



KOTA KOTA KOTA

India

2020 Arthouse Produire au Sud Kolkata

MAIN DATA

Genre: Crime/Noir

Length : 90'

Language : Hindi

Shooting location : India

Shooting dates : December 2020

Expected date of completion : March 2021

PRODUCTION

Budget : 243 000 €

Financing in place : 110 000 €

Production company : MDC Filmworks

Workshops and platforms attended : None

Current situation : development stage, seeking for partners

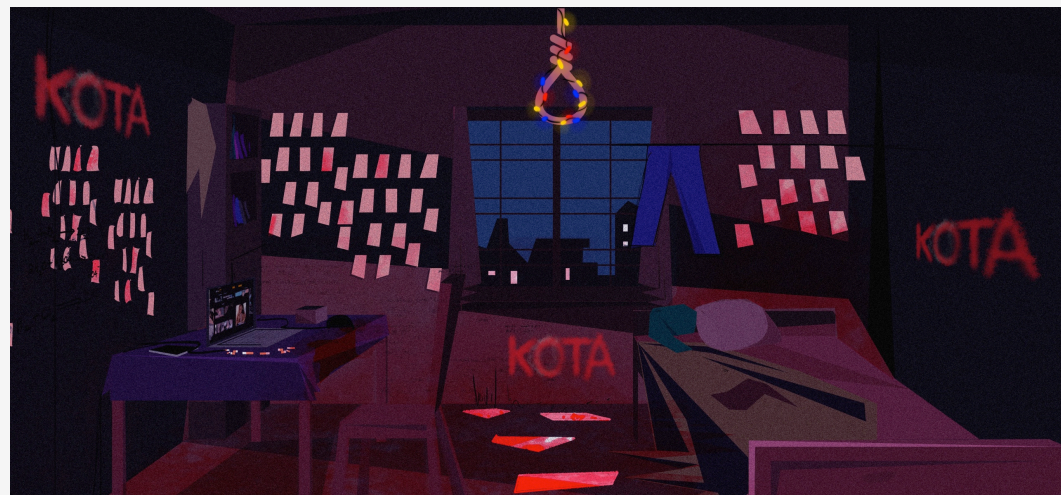
Nikhil CHAUDHARY, producer

A management student turned film producer, Nikhil Chaudhary started his career with a feature length production called *Mantra* that had seasoned actors like Kalki Koechlin, Rajat Kapoor and Adil Hussain. *Mantra* is now available on Netflix and iTunes. His second feature film titled *Yours Truly*, produced under the banner MDC FILMWORKS premiered at the prestigious Busan film festival in 2018 and is now streaming on Zee5 worldwide. His third feature titled *Kadakh* premiered at Tallinn Black Nights festival in Estonia last year and also won the best script award at Tallinn nights. He is currently developing a script with a National award winning writer/director.



Ishan SHARMA, director

Ishan Sharma is a senior year student as part of the Direction & Screenplay Writing department at the prestigious Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute in Calcutta, India. He started his professional career working as Chief Assistant Director for a feature film called *Mantra*, that won multiple awards & accolades across the globe and is now streaming on Netflix as well. In 2016, his directorial debut, a short film called *The Day He Sleeps* won an award in the 'Best Film' category at the River to River Florence India Festival, Italy. Additionally, a short fiction film that he made as part of SRFTI – *The God of Panic Street* premiered at the prestigious Filmfest Dresden, Germany and was also in competition at various film festivals across the world including IFF Stuttgart, ISFVF Beijing and KIFF in India. Ishan Sharma is currently finishing his diploma film project and developing a feature film based in Kota, Rajasthan.



SYNOPSIS

Kota, India, houses roughly two hundred thousand aspirants prepping for the IIT JEE – a tough entrance exam for engineering schools. These students have no life beyond their books and the poor living conditions, courtesy of the many IIT coaching classes that have made an industry out of this. Many students succumb to the immense pressure and often commit suicide. Anurag Verma, 19, is one of these students. He's failed miserably in his first attempt at the IIT JEE and has been pressured by his parents to try again. Mentally exhausted, he too decides to take his life. As he finally reaches the fateful moment, enters Sonam – a mysterious girl who changes his fate by convincing him not to kill himself. As they connect, the surreal night leads to sex, but... Next morning, Anurag wakes up to the news of Sonam's suicide. Shocked at this twist in the plot, he submits himself to uncovering the truth. Little does he know, the deeper he digs, the crazier it gets - A coaching industry mafia, student gangs, The Crocodiles, what will it all lead to?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (excerpt)

« I have a burning desire to tell Kota's story, because it's an exceptional story. It's my story, and the story of millions of students in India that has never been told. What makes an entire nation send lakhs and lakhs of students to a coaching town with the highest suicide rates in the country? At best, they would crack an engineering examination and end up at one of the best engineering schools in the country. At worst, they would end up in a local newspaper headline. It's a gamble every parent in my country is more than willing to take. [...] When I narrated my own struggle with depression and alcoholism to my parents - their initial reaction was stark disbelief. In their universe, children either study or play cricket. But the truth is far stranger than that. The coaching industry, which is a billion-dollar industry now, depends on this anxiety and competition to fund its growth. IIT toppers are paraded around town like heroes on horses, and given luxury cars as prizes. The rest – just survive. Cricket is far away from their world, too far away. »

CONTACTS

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