



PRODUIRE AU SUD  
FESTIVAL DES CINÉMASTES  
INDIENS

## A NEW SWEETNESS

India

2020 Arthouse Produire au Sud Kolkata

### MAIN DATA

**Original title :** Notun Gur

**Genre:** Coming of age drama

**Length :** 100-120'

**Language :** Bengali

**Shooting location :** India

**Shooting dates :** 2020-2021

**Expected date of completion :** March 2022

### PRODUCTION

**Budget :** 596 500 €

**Financing in place :** 100 000 €

**Production company :** SRDM Productions

**Workshops and platforms attended :** None

**Current situation :** development stage, seeking for partners

### Sriram RAJA, producer

An alumnus of Film & Television Institute of India, Sriram Raja founded a film production house in 2014. He has produced short films, documentaries and feature films under his production house. He aims to create in audience, through his films, a culture of appreciation for dramas that are rooted in culture. He believes Indian cinema can go beyond regional boundaries and reach global audience. He has also worked as Editor-Director.



### Deyali MUKHERJEE, director

Deyali Mukherjee, a graduate of Film & Television Institute of India has directed Short films, Documentaries and an Anthology feature (*Teen Muhurat*, 2018). She works as a writer-director. She pursued her career as an Architect before venturing into films. She has also worked as an Art Director and Cinematographer. Born and raised in Kolkata, Deyali is now based out of Mumbai. Apart from films, she loves to travel, explore cuisines and make new friends. Watercolour painting and gardening are her hobbies. And she loves stories. She feels the art of filmmaking is the best way to tell her stories.



### SYNOPSIS

Every winter, the *Shiuli* community (date palm sap tappers) of Bengal engages in preparation of *gur*, a jaggery that is prepared from the sweet sap the date palm secretes. Ratan, a skillful *shiuli* dies in an accident leaving his family shaken. Suman, his younger brother turning nineteen is not yet ready to become the family's next breadwinner. His carefree, dreamlike childhood comes to a halt. The year that follows witnesses his coming of age. His life changes with changing seasons. Dreams about family and love get shattered and rebuilt again. Time heals the pain and like a tree that deepens the roots as it grows tall, Suman learns to endure the storms of life. And with winter arriving again, arrives a new sweetness in life. Holding the fresh cut sap in hand, Suman realises his life is just like that of the date palm.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (excerpt)

« One of the first paintings that I made as a child was of a man tapping sap from a *Khejur* (*wild date*) *Palm tree*. The image of my native village and the long stretch of palm trees along the paddy fields is printed strongly in my memory. In winters, we always get a bottle of the season's fresh *notun gur* (liquid palm jaggery) from the village. When I grew up, I migrated to the western side of the country for education and work. It is a calling from the east to tell a story of the land. It's the feeling to get connected back to my language and land that made me conceive the story of *Notun Gur*. People in village live in harmony with nature. Their lifestyle, culture and economy are broadly dependent on nature and its produce. Nature is unpredictable, so are their lives. Hope helps them survive difficult times. When it passes, happiness dawns in their lives. Just like the sun shining bright after the dark clouds depart. The cycle of struggle and happiness keeps them going. »

### CONTACTS

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