



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

# BAWLA

A SLASHER FEATURE

Obsession. Illusion. Folly.  
All will bleed.

JV's Films & Mark Idhar Hai Films





STORY

# LOGLINE

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A young military cadet hunts down her sister's killer as corpses pile around her in rapid and relentless succession.

A Film By Vishesh Mankal





JHINAL BELANI

ANIKET TANK

JAYAKA YAGNIK

# BAWLA

TREAD CAREFULLY...  
SOMETHING STIRS

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**B**  
Beside The Seaside  
2025

TORONTO INDIE  
HORROR FEST  
2025

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
**BAY of  
BLOOD**  
2025  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
NEW DELHI FILM  
FESTIVAL-NDFF  
(International)  
2025

JV'S FILMS & MARK IDHAR HAI FILMS PRESENT JHINAL BELANI ANIKET TANK  
JAYAKA YAGNIK NAIMESH NAVIN ABHIJEIT CHITRE PRODUCED BY ANIKET JASANI  
KALPESH VAGHASIYA BHAVIN SANGOI ANIKET TANK VISHESH MANKAL  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY VISHESH MANKAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**JAGRAN FILM  
FESTIVAL 2025**  
2025

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**9th Indian World  
Film Festival-25**  
Hyderabad, India

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**Echelon Studios  
International Film  
Festival**  
2025

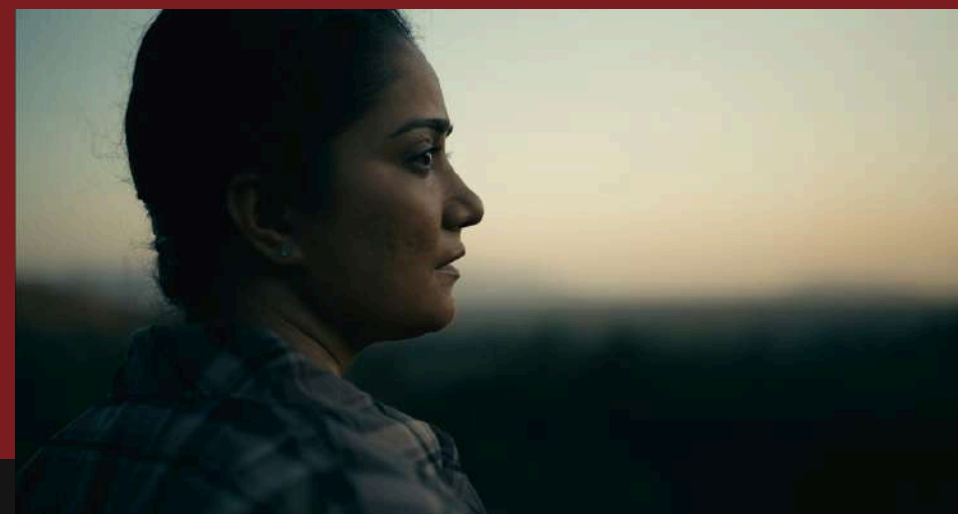
Currently touring  
film festivals  
successfully!



SYNOPSIS

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

When a vlogging team is brutally murdered after visiting reclusive actor Amit Malhotra, a determined NDA cadet named Jheel arrives to investigate. As she digs into the strange lives of the locals and forms an uneasy alliance with Amit, a chilling mystery unravels, one that blurs the line between performance and reality, and leads to a shocking confrontation with the truth.





# LONG SYNOPSIS

As the film begins, a team of vloggers comes to interview legendary method actor Amit Malhotra, famed for unwavering commitment to his craft, at his remote countryside retreat. As the team leaves after documenting Amit's life and career, they become unwitting victims of a series of grisly murders perpetrated by a mysterious masked figure. The killings shock the peaceful surroundings, leaving everyone on edge and searching for answers.

Enter Jheel, a determined NDA cadet whose sister was among the victims. Determined to uncover the truth behind the disappearances, Jheel teams up with Amit, who offers his assistance in the investigation. Together, they delve into the lives of the eccentric residents of the area, including Soham Khare, a troubled painter seeking inspiration; Kailash Dwarkadas, a struggling paleontologist investigating alleged dinosaur eggs; and Tahira Bhatt, a reclusive writer with a mysterious past.





# LONG SYNOPSIS

As Jheel and Amit dig deeper, they uncover dark secrets and hidden motives, leading them to suspect that the killer may be closer than they think. As tensions rise and the body count mounts, Jheel confronts Amit, only to discover shocking revelations about his true nature and involvement in the murders. The film culminates in a gripping showdown between Jheel and Amit, as the truth behind the killings is finally revealed.

"Bawla" is a thrilling tale of obsession, deception, and the lengths people will go to in the pursuit of their desires. Set against the backdrop of lush countryside and populated by intriguing characters, the film explores themes of identity, morality, and the blurred lines between reality and performance. With its gripping plot twists and compelling characters, "Bawla" keeps audiences on the edge of their seats until the very end.





TRAILER

# TRAILER

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Please Click on Thumbnail to Play





## Director's Note

I've always been fascinated by filmmakers who could do a lot with very little. Directors like Mario Bava, Terrence Fisher, Dario Argento, Lucio Fulci, Roger Corman, and John Carpenter (among others) have taught me as much as the more widely accepted auteurs of world cinema. And so when I was faced with challenge of making this film, I knew it would be my love and admiration for the former group that would see me through. Their wildly inventive films beckoned, and I, like a cartoon character enamored, went floating, arms outstretched, nose locked in. "Bawla" is a tribute to those directors while at the same time being a launchpad of sorts for me. It is a film made out of love, desperation, blood (both onscreen and off!) and a lot of sweat. Reflecting my influences, it's a *Giallo* film done in modern times, and reflecting my roots, it's set in the Indian countryside. It's Dario Argento meets (early) Brian DePalma, it's Lucio Fulci meets Tobe Hooper. And because I can't resist trying to punch above my weight, there are tributes to the films of Akira Kurosawa, Steven Spielberg, John McTiernan, Alfred Hitchcock, and others in there as well.

In a nutshell, "Bawla" is a slasher film with a twist, a dark psychological horror tale with comic undertones. Above all, it's a film that warrants a look, if only for the audacity of its existence! And also because we poor filmmakers need audiences to see our films...



## TECH SPECS

### General Information

Shot on: Sony FX-3, Sony G-Master Lenses / iPhone 14 Pro Max (some shots) / DJI Air 2S (Aerial Shots)

### Technical Specs

Running time - 84 minutes, 24 seconds

Format - 2k/4k, 2.39:1

Language - Hindi, English Subtitles

Year of completion - 2025

Country of origin - India





## How the story came to be

I saw a film a few years ago in which a legendary actor showed up for one scene in spite of being riddled with physical complications resulting from a debilitating disease. The scene brought tears to my eyes and made me reflect on what makes us all tick. What is it that gives our lives meaning? For a sports person it's their sport, for a chef the kitchen, and for artists it's their art. However, this then begs the question, when does passion turn into obsession? And when does obsession turn destructive? These are the questions that then started weighing on my mind as I thought more and more about that actor and that scene. But I couldn't be judgmental for I've come to realize that I too can be obsessive about my work.

This then led me to the conclusion that it is this love and dedication for a certain thing that brings disparate individuals together. It gives us solidarity in an increasingly fractured world. It's the invisible string that binds people who may be separated by both space and time. It is what connects a nobody like me with a somebody like John Carpenter, for example.

And so the story of "Bawla" was born from these musings. It's a reflection on the beauty and danger of living for something with your whole being. However, it's not a story that is meant to be taken seriously for what's the point of it all if we can't laugh at ourselves? Until some actor actually goes ahead and does what's depicted in this film that is. Then, we'll talk about how prescient it was!



## THE MAIN CAST



**Jhinal Belani** stars as the fierce military cadet in 'Bawla,' her first collaboration with director Vishesh Mankal. A versatile Indian actress, she's shone in films, commercials, music videos, and TV serials, bringing depth to every role. In 'Bawla,' her gripping performance drives the film, and is majorly responsible for its success. Based in Mumbai, Jhinal's dynamic presence marks her as a rising talent in the film industry. She has also dabbled in directing and producing.

IMDB link: [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7864509/?ref\\_=tt\\_ov\\_st\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7864509/?ref_=tt_ov_st_1)



**Aniket Tank** is a professional actor based in Mumbai, with a degree in Theatre Arts from M.S. University of Baroda. Since 2008, he has been actively involved in commercial theatre and has appeared in numerous films and television shows. Aniket is passionate about the craft of acting across all mediums and is deeply committed to character building and cultural exploration. Among his notable roles, he portrayed the popular deity Shri Krishna in the television series "Bhakt Gora Kumbhar".

IMDB link: [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm13276601/?ref\\_=tt\\_cst\\_t\\_2](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm13276601/?ref_=tt_cst_t_2)



## Vishesh Mankal, Writer-Director



**Vishesh Mankal** is a filmmaker whose journey began with short films during his college years. His early works, such as *Suicide* (2006), *Peacock* (2008), and *Not Born Heroes* (2010), garnered attention on the festival circuit. He went on to work as a video editor and cameraman at Yash Raj Films, one of India's leading production houses, before directing a range of commercials, corporate films, and training videos. His short film *Harmless* (2018) received multiple festival selections. His debut feature film *Bawla* (2025) is also performing well in the festival circuit and has already played in the UK and the USA, and is slated to open in Canada soon. Like many independent filmmakers, he donned various hats on this film, including that of the writer, director, editor, cinematographer, VFX artist, and sound designer.

Imdb link: [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3837567/?ref\\_=tt\\_ov\\_dr\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3837567/?ref_=tt_ov_dr_1)



### Stories from the production

- The film was shot in 13 days.
- Filmed in Alibaug and its surrounding suburbs near Mumbai.
- The entire film was lit using just 6 lights: one 600W LED, one 300W LED, two 1x1 LEDs, and two RGB tubes.
- Crew often had to shoot up to 15 pages a day—all on a single-camera setup.
- The climax scene took 2 full days to shoot—the only sequence afforded this luxury.
- Due to limited duplicate costumes, there are slight variations in outfits across scenes.



## TRIVIA

- Filming took place during a severe heatwave, but thankfully, there were no health incidents.
- The core crew was tiny: two ADs, two art team members, two in makeup/hair, two in production, and the director (who also shot, edited, did VFX, and handled sound).
- The ADs also handled laundry and ironing between takes!
- Since many locations were holiday resorts, walls and floors couldn't be dirtied—making it tricky to shoot blood scenes (some effects had to be added in post).
- Though trained in VFX, the director limited visual effects to just ~80 shots to avoid long post delays.





PRAISE FOR BAWLA

"... a visually striking and tightly crafted horror feature that delivers on both atmosphere and narrative tension."

"... a cleverly plotted psychological horror that keeps its clues hidden in plain sight."

"The real strength... is how it balances style with substance."

"The cinematography is consistently impressive... with a strong sense of visual storytelling from the very first frame."



**- Andrew Hannon  
13horror Contest Director,  
Author**





PRAISE FOR BAWLA

“Everything that happens here is part of the plot.”

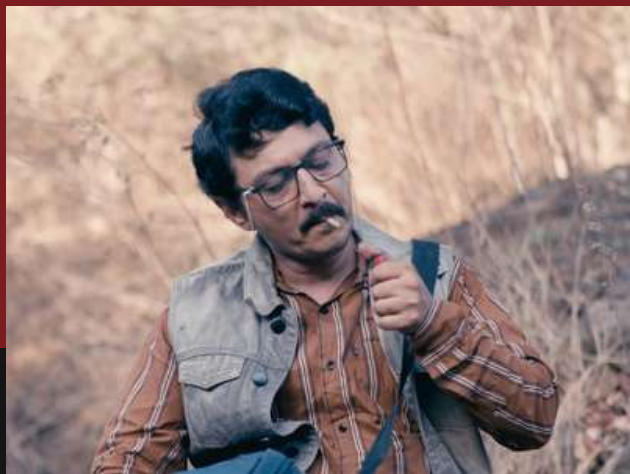
“... more technically solid than most at the price.”

“... this did a better job of holding my attention than many.”

“... it's all quite fun.”

“... giallo-esque sexual tension...”

- Jim McLennan, Film Blitz





PRAISE FOR BAWLA

"... masterfully blends Giallo suspense, slasher tension, and psychological horror."

"... A haunting journey..."

"... shocks, unsettles..."

"... lingers after the credits..."

"... a cinematic experience that dares to disturb..."

"... a haunting exploration of darkness, obsession, and the human psyche."

"... A must-watch..."

**- Jagran Film Festival,  
Dainik Jagran**





# FILM FESTIVAL RECORD SO FAR (PREMIERES)



North American / World Premiere  
3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Award Winner - Best Action Feature



Indian Premiere  
To be screened in multiple  
cities



Canadian Premiere - 23<sup>rd</sup> May



UK Premiere - 11<sup>th</sup> May  
Award Winner - Best Scream



# FILM FESTIVAL RECORD SO FAR (SCREENINGS & AWARDS)



Screening Date - TBA  
Toronto, Canada



Screening Date - 3<sup>rd</sup> May - USA



Phoenix FearCon - Honorable  
Mention - USA



Screening Date - TBA  
Los Angeles, USA



# FILM FESTIVAL RECORD SO FAR (SCREENINGS & AWARDS)



Nominated - Best Feature Film



Special Festival Mention



Honorable Mention - USA



# FILM FESTIVAL RECORD SO FAR (SCREENINGS & AWARDS)



Award Winner - Best Director



Best Film Editing -  
Turkiye



Screening Date - April 25  
Award Winner - Best Concept



# FILM FESTIVAL – MONTHLY RUN

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FILM WILL  
BE PLAYING AT THE ANNUAL  
EVENTS OF SEVERAL OF THESE  
FESTIVALS**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Tuesday of Horror                                   | Selected          |
| Los Angeles Film Awards                             | Semi-Finalist     |
| POOMBUKAR INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL                 | Award Winner      |
| East Village New York Film Festival                 | Selected          |
| FIVE CONTINENTS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL         | Award Winner      |
| Asian Independent Film Festival                     | Finalist          |
| Silverlens Film Awards                              | Award Winner      |
| Rohip International Film Festival                   | Award Winner      |
| Pageant Film Festival                               | Award Winner      |
| American Golden Picture International Film Festival | Honorable Mention |
| Eastern Europe Film Festival                        | Award Winner      |



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**PLEASE NOTE: THE FILM WILL  
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EVENTS OF SEVERAL OF THESE  
FESTIVALS**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| CKF International Film Festival                     | Award Winner      |
| Mokkho International Film Festival                  | Award Winner      |
| American Golden Picture International Film Festival | Honorable Mention |
| Cinematic European Film Festival                    | Selected          |
| Purgatory Film Festival                             | Award Winner      |
| Sweden Film Awards                                  | Finalist          |
| Bloody Hats Film Festival                           | Award Winner      |
| The Dunwich Horror Fest                             | Award Winner      |
| Indian Independent Film Festival                    | Award Winner      |
| Bharat International Film Festival                  | Selected          |
| Stockholm City Film Festival                        | Finalist          |



## DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION



## DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

All Distribution Rights **Available**

Worldwide Rights **Available**

### **Available Rights:**

- Theatrical
- Streaming
- TV
- VOD
- DVD/Blu-ray



CONTACT INFORMATION

# GET IN TOUCH!

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