



Lafz-e

IN THE NAME OF FIRE



TITLE : SWAHA

ENGLISH TITLE : IN THE NAME OF FIRE

LANGUAGE : MAGAHI

SUBTITLE : ENGLISH

COUNTRY OF FILMING : INDIA

FILM COLOUR : BLACK AND WHITE

GENRE : DRAMA, HORROR

DURATION : 99 MINS

ASPECT RATIO : 1.85: 1

FORMAT : 4K DCP / DOLBY 5.1



A lonely woman sets out to find her missing husband, only to confront a harsh world that gradually fractures her mind into a waking nightmare.

LOGGERS

SYNOPSIS

In a remote Bihar village, an outcast family struggles with poverty and discrimination. The father worked as a daily labourer, earning just enough to keep hunger away. One day, seeing no other way, he left the village to find work in the city, leaving behind his young wife and their newborn son. The mother, alone in the broken house, battling the heavy sadness of new motherhood, was unable to feed their baby. The baby's cries became harder to bear, and loneliness wrapped around her like a snake.

Their lives became tied to a crematorium worker, tormented by guilt after burning an unnamed body for a few coins. Unable to live with his mistake, he longed to wash away his sins and find forgiveness. In the end, when all three cross paths, their broken lives crash into one another and what follows is a storm of pain, anger, and regret that spares no one.



Set against the backdrop of Bihar, "Swaha" captures the region's rich cultural heritage and contemporary challenges. The film delves into broader themes of poverty, caste discrimination, and the quest for dignity. My personal association with Buddhist ideas significantly shaped the narrative, allowing for a deeper exploration of suffering, compassion, and the path to enlightenment.

I chose a stark black-and-white visual style to reflect the harsh realities faced by the characters. The narrative structure weaves together moments of hope and despair, mirroring the protagonist's tumultuous journey.

Through sound design, I aimed to create a psychological space where pain often masquerades as fear, adding depth to the emotional landscape.

Creating "Swaha" has been a transformative journey, deepening my understanding of resilience and hope. This film stands as a testament to the human spirit's capacity to endure and transcend, marking a significant milestone in my career as a filmmaker.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Abhilash Sharma is an independent filmmaker from India, known for creating emotionally powerful and socially rooted stories. With a background in theatre and a passion for visual storytelling, Abhilash has directed a range of short films, documentaries, and feature projects that explore human emotions, culture, and social issues. His film *Swaha* won the prestigious Golden Goblet Award at the Shanghai International Film Festival, earning critical acclaim. Committed to authentic storytelling, Abhilash believes in using cinema as a medium to spark conversations and connect deeply with audiences.



ABHILASH SHARMA

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29th International Film Festival of Kerala 2024
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IN THE NAME OF FIRE /SWAHA

By Abhilash Sharma

Magahi | India | 2024 | 99 Min

INDIAN CINEMA NOW



INDIAN CINEMA

Swaha | In The Name Of Fire
Director : Abhilash Sharma
Country : India
Language : Magahi



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SWAHA
(In the Name of Fire)

Director: Abhilash Sharma | 2024 | 99Min

Language: Magahi

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SWAHA



In The Name Of Fire

Director : Abhilash Sharma

India | Hindi

99 min | 2024

16^{Bj}

Indian Cinema Competition



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23RD DIFF
AWARD-WINNING FILM

SPIRITUAL FILM SECTION
SPECIAL MENTION AWARD



AWARDS



BEST DIRECTOR : ABHILASH SHARMA



SPECIAL MENTION AWARD



BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM



BEST ACTOR : SATYA RANJAN



THIRD BEST INDIAN FILM



BEST ACTRESS : SONALLI SHARMISSTA

and more...

FESTIVAL ACCLAIM

- **Shanghai International Film Festival** (*Winner*)
- **Lucca Film Festival** (International Competition)
- **Kerry International Film Festival** (Official Competition)
- **Kolkata International Film Festival** (Unheard India)
- **International Film Festival of Kerala** (Indian Cinema Now)
- **Ajanta Ellora International Film Festival** (Indian Competition)
- **Pune International Film Festival** (India Showcase)
- **Bengaluru International Film Festival** (*Winner*)
- **Cinequest Film Festival** (International Competition)
- **Moscow Asian Film Festival** (Official Competition)
- **Festival Internazionale Del Cinema Di Salerno 2024** (Official Competition)
- **Dhaka International Film Festival 2025** (*Winner*)
- **SR Socially Relevant Film Festival, New York** (*Winner*)
- **Panchajanyam International Film Festival 2025-** Contemporary Indian Cinema
- **Guwahati Asian Film Festival-** India Showcase
- **Kodaikanal International Film Festival** (*Winner*)
- **Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival-** Montage Section
- **Internationale Filmfestspiele Karlsruhe** (International Competition)
- **Habitat Indian Film Festival, New Delhi**
- **New York City Independent Film Festival** (International Competition)
- **ImagineIndia Film Festival, Madrid**
- **Independent and Experimental Film Festival of Kerala, Calicut** (India Focus)
- **Da Nang Asian Film Festival** (Asian Cinema Competition)



PRAJNA FILMS PRESENTS

लालजी

IN THE NAME OF FIRE

A FILM BY ABHILASH SHARMA



SONALLI SHARMISSHTHA SATYA RANJAN CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUTTA BULOO KUMAR KUNAL KUMAR

CHIEF AD ANNIL K BHANJA PRODUCTION CONTROL RAHUL PANDEY COSTUME KRISHNA KARMAKAR VFX BALAKRISHNA P. SUBAIAH ART DIRECTOR NILESH S. GORKSHE

MUSIC DEVARSHI SOUND RECORDIST RAJENDRA GUPTA, ATIREK PANDEY, NEETHU MOHANDAS SOUND MIXING SOUVIK PHUKAN COLORIST XAVIER JOSEPH

CINEMATOGRAPHY DEVENDRA GOLATKAR EDITOR SURESH PAI, ABHILASH SHARMA SOUND DESIGN MOHANDAS V. P. WRITTEN BY ABHILASH SHARMA, SHILPEE BHARDWAJ

CREATIVE PRODUCER ASHES VATS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LYLE PEARSON CO-PRODUCER ACHALA TOMAR, SHILPEE BHARDWAJ PRODUCED BY VIKASH KUMAR, ABHILASH SHARMA DIRECTED BY ABHILASH SHARMA

導演 Director



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"His film brims with myriad symbolic implications, weaving ancestral elements, documentary, and drama into a whole"

-Lila Avilés, Mexican Filmmaker

"Sharma structures this sort of double narration in a game of sounds, between imposing silences and anguished cries, and of lights and shadows that reflect the harsh reality"

-Gaia Parrini, Italian Art Critique

"An outstanding film, all the way"

-Shoma A Chatterjee

"Director Sharma brings to Swaha, in subtext and visual imagery, themes of religions, Buddhism in particular, from themes of compassion, sacrifice, redemption, retribution, forgiveness and a newfound purpose, to the image of Rukhiya seated beneath a Banyan tree, like Buddha awaiting enlightenment."

-Tanushree Ghosh

SIFF



CAST & CREW

CAST

SONALLI SHARMISSTHA
SATYA RANJAN
CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUTTA
BULLOO KUMAR
MUKESH CHOUDHARY
KUNAL KUMAR
CHANCHAL KUMAR
KUNAL SINHA
SARBIND KUMAR
DHARMENDRA DHARAM
SRIPARNA CHAKRAVARTHY
RAVI KUMAR
KARU SINGH

CREW

WRITER: **ABHILASH SHARMA, SHILPEE BHARDWAJ**
CINEMATOGRAPHER: **DEVENDRA GOLATKAR**
EDITOR: **SURESH PAI, ABHILASH SHARMA**
SOUND DESIGNER: **MOHANDAS P.V.**
ART DIRECTOR: **NILESH S. GORAKSHE**
MUSIC: **DEVARSHI**
COLORIST: **XAVIER JOSEPH**
COSTUME: **KRISHNA KARMAKAR**
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: **ANNIL K BHANJA**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: **LYLE PEARSON**
PRODUCTION CONTROL: **RAHUL PANDEY**
CREATIVE PRODUCER: **ASHES VATS**
CO-PRODUCERS: **ACHALA TOMAR, SHILPEE BHARDWAJ**
PRODUCED BY: **VIKASH SHARMMA**
DIRECTED BY: **ABHILASH SHARMA**

FOR PRAJNA

PRAJNA FILMS

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