

ANGELA PAGE PRESENTS

Harj Weds Sajili

DIRECTED BY
PRATAYA SAHA



ANSHULIKA KAPOOR | HRIDAN SARASWAT | RUTPANNA AISHWARYA | ASHISH ATHAWALE | LAKSHMI KARTHIK | MANEESH VERMA

PRODUCED BY ANGELA PAGE

ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREENPLAY BY - ANGELA PAGE | HINDI DIALOGUES AND ADDITIONAL WRITER - ANSHULIKA KAPOOR

ADDITIONAL HINDI DIALOGUE WRITER - MANEESH VERMA | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR - ANSHULIKA KAPOOR

DOP - SUBHA DEY | ASST DOP - ANKUSH DEVA | MUSC - ARINDAM GOSWAMI | ALLEN FARNHAM | EDITOR - GAUTAM PALLAKKI | SOUND DESIGNER - APURV PRASANNA

SURROUND MIX - ABHIJAY BANDI | RE-RECORDING & MASTERING - ADRIAN VALENTINE RODRIGUES | PRODUCTION DESIGNER - BENU BINA BANIK, ANSHULIKA KAPOOR

DI SUPERVISOR COLOURIST - ANDREAS BRUECKL (ANDY) | DI COLOURIST - YASHIKA ROURAY | D.I. - PRIME FOCUS LTD. | D.I. BUSINESS HEAD - INDIA - NIRAJ SANGHAI

DI PRODUCTION HEAD - NIRMAL GALA | DI PRODUCER - FAIZ SYED | VFX SUPERVISOR - CHIRANJEEV KUMAR | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - BENU BINA BANIK

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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR - M ANAND KUMAR (PERFECTO PRODUCTIONS, BANGALORE) | PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - MAHESH KUMAR GOWDA | SET ASSISTANT - NAGARAJ, NAVEEN |

MANY THANKS TO - ANKIT KAPOOR | ISHA KAPOOR | RASHMI SHRIVASTAVA | MANJU DUBEY | ANGELA CHAKRABORTY | RAJNANDINEE SHANKAR SWAMI | KHYATI TEJAS PALAN

A PAGE MEDIA PRESENTATION

PRESS KIT



“A satirical dark comedy on dowry, patriarchy, and female agency”

Producer ANGELA PAGE

Director PRATAYA SAHA

Executive Producer Anshulika Kapoor

USA-INDIA Production, 2025, 18 min, Colour

Thesarus

dowry

/'daʊ(ə)ri/ (noun)

an amount of property or money brought by a bride to her husband on their marriage.

dowry murder

/'daʊ.ri 'mɜː.dər/ (noun)

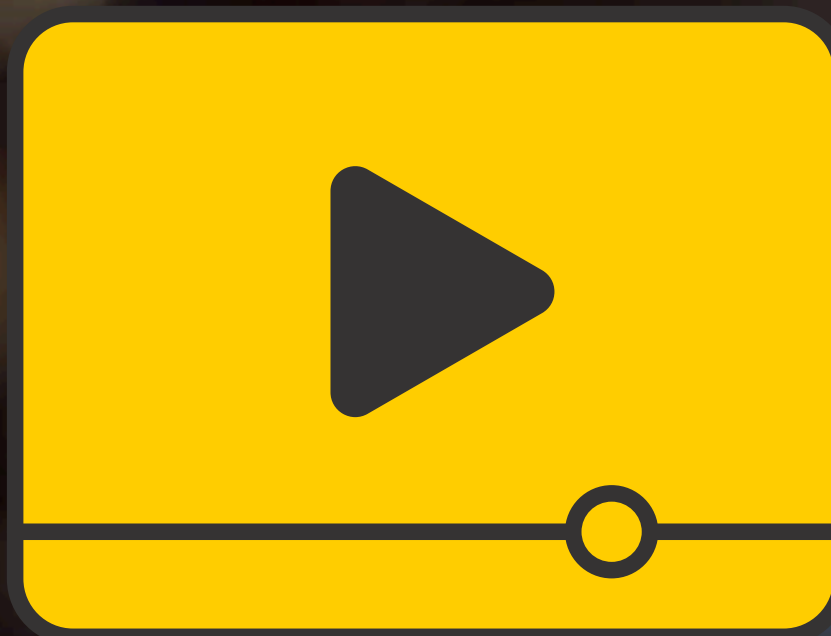
The killing of a woman by her husband or in-laws over dowry-related disputes, often following harassment or abuse.

A man with dark hair and a slight beard, wearing a blue button-down shirt, is looking towards a woman. The woman is wearing a pink and white patterned sari. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting.

Logline

A young bride trapped in a perilous arranged marriage in suburban India, fakes her suicide with the help of a sex worker to reclaim her freedom from being yet another victim of a dowry murder.

Trailer



CLICK TO WATCH

Synopsis

Harij, a newlywed, is eager for dowry gifts that never arrive, while his wife Sajili, trapped in an unwanted marriage, detests his insatiable appetite for intimacy. Harij, frustrated by her reluctance, enlists Leila, a bold and pragmatic sex worker, to "train" Sajili in "marital duties".

What begins as an unorthodox intervention, spirals into a sinister plot when Leila uncovers Harij's chilling plans for dowry-related murder. And Leila is no ordinary bystander. Viewed by society through a lens of stigma, she steps into the role of a protector. In a clever twist, Leila offers Sajili a dangerous escape—faking her suicide and framing Harij.

Can Sajili escape the patriarchal nightmare, claiming her independence, her hidden dowry, and her lover, leaving Harij and his greed exposed?



A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink and orange sari, is shown from the chest up. She has a serious, somewhat distressed expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

Background

Historically the dowry system in S.E. Asia was designed as safety net for brides and became, in some cases, a death trap. It's a form of domestic violence practiced around the Indian continent. A dowry death, or bride-burning typically occurs when a woman is murdered by her husband or his family for her family's refusal to pay the dowry or demands for additional dowry.

Brides are subjected to physical abuse, acid throwing, poisoning, strangulation, or forced into suicide.

Thousands of dowry murders and bride burning cases continue across India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.



Director's Statement

Harij Weds Sajili uses dark comedy to confront the absurdity and brutality of the dowry system—a practice that continues to claim lives.

As an Indian, Angela's story—based on true events—deeply resonated with me. The sheer absurdity of a tradition that thrives in modern times called for a bold, unconventional approach. Dark comedy, though rare in Indian cinema, allowed us to explore this discomfiting reality while keeping the audience engaged.

We flip the script by making a sex worker the unlikely hero, challenging both moral hierarchies and gender norms.

This film isn't just a narrative—it's a bold, satirical lens on patriarchy, power, and societal hypocrisy.

Writer's/Producer's Statement

I was inspired to write this story after a potential arrest of a colleague's relative for dowry murder. When I learned of the tragic circumstances surrounding the bride's death, I began researching the frequency of dowry deaths and the contentious dowry system in S.E. Asia.

I felt it was critical to depict the harsh realities faced by women trapped within the confines of patriarchal traditions. *Harij weds Sajili* uses sharp satirical humor and delves into the complexities of marriage, societal norms, and personal freedom in modern India.



Why this film matters?

- Inspired by true events
- Turns the brutal reality of dowry on its head through biting satire
- An Indo-US collaboration that speaks to a global audience.
- Celebrates female agency
- Features a sex worker as the hero — a perspective rarely explored in India
- Backed by an all-women producer team

Key Cast, Crew & Film Specs

Anshulika Kapoor *as Leila*
Hridaan Saraswat *as Harij*
Rutpanna Aishwarya *as Sajili*
Ashish Athawale *as Raj*
Lakshmi Karthik *as Nira*
Maneesh Verma *as Harij's Father*

FILM SPECS

Run time - 18:25

Production location - India

Language – Hindi (English subtitles)

Format - 2.35:1

Writer/Producer - Angela Page

Director - Prataya Saha

Executive Producer/Creative Director - Anshulika Kapoor

Cinematographer - Subha Dey

Editor - Gautam Pallakki

Colorist - Andreas Brueckl (Prime Focus Ltd.)

Sound Design - Apurv Prassanna

Music - Allen Farnham & Arindam Goswami

Angela Page

Writer/Producer



Angela Page is a writer and producer. Her films are featured on the Shorts TV channel, Funnyor Die, IWOMAN TV and Indiepix. She has been a finalist in features at the Austin Film Festival and Enderby Entertainment. Published books include, *“Matched in Heaven”*, novella and dating guide *“Suddenly Single Sylvia”* and crime comedy *“There’s a Dead Girl in My Yard”*.

Her essays and articles have appeared in outlets such as the *HuffPost*, *Business Insider*, *The Independent*, and *The South China Morning Post*.

A graduate of NYU’s Stern School of Business and the London School of Economics, she has served in upper management for multinationals such as Microsoft and Honeywell.

Prataya Saha

Director



Prataya Saha is an independent filmmaker, TEDx performer, theatre director, and photographer based in India and Dubai. His films have been selected in over 98 film festivals worldwide, winning 28 awards across 14 countries. He is known for his distinctive voice in storytelling and a panache for working on socially relevant films, often addressing uncomfortable yet important subjects.

His latest short film, "The Golden Cage", qualified for the Academy Awards 2024.

As a producer, his debut documentary, "What's the Film About?", premiered at Visions du Réel in Switzerland, BFI LFF in the UK before winning at the prestigious IDFA in Amsterdam in 2024. His work has been featured in leading media outlets such as the BBC UK, The Week, India Today, Times of India, The Hindu and The New Indian Express.

Anshulika Kapoor

Executive Producer/Actor

Anshulika Kapoor is an award-winning actress, theater practitioner, and producer whose work centers around amplifying underrepresented South Asian voices. She has championed stories that challenge norms and spark conversations on identity, gender, and social justice. Her critically acclaimed films include *Golden Cage* (2024), an Oscar-qualified short that critiques corporate greed, *Just Another Day* (2022), which addresses gender-based violence, and *Mein Mehmood* (2023), a poignant take on immigration and language barriers—winner of the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award at KIFF.

Beyond film, Anshulika has left a mark on India's multilingual theatre scene with over 100 performances and made history as the first artist to present a street play on the TEDx platform. Her work continues to resonate globally, rooted in community yet universally relevant.



Behind the Scenes



A Conversation With the Team

What drew you to tell a story like Harij Weds Sajili?

Angela Page: I felt it was critical to raise the issue of dowry murder to a broader audience. It seemed unfathomable that such cruelty and barbaric practices still existed. By putting a satiric spin on a real story may help resonate and shed light on the plight of some young brides in SE Asia.

A Conversation With the Team

What was it like working with an all-women producing team?

Prataya Saha: Empowering. Anshulika and Angela brought both compassion and clarity to the table. They were never just producers; they were co-storytellers. Their belief in the film, especially during moments of uncertainty, was what made it all possible.

What compelled you to do Harij Weds Sajili, and why now?

Anshulika Kapoor: For me, the film emerged from a deep recognition of the persistent and often normalized issues of gender violence and dowry practices that continue to impact South Asia. As an Actor /Producer I felt compelled to not only bring these realities to light but also, crucially, to celebrate the strength and agency of the women navigating them. Unfortunately these problems remain relevant today, and I believe nuanced storytelling has a powerful capacity to inspire meaningful change.

A Conversation With the Team

Was it difficult to find the right tone for a satire rooted in such a serious issue?

Prataya Saha: Absolutely. It's a tightrope walk. You can't trivialize the issue, but you also need to expose its ridiculousness. That's where the challenge lay—balancing entertainment with responsibility. It required deep conversations with the team, constant rework, and a lot of restraint.

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Thank You



angela_page@live.com



[harijwedssajili](https://www.instagram.com/harijwedssajili)

IMDb

[imdb](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1234567)



+1 - 206 - 992 - 7699 (US)

+91 - 988 - 6111 - 006 (IND)

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