

SOLIPSISM

She who is one, is the one and only.



2023/15 MIN/ENGLISH/COLOR/4:3



SYNOPSIS

Set in cosmopolitan London, Aikya, a British-Indian blogger believes she is the only person that exists in the world. Continuing her daily life convinced that every interaction with another is purely a construct in her own world, her beliefs and existence are shattered after she witnesses the untimely suicide of a neighbour. Thrust into a world unknown, Aiyka must process unfounded human emotions, grapple with her solipsism and engage with the idea that she may not be alone after all.



DIRECTOR BIO

Born and brought up in India and now in the UK, director Nischay Madhavan explores the dark side of the human mind through his main characters fringe lifestyle. After exploring themes like terrorism in modern society, social anxiety, physical abuse, grief and spiritual cult practice (Crescent- 2015, Gwen- 2016, Edge- 2020), he is now embarking on a journey that aims to portray the scary side of mental health whilst exploring the little known subject of solipsism. For Solipsism, he has combined with cinematographer Eddie Adamson for the 5th time to bring alive this project.

FILMOGRAPHY

- MAY 2020- EDGE- Director, Writer and Producer
<https://vimeo.com/438195776>
- August 2017 - The Run - Producer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diEbCCAax8w&feature=youtu.be>
- April 2017 - Journeyman - Producer & Production manager –
https://youtu.be/8-xwkQ_HhfM .
- December 2016 - Gwen - Producer and Writer –
<https://youtu.be/09vHFAw8AJ8>
- May 2016 - Fragments - Producer and Writer -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4n4SKI30iAYWU9uNjhJR3N6TnM/view>
- December 2015 - Glyndwr Vineyard - Producer and Co-writer -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVG8aJGs36A>
- May 2015 - Crescent - Producer and Writer -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHsharAAet0>



Interview with Writer, Director and Producer Nischay Madhavan

Q- What was your inspiration behind the film?

A- The inspiration was initially to write a hard hitting story that spoke about people who are not spoken about. There are certain people in society who are not talked about, I find that they are the ones with the most interesting life's and stories. I initially came up with an idea to write about solipsism when I was about 14 years old and it was after the insistence of my father that we chose to bring the concept to life again almost 12 years later and add a fresh and modern twist to the story. Having had a few bouts with mental health myself, I found this to be the perfect opportunity to weave a mental health related idea with the little known concept of Solipsism. Adding in the horror elements was a stylistic choice to represent the true nature of a mental health struggle; an incredibly disturbing and scary ordeal. Stylistically, we were inspired by A24 studio's films, especially A ghost Story, Hereditary and First Reformed.

Q- Were there any challenges in the making of the film?

A- Ofcourse! Like with every other film, small or big budget there are always issues that a crew faces. But what outweighs the challenges is the true determination that the crew shows in the face of adversity. In terms of our challenges, fund raising was one of the main issues. We spoke to a number of professionals and companies, I understood that we needed financial backing and I also understood that it was going to be hard to repay investment because the short film market doesn't offer great returns on any investment, rather I see the short film market as a way for young filmmakers to express themselves and put a small foot into the industry, I could be wrong, this is just my impression. However through working a day job and having accrued some savings over the years, I decided to put up the funding myself with a small contribution from my co- producer Guto. Its of course always tough to self finance a film, but when it is a story so close to your heart which means so much, it makes it all incredibly worth it.



Q- How easy/hard was it to portray such a challenging subject in a short film?

A- Extremely hard! There are so many layers and hidden subtleties to this film that require a feature length canvas. Explaining the idea of solipsism itself requires a long time in my opinion, which is why for this short we combined a mental health message to communicate the idea better. There are several depictions of mental health on screen and they are all handled variedly, but by adding the horror element, we wanted it to be a unique experience as well as suggesting that mental health is scary, if not the scariest experience one goes through. Ours film not an out and out horror however, and does have certain experimental moments to further emphasise the fragmented reality inside the main protagonist's mind.

Q- What is next for you and the crew?

A- Lots of new projects hopefully! I have collaborated with most of the crew multiple times before as I worked with them all from our University days, I really wish I can continue to collaborate with all of them in the future on many more projects. Like previously mentioned I will certainly be writing a feature script for this project and look for it to be picked up and produced by a production house. But as a group we are creative and constantly look to make loads of projects, so expect to see something from us all in the near future!







CAST

Aikya/Alter Aikya: Nicole Fernandes

The Neighbour: Sonia Kaur



CREW

Director, Co-Producer and Story: Nischay Madhavan

Co-Producers- Guto Thomas and Akash Singh

Screenplay by: Holly Jackson

Director of Photography, Editor, Colour Grade: Eddie Adamson

First Assistant Cinematographer: Guto Thomas

Original Soundtrack and Composition: Rayshaun Thompson (Controlled Noise).

On Set Sound: Sam Cooke

Audio Post Production By: Cineakash Productions Pvt Ltd

Audio Post Production Supervisor: Akash Singh

Sound Designer & Sound Mixer: Mim Sayeed and Juan Alvarez

Foley Recording & Editing- Mim Sayeed and Ritesh Kumar

Soundtrack Sound Designers: Langa Manyoba and Rayshaun Thompson

Violin composition By: Cardaro Rodriguez

Double Bass composition: Sage Reynolds

Script Supervisor: Joe Watters

Production Assistant: Joe Watters

Makeup: Henna Alam and Anjali Rai

Executive Producer: T.S Madhavan



A United Kingdom- India Co-production

**With Financial Contribution from
Madhavan T.S and Guto Thomas**

**For Enquiry
nischay.madhavan@gmail.com**