



a film by Sudeep Sohni

the
exploration
of rhythm
in a
child's soul

Tanishka

तनिष्का

**Tanishka Hatwalne, Manju Mani Hatwalne,
Guru PSA Manu, Vishal Hatwalne**

Cinematography **Ashok K Meena, Aniruddh Chouthmol**
Editing **Sudeep Sohni, Ashok K Meena**
Music **Nikhil-Shantanu**, Sound Design **Nagarjuna Thallapalli**
Coloring **Dhiraj Chetia**
Script, Producer & Direction **Sudeep Sohni**

Bharatanatyam is an old classical dance form of India which depicts *Bhava*, *Raga* and *Tala* combined in *Natyam*.

Tanishka Hatwalne is an 8-year-old learner and practitioner of *Bharatanatyam*. She studies in class 4, lives in Bhopal (MP-India)

Her mother, Guru Manju Mani Hatwalne is an exponent of *Bharatanatyam*, trained in the *Tanjavoor Shailee* under the tutelage of Guru Shri PSA Manu.

Her father, Vishal Hatwalne left his job from IT sector to pursue his wife and daughter's dream.

The film tries to capture the formative years of learning and cultivating the art form in her.

Script, Producer & Directed by
Sudeep Sohni

Film Genre Documentary
Runtime 68 minutes

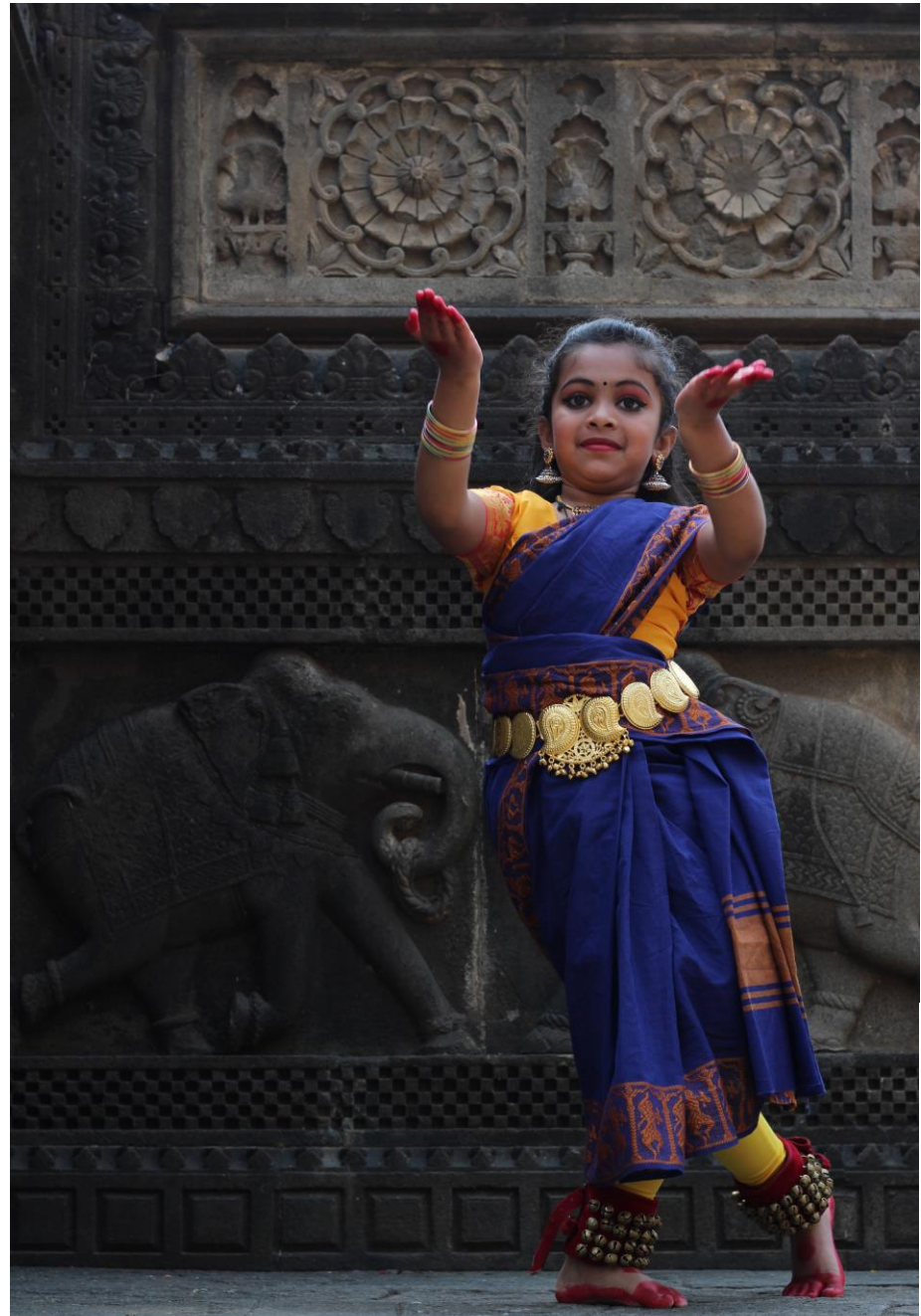
Completion Year 2021

Country of Origin
India

Language
Hindi, English

Shooting Format Digital
Aspect Ratio 16:9

Film Color Color



Shooting Still 1 - Tanishka



Film Still 1 – Tanishka

Why I Chose to Work on this Film

In India, documentary films are still not considered as the source of knowledge and documentation of history & time. Tanishka is my second documentary which I have been making for the past one and half years on my resources. Tanishka is an 8-year-old child prodigy, born in 2011, who is learning *Bharatanatyam* from her mother Guru Manju Mani Hatwalne since she was 2 and half years old. She is also very active on stage as a theatre practitioner. I have been working with Tanishka since 2015 when she first joined a children's theatre workshop in Bhopal and acted in a play written by me named 'Newto aur Pluto'. Since then, I have been mesmerized by her on many occasions. I have written a few *Bharatanatyam*-dance-drama for their academy including 'Ram Katha', 'Kumar Sambhavam', and 'Bhimbetka' in which she was part of the group and each time my curiosity went deeper about the artiste as a preschooler and now a school-aged child. For her life means arts. Unknowingly, that is her routine whereby she is constantly surrounded by artists and practitioners of theatre and dance of various age groups. **I am a firm believer that in art we exchange a lot and develop our craft consciously and subconsciously.** In a modern-day fast life where neither parents nor the teachers are aware of how to educate and guide child artists, Tanishka is very fortunate to be in tutelage of a classical dance form under her mother.



Shooting Still 2 – Tanishka



Shooting Still 3 –Tanishka

Some Excerpts:

- 1) I can sense great potential is running around her which is very rare in today's children. Especially, as I have been working with all aged group artists, **I believe that the routes of any artiste or person lie in his/her childhood.**
- 2) She is one child in recent years who is so passionately and devotedly learning an art form. She has something extra (above ordinary) which differentiates her from the other similar children who are pursuing an art form here in central India.
- 3) I have been a great fan of Sachin Tendulkar. All of us have been exposed to many stories about his childhood cricket but we don't have many visuals of the years of his making. I did not want to lose the opportunity in Tanishka's case and the good thing is I have captured a lot of her 6- and 7-years aged life. Now as time progresses, she is changing day by day. So does her art, which is definitely better than the previous one. Still, I have the most important things about her – time.
- 4) And to keep vision clear, I have never taken a rehearsed shot. All the captures were spontaneous and true to the time. Whether she is doing it right or wrong. She is accurate or not. This has captured some beautiful and astonishing footage of what is going on in her mind at that particular moment of either at practice or presentation on stage.
- 5) We haven't waited for a camera either. For us, time was important. We have shot on iPhone also. We started shooting her in November 2018 and now, we are ready with a structured three edit versions of 68 mins, 58 mins and 42 mins. **Interestingly, the film has been evolved with a non-linear story and taken shape as a journey of rhythm and exploration of art in an 8-year-old soul.**



Shooting Still 4 – Tanishka

Why This Film Is Important

The filming itself was a unique experience for me. I have been a student of screenplay writing but I haven't approached the film as a planned story. Although, we have made some concepts and shared them with her mother. Which turned into the lessons of art practice for Tanishka and then we shot. But we never used a script at all. This can be seen while viewing the footage.

My ultimate aim was to preserve the time of how a child is honing her skills, working on her craft and at the same time living her life. It is rare in the times in which we are living in, where a child who is blessed and at the same time nurturing the talent. I wanted to capture that journey. Also, wanted to capture, what is going on in her mind at the time.

The result of the rough-cut was satisfying for us that it will definitely preserve the time of her exploration in arts. In the time where parents are taking arts as a curricular, Tanishka will definitely be the source of inspiration for many other children and parents as well as various artists of all age groups. Her learning, practice, focus, discipline and dedication makes her what she is.

The technique of filming moments and following her where she goes or rehearsing or living life has expanded my horizons too as a thinker. I can co-relate with her many times and could question me about my childhood exposure to arts.

Filming an artist is never easy. The spiritual, as well as spontaneous nature of art, has been felt throughout the filmmaking or by practicing. In a fraction of a moment, Tanishka used to become a performer from a child. And then used to come back to routine. Experiences of all these would surely be reflected in the film.



Shooting Still 5 - Tanishka



Film Still 2 - Tanishka



Film Still 3 –Tanishka

We Need Support

We just started without knowing what would be the final outcome and related issues. Now, we have come to the stage where we need support for the road ahead. We have arrived at what can be done by ourselves. I and the team of friends have shot, edited, and finally scripted the film. Now we need screening opportunities, exhibiting it to various festivals.

Indie-making is challenging at every stage. I have felt and experienced at the time of filming where I was in constant battle with my creativity Vs financials.

The film really needs support and backing in getting screening opportunities, publicity, discourses and by any means.



Shooting Still 6 – Tanishka

sudeepsohnifilms@gmail.com

Synopsis

Dedicated to the most important time period of an artist's life – childhood, the eponymous film 'Tanishka' explores the journey of rhythm in an 8-year-old soul. The film tries to capture the formative years of her learning *Bharatanatyam*. The narrative of the film, constructed in non-linear form, shows her practice, day-to-day life, surroundings, traveling, and performance. Knowingly and unknowingly her life is practicing and living the art form. Even though only a child, performing *Slokas*, *Rasas*, *Shastra*, and other exercises are integral to her daily life – many times in the presence of the audiences. At the same time, her childhood innocence is intact, taking her on the path of becoming a devoted artiste of an old and traditional dance form of Indian culture.



Director Profile

Sudeep Sohni is a playwright, poet, columnist, writer, and filmmaker. He worked for 4 years in advertising as a copywriter before joining the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune where he did his specialization in Screenplay Writing. 'Tanishka' is his debut documentary feature film. Active in the art scenario of Madhya Pradesh – India, Sudeep has been actively writing for World Cinema in various Journals, Newspapers, & Magazines and also working as a conceptualizer and advisor for various art & film festivals in India.



Film Stills Collage- Tanishka

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Script, Producer & Direction **Sudeep Sohni**

Tanishka – Cast & Crew

Featuring Tanishka Hatwalne, Manju Mani Hatwalne, Guru Shri PSA Manu, Vishal Hatwalne

Script & Direction Sudeep Sohni | **Produced by** Sudeep Sohni

Cinematography Ashok K Meena, Aniruddh Chouthmol, Sudeep Sohni

Assistant Cameraman Aditya Upadhyay | **Colorist** Dhiraj Chetia

Editing Ashok K Meena, Sudeep Sohni | **Editing Consultation** Vaibhav Sawant

Music Nikhil-Shantanu | **Music Consultation** Hemant Deolekar

Music Credits

Song 'Maadu Maikkum Kanne' by Abhinaya DVD produced by Kalakriya and designed by Priyadarsini Govind

Song 'Adharam Madhuran' by Giri Trading Agency Private Limited

Poem 'Wo railgadi mein baithi hai' by Hemant Deolekar

Stills Vishal Hatwalne, Aditya Upadhyay | **Make-up & Costumes** Manju Mani Hatwalne

Sound Design & Mixing Nagarjuna Thallapalli | **VFX** Raj Bagle

English Translation Reva Bodas | **Subtitling** Sudeep Sohni

Credits and Titling Studio 7 | **Sketch** Heera Dhurvey

Consultation Udayan Vajpeyi, Sanju Surendran

Artists at the Live Concert

Vocal Rashmi Ravi

Mridangam Keshavan

Flute Virendra Kore

Violin Mahesh Malik

Lights Kamal Jain

Nattuvangam & Vocal Manju Mani Hatwalne

Acknowledgement

Vinay Upadhyay, Ashish Khatri, Sapna Bhatt, Jaya Mani, Ekta Goswami and Students of Pratibhalaya Arts Academy



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