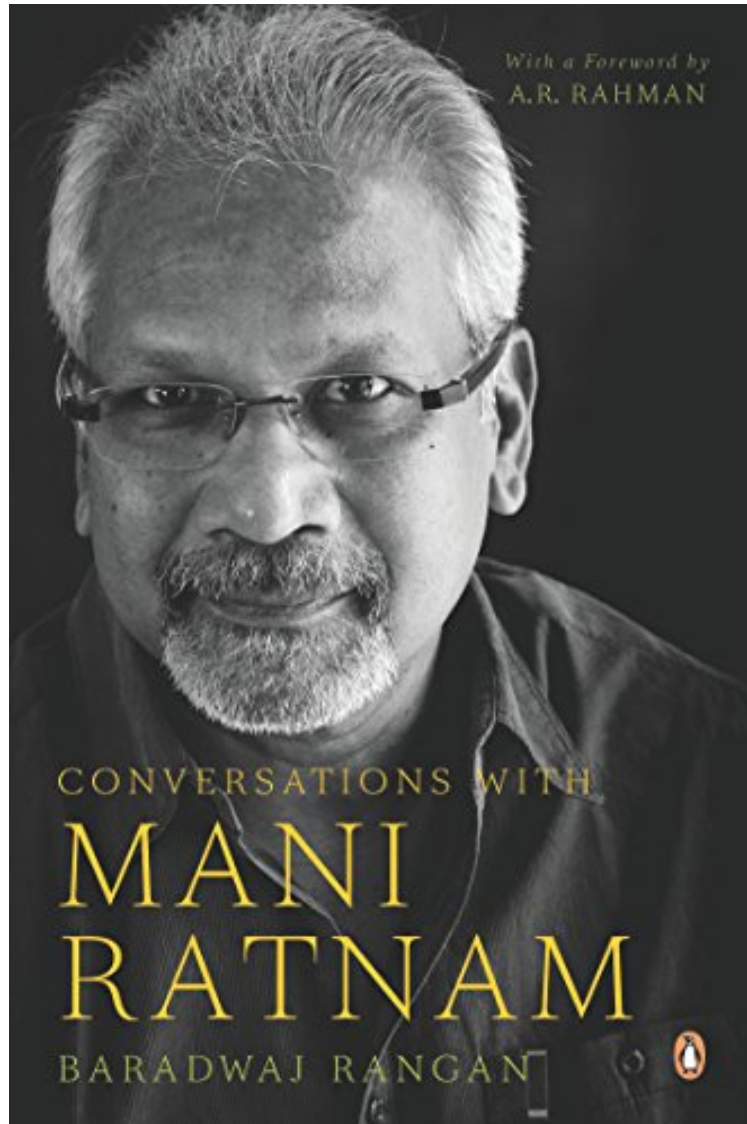


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Conversations with Mani Ratnam

Baradwaj Rangan

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Baradwaj Rangan : Conversations with Mani Ratnam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conversations with Mani Ratnam:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mani's many facets of his cinematic mind, his choices, execution and thought process behind his character's decisions! Pure joy!By RamaDramaI am a proud byproduct of Maniratnam era of cinema. In a country of compliance, his characters were truly rebellious against the existing norms without the over dramatic heroism. The sense of common man realism combined with their innate rebellion against the societal norms

and traditions has created our generation (ones who grew up in 80's and 90's) who is now paving the way for the next one. The format of this book was easy to digest and Mani does seem to be a master of justification about his characters decisions. It helps the true fan of cinema to watch his movies with fresh perspectives. While his editing decisions worked perfectly during the much-restricted, per-liberalized India, they seem to be way off the mark in his recent movies. If at all there is a Director whose movies need a Director's cut, it is Maniratnam. I think there needs to be a simple, uncomplicated, clean arch stories like Alaipaayuthe, Anjali, Mouna Raagam for the masses and a special director's cut for movies like Yuva (Why, why, why would Lallan not return back?) and Raavanan (so badly wish those ten characters were talking to him, making it easy for the viewer to understand his eccentricities). This book is a great journey into Mani's thinking, execution and choices he makes on his movies. A must for any movie fan to understand one of the world's greatest directors from India!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book
By Arun Rathakrishnan
An excellent book providing insights into the Mani Ratnam way of making movies. Baradwaj Rangan manages to ask the right questions most of the times. At times Mani Ratnam seems to dead bat criticism and defends creative decisions, mostly when Rangan questions whether the quality of characters mirror reality. The best parts of the book are when Mani Ratnam takes the conversation forward when describing how some portions of his movies are derived from his own experiences, like the daughter's signing by the bedside in Guru, and what lead to Bombay and the struggles he faced to release the film. Slightly disappointed that the book does not have a chapter on Kadal as promised in the cover, but can not complain.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Book!
For Mani Sir's fans!
By Prasanna Chandrasekaran
Awesome book! For people who are ardent Mani Sir's fans this book helps to know the "grammar" of his films better. Some good insights towards what he strives to achieve through his films. Thoroughly enjoyed it. The conversational format gives an authentic feel that you're listening to Mani Sir himself and Rangan delivers what he promises!
If you love the technical side of Movie Making- don't miss it and it is a must have for your collection!

His Nayakan is among Time's 100 Best Movies Ever; and Roja launched A.R. Rahman. This book, unique for Indian cinema, illuminates the genius of the man behind these and eighteen other masterly films. For the first time ever, Mani Ratnam opens up here, to Baradwaj Rangan, about his art, as well as his life before films. In these freewheeling conversations, candid, witty, pensive, and sometimes combative, many aspects of his films are explored. Mani elaborates in a personal vein on his choice of themes, from the knottiness in urban relationships (Agni Natchatiram) to the rents in the national fabric (Bombay); his directing of children (Anjali); his artful use of songs; his innovative use of lighting, as also his making films in Hindi and other languages. There are fond recollections of collaborations with stalwarts like Balu Mahendra, P.C. Sreeram, Thotta Tharani, and Gulzar, among many others. And delectable behind-the-scenes stories from the contrasting working styles of the legendary composer Ilayaraja and Rahman to the unexpected dimensions Kamal Haasan brought to the filming of Nayakan to what Raavan was like when originally conceived. In short, like Mani Ratnam's films, Conversations with Mani Ratnam, surprises, entertains and stimulates. With Rangan's personal and impassioned introduction setting the Tamil and national context of the films, and with posters, script pages, and numerous stills, this book is a sumptuous treat for serious lovers of cinema as well as the casual moviegoer looking for a peek behind the process.

About the Author
Baradwaj Rangan is a National Award-winning film critic, currently Deputy Editor at the Hindu. His writings on cinema, music, art, books, travel and humour have been published in various national magazines like Open, Tehelka, Biblio, Outlook and the Caravan. He has co-written the screenplay for the Tamil rom-com Kadhal 2 Kalyanam. He teaches a course on cinema at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai.

A.R. Rahman is an Indian film composer, record producer, musician and singer. His film scoring career began in the early 1990s. He has won twenty five Filmfare Awards, four National Film Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, two Grammys and two Academy Awards. Working in India's various film industries, international cinema and theatre, by 2003, Rahman, in a career spanning over a decade, has sold more than 100 million records of his film scores and soundtracks worldwide, and sold over 200 million cassettes, making him one of the world's all-time top selling recording artists. Time Magazine has referred to him as the "Mozart of Madras" and several Tamil commentators have coined him the nickname Isai Puyal (English: Music Storm).