

Category : Drama
Length : 100'
Language : Hindi & English
Shooting format : HD
Shooting location : New Delhi (India)
Shooting dates : October/December 2015
Stage of production : Development stage
Expected date of completion : May 2016

Budget : 600 000 €
Financing in place : 125 000 €
Current situation : Seeking for European coproducer,
international sale agent



Sanjay SHAH – PRODUCER (Salaam Cinema)



Sanjay Shah is a creative producer from Mumbai, India. His first feature film *Miss Lovely*, directed by Ashim Ahluwalia, premiered at Cannes Un Certain Regard 2012 and screened at Toronto and Rotterdam International Film Festivals amongst others. Sanjay Shah previously worked as a Supervising Producer for the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) where he also organized the Co-Production Market of the South-Asian film market FILM BAZAAR in 2013. He participated in the Berlin International Film Festival's Berlinale Talents programme in 2014. He is the founder of SALAAM CINEMA, a Mumbai-based film production company established to develop and produce auteur driven films for global audiences.

Tushar PRAKASH – DIRECTOR



Tushar Prakash is a filmmaker based in New Delhi, India. He topped the film-direction course of the prestigious National Polish Film School in Lodz and his films have featured at prominent Polish and international film festivals. In 2012, Tushar Prakash co-directed a documentary on the *Nithari* serial killings, one of the most gruesome murder cases in India. He co-directed the science fiction short film, *Chupan Chupai*, for the 2013 Architecture Triennale in Lisbon. He comes from a family of architects and psychologists. His other interests include Indian classical music, jazz, Indian mythology, philosophy, fantasy & science fiction literature. He also works for *Sadho*, a voluntary organization working towards the promotion of Indian Poetry through audio / video platforms.

SYNOPSIS

A married upper-class couple and their domestic helper inhabit a modernist house in the 'newly developing' outskirts of Delhi. Vandana (the wife) is looking for love and connection, Gaurav (the husband) is over-worked and unable to love his wife, Ravi (the helper) is boomerily young and paralysed by his addiction to alcohol.

When the family dog is stolen from the house, the helper is wrongly accused of the crime, but the wife sympathises with him and the two explore their hidden desires. As the hopeless search for the missing dog ensues, the characters are exposed to a society losing itself to rapid urbanisation, discrimination and violence. Unable to cope, the characters face their personal breakdowns, effectively liberating themselves.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extract)

« Why is the nation plunging into chaos? My research shows me that India was a society that was content with its poverty in the post independence era. They were tough times, but peaceful ones, there was a sense of safety on the streets, people smiled and connected with each other. However, in the early nineties the economy opened up to globalization and thus came along new age capitalism with its money and dreams. [...]

This is the story of India today, now and in the cities where it is beginning to break down and crack. [...] It is very interesting to see the real Indian suffering, very internal and personal conflicts while the nation outside suffers very social and external conflicts. That is the basic root of the modern Indian psyche and that is the root of my film as well, analyzing my life in the larger context of a nation in turmoil. [...]

The story also encapsulates the fear I have of the society around me, the violent crimes, gang rapes the chaotic state of everyone. [...]

Every character in my film undergoes a transition, which ends with a powerful catharsis, however in a society where repression is used as a method of control, the characters are beaten and prosecuted for their catharsis. In a film filled with human ugliness, glimpses of human beauty surfaces but eventually get pushed back into the abyss of hate. »

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