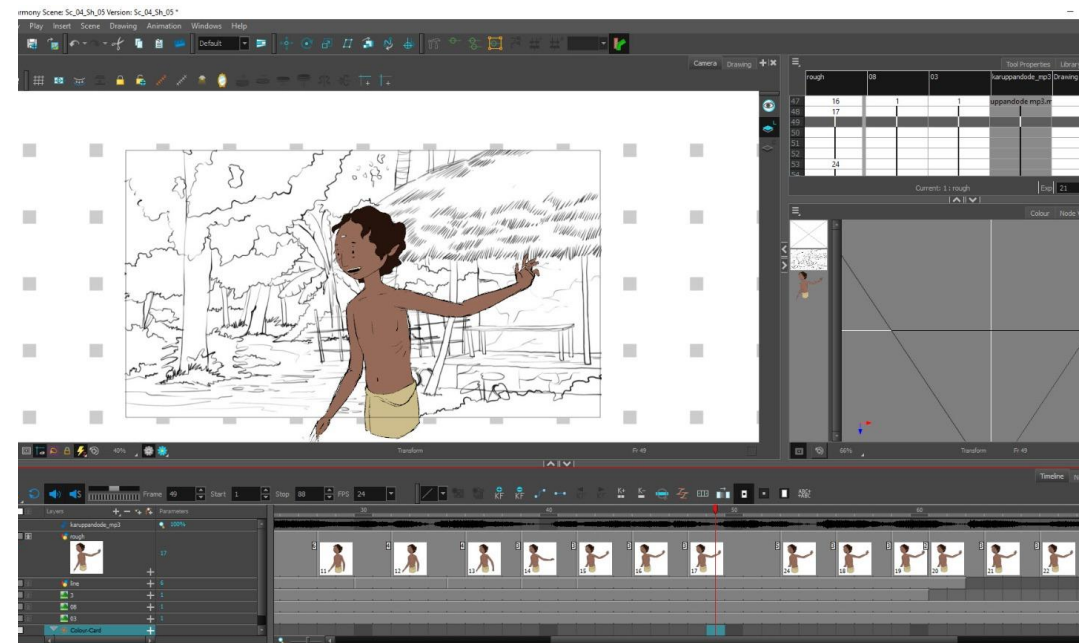
STYLE VARIATIONS

Different style of animation was explored for different moods. The transformation sequences were animated using 2d sketchy lines. The sequences of the people throwing stones were shown using an illustrative sharp style with contrast to the images.



ANIMATION

The animatics, rough animations, and the final 2d animation with colours were done on Toon Boom Harmony. The sound mixing was done in premiere pro. The compositing part including the light and shadow were done in After effects.



09 CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

The process for making a 2d film was lengthy. A large amount of time was spent for finalizing the idea and story which couldn't have been possible without the guidance of Prof.Shilpa Ranade, Prof. Prosenjit Ganguly, Prof.Sumant Rao and other professors.

The film was based on a revenge which was triggered by the caste discrimination that used to happen back in Kerala. I had tried to depict how much the people from lower caste were exploited. Which in turn resulted in the creation of a magical art which was used against the upper caste people itself.

The transformation of the Odiyan was left to the imagination of the audience as the monster can either be something magical or it can either be something like the use of physical elements like skull of buffalo, etc.

10 REFERENCES

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