

THE MOBILE GIRLS KOOTTAM

SCENE ONE

Welcoming song: 'Connecting People'

As the last chorus is going on... red serial lights blink around the teashop - the Machine.

SCENE TWO

Satya (costume: nightie) stands in front of the Machine, at the assembly line. Rhythmic movements, doing her work.

The TV plays visuals and sounds of factories and working women from around the world.

Satya's feet are swelling and aching. She groans in pain. She wants a break and tries to keep her enthusiasm going. She slowly attempts to step out of line.

The TV flashes red and goes BEEEEEP!

She jumps, startled. She slightly attempts once again. BEEEEEP! Satya asks the audience to cooperate and stay still.

Satya: Shhhhhhhh!

Voices: (whispers) Paathu di Mookan vandhura poraan. Lunch break-ku wait pannen. Mudiyalenaalum poruthuko di.

Satya mouths a deadly cuss at the Machine and does a large jump away from it. No beep! She does a victory dance. Suddenly, the TV violently flashes red and a mad siren spirals.

Mookan (mask: tea strainer, moustache) descends and hollers.

Mookan: SATYA!

He looks at his watch and gives her a reprimanding stare.

Mookan: Lunch-ku innum 1 hour irukku.

Satya: Mookan! Ayyo. Sorry supervisor sir. Yennaala seriousah mudiyala.

Mookan: Target mudikkanum Satya. Deepawali bonusku yellaarum serndhu velai senjaadhaan kedaikkum.

Satya: Appo oru rendu nimisham neenga lineah paarunga. Naan poyin okkaandhuttu varen.

Mookan: YENNADHU!

Mookan storms towards her and pushes her. Satya starts falling in a comical Tamil TV serial type slow motion.

The tea shop lights turn blue.

Zoro (costume: black eye mask, blanket cloak) makes a cinematic heroic entry. In one swift motion, he punches Mookan, who comically falls and disappears behind the tea shop. Right before Satya falls Zoro catches her. FREEZE FRAME.

SCENE THREE

Background dancers enter. They take out their phones, recording video, they ask the audience

Dancers: Kaadhalichurukeengalaa? Kaadhal. Paasam. Kudumbam. Kanavu. Idhuku dhaana yellaarum velai seyyarom.

Love song: 'Nagarum Kanavugal'

As the last chorus is going on... dancers pick up mats, pillows and blankets as props to dance with as they set up the bed.

Zoro lays Satya down to sleep. Abhinaya lays down on the mat nearby. Light snores. Muthu's phone lies in between them. The phone rings an awfully loud Nokia ringtone.

Satya: MUTHULAKSHMI!

SCENE FOUR

Muthu steps out from behind the teashop in a nightie, a shawl around her chest, and towel around her hair, viboothi on her forehead. She looks fresh and happy about the day. She rushes to pick up her phone. Abhinaya puts the pillow over her and groans. Muthu attends the call.

Muthu: Oru nimisham ma.

She switches on the TV and increases the volume.

The TV plays videos of an astrologer saying this is going to be a very lucky day.

Satya: Tea potutu yezhuppu di

Muthu: (to the audience) Unga yaarukaavadhu tea venumaa?

She takes the orders and goes behind the tea shop to make the tea.

The TV glitches and Muthu's Amma appears on the screen.

Amma: Muthu. Adiye Latchmi.

Muthu: Yennama? Sollu sollu

Amma: Yennatha solla?

Muthu: Yellaarum epdi irukkaanga?

Amma: Yengalukku yenna di? Bund panam kattitiyaa illaiyaa?

Muthu: Kattiten ma.

Amma: Kettaadhaan solluviyaa?

Muthu: Nallaa thoongitten ma. Oru 6 maasam kattinomnaa 3 savaran sethuralaam. Adutha maasathulendhu union increment kedaikumnu sollirukaanga. Extra 5 gm vaangiralaam.

Amma: Nichayamaa vandhurumla?

Muthu: Yenga union yenna summa va! 25000 masam sambalamnu solli irukaanga. 17000 thulendhu 25000.. Rendu varushathula kalyanathukku thevaiyaana nagaiya vaangidalaam.

Amma: Jaakaradhaiyaa iru ma. Inga maapalai paaka aarambichittom. Yerkanavey cityla velai seyyara ponnu ipdi apdinu pesuraanga. Unna nambi dhaan di inga yellaarum irukkom.

Muthu: Ayyo amma kaalalaye yedhukku polambara? Yengalukkey inikki oru naal dhaan serndhaapola leave kedachurukku. Aamaa... citylaye kalyanam seyyaradhaa irundhaa, unakku yedhukku vaangina thangatha yellaam unkitta kodukkanum.

Amma: Ayye! Mariyaadhaiyaa velaiya mattum paathuttu veetoda iru. Rendu varusham vela panna podhum. Dowryku sethudalaam.

Muthu: Sekkala naalum 2 varusham velai panna podhum ma. Naan aprom pesuren (cut the call) Abhinaya, Satya tea ready.

SCENE FIVE

Tea served to the audience. Satya slowly wakes up and yawns. Muthu playfully kicks Abhinaya. She sits up angrily.

Abhinaya: Thoongaradhukku kedaikkaradhey oru naal dhaana di. Night poora exam ku vera padichen.

Satya: (picking up the papers under Abhinaya's pillow) Padichiyaa? Illa bit adichiyaa?

Abhinaya stares at her. Lakshmi hands her tea.

Abhinaya: Inikki naan paal kudikka mudiyaadhunu unakku theriyaadhaa? Vara kaapi poden

Muthu: (to the audience) Inga yenna tea kadaiyaa nadathuren?

Muthu increases TV volume. *The TV plays an old Tamil song from the film Chitti.*

Abhinaya: Thookatha keduthadhukku oru vara kaapi kooda kedaikaadhaa?

Muthu: Namakku kedaikkaradhey indha maari yennikaavadhu oru naal holiday dhaan. 8 manikku yenakku vera night shift poganum. Naal poora nee thoonginaa yenna fun panradhu sollu... Unakkum oruthana paathu kalyana panni vepaangala appo paaru. Idhu onnuthukkum velaikku aagaadhu.

Satya's phone rings. She picks it up and starts walking away.

Satya: (to Muthu) Yenakkum coffee please! (smiles)

Muthulakshmi stares at her.

Abhinaya: "Lowe" panna indha prechanai illa pola.

SCENE SIX

Satya takes her phone and walks behind the tea shop to get her toothbrush. With her brush in her mouth, she attends the call, leaning on one side of the teashop. Zoro appears on the other side of the tea shop. Abhinaya joins the audience. Muthu goes to make coffee. Abhinaya makes funny gestures making fun of the lovers.

Zoro: Nalla thoonginiyaa di?

Satya: Idha kekka dhaan phone panniyaa?

Zoro: Illa...

Satya: Yenna izhukura?

Zoro: Un appa amma kitta sollitiyaa?

Satya: Thirumba thirumba adhaiye kekaadha

Zoro: Kekaama..

Satya: Inga paaruu.. Kaadhal naaley appa aruvaal yeduthuruvaaru. Un ooru jaadhi laam sonnaa adhey nimisham rendu perukkum samaadhi kattiruvaaru.

Zoro: Jaadhi yenna? Rendu perum nallaa dhaana sambadhikkirom. Maasam end un birthday vera varudhu. Adhukku munna rendu perum pesaama odi poyittu factory pakkamaavey oru veedu yeduthu thangidalaam.

Satya: Nut kazhundiruchaa? Police training letterku wait pannittu irukken. Adha mudikkura veraikkum yenakku kalyanam venaam.

Zoro: Kalyanam pannittu kooda training polaamey.

Satya: Ungala pathi theriyaadha. Kalyanam panna odana kutti poda vepeenga.

Zoro: Unakkenna avasaram naa yenakku ok

Satya: Idhukku mela force pannenaa naan pesavey maaten. Adutha maasam increment varudhula. Oru varusham velai senju save panra velaiya paaruu. Yedhukku ivlo risk? Odi poyi oliya yevlo kaasu thevanu theriyumaa?

Muthu: Satya, Abhinaya!

Zoro: Adhu yellaathaiyum paathukka naan illaiyaa?

Satya: Periya cinema hero-nu nenapaa

Zoro: Unakku naan hero illaiyaa?

Satya: (makes a face) Practical-ah pesu. Namakku vela mukkiyam.

Zoro: Adhellaam vidu. Inikki night kulla nee yenikku yennoda varanu mudivaa sollu. Illenaa naan pesavey maaten.

Satya: Pesaadha po.

Muthu & Zoro: SATYA!

Satya: Naan aprom pesuren. (cuts the call)

An angry Zoro exits.

SCENE SEVEN

Muthu hands Satya her coffee

Muthu: Indhaa

Satya: Chicken biryani panna time aagala

Muthu: Modhala pal thechuttu kulichuttu vaa

Satya goes and pulls up Abhinaya.

Satya: Please ya. Leave yennikulaa kedaikkudho biryani panrenu promise panna la. Idhu maari thirumba yeppo oru naal kedaikkum. Pleassee Abhinaya

Abhinaya: Summa iru di. Adhaan paal kudikka maatenu sonnen la.

Satya: Ayye! Yendha kaalathula irukka nee?

Muthu switches the TV channel. *The TV plays a scene from a TV serial where a man reprimands his mother for letting culture degenerate.*

Abhinaya: Dho! Idha maari dhaan. Oorula yen amma yenna olakkaiya vittu kooda thaanda vidaadhu theriyumaa?

Muthu: Adhu laam ooru la dhaan Abhi. Adha kaaranamaa vechu factoryku leave poda mudiyumaa sollu?

Abhinaya: Yedho yen adhirsham leave kedachurukku. Thoonga vidunga di. Veleela vaangi saaptukalaam. Amma-ku theriya vandhuchunaa sariya vayyum.

Satya: Epdi theriya pogudhu? Indha veetula namma moonu peru dhaan irukkom. Pls please Abhi. Letter vandhuruchunaa naan trainingku vera kelambiduvu. Thirumba sandhikka mudiyumaanu kooda theriyaadhu.

Muthu: Iva oppaari vekkura verikkum vidaadha di. Kooda maada naanum help panren. Yenakku oru rendu extra muttai mattum avuchuru..

Abhinaya playfully pushes her away and asks her to buy the meat, onions, tomatoes and so on... Satya gets money from her trunk. Abhinaya gets some money out of the sugar dabba. Muthu taps her chest, gesturing she has the rest safe in there.

Muthu: (to the audience) Poyittu varavaa. Inikki yenga veetula biryani.

SCENE EIGHT

As she leaves, Kalpana bumps into her and pushes some more money into her hand.

Kalpana: Yenakkum sethu dhaan soru vadikkaradhu. Aamaa, yeppo unga veetula beef biryani kedaikkum?

Muthu: Adhellaam yengalavanga saapda mattom. Yellaarukkum chicken ok. Nee venaa poyi kadaila vaangiko.

Kalpana: Sari sari yenakkum "chicken" ok. (to the audience) Kazhudhaiku theriyumaa karpooora vaasanai?

Abhinaya runs up to Lakshmi and whispers in her ear. She gives her another thirty rupees.

Muthu: Saapadu porul-oda epdi di vaanguradhu?

Abhinaya runs back inside and gets her a black cover.

Abhinaya: Indhaa.

Muthu leaves.

SCENE NINE

Kalpana walks behind the tea shop and slips on a nightie. She clears up the mats to her comfort and starts fiddling with the TV remote - channels randomly jump and change.

Kalpana: Ey Satya, seetu katta yeduthuttu vaa ..

Satya walks back in with a set of cards. Abhinaya is pacing up and down looking outside to see when Muthu will return.

Satya: Rummy aadalaam.

Kalpana: Sure! Yedhukku di poonai maari munnaiya pinnaiyum nadakkura?

Abhinaya: Onnum illa.

Kalpana: Onakkum aatam podava.

Abhinaya shrugs.

Muthu enters and throws the bags of groceries and the black packet on the floor. Abhinaya runs and takes the black packet.

Kalpana: Idhukku dhaana?

Abhinaya stares at her.

Satya: Enna di aachu? Yedhukku ivlo kovam?

Muthu: Tired ah irundhaa tea kadaila ninnu oru tea kuduchaa thappaa sollu?

Kalpana: Yenna solra?

Muthu: Veyyil thaangaama namma road endla irukura tea kadai la ninnu oru tea keten. Anga irundha oru uncle solraaru - namma kalaachaaramey pochaamey. Oru kaalathula veetula irundha ponnunga ippo velaikulaam poyittu ippo dhairiyamaa public la ninnu tea kudukireengalaamey.

Satya: Andha tea kadai nadathurudhey oru pombalai dhaana?

Kalpana: Pombalaiya kadaiya nadathinaalum andha area ambalainga area dhaan.

Abhinaya walks back in, a bit more relaxed.

Kalpana: Inga paaren normal yellaarum month month varadhu dhaana indha maadhavidaai. Varala na ivanungalaa porandhurukka kooda maattaanga. Aanalum adha yedho periya theetu maari, pad epdi marachu yeduthuttu poga vekkiraanga paaren.

Satya: Yen aanurai kooda dhaana brown coverla marachu vipaanga.

Muthu: (laughs) Unakku epdi theriyum?

Satya: Yen nee paathadhu illa.

Kalpana: Pad adhuvum onnaa. Adha vaanga orumaari irukkunu oru kaaranatha solliye avanga adha use pannama kooda poyiduvaanga. Aana nammalaala pad vaangama irukka mudiyumaa...? Idhu yenna choice ah?

Abhinaya: Modhalendhey ivanga dhaan ya yellaam rules-aiyum poduraanga.

TV show shifts to serial where a man reprimands his mother for loss of culture.

Kalpana: Idha paaren. Avanga yeppo andha rules-a potaalum. Namma adha allow pannu enforce panrom la.

Abhinaya: Avangalukku month month idhu vandhuchu paaren, monthly holiday, special servicenu yellaam irundhukkum. Oorula maari theetunu odhukki vechu, idha thodaatha adha seyyaadhanu sollamaataanga.

Kalpana: Adhaan Periyar sonnarula, namma adimai thanam indha garba pai-la dhaan irukku.

Abhinaya: Yen Periyar, Bharathiyar yellaarumey veetula vera. Bharathiyar avar manaviyavey veetulaye dhaan vechurundhaaru. Andha innoru pombala yaaru?

Satya: Andha vella kaari ya?

Abhinaya: Ama.

Kalpana: Sister Niveditha dhaana.

Abhinaya: Adhukku aprom dhaana avarey unarraaru. Puthimai pen pathi pesuraaru. Idhukku dhaan veetukku pogum bodhu andha tablet potudren naan. Date varaama paathukum. Pen puthimaiyaaga aanaalum ooru pazhasu dhaan.

Satya: Veetula irundhaa amma paathupaanga la. Saapaadu kuduthuruvaanga. TV paathuttu thoonginaa podhum. Samaiyal, poojai adhellaam koodaadhu aana adhu ok dhaan. At least inga maari nadandhaalum velaikkum poganum illa ya.

Kalpana: Namma sambaadhikka poyi dhaan aaganum. Namma kai la namakkunum kudumbathukkum kaasu irundhaa dhaana vaazha mudiyum.

Muthu: Kalyanam panra verikkum adhellaam right dhaan

Abhinaya: Yen? Ivlo kashta pattu padichurukkom. Ivlo varsham vela pannirukkom. Kalyanam panna vela panna koodaadhaa?

Muthu: Koodaadhunu illa. Adhula yennakku ishtam illa.

Abhinaya: Namma work panni dhaan aaganum. Naan work pannuven. Vera oorukku poyi pannanum naalum pannuven.

Muthu: Sari yenakkum oru kai rummy podunga.

Satya's phone rings.

Abhinaya: Naan poyi cut panna aarambikkuren.

Abhinaya goes behind the tea shop to begin cooking.

Kalpana: Poondur inga kudu urikkiren.

Muthu starts changing the channels on the TV. Satya hands Muthu the cards to complete the game and goes to attend the call.

SCENE TEN

Zoro appears on one side of the tea shop (same setup as last time).

Satya: Yenna aachu? Inga biryani theriyumaa? Anga enna pa saapadu?

Zoro: Satya solradha kelu. Inga room la yedho oru maari pesikuraanga.

Satya: Yenna aachu?

Zoro: Night-ey nee potti padukka pack pannidu. Naan vandhu koottikiren.

Satya: Yenna olarra?

Zoro: Time waste pannadha. Inga namma factory seekiram shut down aaga povudhunu solraanga.

Satya: Summa joke pannadha. Odi varadhukku summa kadhai uruttaadha (cuts the call)

Zoro stomps away.

SCENE ELEVEN

Abhinaya: (calling out from the kitchen) Aal aalukku oru velai senja velai seekiram mudiyumla

Muthu: Ayye kedaikkara indha oru naal leave layum assembly line venumaa...

Abhinaya: Yedhellaam solli ennaiye vela paaka vekkura paaren

Kalpana gets a call from the union.

Kalpana: Ah apdiya? Sari sari. Super. (walks off, and around audience as she animatedly speaks on the phone)

Satya: Andha paiyyan epdi laam olarraan paaren... Velaiya ambo vittutu odi ponaa life sariya poyidumaa.

Muthu: Avara vittutu nee appa solra paiyana kattipenu avanukku bayam

Satya: Yedhaa irundhaalum. Kalyanam pannitta, kozhandha kuttinu epdiyaavadhu nammala pootiruvaanga di. Adha thaandi varadhu innum kashtam. Innum onnu rendu varshathala at least minimum mudinjaverikkum aasai patta chinna chinna vishayatha pannittu venaalum pannikkulaam.

Abhinaya: Ama.. indha tharava yenna kadhai sonnaan

Satya: Factory shut down panna poraangalaam

Muthu: Yenna di solra.. Adha la summa va irukkum

Satya: Poi Lakshmi. Epdiyaavadhu inikki night kulla odi pora plan poda sonnan. Ippo indha kadhai

Abhinaya: Ayye idhellaam suthama nambaadha.

Kalpana: (walking back in) Ah sari sari.. Naan phone panren

Satya: Apdiye ivlo periya factory kattitu namma yellaarum velaiya koduthuttu yedhukku summa mooda poraanga.

Kalpana: Adhu onnumilla namma factory owner Finland lendhu inga vara poraangalaam. Andha news yedho vadhandhiya paravirukku. Avanga vandhu factory close panna poraanganu. Union la pesittu irukaanga ... Ketutu phone panrenu sonnaanga

Abhinaya: Factory owners yendha oorunu sonna

Kalpana: Finland

Muthu: Yenga di irukku adhu?

Kalpana: England pakkamnu nenaikkuren

Abhinaya: Europe la irukku.

Satya: Avanga yedhukku inga varanum ippo?

Kalpana: Vandhaa nalladhu dhaana. Avanga sambaadhikka nammalaam epdi velai seygarumnu vandhu paakaalamla.

Abhinaya: Ama la. Sambalam increment vera koduthurukaanga. Vandhu paapaangala.

Satya: Apdiyum namba mudiyum ma? Kadhaiya irukkuradhu nejamaa irundhaa?

Kalpana: Odi poyida poriya?

Satya: Ayye! Adhu epdi poga mudiyum?

Abhinaya: Yen kaadhalichaa poga maateengalaa?

Kalpana: Jaadhi vera irukkula. Yepdi irundhaalum odi poyi dhaan aaganum. Apdiyum thappikka mudiyadhu

Satya: Summa irunga di

Muthu: Ama yedhukku Finand lendhu varavanga namma oorula factory katturaanga? Anga kattamaataangalaa?

Abhinaya: Anga kattinaa sambalam neraiya kodukanum pola.

Satya: Appo sambalam neraya aachuna sambalam kammiya kodukkura oorukku poyiduvaangalaa?

Kalpana: Union lendhu phone panni sollattum di. Adhukkulla yedhukku ivlo yosanai.

The cooker whistles. Steam released - visual and sound on TV

Muthu: Vasanai sooper di

Abhinaya: Thanks. Dum yethiravaa?

Muthu: Mutta yevlo avucha?

Abhinaya: Onakkum sethu dhaan kavala padaadha.

Kalpana: Ama apdiya factoryah mooda poraanganana namma summa va vitra porom

Muthu: Yen enna panna mudiyum.

Kalpana: Yezhundhu poraadala vendaamaa?

Abhinaya: Ivlo naal vela pannirukkom. Summa apdi po nu solla vitruvomaa. Namma velanaala dhaana company avlo porul vithurukku. Avlo sambaadhichirukaanga nammalaala. Epdi apdi vittutu povaanga

Kalpana: Aanalum indha periya mudhalaaligalukku nammala kannuku theriya maatom

Muthu: Ayye indha podhuudamaila inga pesaadha Kalpana. Sarasari vaazhkaiku yenga sari pattu varum.

Satya receives a text

Satya: Ey yenna nijamaa dhaan nadakkumnu solraan. Factory yedho Vietnamku pogudhaamey

Muthu: Adhu yenga irukku

Abhinaya: Finland indha pakkam. Vietnam andha pakkam.

Kalpana: Ivlo periya factorye anga pogudhaa (laughs)

Muthu: Oru vela unmaina enna pannuvom

Abhinaya: Ivlo naal inga dhaana vela pannirukkom

Kalpana: Yellarum pirinju poyi yenna seyvom

Satya: Police velana nerandharamaa irukkumla

Muthu: Yendha velaikku ponaalum ipdi dhaanaa? Eppo venaalum yaara venaalum thookalaamaa

Kalpana: Mudhalaaliya irukkuradhaan ore y vazhi

Muthu: Adhukkudhaan tea kadai idea koduthen

Kalpana: Ayye. Namma company pala kodi rooba sambaadhikkudhu

Abhinaya: Paperla potrundhaangaley oru thaathaa paati tea vithu setha kaasulaye ulagam poora suthinaanganu

Muthu: Apdilaam aana velaiya vida mudiyaadhu di. Bund kaasu kattanum

Satya: Ayyo velai illenaa ippovey kalyanamnu ivanum solluvaan.. Anga appavum maapilai paapaarey

Kalpana: Thirumba epdi oorukku poyi andha lifeku poradhu

Abhinaya: Summa irunga pa. Holiday biryani samainu sollittu summa rumourslaam vechukuttu avastha pada vendaam.

Kalpana: Apdiye nadandhaa poraatatha panni therandhura maatom?

SCENE TWELVE

Protest song: 'Manidhargal Sutri'

TV channel breaking news. Factory is shutting down. Lights madly blink. Nokia tones ring all over. Zoro and Satya fist fight. Mad sequence of chaos. Smoke behind the tea shop.

SCENE THIRTEEN

Abhinaya: (screams) Ayyayo

Girls run behind. Full silence as they stare at the stove.

Abhinaya starts crying.

Abhinaya: Inikki senja velaiyellaam wasteah pochu. Ivlo varsham senja velaiyum wasteah pochu. Padicha padippu yellaathaiyum thooki potutu pazhaiya vaazhkaikay poganumaa?

Girls huddle around her. Muthu goes and tastes the biryani.

Muthu: Theenjaalum un biryani pola varaadhu Abi.

Satya: Indha oorukku kelambi varumbodhu idhey alavukku dhaana bayandhuruppom...

Muthu: Unna naan kandupidikkalenaa indha bayathulaiye thirumba odi poyiruppen

Satya: Vovvorotharum veetla kaasu thevanu mudiyaadha soozhnilaidhaan velaikku vandhom. Indha velai kedaikkum. Indha veedu kedaikkum yosichu paathirupomaa

Muthu: Idhu ponaalum. Yevlo dhooram ponaalum. Nammalaam epdiyaavadhu onnaa iruppomla

Kalpana: Namma yellaam serndhu oru tea kadai aarambikalaamaa?

Muthu: Yellaarum summa serndhu oru tea shop-ey aarambichadalaam.

Abhinaya: Nammala maari yevlo ponnunga ulaga pooraa iruppaanga.. Apdiye oor ooraa poyi tea vithukuttay namma kadhaiyaiyum solli avanga kadhaiyellaam kekkalaamla...

Kalpana: Namma poromo illaiyo namma kadhai poganum. Avanga kadhaiya ketkanum.

THE CLOSING

The TV is rolled in front of the audience - videos of the Mobile Girls starts playing.