



Article in the Tehelka

SATHYAM FACES OWNERSHIP ISSUES, CITIZENS MOVE COURT by Snoopy

This is definitely a first ... the Sathyam theatre management announced that the theatre would be closing down and that they would be selling off the land to an IT company ... the citizens of Chennai have moved a petition to obtain a stay on the intended closure ... the grounds, 'we own Sathyam and the management has no locus standi to take such a step'. The census department could very well use the data, which has presumably has been signed by every Chennaite. Here is a sample to indicate the main grounds of the petition:

Applicant No 10,001: Ramakrishnan from Mylapore says, ' My parents have grown up with Sathyam; it is like a companion that has been with them through every stage of their life ... they say it has taught them how to appreciate film and develop a long term interest in the arts ... when my folks are in a good mood they tell us that it is a place filled with so many memories, their first date, first kiss (oops! I made that up), their anniversaries; a great movie going experience. My grandfather who is 85 and been in a wheelchair for years now rarely goes out; but is excited about visiting Sathyam. He says, nowhere else has he been treated so special and had as much fun; reminds him of the good old days! For me Sathyam is like a mind reader, who has somehow managed to understand what I have been looking for as I have grown and offered me exactly that. Something magical about the place, in its ability to surprise me again and again; so much so that I am curious to see what change will confront me the next time I visit there. They helped me learn Shakespeare when I was in school and I got to play my first short film there for my parents, classmates and friends in the second year of college.

Sathyam is a multiplex our family shows off with pride to people who come visiting us from outside the city. So much so that Sathyam has become a part of us... tell me, how can we allow this edifice, this institution to be destroyed?'

The citizens of Chennai seem prepared to pool in and bid for Sathyam ... they are confident of bettering the IT company offer ... in the firm resolve that the show must go on

Sathyam ... an inseparable part of me ...