

A HARBINGER CREATIONS PRODUCTION

MITA VASISHT

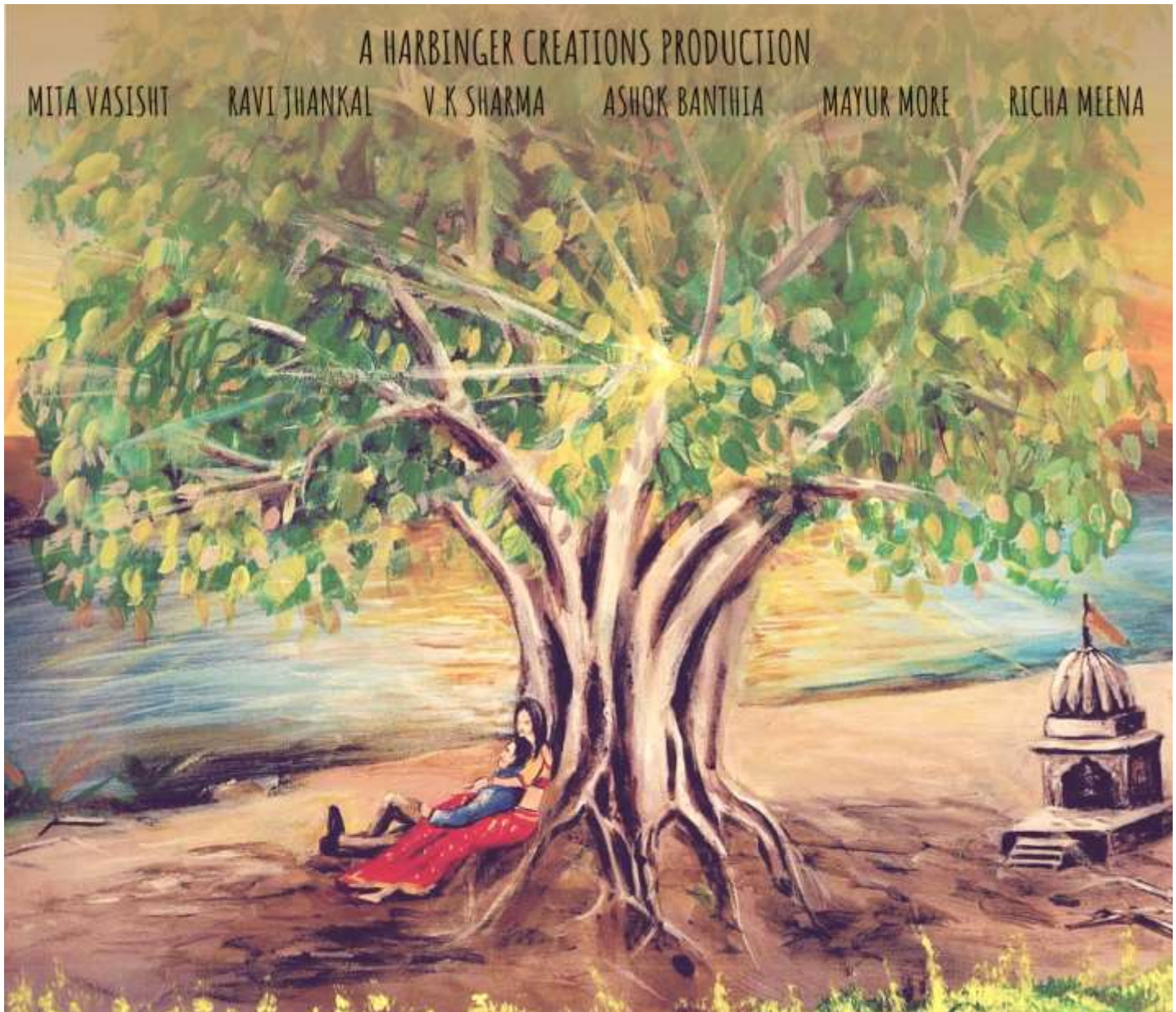
RAVI JHANKAL

V K SHARMA

ASHOK BANTHIA

MAYUR MORE

RICHA MEENA



*a true tale of love
smothered by ambition*



KASAAI

A GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA FILM

PRODUCED BY NILESH SINGHI UTKARSH INDALIYA GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

CINEMATOGRAPHY ASHWIN AMERI | SOUND SWAROOP NATH BHATRA KRITI DAS | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALOK KATALA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AMEET BEMROE | EDITED BY RAHUL KUMAR SHARMA GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA
DIALOGUES CHARAN SINGH PATILK | GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA | LYRICS SHANKER INDALIYA ISH MADHU TALWAR
COSTUME SHIPRA BASSI ANURAG SRIVASTAVA | BACK GROUND SCORE NISHANT NAG | MUSIC RAVINDRA UPADHYAY
STORY CHARAN SINGH PATILK | SCREENPLAY & DIRECTION GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA



SYNOPSIS

Gram panchayat elections in India are the basic roots of Indian politics from where the worm of corruption begins its lifecycle to eventually infest the whole system. Set in Rajasthan, India in the backdrop of gram panchayat elections, Kasaai is a political drama that meanders around the struggle of a mother Gulabi to get justice for her 18 year old son Suraj, who gets killed by his impulsive father Lakhan in a fit of rage. Story unfolds with the political equation of the incumbent Sarpanch Purnaram, 60 going awry as his grandson Suraj and the granddaughter of his longtime political ally Bhaggi Patel are caught in an intimate position by her aunt. Patels turn their arch rival diminishing their election prospects severely. Irked by the thought of power slipping out of their hands, the family attempts to control the damage but things don't seem to go their way. Gulabi's grief and helplessness deepens when the family tries to cover up the crime under the garb of a concocted story. As she struggles with her inner turmoil, a turn of event brings for her a new hope, and also turns the table for the family. But would it be a win-win end?



Featuring

MITA VASISHT

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mita_Vashisht)

RAVI JHANKAL

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravi_Jhankal)

V K SHARMA

(Khosla ka Ghosla, Son Chiraiya)

ASHOK KUMAR BANTHIA

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashok_Banthia)

MAYUR MORE

(Anaarkali of Aarah)

RICHA MEENA



With

JYOTI VERMA

TEETU VERMA

VIKAS PAREEK

SARVESH VYAS

RUCHI BHARGAVA

MANOJ SWAMI

RAMAN KRISHNA ATTRE

HARI NARAYAN SHARMA

SANJAY VIDROHI



Screenplay & Direction
GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

Produced by
NILESH SINGHI
UTKARSH INDALIYA
GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

Story
CHARAN SINGH PATHIK

Music
RAVINDRA UPADHYAY

Background Score
NISHANT NAG

Editing
RAHUL KUMAR SHARMA
GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

Cinematography
ASHVIN AMERI

Sound
SWAROOP NATH BHATRA
KRITI DAS

Lyrics
SHANKER INDALIYA
ISH MADHU TALWAR

Vocals
RAVINDRA UPADHYAY
SUMEDHA KARMAHE
MEENAL JAIN

Dialogues
CHARAN SINGH PATHIK
GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

Executive Producer
ALOK KATALA

Associate Director
AMIT BIMROT

Costumes
SHIPRA BASSI
ANURAG SRIVASTAVA





DIRECTOR'S WORD

Kasaai represents the grey shade of the character that exists in every human being, and which raises its head when he is driven by greed, power and ambition. Kasaai is an intriguing story that intrudes these dark corners of the human mind. Based on a true incident, this story was first published in an acclaimed Hindi literary magazine, and later became the part of story book collection by Pathik. I happened to read it few years back, and it remained with me for a long time. After several subsequent readings I was sure that this story was meant for the big screen. The beauty of the story is that despite being a political drama, it unfolds like a thriller in a layered manner lending it the much needed mysticism. Further, it very intimately explores the most basic level of Indian politics as the narrative moves forward in the back drop of gram-panchayat elections. Nevertheless, it could also be put as a love story that gets smothered by ambitions, and of ambitions that gets stalled by love. Highlight of the story is its leading woman character who against all odds challenges the patriarchy and dares to take a stand for what is right.

Dialogues are in Hindi but an undertone of the local dialect of the region close to Braj lends the requisite authenticity to the script. Some real cracking performances by NSD veterans in the lead backed by a strong technical team from FTII in cinematography and sound departments have done justice to the script. Film is subtitled in English for non-Hindi speaking audiences. Kasaai is potentially a powerful piece of cinema that is deeply rooted in its soil, and yet represents a universal theme.

- GAJENDRA S. SHROTRIYA

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Gajendra S Shrotriya, an engineer and MBA by qualification is a film maker by passion. His debut feature film in Rajasthani titled “Bhobhar” had its world premiere at Corinth International Film Festival in Greece and was screened at several International Film Festivals in India and abroad. The film won awards in ten categories including The Best Direction at the First Rajasthan Film Awards, and was received well, both by the critics and the audiences at the box-office. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhobhar>

Besides, he has co-written screenplay for Hindi feature film Chutki Bajaa Ke and directed an animated feature film on Rani Laxmi Bai. Several of his short films have been officially screened at National and International Film Festivals and have won awards, notable of which are Picnic (2008), I’m Sorry (2010) and Selfie (2014).



ABOUT THE STORY WRITER

Kasaai is based on the story under the same title by Charan Singh Pathik, a prolific and acclaimed story writer in Hindi from Rajasthan with a very deep understanding of grass-root politics and socio-economic structure of rural life. He works as a teacher in the government school, and is closely associated with the gram panchayat activities. More than four collections of his short stories have been published and is known and appreciated for his bold authentic writings that root for the cause of the oppressed and the poor. He was a keynote speaker at Jaipur Literature Festival in 2012. Recently, Vishal Bhardwaj also made a Bollywood feature film titled Pataakha on his story “Do Bahnein”.



Title
KASAAI
(The Devil)

Genre
POLITICAL DRAMA

Category
FEATURE FILM

Language
HINDI

Subtitles
ENGLISH

Proposed censor rating
A

Duration
96 minutes

Number of songs
THREE

Status
COMPLETED

Feature in leading National Daily DNA After Hrs



A still from the film, Kasaai



Mita Vasisht in the film

MADE IN RAJASTHAN

The maker of Bhubhar, the first Rajasthani language film to be screened at a global fest, is ready with his next



Director Gajendra Singh Shrotiya (left) on the sets

Yukti Sharma

The maker of *Bhubhar*, the first Rajasthani film to be screened at an international festival in the Greek city of Corinth, Gajendra Singh Shrotiya is all set to screen his next feature film, *Kasaai* at Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) that begins on January 18, 2019. *Kasaai* is the second feature film for Shrotiya, is an engineer and businessperson by profession.

The film that features Mita Vasisht in the lead role, along with actors like Ravi Jhankal, VK Sharma and Ashok Kumar Bantia, has been shot in the village Rounsi in Karauli, Rajasthan.

SCRIPT TO SCREEN

The story of the film revolves around a woman, who fights for justice after her son is killed by her husband. The story has been penned by Charan Singh Pathik. "After my first feature film was released, I wrote many screenplays. I tried pitching

It took me almost a year to draft the final script. As I looked for the cast, the most difficult part was to get someone for the lead role; it's a very crucial role and we were low on budget



those to many filmmakers; one of my scripts even got selected for the Mumbai Mantra Cinerise programme but couldn't really make it. Then, I came across this story and kept reading it. I met Pathnik and told him that I

want to make a film on this," he says.

FINDING THE CAST

"It took me almost a year to draft the final script. As I looked for the cast, the most difficult part was to get someone for the lead role; it's a very crucial role and we were low on budget. I spoke with Mita (Vasisht) and she didn't respond for three months. When I contacted her again, she read my script and decided to do the film within our budget," he adds. The producer aims to screen *Kasaai* at various international and national film festivals before its release.

Shrotiya started making films around 10 years ago. "I used to make presentations and do creative work; I even made a few films. That's when I decided to make short films and some of my films were screened at international film festivals like Toronto, London and Chicago. That really motivated me to make more films," he shared.

yukti.sharma@dnaindia.net



Contact

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