



2024
Film Bazaar
Official Project
Catalogue

Project Catalogue

20 - 24
November
2024

Co-Production Market – Feature

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A Night's Whispers and the Winds

India | Assamese | Drama, Fantasy

Synopsis

On the day of Bhaona, the cherished folk theatre festival, BUBUL, a 72-year-old veteran artist, struggles to keep the spirit of the festival alive. Like his village that seems to have forgotten its past bonds, BUBUL's dementia has grown severe and he is losing grip on reality more often. He is the chief conductor of the Bhaona play, 'Shakuni's Revenge', a retelling of Mahabharata.

While, the villagers fear that BUBUL's condition may come in the way of their celebrations, the real threat turns to be the disintegrating ties within the community: two young lovers planning to flee, a family torn apart is trying to heal itself, and unresolved tensions among the performers may bring down the whole stage.

Meandering in a dream like state through this chaos, Bubul feels the presence of his late wife PHUL, and finds the arcane spirit BURA DANGORIYA guiding him. Almost in act of defiance and against the approaching storm, BUBUL manages to bring the community to come together, if only for a fleeting moment that may be the last memory before he passes the legacy to a 10 year old boy.

Budget
USD 348, 000

Financing in place
USD 92, 000

Production Company
Raging Films

Present at Film Bazaar
Krrishna Kt. Borah
Prateek Bagi
Shaunak Sur

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Post Production Partners,
Sales/Sales Agents,
Distribution Partners, Film
Lab/Workshop/Fund

Director(s) Statement

Bhaona, the traditional folk theatre of Assam, has deeply shaped my storytelling and the cultural mindset of my community. As an art form, Bhaona has evolved with modern technology, sparking debates among critics. My vision is to showcase Bhaona in its modernized form, blending it with nostalgia. I want to reflect on its most important aspect—communal harmony. *A Night's Whispers and The Winds* is inspired by memories of my father's battle with dementia and the changes in our community. Through a protagonist struggling with memory loss and a child carrying the tradition forward, the film blends folklore, dreams, and reality.

Director(s) Biography

Krrishna Kt. Borah is an Indian filmmaker from Assam. Recently, he completed his fellowship at the Busan Asian Film School, South Korea, where he developed his second feature film, *A Night's Whispers and the Winds*. A graduate of the prestigious Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) in Kolkata, Krrishna has honed his skills through various short films and documentaries, taking on multiple roles.

His debut feature film, *Boroxun - Songs for Rain* (2020), co-written, directed, and edited with his batchmates, was one of the twenty recommended films at the NFDC Film Bazaar in 2020. The film premiered at the New York Indian Film Festival in 2021, where Krrishna earned a Best Director nomination. It also received critical acclaim through alternative releases in India.

Producer(s) Statement

A Night's Whispers and The Winds explores how Bhaona, the folk theatre art, brings communities together through performance, storytelling, and collective experience. As producers, we set out to create a film that not only represents culture but immerses viewers into a narrative that is profoundly universal. This film reflects its people's resilience, unity, and hope, showcasing how tradition fosters connection. Our goal is to share this cultural richness with a global audience, sparking dialogue and fostering international collaboration, while demonstrating the power of storytelling to transcend borders and inspire change.

Producer(s) Biography

Prateek Bagi, an SRFTI alumnus and Indiana University Fellowship recipient, has produced National Award-winning films like *Oru Pathiraa Swapnam Pole* and *Kalkokkho*. His works include *Jole Dobe Na*, featured at the Berlin International Film Festival, *Ma* with the University of Denver. He is Co-Producer on the upcoming English co-production film *Mother*, starring Noomi Rapace.

Shaunak Sur, an SRFTI alumnus, has produced national and international projects with Viacom 18, National Geographic, Discovery, and WWF, spanning mainstream and independent films. His recent ventures include the Tamil film *Manam Pona Pookkil*, documentary *Umbrella of the Acrobats*, and international co-production *Mother*. He is Partner and Producer at Raging Films

Rakasree Basu is a Scottish-Indian producer converging the Indian, Scottish, and Nordic cinematic landscapes. With Frames Per Second Films, she co-produced *The Most Beautiful Hands of Delhi* and *Iqbal and The Jewel of India*. At Momentum Films, her Glasgow-based company, she develops global stories which focuses on cross-cultural storytelling.

Awadhesh Kumar is a Los Angeles based film producer backing authentic storytellers from the Indian subcontinent and showcasing these voices to a global audience.



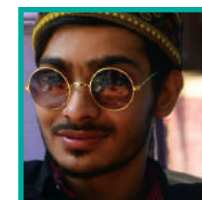
Krrishna Kt Borah
Director

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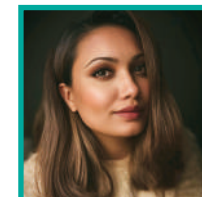
Prateek Bagi
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Shaunak Sur
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Rakasree Basu
Producer



Awadhesh Kumar
Producer



Aadu Ki Kasam

Destiny's Dance

India | Hindi, English | Arts, Music and Culture, Comedy, Drama, Romance

Synopsis

In the idyllic Himalayan village of Almora, two lifelong friends—one a Bollywood choreography dreamer, the other a judo enthusiast—share an unbreakable bond and intertwined ambitions. When the choreographer receives a life-changing chance to work with her Bollywood idol, the financial cost of the audition threatens to shatter her dream. Determined to help, her friend risks everything by 'borrowing' her own wedding jewelry, replacing it with fake gold to cover the deposit.

But their plan quickly spirals out of control. A family assistant steals the real gold for his own gains, while a forgetful cousin inadvertently adds to the chaos by hiding the fake jewelry in ladoos, which are accidentally fed to the family cows. What follows is a hilarious scramble to recover the jewelry as both women confront sacrifices made in the name of friendship.

As the story unfolds, they must each make hard choices: one risks losing her wedding, while the other must weigh her dreams against her friend's happiness. In the end, the choreographer chooses loyalty over fame—until a surprise visit from her Bollywood idol offers her a second chance, right in her own village.

Budget

USD 494, 149

Financing in place

USD 50, 000

Production Company

Dancing Atoms

Present at Film Bazaar

Saraswathi Buyyala (Vani)

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers, Sales/Sales Agents, Distribution Partners, Film Lab/Workshop/Fund

Director(s) Statement

AADU KI KASAM is a wild ride through the quirks of friendship, ambition, and the oddest heist you've never imagined! Inspired by my small-town roots, it's about two besties who'd steal the moon for each other (or in this case, steal her own wedding gold coins).

Set against the misadventures of small-town India, they're navigating dreams, drama, and the ultimate friendship test that'll make you laugh, cry, and maybe call your childhood friends.

Written in the writing retreat in Himalayas with an improv-style 'pitch as we go' vibe, it's a madcap tribute to loyalty, laughter, and the courage to choose what they need most - dream big.

Director(s) Biography

Saraswathi made her mark with award-winning documentaries and short films showcased at the Chicago, Stuttgart, and Tasveer film festivals. She heads a boutique studio, crafting live-action, VFX, and animation projects, and is currently exploring a VR short. Her preschool show has been selected for the Asian Animation Summit 2024. She finds joy in Dhrupad singing, pastel painting, cooking, and trekking in the Himalayas. Beyond her work, Saraswathi is a creative program partner with Epic Games, serves on the ASIFA-Hollywood board, and leads Women in Animation India. She is a seasoned creative force in the animation and VFX industry across India and the USA.

Producer(s) Statement

As a producer, *AADU KI KASAM* resonates with me for its heartfelt portrayal of friendship, loyalty, and the courage to dream. In a series of emotional twists, the truth about the judo enthusiast's sacrifices comes to light. The choreographer is left with a heart-wrenching choice: pursue her Bollywood dreams at the cost of her friendship, or step away from her ambitions to save her friend's marriage. Ultimately, both women rediscover the true meaning of friendship and loyalty. As a producer of this film I think story is the key. Looking forward to meeting you all at film Bazaar along with my director - Writer Saraswathi .

Producer(s) Biography

Shobu Yarlagadda, co-founder of Arka Mediaworks, is celebrated for producing the Baahubali franchise, a groundbreaking achievement in Indian cinema. His visionary approach, partnering with director S.S. Rajamouli, turned *Baahubali: The Beginning* (2015) and *Baahubali: The Conclusion* (2017) into pan-India and global successes, crossing language and cultural barriers. Shobu's strategy to release the films in multiple languages and promote them internationally introduced Indian cinema to global audiences, breaking numerous box-office records. His work set new industry standards in scale, storytelling, and marketing, inspiring filmmakers nationwide to pursue ambitious projects.



Saraswathi Buyyala (Vani)

Director & Producer

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Shobu Yarlagadda
Producer

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Aanaikatti Blues

India | Tamil | Drama, Romance

Synopsis

In a mountain village, Gopi (22) and Vishnupriya (20) defy tradition by choosing a live-in relationship. Their unconventional decision sets tongues wagging, and the villagers eagerly await their inevitable marriage. Gopi runs a small mobile repair shop and hangs around with 'the 46 Gang', gambling and doing drugs. Vishnu being the first to go to college from her family is headstrong about completing her graduation and starting her own tuition centre. As the young couple build their relationship, Gopi's addiction and loyalty to his gang threatens to destroy their love.

'The 46 Gang' comprises boisterous young men who spend their days drinking, smoking, hunting and betting on cricket and online card games. Gopi descends into harder drugs, making him increasingly paranoid and violent. Vishnu is eager to build a life together and tries to help Gopi with his addiction, but he resists change. Disapproving of their living situation, their parents and the villagers pressure them to get married. Gopi agrees, hoping marriage will stabilise him and their relationship, but his overwhelming gang life puts their future in jeopardy by setting off a series of chaotic adventures.

Budget
USD 243, 000

Financing in place
USD 120, 000

Production Company
Cinema Obscura
Manvasanai Cinema
Stray Factory

Present at Film Bazaar
Arun Karthick
Madhu Mohan
Mathivanan Rajendran

Looking for
Co-Producers, Distribution
Partners, Film Festivals/
Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Two months into lockdown, I'm smitten by 'the 46 Gang', a social club of sorts for the boys in our village. Their most common activity is chasing dopamine in various forms. The jokes, the camaraderie, and the highs sucked me into the same vortex of substance abuse and toxic masculinity that consumed the gang. Perhaps it was the allure of escapism and the thrill of rebellion! When I finally hit rock bottom, I began reflecting on the devastating consequences of letting oneself drift. Through Gopi and Vishnu's real-life narratives, this film is a cathartic exploration of the complex dynamics that influence our youth.



Arun Karthick
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Arun Karthick (b. 1992), a self-taught filmmaker from Coimbatore, began producing and directing shorts at 17. His debut feature, *Sivapuram* (2016), premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam's Bright Future section. His sophomore, *Nasir* (2020) received the Hubert Bals Fund and NFF+HBF Co-production fund, competing for the Tiger Award and winning NETPAC's Best Asian Film at IFFR. The film was screened widely and received numerous awards and accolades. Arun was part of the BAFTA Breakthrough India Initiative (2021) and has served as a jury member at the Andrei Tarkovsky Zerkalo Film Festival (Russia) and as member of the Selection committee for IFFK.

Producer(s) Statement

As a long-time admirer of Arun's work, when he narrated the story of *Aanaikatti Blues*, it immediately struck a chord with me. The two main themes of 'redemptive love' and the 'lure of dopamine' clash in a story that is unique in its setting but is also universal. When I was introduced to Arun's village and their gang, I could sense their exhilarating thrill for addiction, the crushing weight of responsibility and the display of hyper masculinity that he wishes to explore in the film. In contrast to Arun's earlier works, this story is much larger in scope and appeal. We at Manvasanai Cinema and Stray Factory are totally committed to Arun's vision for this story, plumbed from his deeply personal experience.



Madhu Mohan
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Madhu M has an MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad. He has previously worked in bookselling, publishing and e-commerce, where he was a director at Amazon India and the CEO of Cloutail. Madhu retired from corporate life at the age of 40 to focus on working in social impact, tending to his farm and pursuing various passions including Cinema

Mathivanan Rajendran is a Goa-based producer specializing in international co-productions and impact-driven media. He is the producer of the award-winning Indo-Dutch Coproduction *Nasir*, with other credits including *Nirvana Inn*, *Humans in the Loop*, *Taak*, and *B. Selvi & Daughters*. An EAVE Producers Lab alumnus and BAFTA Breakthrough 2022 honoree, he currently leads a media accelerator in Goa.



Mathivanan Rajendran
Producer

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Absent

India | Hindi, English | Drama, Thriller

Synopsis

Shikhar, a quiet and introverted boy, has spent years enduring relentless bullying, with his tormentors exploiting his vulnerabilities. His life takes a dramatic turn when Dev, a new student with a tough military school background, arrives at his school. Having grown up constantly relocating due to his father's military postings every two years, Dev is no stranger to adapting quickly and dealing with bullies in his own way. For Shikhar, after years of being defenceless, the chance to form an alliance with Dev is something he can't afford to pass up. Dev's fists, after all, offer a far more immediate and tangible solution to his problems than the ideals of pacifism taught by his father, Naresh, a well-respected doctor known for his commitment to help others.

As Shikhar and Dev's bond deepens, Shikhar begins to feel a newfound sense of confidence, something he had never experienced before. However, despite Naresh's relentless efforts to instil the principles of non-violence and reason in his son, the harsh reality of adolescence proves that peaceful resolutions rarely hold sway. As Shikhar and Dev spiral deeper into a cycle of vengeance, Naresh's ability to guide his son through this moral crisis is put to the ultimate test.

Budget
USD 565, 741

Financing in place
USD 147, 878

Production Company
MacGuffin Pictures

Present at Film Bazaar
Rohan K. Mehta
Abhishek Chaubey

Looking for
Co-Producers, Distribution
Partners, Film Festivals/
Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Adolescence is a food chain.

Through the film's focus on power dynamics, it explores the nature of learned behaviour and how easily violence can escalate. The nature of bullying is explored; how we respond to intimidation, how the urge to bully others manifests in people, and how far it can go. There are instances and sequences which are directly picked up from my childhood as a small built boy, I encountered bullying for a large part of my childhood, making the subject matter deeply personal to me.

The film concludes with a hopeful, albeit tentative vote of confidence in the next generation's capacity for evolving its compassion and ability to learn from mistakes of the past.

Director(s) Biography

Rohan, a Visual Communication graduate from Birmingham School of Arts, began his career as a Visualiser at Saatchi & Saatchi, London, before immersing himself in filmmaking with on-set roles like Director's Assistant, Creative Producer, and Production Designer. His debut narrative feature, *Absent*, which was selected for the 2023 NFDC Film Bazaar Screenwriters' Lab, is now advancing to the Co-Production Market this year. Currently, Rohan works as Director, Screenwriter, and Creative Partner at White Horse Films. He also leads VHS (Versova Homage Screenings), a vibrant, not-for-profit hub for film screenings and creative networking.



Rohan K. Mehta
Director

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Producer(s) Statement

Absent delves into India's class divides through Shikhar, a high-achiever whose life is overshadowed by family turmoil and bullying, with his parents' marriage falling apart and no one to confide in. His father Naresh's steadfast morals clash with Shikhar and Dev's view of life as a power struggle, raising the irony: if logic solved conflicts, why would we need the legal system's ultimate penalties?

The film contrasts Naresh's ideals with Dev's practical influence; Naresh offers guidance, while Dev provides camaraderie. Ultimately, Shikhar and Dev's bid for revenge backfires, underscoring that even small victories in adolescence come at a high price.

Producer(s) Biography

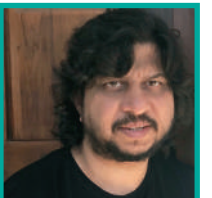
Abhishek Chaubey, acclaimed Indian filmmaker, began as an associate director and co-writer on *Makdee*, *Omkara*, and *Kaminey*. His directorial debut, *Ishqiya* (2010), and its sequel *Dedh Ishqiya* (2014) received critical acclaim, while *Uda Punjab* (2016) tackled Punjab's drug crisis, and *Sonchiriya* (2019) showcased his raw storytelling. Co-founding Macguffin Pictures with Honey Trehan, their first production, *A Death in the Gunj*, premiered at TIFF. Chaubey recently directed the Netflix series *Killer Soup* (2024) and produced *Ullozhukku* (2024).

Honey Trehan, a prominent producer and director, began as a casting director on films like *Sonchiriya*, *Uda Punjab*, and *Beyond the Clouds*. With Macguffin Pictures, Trehan made his directorial debut with *Raat Akeli Hai* (2020) on Netflix, winning a Filmfare Award.



Abhishek Chaubey
Producer

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Honey Trehan
Producer

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All Ten Heads of Ravana

India | Hindi | Drama, Comedy

Synopsis

For three generations, 17-year-old Jugnu's family has made giant Ravana effigies in Delhi's bustling Ravana market, only to watch them burn each Dussehra, symbolising the end of evil. But Jugnu doesn't feel redeemed—just trapped in his family's low-caste roots, with a world that doesn't let him forget it.

Jugnu's days drift by in TikTok videos and daydreams of Simmi, a striking girl from the local beauty parlour who barely notices him. Then one day, a bizarre idea hits him: what if jeans could have padding? Bras and shoes do—why not jeans? Seeing it as a business opportunity, Jugnu throws himself into the bold scheme. To his surprise, Kishan Chand, a shrewd upper-caste businessman, agrees to back him—but only if Jugnu delivers a big order by Dussehra.

With little money and lesser know-how, Jugnu turns to Sanam, his friend's fiancée and savvy jeans store manager, for help. But working side-by-side sparks a dangerous closeness between them, testing Jugnu's loyalty to his friend.

On the day of Dussehra, as Ravana's burn across the city, everything Jugnu has built threatens to unravel—alliances crack, promises break, and an unexpected betrayal strikes home. But will Jugnu rise—or burn like the effigies he's always known?

Budget
USD 539,000

Financing in place
USD 135,000

Production Company
Jalsa, Dissidenz Films

Present at Film Bazaar
Pranjal Dua
Bich-Quan Tran

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Sales/Sales Agents

Director(s) Statement

Growing up near the famous Ravana Market in West Delhi, I was always drawn to the world of effigy makers. These artisan families forbid their own from witnessing the burning of effigies on Dussehra, accepting it as Ravana's destiny—and, in a way, their own. Belonging to the low-caste Valmiki Samaj, they have long been subjugated by upper castes. But their youth now reject this traditional craft, seeing it as a symbol of oppression. Question is, can these deep-rooted hierarchies ever truly be dismantled? The film delves into this, mirroring Ravana's fiery fate with a community's fight for identity and equality.



Pranjal Dua
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Pranjal Dua is a Mumbai-based filmmaker and an alumnus of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII). His short film *Chidiya Udh* (Fly, Bird) received 2 National Awards, including Best Direction. His films have been presented at MAMI, Clermont-Ferrand, Experimenta India and the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. He has served as Associate Director on *Island City*, which premiered at Venice Film Festival 2015. Additionally, he has directed commissioned series for both Netflix and Amazon Prime. His most recent work is a short fiction film, *The Flamingos & Other Migratory Birds Tour* produced by FTII. He is currently developing his first feature film.

Producer(s) Statement

Pranjal Dua's short film, *The Flamingos & Other Migratory Birds Tour*, was selected at the Cannes Critics' Week 2023, but later withdrawn for administrative reasons. The film impressed me deeply with its poetic yet precise portrayal of migrants in Mumbai, and I naturally became interested in Pranjal's work, specifically his debut feature project, *All Ten Heads of Ravana*, set against India's Dussehra festival and following a 17-year-old boy from a family of lower-caste effigy makers, who dreams of escaping his roots. With its universal appeal and cultural authenticity, this bittersweet, raw narrative is both timely and timeless.



Bich-Quan Tran
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Bich-Quan Tran, founder of Paris-based Dissidenz Films, has co-produced Lav Diaz's *Prologue to the Great Desaparecido* (2013) and was the associate producer on his Silver Bear-winning *A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery* (2016). She now focuses on co-producing bold Asian auteur-driven films. She has recently completed the animated feature *Schirkoa: In Lies We Trust* by Ishan Shukla and Japanese director Sayaka Kai's feature *Adabana*, co-produced with Pony Canyon.

Pranjal Dua is a Mumbai-based filmmaker and alumni of FTII. Through his production company he aims to build a home for his independent work and also champion unique voices in Indian cinema.



Baaghi Bechare

Reluctant Rebels

India | Hindi | Comedy, Others

Synopsis

In the remote Indian village of Ghanghor, farmers face growing debts and an uncertain future. Loans are impossible to secure due to widespread corruption, and no government aid is in sight. Disillusioned by their plight, Birju, a young farmer, and his friend Lampat, an unemployed graduate, devise a daring plan: staging a fake hostage crisis to draw the authorities' attention and secure ransom money.

They enlist their fellow villagers to act as rebels and hostages, with Birju taking the role of the rebel leader and Lampat representing the hostages. Through a series of humorous events, the entire village prepares to execute their plan. As the staged crisis unfolds, local politicians and police see the situation as an opportunity to further their own interests, delaying negotiations and complicating matters.

Soon, the line between fiction and reality begins to blur. The villagers portraying rebels start to relish their newfound power, inflicting humiliation and degradation upon the 'hostages,' which escalates into violence.

With power struggles brewing and tensions rising, what started as a simple plan spirals out of control. Ghanghor, a village that had barely existed on the map, is suddenly thrust into the spotlight, far more than anyone had bargained for.

Budget

USD 1,326,899.76

Financing in place

USD 291,799.84

Production Company

Traintripper Films

Present at Film Bazaar

Chippy Babu
Sumit Purohit

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Sales/Sales Agents

Director(s) Statement

Fragments of this idea and its characters emerged over the years while I was shooting documentaries across rural India. The vision became clearer after I read about the Stanford Prison Experiment, a psychological study that simulated a prison environment to examine how different roles influence people's actions and attitudes. *Baaghi Bechare* uses satire to explore how power and identity shape our world, highlighting how the choices individuals make are often influenced by forces beyond their control. The story follows individuals who find themselves thrust into roles they did not choose, examining how this alters their behaviour, relationships, and moral compass.

Director(s) Biography

Sumit is a filmmaker, writer, editor, and visual artist with a Fine Arts degree. His directorial debut was an experimental short that explored themes of media voyeurism. In 2020, he wrote and edited *Scam 1992*, one of India's most critically acclaimed shows. He also co-wrote the film *Bangistan*, a black comedy, and the International Emmy-nominated series *Inside Edge*. In 2022, he directed the short *Vakeel Babu*, which addresses the need for gender sensitivity among lawyers. Sumit's feature documentary *Charlie Champion* is set to screen soon, and he recently directed an untitled Netflix series. He is also a BAFTA Breakthrough honoree.



Sumit Purohit
Director

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Producer(s) Statement

As producers, we are dedicated to bringing *Baaghi Bechare* (Reluctant Rebels) to global audiences, as its story transcends cultural boundaries, exploring universal themes of hope, disillusionment, and societal change. The film's themes resonate with marginalised communities worldwide, reflecting a broader fight against systemic injustices. Its satirical humour plays a crucial role in making these themes accessible, blending wit with drama to engage viewers without sounding preachy. We aim to assemble the best talent to faithfully realise the filmmaker's vision, upholding the film's integrity while ensuring it captures the attention of a global audience.

Producer(s) Biography

With over a decade of experience, Chippy has produced across various mediums. Recently, she co-produced *Little Thomas* with Anurag Kashyap's company and was EP on *Asur 2* and an upcoming Netflix series. Her award-winning shorts include *Khujli* and *Vakeel Babu*. Her documentary *Koliboy* was featured at Sheffield Meet Market. She has also been part of the Producerland Ascent Programme.

Abhishek, a seasoned Executive Producer, is known for his problem-solving skills and business acumen. He has contributed to multiple notable projects, including executive producing *Asur 2* and an upcoming Netflix series. His award-winning shorts include *Vakeel Babu* and *Boom Boom*. His recent projects include the documentary *Koliboy* and *Little Thomas*.



Chippy Babu
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Abhishek Sharma
Producer

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Chetak

India | Hindi, Marwari | Children's Drama

Synopsis

Chaitanya (age 7) one day finds himself on a visit to Krishna temple, with his father and grandmother on the family scooter - Chetak. Standing behind the handlebar begins to believe that he is the one driving it. Fascinated by the ride, he wishes to own a scooter.

With his friend Parth, Chaitanya takes matters into their own hands and manages to switch on his father's Chetak briefly. This incident fuels Chaitanya's determination to master driving.

Determined to succeed, Chaitanya and Parth plot to steal their teacher's scooter keys. They eventually start the scooter in front of their classmates but soon lose control and land with a catastrophic crash.

A classmate introduces him to the concept of gifts on Christmas. With renewed hope he begins to prepare for his God's Birthday.

On Janmashtami (lord Krishna's bday), at the crowded temple ready to submit his plea, Chaitanya finds himself lost in the crowd. Torn between asking Krishna for a scooter or for his father's return, he remembers his mother's words. In that moment he chooses to be grateful for what he has and soon his father reappears to guide him home.

Budget
USD 300, 000

Financing in place
USD 83, 000

Production Company
Ikka aur chaand ka sikka
Studio Ainak

Present at Film Bazaar
Bhuwan Somani
Suruchi Sharma

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Lab/Workshop/Fund

Director(s) Statement

Chetak is a story of my childhood. I was the one who fell in love with my father's scooter and asked God for one. And I am not the only one. As a director, my vision for 'Chetak' is to bring those fragmented memories of every child to life. With bright colors and a motivated camera, we'll enter my young protagonist - Chaitanya's whimsical perspective, where quirky characters and lighthearted moments reveal deeper familial bonds and societal influences. Through Chaitanya's innocence, we revive the universal wonder of childhood, echoing the heartfelt storytelling of *Children of Heaven*, *Jojo Rabbit*, and *Moonrise Kingdom*.



Bhuwan Somani
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Bhuwan Somani is a writer and director with a forte in fictional films. Through his lens, he questions and provokes narratives behind social constructs, stigma, and taboos to lift the veil off the prevailing morality. Bhuwan has worked professionally in directorial roles with various production houses and bespoke brands such as Paramount Pictures, Jaipur Rugs and Airtel among many others. Bhuwan recently made a self-funded short film '*Father & Son*' under his banner 'Ikka aur Chaand ka Sikka'. He is currently working on his first feature film '*Chetak*', which is being mentored at the Cinekid Script Lab 2024-2025.

Producer(s) Statement

Bhuwan Somani's *Chetak* is a fun-filled ride into the mind of a Seven-year-old's nostalgic past of the 90s India where several middle-class families found mobility through a scooter. Set in a small town in Rajasthan, It's a story about a child's relationship with this object of desire, meant primarily for adults. The playful and positive treatment of the film holds the key to a joyful experience for its audience. First Pitched at the Producer's Workshop at Film Bazaar in 2022, the film is currently being mentored at the prestigious Cinekid Lab 2024.



Suruchi Sharma
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Suruchi Sharma is a filmmaker and founder of Studio Ainak, a boutique production house based in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Suruchi is independently building space for stories ideas, rooted in the cultural milieu of Rajasthan. As a director, her work has been recognised across platforms including the 69th National Awards in India, International Documentary Association Awards 2023 and also considered for Grammy nomination 2024. As a producer, she participated at Tokyo Docs 2021 and Docedge Kolkata 2021, winning the Docedge Pitch Award. Suruchi is currently producing a children's feature film '*Chetak*' (in development) and Rajasthani feature film '*Dhood*' (in post-production).



Divine Chords

Bangladesh, India | Bengali | Drama

Synopsis

Our story takes place in the late 90s. Bangladesh is not quite as globalized as she is these days. The industrial boom has not replaced the mythic countryside with concrete just yet and the founders of the young country share memories of living through the struggles for independence on two occasions. J.K. SIDDIQ is one such member of the founding class of Bangladesh.

MONJU is a rural mechanic and has spent the last twenty-something years in service to J.K. Siddiq's lands. His proximity to the lord has built him somewhat of a local reputation and his years of service have taught him many tricks. Monju hustles to make ends meet for his family. As a result, his days consist of fixing pumps, repairing gizmos, and earning some cash any way he can.

The second part of the diptych shifts towards Meena. Her mysterious disease puts her and Biddut's livelihoods at stake. She finds herself a job in the kitchens of J.K. Siddiq's home on a temporary basis. But things are never easy for her.

Budget
USD 691, 400

Financing in place
USD 186, 000

Production Company
Cinema Cocoon
Alokalo Films Pvt Ltd

Present at Film Bazaar
Talat Ahmed
Jonaki Bhattacharya

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Divine Chords hopes to be a meditative, yet gripping, portrayal of a variegated society in which people's social status and expectations are understood without being explained, and in which the class system and poverty are shown to influence any decision made at a critical moment in the characters' lives.

The structure of the *Divine Chords* is inspired by the bifurcated structure of films like *Tropical Malady* (2004). I want to show how in such a densely populated country, seemingly unconnected people's lives intertwine and that at the end of the day we are all connected to each other.



Talat Ahmed
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Talat Ahmed is an independent filmmaker from Dhaka, Bangladesh. He earned a BFA in Visual & Media Arts from Emerson College in Boston before returning home in 2018 to direct his graduation film *Dheu* (Wave). Over the next four years, he worked as a Multimedia Journalist at The Daily Star while freelancing for organizations like StraitTimes and Save the Children. In 2022, Talat shifted to filmmaking full-time. He also co-founded Red Thorn Interactive, a Dhaka-based video game studio. His first feature film, *Once Upon a Time*, a micro-budget production, is currently in post-production.

Producer(s) Statement

Divine Chords, set in 1990s Bangladesh, captures a pivotal cultural moment through raw, visceral storytelling. The film explores universal themes—emotion, morality, class dynamics—rendered in an authentic, tactile style that resonates locally and globally. Directed by Talat Ahmed, whose vision aligns deeply with ours, the project brings Bangladesh's unique humor and heightened emotional flow to life. With 186, 000 USD secured, we seek European co-production partners to complete our 691, 400 USD budget. This collaboration will enhance artistic quality, facilitate broader distribution, and ensure *Divine Chords* makes a profound impact, blending global standards with culturally resonant storytelling.



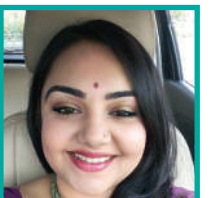
Aadnan Imtiaz Ahmed
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Aadnan Imtiaz Ahmed, a Bangladeshi producer with international acclaim, has showcased films at festivals like Locarno and TIFF. A graduate of the EAVE Producers Workshop, he's known for impactful storytelling, with highlights including *Made in Bangladesh* (TIFF 2019), cementing his reputation in global cinema.

Born in Calcutta, India, Jonaki Bhattacharya is an award-winning producer and production designer, celebrated for her work on acclaimed alternative films from the Indian subcontinent. She's known for building immersive worlds, most notably in *Labour of Love* (Venice 2014), which earned her the Indira Gandhi National Award.



Jonaki Bhattacharya
Producer

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Feral

India, USA | English, Kinnauri | Drama, Horror, Thriller

Synopsis

1950s India, Himalayas.

A sadomasochist English MADAME (70) has raised two part-tribal sisters to be her domestic servants on a withering colonial estate. Trained in all manners of British servitude, the obedient CECILIA (35) and the bitter VERENA (37) - hail from the Kinnauri tribe, a connection they have long forgotten. And ever so often, Madame holds these soirees where she parades the sisters around, as the finest of her accomplishments. But the arrival of Madame's latest lover, ZEE (30) - a singer and a shaman scholar - and his search for an ancient forest song begins to change the alchemy of the estate. His songs cast a spell on the sisters, awakening something ancient inside them, causing them to slowly take over the house by enacting Master-Slave role-playing games. Transgressions that result in carnage/bloodshed at the estate. Emerging from this, as the sole survivor, is Cecilia. A wild feral creature covered in mud and blood - and unleashing from within her is that ancient forest song that's lived inside her all along.

Budget

USD 750, 000

Financing in place

USD 200, 000

Production Company

Autotelic Pictures

Present at Film Bazaar

Nihaarika Negi

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers, Post Production Partners, Sales/Sales Agents, Distribution Partners, Film Lab/Workshop/Fund, Film Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

As a part-Indigenous artist from India - a country that even after 77 years of independence is still somehow nursing a colonial hangover - I was raised to negate my 'savage' tribal culture for the 'civilized' English one. And I've often wondered about how I can return to the wisdom of my ancestors?

With *FERAL*, an elevated horror, I seek to explore how two part-tribal maids navigate this colonial trauma as it ruptures through their bodies - causing them to dismantle the old structures and embrace their inner monsters as a way of reclaiming their lost power.

Director(s) Biography

Nihaarika is a multi-award-winning Interdisciplinary Artist - merging film/theatre/new media with contemporary performance, folktale and magical realism. Her work - described as 'revelatory and riveting' (MOMA) and heralded as a 'breakthrough for Indian theater' (The Hindu) - has won the XR Market Award at New Images Festival (Paris) and garnered global support from Sundance, Film Independent, Venice Biennale, CNC, UK Arts Council. *A Berlinale Talent*, her acclaimed films have screened internationally + been broadcast on Channel 4, Disney+, Amazon Prime and Jio Cinema. Nihaarika holds an MA in Theatre Practice (University of Exeter) and an MFA from the Stark Producing Program (USC).



Nihaarika Negi
Director & Producer

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Producer(s) Statement

After producing multiple independent features, we shifted our focus to co-founding Autotelic Pictures alongside writer/director/producer Nihaarika Negi. We are a company of diverse, interdisciplinary artists dedicated to international storytelling and amplifying underrepresented voices. Nihaarika's 'Feral' became our flagship project, delving into the struggles of dismantling colonialism in today's world. Films like these are an experiential education and a roadmap, one that people around the world don't get in schools, and many of us don't get at home. Nihaarika's skill in weaving universal themes, dark humor, and poetic allegory promises to make *'Feral'* a transcendent and impactful film.



Nancy Degnan
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Nancy Degnan debuted her first feature, *Buck Run* at Palm Springs International Film Festival, and her second, *Silent Notes* at Austin Film Festival. She was Associate Producer on web series *After Forever* winning five Daytime Emmys. Degnan is a fellow of Film Independent, Sundance Institute, and Breaking Through The Lens.

Tobias Reeuwijk began his career as a producer at The Wall Street Journal, traveling across Southeast Asia making short news documentaries. He produced and directed the documentary feature, *1000 Hands of the Guru* which premiered at the Asian American International Film Festival. Reeuwijk is a Film Independent and CAAMFest Fellow.



Tobias Reeuwijk
Producer

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Gulistaan

Year of the Weeds

India | Hindi | Drama, Others

Synopsis

Korok, a young gardener, lives in the tribal village of Deogan, tucked at the base of the Abhayraja Hills, where life is closely tied to the land and the sacred hills that have long protected them. Since his father's wrongful arrest, Korok has struggled with nightmares, haunted by fear and loss. He receives another jolt when the government announces plans to displace the village for mining bauxite deposits discovered beneath their sacred hill.

For Korok, this hill is more than land—it's home, the resting place of his mother, the one place where he still feels her presence. Now, his worst nightmare seems to be coming true. As the villagers resist, desperate to protect their home against powerful forces of 'progress', Korok unexpectedly becomes their figurehead when the media labels him the 'Leader of the Resistance.'

Thrust into a complex world of politics, media, and corporate power, Korok must confront his deepest fears and summon the courage to lead his people in an uphill battle. In the face of overwhelming odds, *Gulistaan* tells the story of a young man's struggle to protect his mother and everything else that he holds dear from the forces of greed and progress.

Budget

USD 780,000

Financing in place

USD 200,000

Production Company

Harfanmaula Films

Present at Film Bazaar

Prateek Gupta
Mit Jani

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Gulistaan is the story of a young tribal boy, echoing the voices of countless indigenous communities repeatedly displaced in the name of progress. Inspired by India's first environmental referendum, this film asks critical questions: At what cost do we pursue development, and why the relentless push to urbanize, disregarding the harmony between nature and humanity? Through *Gulistaan*, we explore survival, resistance, and the resilience of voices refusing to be silenced. It challenges viewers to reconsider our obsession with modernity, aiming to capture the delicate balance between survival and sacrifice and to inspire a new perspective.

Director(s) Biography

Prateek Gupta directed his debut documentary, *Goonga Pehelwan*, in 2014, winning Best Debut - Non Feature at the 62nd National Film Awards. The acclaimed film, highlighting deaf wrestler Virender Singh, was showcased at multiple festivals. Prateek then played pivotal roles-Producer, Co-writer, Editor, and Associate Director-in the feature film *Hellaro*, which won Best Feature Film at the 66th National Film Awards and achieved both critical and commercial success. In 2024, he continued his success by Co-producing and Editing the Gujarati film *Kamthaan*.

Producer(s) Statement

Gulistaan is a timely film highlighting the clash between progress and preservation, focusing on the overlooked displacement of indigenous tribes who have lived in harmony with nature for centuries. As producers, we are passionate about bringing this story to light, honoring the resilience of these communities amid rapid change. *Gulistaan* opens a vital dialogue on the true cost of development, challenging the belief that progress requires sacrificing those most connected to the land. Through this film, we aim to amplify rarely heard voices and provoke thought toward a more sustainable, inclusive future, showcasing cinema's power to inspire change.

Producer(s) Biography

Aayush Patel, Abhishek, Mit Jani and Prateek Gupta formed Harfanmaula Film to produce rich content across languages. Beginning as documentary film-makers, Mit and Prateek won the national award for Best Debut in non-feature category for their first documentary *Goonga Pehelwan* in 2014. Later, under Harfanmaula Films's banner, they produced their first Gujarati film *Hellaro*, which was directed by Abhishek. It won the National Award for Best Film in 2019 and made it to multiple film-festivals. The film was well received commercially and critically as well. Later, in 2024, they produced their 2nd Gujarati film *Kamthaan*.



Prateek Gupta
Director & Producer

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Mit Jani
Producer

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Aayush Patel
Producer



Abhishek Shah
Producer



Guptam

The Last of them Plagues

India | Malayalam | Drama, Horror, Mystery

Synopsis

'Guptam' is about Sethulekshmi, a single mother, and her daughters. In 1999, during a visit to her husband's distant gravesite, Sethulekshmi's younger daughter mysteriously disappears. The police find no answers. Thinking her patient waiting would fetch back her daughter, Sethulekshmi relocates to this unfamiliar place with her elder daughter, Neela. The tight-knit, religious community there sees Sethulekshmi as an outsider, an aberration. She is the only working woman in the area, the only woman who wears churidars, rides a scooter, drives a car, and she barges into male spaces. Obsessed with her search, Sethu's bond with Neela strains, especially as Neela finds love with a deaf boy at a local school. As strange events plague the town, people accuse 'the outsiders', of bringing the wrath of god upon them. The film is a poetic exploration of how Sethulekshmi and Neela negotiate this hostility, grief, and coldness between them. It talks of how love and hope find their way even in the darkest of nights.

Budget
USD 514, 216.71

Financing in place
USD 129, 746.45

Production Company
Mankind Cinemas

Present at Film Bazaar
Kunjila Mascillamani
Jeo Baby
Kani Kusru

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Lab/Workshop/Fund

Director(s) Statement

The idea for 'Guptam' came to me in my late twenties, when like many women, I had an 'epiphany' - that my mother was a remarkably resilient woman and a trailblazer in her own way. I wondered at her superhuman efforts to raise two girls all by herself in a highly moralistic society like Kerala. We see women like her in every part of this country - accidental revolutionaries who had no choice but to fight. We know about strong women like Erin Brockovich, but where are the stories of single mothers like mine or yours? 'Guptam' is a tribute to their battles.



Kunjila Mascillamani
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Kunjila Mascillamani is a writer-director from Kerala with a Post Graduate Diploma in Direction and Screenplay Writing from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) (2017). Her graduation film 'Gi', starring Kani Kusru, had a successful festival run including selection in IFFI, Goa (Indian Panorama). She debuted on OTT platforms with 'Asanghadithar' in 'Freedom Fight', an anthology produced by Jeo Baby, now on SonyLiv. The anthology received a special jury mention at the 2023 Kerala State Film Awards, and 'Asanghadithar' is now part of the Bachelor of Arts curriculum at Calicut University. 'Guptam' is set to be kunjila's debut feature.

Producer(s) Statement

When I read Kunjila's script for 'Asanghadithar' (which I produced), I was struck by her impeccable craft and originality. Once I saw the film, I immediately wanted to be a part of her filmmaking journey and expressed my desire to produce her first feature. She returned with 'Guptam' and I was, once again, floored. I am happy and proud to be the person who presents this filmmaker to the world.

Kunjila's work and worldview have moved me deeply for years. Her direction captures the absurd and profound moments that emerge only from the smallest, most local interactions. While set locally, 'Guptam's' theme resonates universally. In a world that keeps manufacturing 'otherness', this film feels urgent to me.



Jeo Baby
Producer

Producer(s) Biography

Jeo Baby is a renowned writer-director in Malayalam cinema, known for notable works like 'The Great Indian Kitchen' and 'Kaathal - the Core'. His films have achieved both critical and commercial success, and have been remade in multiple languages, often starting difficult conversations on gender, sexuality, and identity.

Kani Kusru is an acclaimed actor from Kerala. A trained theatre artist, she won the State Film Award for Best Actress for her role in 'Biriyan'. She gained international recognition with her performance in Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' which won the Grand Prix at Cannes this year.



Kani Kusru
Producer



Harbir

India | Punjabi, Hindi, English | Drama

Synopsis

Harbir, a meek 15-year-old Sikh boy from Dehradun, is scouted for an admission trial by the prestigious Bombay International School of Swimming in Mumbai. During the trial, Harbir underperforms due to nerves. Additionally, during the interview, concerns about his long hair arise, requiring a No Objection Certificate from his parents for a possible haircut, if admitted. Meanwhile, Harbir's family grapples with the financial implications of his potential relocation to Mumbai with his mother, as he's ineligible for a hostel. To support this, Harbir's father is selling a jointly held property with his uncle, who is running for Gurudwara President.

Unsettled by the interview, Harbir brings up the issue with his conservative family, but they firmly oppose him and completely shut him down. The conversation quickly escalates into a heated discussion that reignites old wounds. In response, Harbir rebels, the consequences of which force his parents to confront his predicament. The film hereon follows Harbir and his family as they navigate a storm that could drastically alter his career prospects and their individual and collective identities. Harbir strives to withstand this storm to pursue his dream, leaving his family with a choice: whether to sacrifice for his dream or sacrifice his dream.

Budget

USD 597, 541

Financing in place

USD 178, 675

Production Company

Bandra West Pictures

Present at Film Bazaar

Angad Bawa
Raja Krishna Menon

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Lab/Workshop/Fund,
Film Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Growing up, my long hair was central to my identity as a Sikh. However, when I started swimming competitively, the challenges of managing my long, wet hair became evident. Mustering courage, I voiced this concern to my parents. They were upset: societal expectations seemed rooted in my hair. However, after many heated discussions, they allowed me to get a haircut. My relatives saw it as blasphemy, and my parents' support of me caused some of them to sever ties with us. This predicament and the ensuing uproar inspired me to tell the story of *Harbir*.



Angad Bawa
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Angad started as an assistant director to Oscar nominee Ashvin Kumar on the 2011 short film *Dazed in Doon*, made during his time at The Doon School, Dehradun. Moving to Mumbai, he earned an advertising degree from Jai Hind College while writing digital campaigns for brands like Ikea and Hiranandani. Angad thereafter assisted on feature films *Dekh Tamasha Dekh*, *The Forest*, *The Corner Table*, *Airlift*, and *No Fathers in Kashmir*. He then wrote and directed two acclaimed short films, *Take 2* and *Unresolved*, which premiered at the NYIFF and IFFSA Toronto, respectively. In 2024, Angad's debut feature screenplay, *Harbir*, won the Ford Foundation's Writer's INK Features Lab.

Producer(s) Statement

What resonated with me in *Harbir* was its universality, highlighting the conflict between tradition and modern society, where traditions often feel like obstacles. *Harbir* epitomises the pressures faced by children in developing societies, with expectations stemming from being seen as the chosen one rather than the underdog. Amid these pressures, this story is also about hope. But, when a family wagers their entire future on a young boy's success, is that still hope or desperation? *Harbir*, an introspective tale, raises questions about how he navigates these expectations and the costs of being forced to succeed in a society that rewards aggression, especially for someone introverted.



Raja Krishna Menon
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Raja, a prominent figure in the film industry, began in advertising, producing over 300 TV commercials and documentaries, including a notable HIV/AIDS film for the Gates Foundation. His feature film debut, *Bas Yun Hi* (2003), was followed by the critically acclaimed *Barah Aana* (2009). Raja's success continued with *Airlift* (2016) and *Chef* (2017), an adaptation of Jon Favreau's film. He also produced *Upstarts*, India's first feature on startups for Netflix. Raja's foray into series includes *BAK BAK*, an 8-episode series set for release on Amazon Prime. His latest work, *PIPPA*, a successful war drama, was released on Amazon Prime during Diwali 2023.



Home Before Night

Australia, Nepal | English, Nepali | Drama, Others

Synopsis

Home Before Night explores the intertwined lives of two displaced women across two continents. Chanda, a 26-year-old Nepali aged-care worker in Australia, is on the brink of securing Permanent Residency when her mother falls ill in Nepal. She must choose between staying to secure her future or returning home. Meanwhile, Orana, a 41-year-old Australian with Nepali heritage battling with stage-four cancer, defies medical advice to travel to Nepal to find her estranged father. She arrives at Kathmandu airport with a tattered photo of him from when she was 3 years old, the last time she saw him.

The two lives entwine when Chanda unknowingly participates in a memory-donation program, designed to comfort homesick migrants, where she starts experiencing Orana's memories of Nepal. Triggered by a health flareup, Orana rests in a homestay run by Chanda's family, who offer her a glimpse into the life she could have had - memories Chanda experiences back in Australia. One day, Chanda discovers Orana's father, living in Sydney all along. Recognising him from Orana's memories, she attempts to reunite him with Orana, only to learn that Orana passed away two years ago, learning that the memories she experienced were echoes of the past, left to help others find closure.

Budget

USD 1,400,000

Financing in place

USD 350,000

Production Company

SGT Productions
indiVisual films -
International

Present at Film Bazaar

Sabin Gnawali
Ana Tiwary
Kalani Gacon

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Sales/Sales Agents,
Distribution Partners, Film
Lab/Workshop/Fund, Film
Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Home Before Night is a film reflecting my own experience of living between Australia and Nepal, feeling a sense of not fully belonging to either culture. The story explores this feeling of being caught between cultures, memories, and homes through the intertwined lives of Chanda and Orana. Blending realism with a touch of science fiction, it introduces a memory donation program to examine how we connect with our past and understand our present. Resonating deeply with Nepalese, where many have relatives abroad, the film captures the longing and ties to distant places. The film is a tribute to those living between worlds, navigating multiple identities, and striving to find peace with where they come from and where they're going.

Director(s) Biography

Kalani Gacon is a filmmaker from Katoomba, Australia who tells stories of disappearing ways of life, people's dreams, and the frictions facing humanity in a changing world. He has worked globally, including on Hollywood productions like Disney's *Upside Down Magic* and the TV series *Riverdale*. Since 2015, he has lived in Nepal as a social worker and filmmaker. His documentaries include *Bhukampa* (2015), about the Nepal earthquakes from children's perspectives, and *Journey to the Centre of the Heart* (2019), an award-winning film on migration into Nepal. His short film *Sapana ko Awaz* (2020) won accolades at international festivals.



Kalani Gacon
Director

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Producer(s) Statement

What captivates us most about *Home Before Night* is that it is a hauntingly beautiful story that weaves supernatural elements with the drama of a Nepali immigrant's journey in Australia. Guided by Kalani's deep understanding of authentic cross-cultural storytelling, we aim to amplify the voices of Australia's fastest-growing migrant community, weaving their experiences into the fabric of the nation's evolving identity. Through this film, we create a space where migrant stories are seen, celebrated, and truly belong.

Producer(s) Biography

Nepali-Australian producer Sabin Gnawali has produced award-winning Australian shorts *Road Train* and *Zoe,* and the Nepali feature *Dokh*. His producing credits include the AACTA-nominated *A Lion Returns* and international projects from Nepal, China, and the USA filmed in Australia. He now focuses on developing cross-cultural stories with global appeal.

Ana Tiwary runs indiVisual films - international, an Australian production company that specialises in authentic multicultural stories for global audiences. Her company is the recipient of the 2024 Screen Australia Enterprise Business grant. As part of it, Guneet Monga and Kiran Rao are on board as Ana's creative and business consultants.



Sabin Gnawali
Producer

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Ana Tiwary
Producer

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K A B O O T A R



कबूतर



鳩

رتوبک

Kabootar

India | Hindi | Drama

Synopsis

In a 600-year-old monument in Delhi, a strange ritual still occurs- people from all over the city submit letters of personal problems seeking justice from a Djinn believed to be haunting this monument. In Old Delhi, more cases are brought to this blue Djinn than to the police. Mehboob, an illegal squatter in the monument, makes his living by reading these hundreds of letters and honing on to potential clients- whose problems he solves for a small fee. These cases are not murders or violent crimes- but more mundane- like finding missing cats or locating alcoholic husbands. It is through the monument and its peculiar ritual that he meets Naoko, an art teacher from Japan, who has escaped to Delhi after a tragedy back home. They strike an unlikely friendship and find they have much in common, despite coming from two different corners of the world. One day, Mehboob and Naoko find a lost child carrying a strange letter inside this monument. Tracing this child's past proves to be a transformative journey for the trio, who realize slowly, that some wounds can never heal, but can only find a home to rest, sometimes in old rituals, sometimes in people.

Budget
USD 700, 000

Financing in place
USD 150, 000

Production Company
MDC Filmworks Pvt Ltd

Present at Film Bazaar
Nikhil Chaudhary
Ishan Sharma

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Sales/Sales Agents

Director(s) Statement

When I first visited the monument of Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi, I was surprised to find people submitting handwritten letters to spirits called Djinn. These letters contained personal problems, property disputes, even their own photographs. I laughed it off as superstition- until I returned during Covid. Letters overflowed that day, and a young girl, who had recently lost her father, told me why.

'you have the government, news channels, we only have our Djinn'

Who was I to tell her that Djinn didn't exist? I wondered- what would happen if these letters were answered? And so, Kabootar was born.

Director(s) Biography

Ishan is a graduate of the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute in Calcutta, India. His short films - *The God of Panic Street* (2019), *A Season of Mangoes* (2022) have screened at festivals all over the world including Filmfest Dresden, IFF Stuttgart, Dharamshala, and bagged several awards including the 'Cinema Experimenta Award' in India last year. Ishan is also an alumnus of the 2020 'Produire Au Sud' workshop, conducted by the 3 Continents Festival, France. His interest lies in films that subvert genres with indigenous ways of storytelling. Currently, he's developing his debut feature film *Kabootar*. Set in the magical world of Old Delhi. *Kabootar* is a heartwarming tale of hope, resilience and finding one's place in the world.

Producer(s) Statement

At its core *Kabootar* is a story about finding a home, a place to call one's own in a rapidly developing world. Finding one's place in this world is a fundamental human experience that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries. Through our three protagonists- an illegal squatter, a lost child and a Japanese tourist, we intend to show the interconnectedness of our world. Upon first reading the screenplay of *Kabootar*, I immediately recognized it as a truly global film with the power to ignite meaningful conversations on identity and belonging. This was a vibrant world of colour, light and possibilities that offered contemporary audiences a completely fresh perspective on India. This potential has been further validated by the screenplay winning a development grant at the West Meets East Screenplay Lab in Dhaka, as well as being shortlisted among 1600+ submissions for the SWA Lab in India. We are currently in the late development phase and are actively seeking Asian+European coproducers and sales agents to join our team. I view CPM as a valuable opportunity to learn, grow, and establish meaningful partnerships. *Kabootar*, with its truly global cast, is something special, and I'm excited to see it resonate with international co-producers.

Producer(s) Biography

Nikhil Chaudhary is an independent producer with a vision to tell homegrown asian stories that resonate on a global level. He views his debut feature, *Mantra* (2016), not just as a film, but as his practical film school. Partially crowdfunded, *Mantra* secured theatrical releases in India and Singapore before finding a home on Netflix. This experience fueled the creation of MDC Filmworks, a boutique film production company. Under this banner, Nikhil co-produced *Yours Truly* (2017), that premiered at the prestigious Busan International Film Festival. Then came *Kadakh* (2018) that won the best screenplay award at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. Till date, he has produced 5 feature films, which have travelled to various international festivals and are all available on leading OTT platforms. Nikhil is also an alumnus of the 2020 'Produire Au Sud' workshop, conducted by the 3 Continents Festival, France.



Ishan Sharma
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Nikhil Chaudhary
Producer

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Kothiyan

Fishers of Men

India | Malayalam | Comedy, Drama, Fantasy

Synopsis

Sreekumar, a sober and vegetarian middle-class family man, is transformed into a fish addict after a confrontation with Kuttan Asari, a lower-caste carpenter, and his subaltern goddess. Asari's curse unleashes Sreekumar's insatiable craving for fish, leading him down a path of destruction. As Sreekumar's obsession grows, he abandons his family, job, and social norms. He becomes a nomadic figure, seeking exotic fish experiences, and develops an uncanny knowledge of aquatic life. His transformation is marked by hallucinations, prophetic visions and a love for humanity. The narrative explores themes of addiction, social hierarchy, and the blurring of human and animal boundaries. Sreekumar's descent into madness is juxtaposed with Asari's quiet satisfaction. The story culminates in Sreekumar's death, but his spirit is reborn, sailing into the sea with fishermen, symbolizing his complete surrender to his obsession. The floating fish-bone remains at his funeral underscore the transformative power of his addiction.

Budget

USD 659, 322

Financing in place

USD 204, 463

Production Company

Cloud Door Films

Present at Film Bazaar

Pramod Sankar
Jibu Thomas
Sanju Surendran

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Film Lab/Workshop/Fund

Director(s) Statement

Kothiyan is a fantastical journey where obsession meets absurdity. I invite you to dive into a world where a respectable middle-class man's life is turned upside down by an insatiable craving for fish. With a dash of magical realism and a pinch of satire, we follow Sreekumar's hilarious descent into madness. As he navigates a surreal landscape of fish-filled fantasies and eccentric characters, we're reminded that even the most ordinary lives can hold extraordinary secrets. This is a whimsical adventure, where the boundaries between reality and fantasy blur, and the pursuit of pleasure becomes a wild ride. Obsession is a one way street.



Sanju Surendran
Director

Director(s) Biography

Sanju Surendran is an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, where he honed his craft under the guidance of legendary filmmaker Mani Kaul. His documentary *Kapila* won the National Award for Best Documentary and Special Mention at Visions du Reel, Switzerland. Sanju's feature film debut, *Aedan- Garden of Desire*, earned him the Rajathachakoram Award for Best Debut Director and the FIPRESCI Award for Best Malayalam Film at International Film Festival of Kerala. It also won 4 Kerala State Awards including 2nd Best Film and Best Adapted Screenplay. Sanju continues to push boundaries in Indian cinema with his unique vision and storytelling.

Producer(s) Statement

For (The Fishers of Men), I'm thrilled to support Sanju Surendran's visionary direction, bringing this darkly comedic and fantastical tale to life. Our team is committed to crafting a cinematic experience that balances humor and pathos, inviting audiences to revel in Sreekumar's wild transformation. With a strong focus on artistic collaboration and regional storytelling, we aim to showcase the richness of Indian cinema. Backed by meticulous production design and innovative marketing strategies, we're confident that our film will captivate global audiences. Join us on this unforgettable journey into the heart of obsession, where laughter and reflection entwine.



Pramod Sankar
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Pramod Sankar brings business acumen and creative vision to film production. A postgraduate in Economics, he transitioned from a successful export business career (1997-2008) to the media industry. With expertise in development, financing, production, and post-production, Pramod ensures projects excel creatively and commercially. Notable credits includes:

- *Kuttavum Sikshayum* (Executive Producer)
- *Thuramugham* (Line Producer)
- *Appan* (Line Producer)



Kurinji

The Disappearing Flower

India, Germany | Malayalam | Drama

Synopsis

Laly, a lonely housewife in coastal Kerala, has been waiting for her husband Mohan, a migrant labourer in the Gulf, to return home for years. With weekly phone calls to keep her company, and a rare visit, she has built a life around his absence. Their pre-teen daughter, Vini, listens to his voice on tapes filled with advice from afar. A promising student, Vini's heart is set on studying in a place called Oxford. All Laly knows about Oxford is that it is far away—and the thought of losing Vini too is more than she can bear. Though they speak every Friday night, Laly finds it hard to picture Mohan's face lately. Until one fateful Friday, Mohan's phone calls and money transfers abruptly end. With the help of her lover, Chacko, Laly searches for answers to his sudden disappearance. But when a moneylender arrives to collect Mohan's debt, which Laly knew nothing about, Laly wonders what else he might have kept hidden from her.

Budget
USD 600, 000

Financing in place
USD 170, 000

Production Company
Barycenter Films

Present at Film Bazaar
Payal Sethi
Thanikachalam SA

Looking for
Co-Producers, Financers,
Post Production Partners

Director(s) Statement

I first started thinking about Laly Mohan's story when I came across the term 'Gulf Baarya', which refers to Kerala women whose husbands have migrated to work in the Gulf. Struck by the overlooked reality of wives and families impacted by migration, I shifted perspective to the one who is left behind, to illuminate the untold stories of these resilient women who shoulder responsibilities in their husbands' absence. The interplay of love, sacrifice, and the constant pursuit of what's best for one's family resonates deeply with my own journey through motherhood, making this project both a personal and artistic endeavour.



Payal Sethi
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Payal's narratives center compelling female characters and bring overlooked realities into focus. A graduate of Vassar College & NYU Tisch, her portfolio spans both fiction and documentary, showcased at international film festivals including Tampere, Sapporo, and Palm Springs, and distributed on Amazon & MUBI. An alumna of Produire au Sud, Cine Qua Non Lab, (iDM) Talent & Short Film Market & B3 Hessen Lab, she was honoured with the Kompagnon Development Award from Berlinale Talents for *Kurinji - The Disappearing Flower*. Her last short, *Leeches* won the National Film Award & the International Grand Prix at Brussels Short Festival.

Producer(s) Statement

I am working on a coproduction film with Europe that deals with illegal migration into Europe from North Africa (and with asylum seekers). *Kurinji* is fascinating in that it deals with the ones who are left behind. There is also a double migration that is pitted against each other here - the one to the Middle-East from Kerala, and an internal migration into Kerala from the North-East.

I am still intrigued by the project, and its title. Having watched Payal Sethi's short film, *Kurinji* could become a poignant debut feature about a migrant narrative that is unique and as-yet untold.



Thanikachalam SA
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Hailing from Bangalore, and studied from the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Thanikachalam SA is a producer & a screenwriter. He founded Barycenter Films in 2020 and has produced films selected for top festivals such as Cannes, Rotterdam, Busan, São Paulo, Galway, MAMI. Thanikachalam has produced Barycenter Films' *In Retreat* (Cannes 2024). Their next film *Theatre* (dir. by Nishanth Kalidindi), set in Pondicherry, has an upcoming World Premiere at a top-10 film-festival in 2025, and looking to onboard Intl.-Sales on it. Films written by him include Anurag Kashyap's *Bombay Velvet* (Locarno 2015). Thanikachalam runs a film society in Bangalore.



Roid

Bangladesh | Bengali | Drama, Mystery

Synopsis

A solitary middle aged man marries a madwoman and builds a house on a vacant plot of land far from the village. However, his wife's madness becomes a calamity in his tranquil life. So, he casts her away in a distant place. After many days, a palm fruit falls from the palmyra palm tree near their home, and strangely, his wife returns. This cycle repeats over and over. The mad wife, the palm tree, and the man's life seem to revolve in an endless loop, like a perpetual enigma!

Budget
USD 391, 500

Financing in place
USD 345, 777

Production Company
Facecard Production

Present at Film Bazaar
Mejbaur Rahman Sumon
Shimul Chandra Biswas
Tanveer Hossain

Looking for
Sales/Sales Agents,
Distribution Partners, Film
Festivals/Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Shadhu's love story is a modern echo of the oldest tale of companionship known to us—the story of Adam and Eve. It's not about recreating the literal Garden of Eden, but capturing the essence of that first connection, the raw and primal bond that defines human relationships. The complexities of Adam and Eve's partnership, entwined with myth and theology, mirror the dance of instincts and emotions that govern our bonds.

In my childhood, Shadhu was like a warm, familiar melody. In *ROID*, I've tried to creating a narrative that honors the man who lives on in my memories and my mother's tales.



Mejbaur Rahman Sumon
Director

Director(s) Biography

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon is a Dhaka-based filmmaker, screenwriter, painter and musician. After graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University, Sumon entered the national film scene. With his debut telefilm, he acquired several prestigious awards and garnered huge critical acclaim. From then on, Sumon continued with his creative streak in the film industry with nine other telefilms amassing various distinguished awards and accumulating nationwide recognition.

Sumon's first feature film *Hawa*, has been released both in Bangladesh and in USA, Canada, UK and Ireland amongst other countries. The film became a major box-office hit locally and the very first Bangladeshi film to enter the US Top Charts in 2022. *Hawa* was shortlisted for Golden Globe awards, 2023 and won two National Awards.



Mushfiqur Rahman
Producer

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Producer(s) Statement

In 2023, while the global film industry faced enormous challenges, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon released his first feature film *HAWA*. The film, based on a complex myth, had cerebral storylines, yet it made history in the Bangladeshi cinema industry. Amidst the post-COVID situation, it became the highest-grossing film ever. Now we are forwarding with Sumon's second feature *ROID* with bigger vision and dream. *ROID* is being already a much awaited one from Sumon after the success of *HAWA* since it won the National Film Grant. We will be in production very soon. We are focused on connecting with distributors and sales agents to ensure the film reaches a wide audience. Additionally we are looking forward to the gap financing we need at this stage and post production facilities also as the color, sound, and composition will play a crucial role in the film, like a character.



Shimul Chandra Biswas
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Mushfiqur Rahman is a prominent figure in content aggregation, leading Bongo. Since 2019, he has driven Bongo's production efforts, earning 11 nominations and 2 wins at Meril Prothom Alo.

Shimul Chandra Biswas graduated in Film and Television Production from JMC Academy in Sydney. Recently, he has produced films like *DEVI* in 2018 and *HAWA* in 2022, both achieved box office success.



Tanveer Hossain
Producer

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Somahelang

A Song of Flowers

India, United Kingdom | Pahadi, Hindi | Drama

Synopsis

In the remote Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, Sonam, a mother of three, navigates a polyandrous marriage with her two husbands and the challenges of climate change. Their once-thriving apple orchard is ravaged by uncertain weather, forcing her husband, Shankar, to consider a homestay. Sonam worries about the risks and uncertainties without overlooking the younger husband Nikku's ambitions to save the family's age-old business of musical instruments. Meanwhile, their children become infatuated with a city girl, Ila-jealousy and envy brew among the siblings, especially when Ila seems more interested in the youngest. A devastating hailstorm wipes out the remaining harvest, pushing Shankar to hastily convert an old house into a homestay, disregarding local superstitions. As the family ventures into the forest, they encounter fear and danger. A hidden secret about Nikku revealed during a heated argument with Shankar, further strains their relationship. A landslide destroys the unfinished homestay, adding to their woes. Grief and anger threaten to tear them apart. How will Sonam and family bear the onslaught of unseasonable weather threatening their fragile daily lives and age-old traditions?

Budget

USD 300,000

Financing in place

USD 75,000

Production Company

Longway Productions Private Limited
Lotus Visual Productions

Present at Film Bazaar

Neeraj Churi
Shubham Negi
Sourav Yadav

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers

Director(s) Statement

Ocean Vuong wrote, 'Nothing lasts forever, and I am writing you in the voice of an endangered species.' *Somahelang*, set during the Phulaich festival, reflects these sentiments by exploring the fading Kinnauri custom of polyandry. The film follows a woman-led family through themes of love, betrayal, and longing, amidst climate change and cultural superstitions. Rooted in our connection to the Pahari people, *Somahelang* showcases Himalayan resilience amid environmental threats. This film is a tribute to their traditions, urging empathy and accountability to protect a culture on the brink of disappearance.



Sourav Yadav
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Shubham Negi is a poet, writer, and director selected for Netflix's TakeTen competition and went to Busan IFF as part of the Netflix cohort. He is a fellow in a screenwriting lab by Netflix and The Queer Muslim Project. His latest project, *Somahelang*, is part of the Writer's Ink Lab. Sourav, a Cinematographer, Editor, and Colorist for projects with Netflix, Bloomberg, Abbott, and more, made his directorial debut with *Malwa Khushan*, earning acclaim at four Oscar-qualifying festivals. He is recipient of Riyad Wadia Award for Best Emerging Indian Filmmaker in 2023.



Shubham Negi
Director

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Producer(s) Statement

I am captivated by *Somahelang's* layered narrative, which intertwines centuries-old polyandry with the urgent issue of climate change, seen through Sonam, the family matriarch. Set in a Kinnaur village, the film portrays Sonam's struggle to balance tradition with family aspirations amid uncertain weather and declining apple yields. Her fraternal marriage with Shankar and Nikku reflects unique cultural practices. The film highlights the vulnerability of these communities to climate change while showcasing the resilience of women like Sonam. *Somahelang* is a celebration of hope and the indomitable human spirit that resonates globally.



Neeraj Churi
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Neeraj Churi, a UK-based Indian-American film producer, focuses on films about underrepresented communities in South Asia producing narrative features, shorts, and documentaries in India and the UK. His feature, *A Place of Our Own*, was selected for the 2022 Cannes Film Market and won the Audience Choice Award at SXSW 2023. His latest short film, *Holy Curse*, is on its way to the Oscars. Additionally, his upcoming feature, *Arms of a Man*, has started its A-list festival journey, having been selected for the Venice Biennale College Cinema 2022 Mentorship Residency and invited to the 2024 Cannes Film Market.



The Employer

India | Hindi | Drama, Thriller

Synopsis

Michael, a middle-aged man from Mumbai, is grappling with the sudden loss of his wife. This is an especially difficult time for him, as he not only mourns his partner but also supports his elderly mother and two teenage daughters—one of whom is preparing for crucial medical exams. Amidst this grief, he secures a new job as a chauffeur for Rehana, a high-profile actress juggling her daughter's debut film and her own political aspirations. This job becomes a vital lifeline for Michael, offering him a sense of purpose and a chance to rebuild his life.

Just as things seem to settle down the colony maid, Minu, fails to show up for an entire week. Michael learns that her son is gravely ill and needs an expensive surgery. Understanding the financial hardships Minu faces, Michael feels compelled to help.

Meanwhile, a crisis unfolds when a pair of diamond earrings goes missing at a lavish film premiere party hosted by Rehana. Michael becomes the prime suspect.

Budget

USD 1,667,400

Financing in place

USD 535,950

Production Company

For Films

Present at Film Bazaar

Aditya Vikram Sengupta
Zara Sengupta

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers

Director(s) Statement

The Employer is at its core, a story of how various characters belonging to diverse layers of society navigate their interpersonal interactions amidst this ever-evolving demographic landscape. A vast majority of the new entrants to the middle class like Michael are often precariously close to slipping back to being poor for reasons beyond their control. Most of them have hardly any savings to fall back on in case of natural disaster, economic volatilities and illness. That is the next unique facet of Michael's story (and those of his millions of real life counterparts)- that amidst the most mundane day to day activities they are constantly performing a tightrope walk to maintain their newly earned status. Michael's predicament following his wife's illness and death is representative of a sad reality- that it takes just one unfortunate event for a first generation member of the middle class to plunge back to pennilessness.

Director(s) Biography

Aditya Vikram Sengupta is an independent filmmaker from India. He has written and directed three Bengali feature films: *Labour of Love* (Venice Film Festival, 2014), *Jonaki* (International Film Festival of Rotterdam, 2018) and *Once Upon A Time In Calcutta* (Venice Film Festival, 2021). Aside from winning multiple international awards for his films, he has also won two National Film Awards, for his first feature film in 2015. He's now developing *The Employer* which will be his first Hindi film.



Aditya Vikram Sengupta
Director

Producer(s) Statement

Class is very visible in India. As a country, India is home to some of the richest people and the poorest. This is more apparent in Mumbai, which is the financial capital of the country. In *The Employer*, the class divisions were very apparent. It told three distinctly different and unique stories of people in three different classes and religions, which was weaved together by a central conflict. This allowed him to show multiple realities and how they react to the same problem. Aditya's writing allowed us to be non-judgemental about the characters because we see them as people reacting.



Priyankar Patra
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Priyankar Patra, is a producer and his credits include *Once Upon A Time In Calcutta* and *The Daughter*. A graduate of Northwestern University with an MFA in Screenwriting, Priyankar is also an alumni of Television Academy Foundation and the Locarno Industry Academy.

Zara Sengupta, a graduate of Kings College London and TISS, Mumbai, trained in public health and has worked in the non profit sector for 8 years before integrating her experience in the world of film producing. Since then she has worked at Clean Slate Filmz and now works to maintain socially responsible filmmaking at For Films.



Zara Sengupta
Producer

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Wax Daddy

India | English, Hindi | Sci-Fi, Horror, Comedy

Synopsis

When a powerful industrialist conspires with his ambitious son to create a humanoid replica of himself to maintain control over his empire and family beyond the grave, their plan goes horribly wrong. As the robot malfunctions, it begins to unravel sinister secrets and wreak havoc, threatening to destroy the family and business it was meant to protect.

Budget
USD 1, 500, 000

Financing in place
USD 375, 000

Production Company
Critical Mass Films
Bridge Postworks
Moonweave Studios

Present at Film Bazaar
Critical Mass Films
Bridge Postworks
Moonweave Studios

Looking for
Co-Producers, Sales/Sales
Agents, Film Festivals/
Programmers

Director(s) Statement

Wax Daddy begins with a thought-provoking question: 'How deeply does a family get affected if their patriarch is replaced by a humanoid?' The film explores patriarchy's obsession with control, and its connection to technology. Initially a sci-fi with dark comic undertones, it gradually shifts into a horror-thriller as stakes escalate. The dramatic ending is a visual spectacle, incorporating nature to emphasize the film's themes. While culturally rooted, the characters' struggles and dilemmas resonate universally, offering a deeply emotional journey. Audiences will explore their psyches, emerging with enhanced self-awareness amid the complexities of an ever-changing world.



Aastha Tiku
Director

Director(s) Biography

Aastha Tiku is the story and screenwriter of *SHERNI* (2021), a critically acclaimed eco-feminist thriller on tiger conservation, starring Vidya Balan, which premiered on Amazon Prime video during the COVID-19 lockdown. She read Philosophy and Psychology at King's College London. Before moving into film, Aastha worked at a think tank in London, conducted qualitative market research all over India, and taught as a Teach For India Fellow. A passionate ceramicist, she's also developing a new series.



Amit Masurkar
Producer

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Producer(s) Statement

There's a growing curiosity about how AI will influence our own emotional well-being and psychological landscape, making these narratives both timely and essential. *Wax Daddy* is a genre-bender, with elements of sci-fi, horror, and dark comedy. As producers, our vision is to bring high concept sci-fi and elevated horror films from South Asia to life and believe they have the potential to resonate widely with young global audiences. We have previously collaborated with Aastha on *Sherni* and are committed to bringing to the fore her unique and compelling voice with her directorial debut.



Sid M.
Producer

Producer(s) Biography

Amit Masurkar, co-founder of Critical Mass Films, is the producer-director of *SHERNI* (2021), an ecological thriller, the writer-director of *SULEMANI KEEDA* (2014) and National Award-winning *NEWTON* (2017). *NEWTON* also received the CICA Award at Berlinale, the Jury Prize at HKIFF, Audience Award at Festival des 3 Continents, and was India's official Oscar entry.

Moonweave Studios, founded in 2020 in Mumbai, is a production company. It's producing '*Baksho Bondi*,' which received the CNC Aide aux Cinémas du Monde post-production grant in 2024. The studio is also co-producing the forthcoming '*Sabar Bonda*' and previously co-produced '*Second Chance*' (Karlovy Vary 2024), and was associate producer on '*And, Towards Happy Alleys*' (Berlinale 2023).

Bridge PostWorks is a leader in color grading and digital workflows, building an ecosystem for top independent talent. With over 150 credits, its projects include Oscar nominees *ALL THAT BREATHES*, *WRITING WITH FIRE*, and Oscar winner *THE ELEPHANT WHISPERERS*, as well as critically acclaimed *DISCIPLE* and *SHIP OF THESEUS*.



Naren Chandavarkar
Producer



The Vampire of Sheung Shui

Hong Kong | English, Cantonese, Hindi | Comedy, Horror

Synopsis

Lokesh (30s) is a slacker living with orthodox Jain parents in a sleepy Hong Kong suburb, waiting to take over the family jewelry store so that he can sell it and move to the UK. When his dad announces his retirement, Lokesh must show that he can be responsible and adhere to the values of his family's traditions, or lose the store to his annoying cousin. The problem? Lokesh is also turning into a bloodthirsty vampire. Now he must find a way to survive on blood without hurting people, while also proving to his family that he's not a total leech.

Budget

USD 1, 500, 000

Financing in place

USD 400, 000

Production Company

Isle of Misfits Production Company Limited
Tasia Films Limited
70 Plus Production Company Limited

Present at Film Bazaar

Shreyom Ghosh
Peter Yam

Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,
Distribution Partners

Director(s) Statement

We live in a world where right & wrong are subjective. One's wavering moral compass can justify any violence till someone close gets hurt. In this film we explore the characters' darker sides & compassion in a seemingly banal suburban setting. Our protagonist realizes that even though morality is subjective, one must take responsibility for their actions & learn what it means to sacrifice for the sake of others. At its core, *THE VAMPIRE OF SHEUNG SHUI* is a late coming-of-age story about taking charge of your 'life' & a celebration of Hong Kong's diversity wherein the most dangerous character is definitely not the vampire.



Shreyom Ghosh
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Shreyom Ghosh is a director and producer, based in Hong Kong after finishing a MFA from NYU-Tisch School of the Arts. He co-wrote and directed the series *BHAK* (2018), winner of both Best Actor and Best Actress in a Supporting Role as well as the Best Title Theme at the Asian Academy Creative Awards(2019). The pilot episode of *BHAK* bagged the Grand Jury Prize at the Academy qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival (2018) and went on to win the inaugural HOOQ Filmmaker's Guild (2017). His new animated short film *VEGETABLE RISING* (2022) was shot in India & France. Shreyom's feature film in-development - *THE VAMPIRE OF SHEUNG SHUI* - has been selected at HAF, BIFAN, SITGES & ATF co-production markets in 2024 and has won the 'NAFF Award' and the 'Sitges Award'.



Peter Yam
Producer

Producer(s) Statement

Vampire films have been a staple in world cinema since the era of silent films. This is our endeavor of creating an entertaining movie about the Hong Kong Indian community through the eyes of an Indian director.

Themes of brotherhood & coming-of-age are explored as our slacker protagonist, upon transforming into a vampire, battles between his survival instincts & his insatiable thirst for blood. Even though he is accepted by his friends, he needs to be responsible if he wants to be acknowledged by his family. The film which will be horrifying and humorous while catering to a global audience's thirst for vampire & genre-films.

Producer(s) Biography

Yam is a Hong Kong-based Asian independent film producer and The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Documentary Branch member. He is the producer of *THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET* which won three Golden Horse Awards.

Werner is an expert in the production and distribution of Asian Cinema. He is the member of Oscars Executive Branch and the former co-head of Fortissimo Films. He has produced and/or distributed numerous Asian titles such as Wong Kar Wai's *THE GRANDMASTER*, Zhang Yimou's *SHADOW*, Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *TOKYO SONATA*, *NORWEGIAN WOOD*, *SUK SUK* & *THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET*.



Michael J. Werner
Producer