



2024
Film Bazaar
Official Project
Catalogue

Project Catalogue

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Antaraal

The In-between

Hindi

Mohammed Ali Rukadikar

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Synopsis

Charlie, a 34-year-old private detective specialises in supernatural cases and has a unique ability to speak with the dead. Charlie's world is turned upside down when his mentor, Father Ribeiro, dies under mysterious circumstances and his ghost is missing. As he grapples with despair, an unexpected figure emerges - the ghost of Yash Sethi, a genius tech tycoon trapped between life and death.

An unlikely partnership begins where they undertake some of city's darkest mysteries. Meanwhile, a mystical physicist, Jacky, using a sinister device prolongs his life by absorbing ghost energy is on a killing spree. Risking all they hold dear, Charlie and Yash battle to rescue all the trapped souls from Jacky's clutches, who also has Father Ribeiro's ghost. Navigating the spectral world, Charlie uncovers a prophecy linked to his enigmatic past that puts Yash's life in perils - his only friend who has a chance to be alive again.

Writer's Statement

Antaraal stems from my fascination with afterlife. A world having its own set of problems that can be a reflection to our society. And what can be more fun than a detective duo - one alive and one half-dead, to solve all the problems. Like Charlie, I've often found myself navigating the complexities of life with a sense of being

haunted—not by ghosts, but by past decisions, lingering doubts and the expectations of others. The concept of Yash, the comatose tech billionaire, reflects the modern obsession with technology and the fear of losing one's soul to it, both literally and metaphorically. Jacky, the antagonist, represents the darker side of obsession - the blind quest to gain immortality. The story draws inspiration from a mix of folklore, contemporary societal fears, and the timeless allure of the supernatural.

Biography

Mohammed Ali Rukadikar, a graduate in Bachelors of Mass Media, is a 'Bombay' kid and an avid lover of everything story. Apart from working for many years in advertising from assisting to directing brand films, sketches and music videos, Ali has been developing original story ideas for feature films and series as well. He was signed up with CleanSlate Filmz to develop an investigative horror *The Last Selfie* for director Prosit Roy, an original idea developed by him and his co-writer friend Sarat Rao.

He loves working on all kinds of stories. Stories about people, places or even events that are yet to take place. Wibbly wobbly. Timey wimey. He is naturally more drawn towards magic realism, sci-fi, comedy, thriller, horror and interactive/transmedia ideas as well. Currently, he is signed up with Civic Studios to develop an original feature film with co-writer friend Keshav Naidu. He is currently represented by The Story Ink (TSI).



Mahakaal

Mahakaal

Hindi, English

Aditya Watts

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Synopsis

Mahakaal is set in 1870's India, ostensibly under the tyrannical British Raj. However, It is not the British India you know - It is more. Rudra Bhairava (23) having faced first-hand the consequences of the Raj, is on a quest of bloody revenge against Lieutenant Governor Victor Dyer for massacring his family.

In his quest, Rudra, trained by a mystical Guru, wields a 6-foot Gada won in a battle against a 25-foot Mahabharata era Chiranjeev. But his journey is meant to be no straight tale of vengeance, and Rudra's path transforms forever when he encounters Geet, a girl from the year 2024.

Writer's Statement

Mahakaal is the definition of a passion project. It combines nearly every interest I have ever had as an Artist - Indian Mythology. Mughal & British Indian History. Philosophical Sci-Fi. Gothic Literature. Epic Anime, etc.

Mahakaal is set in History (1870's) but blends elements of Indian Mythology (Acestics, Chiranjeev's, Rakshasas etc.) and also elements of Science Fiction (In the form of a Geet, a girl who accidentally travels back from 2024.)

This helps me to achieve my ambition of exploring India in its entirety - through Space and Time.

Additionally, Through this story, I seek to explore themes that have captivated me throughout my life: Destiny vs Free Will. The nature of Time and Death. The essence of Morality etc. You could say I wrote Mahakaal because I had to. It is everything I am. Everything that has spoken to me and inspired me. That's why - *Mahakaal*.

Biography

Aditya Watts is a formally trained filmmaker (WWI Film Direction: 2008-10) with 14 years of experience in crafting diverse narratives. His writing influences are based both in literature and cinema. He has been deeply interested in Literature from his early 20's and his interests span from Jorge Luis Borges to Thomas Pynchon to JK Rowling. As for cinema, during his initial Film school days Aditya was fascinated by Godard and Kubrick's formalism. Eventually, he has come to appreciate the craftsmanship and vision of mainstream Filmmakers such as Spielberg and Cameron.

His most significant achievement is the recent feature film as a Writer and Director - *Kaansya*, adapted from Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*. It has recently been awarded the Semi-Finalist position in the 28th Flickers Rhode Island Film Festival in the US. And is an Official Selection at the 36th Girona Film Festival in Spain. Additionally Aditya has written and directed a found footage Sci-Fi Film *The Golden Boyz* (2015-16). Aditya Watts is currently represented by Scriptors, founded by Saurabh Bharat.