

**DEVOTION** can push your boundaries  
but every prayer has an **OFFERING**



# asurā

THE **DEMON** WITHIN

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **VIREN SHINDE**

16TH STREET PRODUCTIONS and NULL POINTER FILMS PRESENT

A FILM BY VIREN SHINDE "ASURA: THE DEMON WITHIN" PRATIGYA PAUDEL • SANGEETA AGRAWAL • SITA SARKAR

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **VIREN SHINDE** CONSULTING PRODUCER **VIJAYKUMAR MIRCHANDANI** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **JOSHUA WANN** MUSIC BY **SUDEIP GHOSH**

COSTUMES BY **MEGHAN SHAH** SET DECORATION AND LOCATIONS BY **JAMIE FORSLUND** © NULL POINTER FILMS, LLC

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SHOT ON  
KODAK  
FILM

16 16th Street  
Productions



**Genre:** Horror

**Run Time:** 5:00

**Writer/Director:** Viren Shinde

**Producers:** Vijaykumar Mirchandani, Viren Shinde

**Logline:** Two sisters perform a forbidden prayer to bring their mother back from the dead - but every prayer has an *offering*...

**Synopsis:** Two sisters perform an inauspicious prayer to the anti-god Lord Mautya. They ask of him a simple boon - that their mother's soul be returned to her body so she may come back into their lives. Although the prayer seems to work, it exacts on the two sisters a heavy toll.

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/898505137/ffe7c2bd60>

**Website:** <https://www.nullpointerfilms.com/asura>

**Instagram:** [@nullpointerfilms](https://www.instagram.com/nullpointerfilms)

**Email:** [viren@nullpointerfilms.com](mailto:viren@nullpointerfilms.com)



## Director's Bio

Viren Shinde is a writer and director based in Philadelphia, PA and strives to showcase his South Asian American heritage on screen. He has made six original short films that have been shown at festivals such as the Chicago South Asian Film Festival and the Austin Asian American Film Festival. Viren grew up watching movies from a variety of different industries. Hollywood taught him technique, Bollywood taught him drama, and Jackie Chan flicks taught him how to throw a punch on camera. When Viren is not filming, you can catch him in a cafe looking for a good Americano.

## Director's Statement

Asura was a film born out of two things. The first was my love of horror movies. The second was my desire to see horror movies from different cultures on screen. American horror films that depict religion are often based in Catholicism: holy water, upside-down crosses, biblical demons, etc. Growing up in a Hindu family, I always wanted to see horror films that pulled from my own religion. Hinduism has a vast mythology, and for its many gods, Hindu texts also make mention of several demons and anti-gods, or asuras. With this film, my goal was to take a simple premise that horror fans had seen before - a forbidden prayer or ritual - and present it using imagery they may not have seen before to leave them yearning for more South Asian horror films going forward.



## Principal Cast

**Sangeeta Agrawal as The Mother:** Sangeeta Agrawal is an award winning actor and filmmaker with more than 30 years of acting experience on stage and film that include both lead and supporting roles across both shorts and features. She has starred in Siddharth Chauhan's award-winning debut feature, *Amar Colony*, and alongside Karan Soni in Naman Gupta's award-winning short film, "Coming Out with the Help of a Time Machine," which is now streaming on Omeleto.

**Pratigya Paudel as The Older:** Pratigya Paudel is a New York based actor, writer, and director, who has numerous films, theatre and commercial works under her belt. Her most recent film, *Juniper*, is hitting the festival circuits and has already acquired a few awards. Pratigya is excited to pursue more acting work, both behind the screens and on the stage. When not acting, Pratigya is continuing her passion for language learning, writing, and training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

**Sita Sarkar as The Younger:** Sita Sarkar is a New York based actor and writer. She has appeared in many theater and film productions around NYC and has earned two Best Actress awards from the independent film community. Sita has also authored two original one-act plays and has had her work produced at the Castillo Theatre and with Poetic Theatre Productions. She's most recently been seen in the short film "The Difference Between Us", which premiered at the Black Star Film Festival.



## Heads of Department

**Joshua Wann (Cinematographer):** Joshua Wann is a Philadelphia based Director of Photography, focusing on narrative films and music videos. He primarily shoots on film as he prefers the imperfect naturalism inherent to the medium. He's drawn to the grittiness present in the image and how it mirrors much of what it means to be a human living in this physical world. When not shooting motion films, you can catch Josh roaming the streets of Philly shooting street photography and drinking oolong tea.

**Jamie Forslund (Set Decoration/Location/Props):** Jamie Forslund is a Philadelphia-based production designer and set decorator. Jamie loves working closely with filmmakers to bring storytelling into every element of the settings of their films. A former educator, Jamie is passionate about providing access and mentorship to populations often overlooked in the film industry while also advocating for disability awareness behind the camera.

**Meghan Shah (Costumes):** Meghan Shah is currently finishing up a masters degree at UPenn's Graduate School of Education. She found herself in the film world through an unexpected class in grad school. While studying ethnographic filmmaking, an untapped passion for the field was ignited. She's not new to the art world as her career has spanned over ten years exhibiting both locally and internationally. Her current art practice is rooted in textiles and painting while adding community based filmmaking to the mix.

**Sudeip Ghosh (Composer):** Sudeip Ghosh is a trained musician in Indian classical music and has produced soundtracks for 11 award winning movies that have screened at over 165 film festivals. Sudeip plays Carnatic and Hindustani classical music but is also inspired by American rock and heavy metal acts. Sudeip has performed with several Bollywood music producers and vocalists, including Shaan and Vishal-Shekar, and currently works at his own music production studio in Pennsylvania.



Producers **Vijaykumar Mirchandani, Viren Shinde**

Written, Directed, and Edited by **Viren Shinde**

Starring

**Sangeeta Agrawal**

**Pratigya Paudel**

**Sita Sarkar**

Crew

Cinematography **Joshua Wann**

Set Decoration, Location, and Props **Jamie Forslund**

Costumes **Meghan Shah**

Composer **Sudeip Ghosh**

Gaffer **Hieu Tran**

Costumes Assistant **Hetali Shah**

Production Assistant **Alex Ventresca**