



# THE CROW'S EGG

(Kaakkaa Muttai)

Spring  
Season  
2016

**Release:** 2014

**Cert (UK):** PG

**Language:** Tamil with English subtitles

**Runtime:** 1hr 31mins

**Director:** M. Manikandan

**Writer:** M. Manikandan

**Cinematographer:** M. Manikandan

**Cast:** Ramesh, J. Vignesh, Iyshwarya Rajesh



Tamil cinema gets a rare outing in this life-affirming story of two Chennai slum kids and their efforts to taste the exotic and seemingly unattainable pizza sold at a flashy new eatery. Buoyed up by charming, naturalistic performances and a catchy soundtrack from G.V. Prakash Kumar, *The Crow's Egg* is that rare family film that eschews big budget

effects and animated antics in favour of relatable characters and home truths.

In a society built on a strictly regimented caste system, India's poverty gap is perhaps one of the most prominent in the world. For his first feature, former wedding photographer M. Manikandan explores this issue through the cavernous divide between the affluent staff and clientele of an air-conditioned pizzeria and the residents of the neighbouring slum.

Newcomers Vignesh and Ramesh steal the show as the mischievous young leads, ably supported by Iyshwarya Rajesh as their mother, who struggles to keep them in line while her husband serves time in prison. There is also a cameo from Tamil superstar Silambarasan, as an A-list actor bussed in to promote the new restaurant.

The light-hearted and witty script, also written by Manikandan, cleverly incorporates everything from political corruption to media manipulation, painting a rich and vibrant portrait of the contemporary Indian experience. Never forcing its social message down our throats, *The Crow's Egg* highlights the seeming virtues of independence and self-reliance, while also warning us to be careful what we wish for.