

A
PNG FILMS
PRODUCTION



BANDAR

(MONKEY)



WRITTEN + DIRECTED BY
GEET GANGWANI

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



PROJECT TITLE	BANDAR
PROJECT TITLE (ENGLISH)	MONKEY
COUNTRY/S OF PRODUCTION	INDIA, USA
DATE OF COMPLETION	15 JANUARY 2024
SCREENING FORMAT	DCP AND PRO RES AVAILABLE
RATIO	2.35:1
SOUND	DIGITAL 5.1 THEATRICAL
DURATION	14 MINUTES, 53 SECONDS
GENRE	ROMANCE, DRAMA
LANGUAGE	HINDI, ENGLISH
FESTIVAL RUN	RIVER TO RIVER FLORENCE INDIAN FF INDIE-MEME FF TWELVE LIONS FF

LOGLINE

THE FILM FOLLOWS NEIL, WHO EAGERLY REUNITES WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, HIYA AFTER A YEAR OF LONG DISTANCING. HIYA, NOW LESS EMOTIONAL THAN BEFORE, ACCIDENTALLY RUINS ONE OF HIS SURPRISES. THIS COMICAL MISHAP REIGNITES THE SPARK THEY ONCE HAD AND ADDS COLOR TO THEIR DULL LIVES.

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POSTER

Ria Nalavade

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Jai Khadilkar

bandar (MONKEY)

Written & Directed by
Geet Gangwani

Co-Produced by **Ghalib Datta**

Cinematographer **Leslie Dsouza** Editor **Ranjabati Sarkar** 'Rijhaun' by **Utsavi Jha** Colorist **Yash Soni** Assistant Director **Jahnvi Bhatt** Sound Design **Yash Shinde** Music **Kartikeye Ojha** Assistant Cinematographers **Prateek Bernard Darshan Mehta** Art Design **Nitin Muralidharan Richa Arukia** Production Manager **Jinu Johny**

TRAILER





SYNOPSIS

BANDAR IS A ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT EXPLORES THE LIVES OF A YOUNG COUPLE, HIYA AND NEIL, AS THEIR OUTLOOKS OF EACH OTHER CHANGE AFTER ENTERING A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.

SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF MODERN METROPOLITAN INDIA, THE FILM CAPTURES THE COUPLE'S STRUGGLE AS THEY FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT BETWEEN THEIR PRESENT AND PAST. THROUGH A MIX OF CHAOS AND ANTICIPATION, BANDAR EXPLORES THE COMPLEXITIES OF LOVE, WHERE THE PAST BECOMES A REMINDER OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE, NUDGING THE PRESENT TO EMBRACE ITS INNOCENCE ONCE AGAIN.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

AT ITS CORE, BANDAR OFFERS A FRESH TAKE ON SOUTH ASIAN ROMANCE FILMS, GIVING US A PEEK INTO THE MEMORIES OF TWO CONFLICTED INDIVIDUALS.

THE WAY WE'VE USED COLOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHY IN BANDAR REFLECTS THE EMOTIONAL ESSENCE OF THE STORY AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT. THE PRESENT IS IN BLACK AND WHITE, SYMBOLIZING THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN HIYA AND NEIL SHOWCASING HOW WE ALWAYS THINK OF OUR PRESENT AS GRIMY IN COMPARISON TO OUR PAST (IN COLOR) WHICH WOULD ALWAYS BE A DREAM FOR OUR PRESENT. THIS VISUAL CONTRAST CAPTURES THE SHIFTING DYNAMICS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT REMOVING THE CONFLICT FROM EITHER.

THE NEXT STEP FOR OUR PROJECT IS TO EXPAND BANDAR INTO A WEB SERIES, USING THE SHORT AS A PILOT TO ESTABLISH HIYA AND NEIL'S WORLD. BY SHOWCASING THE FILM AT FESTIVALS, WE AIM TO BUILD ANTICIPATION AND MOMENTUM FOR THE PROJECT, WITH SUMMER 2025 AS OUR PROJECTED PRODUCTION DATE. ALONGSIDE MY CO-PRODUCER, MR. GHALIB DATTA, WE BELIEVE THERE'S A NEED FOR A SOUTH ASIAN LOVE STORY THAT FEELS BOTH GENUINE AND RELATABLE, AND BANDAR HAS THE POTENTIAL TO FILL THAT SPACE.

THIS SHORT IS JUST THE STARTING POINT, THE FIRST CHAPTER OF A LARGER STORY THAT DESERVES TO BE TOLD, AND WE'RE EXCITED TO BE THE ONES BRINGING IT TO LIFE.



THE 'BEFORE' THOUGHT

BANDAR STARTED AS A STANDALONE BACKSTORY, WRITTEN AND SET ASIDE FOR MONTHS WITH NO PLANS OF TURNING IT INTO A SHORT FILM. LATER, ON INSTINCT, THE STORY WAS REVISITED AND EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A PRESENT-DAY ELEMENT, ADDING NINE EXTRA PAGES. THIS CHANGE CAME FROM GEET'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, REFLECTING ON A RELATIONSHIP ABOUT TO GO LONG DISTANCE AND IMAGINING A VERSION OF LIFE THAT FELT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HIS CURRENT REALITY.

WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON VISUAL STORYTELLING, THE WELL-PLANNED PRE-PRODUCTION NOT ONLY ALLOWED US TO EXECUTE OUR VISION EFFECTIVELY BUT ALSO HELPED US ACHIEVE A LOT WITHIN A RESOURCEFUL BUDGET OF UNDER \$1,000. AS THE PROJECT GREW, IT BROUGHT IN COLLABORATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING MR. GHALIB DATTA, A PRODUCER WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING ON PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY ICONS LIKE ROBERT DE NIRO. MR. DATTA WILL NOW LEAD THE PRODUCTION OF THE BANDAR WEB SERIES, HELPING TAKE THIS STORY TO A MUCH LARGER SCALE.

NEXT STEPS

WITH THE SHORT FILM SERVING AS A PILOT, THE BANDAR WEB SERIES IS SET TO ENTER PRODUCTION IN THE SUMMER OF 2025. THE SERIES WILL EXPLORE HIYA AND NEIL'S RELATIONSHIP IN GREATER DEPTH, FOCUSING ON THE COMPLEXITIES OF LONG-DISTANCE LOVE AND MODERN RELATIONSHIPS IN A WAY THAT FEELS REAL AND RELATABLE.

WE HAVE ALREADY BUILT A STRONG FOUNDATION WITH A DEDICATED TEAM OF WRITERS AND PRODUCERS ACROSS US AND INDIA, INCLUDING BULLY MEDIA, OUR CREATIVE PARTNER, AND PNG FILMS LED BY GEET, WITH GHALIB DATTA SERVING AS OUR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER. SEASON ONE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IS FULLY WRITTEN. WE ARE IN THE PRE-PRODUCTION PHASE, WITH CASTING IN PROGRESS AND PREPARATIONS FOR PRODUCTION UNDERWAY.

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING INVESTORS WHO ALIGN WITH OUR VISION TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO LIFE—A CONTEMPORARY ROMANTIC DRAMA SET IN MODERN METROPOLITAN INDIA, OFFERING A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON RELATIONSHIPS. WITH A CLEAR PRODUCTION PLAN, BANDAR IS POSITIONED TO BECOME A THOUGHTFUL AND NUANCED SERIES THAT OFFERS AN AUTHENTIC PORTRAYAL OF LOVE AND CONNECTION IN TODAY'S WORLD.

STILLS



STILLS



STILLS



KEY CREDITS

CAST



RIA NALAVADE

(AS HIYA)

RIA NALAVADE IS AN ACTOR, MODEL AND FILMMAKER FROM BANGALORE, INDIA. SHE STARTED HER CAREER BY WINNING THE TALENT CONTEST TIMES FRESH FACE IN 2016 POST WHICH SHE DEBUTED AS AN ACTOR IN THE MULTIPLE AWARD-WINNING FEATURE 'THREE LEGGED HORSE' DIRECTED BY NOOPUR BORA. SOON AFTER SHE STEPPED INTO MAINSTREAM INDIAN WEBSHOWS LIKE SUNFLOWER AND THE WIDELY POPULAR UP65. SHE HAS ALSO BEEN THE FACE OF SEVERAL BRANDS AND IS A FILMMAKER HERSELF - NOMINATED AT MAMI AND SONY FUTURE FILMMAKERS LA. RIA WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE TEN FRESH NEW INDIAN VOICES BY NETFLIX AND FILMCOMPANION'S TAKETEN INITIATIVE.

JAI KHADILKAR

(AS NEIL)

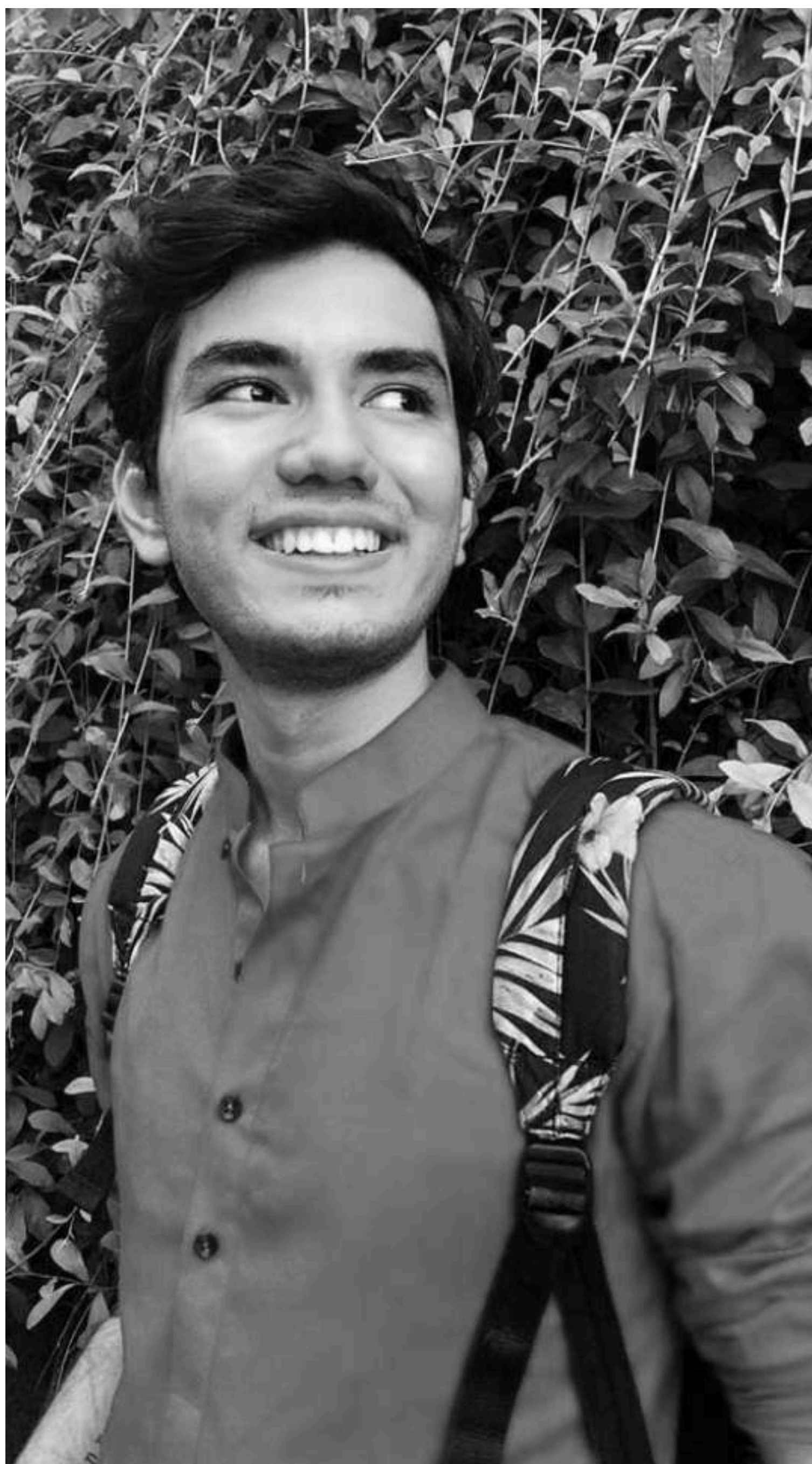


JAI IS A VERSATILE ARTIST, ENCOMPASSING ROLES AS AN ACTOR, THEATRE MAKER, AND VOICE ARTIST. PRIOR TO HIS FORMAL TRAINING AT THE DRAMA SCHOOL MUMBAI, HE DELVED INTO VARIOUS FACETS OF MEDIA, FROM ARTISTE MANAGEMENT TO COPYWRITING.

SINCE GRADUATING FROM DSM, JAI HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEATRE, NOTABLY WITH THEATRE JIL JIL RAMAMANI. HE SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STAGE MANAGER, AND CREATIVE COLLABORATOR FOR THE PLAY "DRY ICE" AND ITS COMPANION PIECE "11:11."

ADDITIONALLY, HE SHOWCASED HIS TALENT AS A PERFORMER IN THE INQUEERABLES' "SHORT & SALTY". JAI LEFT HIS MARK WITH ROLES IN BOUNDLESS MEDIA'S "BRAVE NEW WORLD," DISNEY+ HOTSTAR'S "CRIMINAL JUSTICE: ADHURA SACH," AND SONYLIV'S "GOOD BAD GIRL."

KEY CREDITS



GEET GANGWANI

WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

GEET GANGWANI IS A FILMMAKER WHO SPLITS HIS TIME BETWEEN NYC AND MUMBAI, SEAMLESSLY NAVIGATING THE WORLDS OF FILMMAKING AND ADVERTISING.

IN 2021, HE FOUNDED PNG FILMS, A PRODUCTION HOUSE DEDICATED TO TELLING STORIES ABOUT EVERYDAY PEOPLE IN RELATABLE, REAL-WORLD SITUATIONS. HIS DEBUT SHORT FILM, PAV BHAJI, GARNERED CRITICAL ACCLAIM ON THE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT AND IS CURRENTLY STREAMING ON JIOCINEMA.

GEET'S MOST RECENT PROJECT WAS A NETFLIX COMEDY SPECIAL FOR EMMY AWARD-WINNING COMEDIAN VIR DAS, FILMED AT THE ICONIC COMEDY CELLAR IN NYC. CURRENTLY, HE IS PRODUCING BANDAR AS A WEB SERIES TO EXPAND THE WORLD OF ITS CHARACTERS WHILE ALSO DEVELOPING A HORROR DRAMA, TANDAVA, WHICH IS SLATED TO SHOOT IN TEXAS IN FALL 2025.

GHALIB DATTA

CO-PRODUCER



GHALIB DATTA IS A MULTI-AWARD-WINNING PRODUCER AND WRITER BASED IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND INDIA.

HE MAKES FILMS IN THE USA AND INDIA. NOTABLE WORKS INCLUDE-

'THE COMEBACK TRAIL' STARRING ROBERT DE NIRO, TOMMY LEE JONES & AND MORGAN FREEMAN.

'BIRHA-THE JOURNEY BACK HOME' STARRING RAJIT KAPUR & MANAV VIJ.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

CINEMATOGRAPHER

LESLIE D'SOUZA, IS A MUMBAI-BASED CINEMATOGRAPHER, EXCELS IN VARIOUS VISUAL STORYTELLING MEDIUMS, INCLUDING LONG FORMATS, SHORT FILMS, AD COMMERCIALS, FASHION, FOOD, MUSIC, AND TALK SHOWS. HE HAS HONED HIS THEORETICAL SKILLS WHILE WORKING ON RENOWNED BRAND CAMPAIGNS FOR COMPANIES LIKE NETFLIX, MCDONALDS, OMAN TOURISM AND MANY MORE. HE RECENTLY CONTRIBUTED AS A SECOND UNIT DOP AND SECOND CAMERA OPERATOR IN THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MARATHI FILM 'VED'. HIS PROFICIENT APPROACH TO LIGHTING AND CAMERA WORK IS ALWAYS DRIVEN BY THE IDEA THAT THE STORY COMES FIRST.

EDITOR

RANJABATI SARKAR, A HIGHLY SKILLED FILM EDITOR BASED IN MUMBAI, INDIA, HAS OVER EIGHT YEARS OF HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD. HER JOURNEY AS A SELF-TAUGHT EDITOR HAS BEEN MARKED BY CLOSE COLLABORATIONS WITH DIRECTORS, WHERE SHE ADEPTLY EXECUTES THEIR VISIONS WHILE INFUSING HER CREATIVE INSIGHTS INTO NARRATIVES.

RANJABATI'S IMPRESSIVE PORTFOLIO INCLUDES CO-EDITING THE POPULAR NETFLIX SERIES "MISMATCHED" AND CONTRIBUTING HER EDITING EXPERTISE TO RENOWNED BRANDS LIKE REDBULL, GOOGLE, AND LANDROVER. ADDITIONALLY, SHE HAS EXCELLED AS THE HEAD OF POST PRODUCTION AT PUBLICIS INDIA, FURTHER ESTABLISHING HER REPUTATION AS A LEADER IN THE POST-PRODUCTION REALM. HER DEDICATION AND CREATIVE FINESSE CONTINUE TO LEAVE AN INDELIBLE MARK IN THE WORLD OF FILM EDITING.

ORIGINAL SCORE

KARTIKEYE OJHA, A MUMBAI-BASED ARTIST, IS A VERSATILE SINGER-SONGWRITER, PRODUCER, BACKGROUND SCORE COMPOSER, AND GUITARIST. HIS MUSIC INVOKES NOSTALGIA WITH ROMANTIC THEMES, INTRICATE GUITAR MELODIES, AND EMOTIONALLY CHARGED COMPOSITIONS THAT REFLECT LIFE AND LOVE. KARTIKEYE ADAPTS HIS PRODUCTION TO EACH PROJECT'S UNIQUE DEMANDS, CONTRIBUTING NOTABLY TO WEB SHOWS AND MOVIES LIKE 'MIRZAPUR,' 'ADHURA,' AND 'RANA NAIDU,' AVAILABLE ON AMAZON PRIME AND NETFLIX. HIS MUSIC ENRICHES STORYTELLING, SOLIDIFYING HIS STANDING IN THE INDUSTRY.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

COLORIST

YASH SONI IS A VERSATILE FREELANCE COLORIST BASED IN MUMBAI, CELEBRATED FOR HIS EXPERTISE IN ENHANCING VISUAL CONTENT ACROSS COMMERCIALS, MUSIC VIDEOS, FILMS, AND DOCUMENTARIES. HIS IMPRESSIVE CLIENT PORTFOLIO INCLUDES RENOWNED BRANDS LIKE NETFLIX, MICROSOFT, HDFC, AND CONDE NAST, AMONG OTHERS. YASH HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE POST-PRODUCTION PROCESS OF FESTIVAL-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES AND SHORT FILMS, NOTABLY "BIRDSONG," WHICH HAD ITS PREMIERE AT SXSW IN 2023.

SOUND DESIGN

YASH SHINDE, A MUMBAI-BASED SOUND DESIGNER, HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF COLLABORATING WITH RENOWNED SOUND DESIGNERS, ENRICHING HIS EXPERTISE ACROSS VARIOUS SOUND DEPARTMENTS. HIS DEDICATION AND TALENT LED TO A NOMINATION FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS IRRA AWARD, AND IN 2022, HE SECURED THE BEST ADR AWARD. YASH RECENTLY CONTRIBUTED AS AN ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER TO NOTEWORTHY FILMS LIKE "SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING," "OMG 2," AND "ROCKET BOYS, ". HIS ACUTE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUND'S ROLE IN EVOKING EMOTIONS AND HIS SKILL IN USING SILENCE TO ENHANCE SCENES SET HIM APART IN THE FIELD OF SOUND DESIGN.

FEATURED SONG "RIJHAAUN"

MUMBAI-BASED UTSAVI JHA IS A VERSATILE ARTIST KNOWN FOR HER SINGING, SONGWRITING, AND ACTING. SHE'S CELEBRATED FOR CREATING ORIGINAL MUSIC IN HINDI AND ENGLISH, EARNING RECOGNITION AS THE "SPOTIFY RADAR INDIA" ARTIST IN MAY 2023. UTSAVI HAS GRACED PRESTIGIOUS STAGES LIKE NH7 WEEKENDER AND NMACC AND IS ACTIVELY WORKING ON EXPANDING HER ARTISTIC PORTFOLIO. SHE MARKED HER ACTING DEBUT WITH THE DISNEY+ HOTSTAR MOVIE "GULMOHAR" PRODUCED BY MIRA NAIR, WHERE HER PERFORMANCE WAS ENHANCED BY HER HEARTFELT RENDITION OF THE SONG "WOH GHAR."