



A FILM BY AJIT MANN

# D U K H

## Plot Summary and Themes:

- Jasbir returns back home after studying out of London for 3 years and to introduce his girlfriend to his family. Upon returning he is quick to learn that old memories of the past have not been put to bed and that his older brother, Sukhbir, has changed.

Themes and Topics: Domestic Violence/Abuse, Abuse, Alcoholism, Religion, Tradition, Ignorance, Family, Hierarchy, Gender Inequality, Emotional Blackmail

The film will be in both English and Punjabi with actors and actresses going back and forth with both languages

# Genre

- A departure from the thriller genre, the film will be more within the family drama genre and more on the realism side of drama.
- The film's purpose is to highlight abuse within Indian households, particularly Punjabi Sikh households, which happens a lot and is normalised within that culture.
- The aim is to show how abuse should not be normalised within this culture and how we need to actually talk about this issue rather than burying it.
- A lot of elements are drawn out from my own childhood in order to make the film more realistic and believable.

# Colour Tone

Warm to neutral tones but unsaturated to represent the dark side to this family.

The colours will be quite neutral and unsaturated throughout the film however, when we get to the dinner scene, I want to do quite a heavy contrast between warm and cold as well as keep the dinner scene dimly lit to add in that uneasiness. I want audiences to feel upset, angry, disturbed during this film and colour/lighting will be a key element in portraying those moods.





# Lead Character: Jasbir (Age 21)

- Jasbir is a very calm individual who is very liberal and has a positive way of thinking. He doesn't drink nor does he eat meat. He has a deep connection to Sikhism. He is very outgoing and curious and loves learning about other religions, ethnicities and loves travel. He wanted to study in Bournemouth to pursue Journalism and also move out to broaden his mind. His father was against this but his mother supported him, providing him with money for all the fees (which she saved up for). Despite his strained relationship with his dad, he still shows respect to him when he visits him however, he does not speak to him as much as he speaks to his mum. Jasbir's only negative factor is that he gets really worked up when his dad says something negative and out of place. He met Gurleen in Bournemouth, who is also from there, in a lecture they were both in and have been a couple for 3 years.
- Jasbir has barely been back to visit his family since studying there, as he was busy working in a supermarket trying to earn money to buy himself a professional camera



# Supporting Character: Sukhbir (Age 25)

- Sukhbir is quite hot headed and conservative in his thinking. Sukhbir drinks on a daily basis and eats meat, he always has the need to criticise everyone on every choice they make. He did not go to University and dropped out of college to start an apprenticeship as a bricklayer. He always believes he is right and if people try to stand up to him, he becomes highly defensive and confrontational which makes a lot of people afraid of him, even his own family. He has a very old fashion mentality of thinking and feels that women are not equal to men. He also is deeply religious but much more on the conservative end which also contradicts himself (hence the heavy drinking) He acts like the alpha male of the family and believes he is the only true “man” of the family. He listens to everything that his parents tell him. He has adopted a lot of the same behaviors as his dad. His wife, Harjit, is scared of him and he constantly abuses his wife, mentally and emotionally.



# Supporting Character: Gurleen (Age 21)

- Gurleen is Jasbir's girlfriend. She is from a small neighbourhood in Toronto called Rexdale. She is Jasbir's biggest supporter and always pushes him to gain the most he can for his dreams. Gurleen met Jasbir at University in one of their lectures in first year and they both instantly hit it off. She is kind, caring, empathetic and also strong.
- Gurleen's father passed away from cancer a year before the events of this film. She is doing her best to process his death but it still hurts her when his death is brought up in conversation. She gets triggered if anyone speaks ill of her father as she was very close to him and looked up to him as one of her biggest heroes.
- Gurleen dresses in western clothing mostly but she is still respectful of her culture and religion.



# Supporting Character: Harjit (Age 23)

- Harjit is Sukhbir's wife. She was convinced by her parents to marry Sukhbir 2 years after she finished university as they weren't happy with the fact that they couldn't find a stable job once graduating. Her parents have never supported her and have always seen her as a secondary kid after their son due to her gender. Her dad is close friends with Baldev and expects Harjit to keep her in laws happy.
- Harjit is suffering from domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, Sukhbir but also emotional abuse at the hands of her inlaws. Their justification has always been that this isn't abuse but simply how they were treated when growing up, they believe that this is normal and calling it abuse is a ridiculous statement.
- Because of this abuse, Harjit is constantly living in fear and quite often will second guess what she does so that she can avoid being hit or being verbally abused. She is depressed and suffers from severe anxiety because of this.



# Supporting Character: Manjit (Age 50)

- Manjit is Jasbir and Sukhbir's mother as well as Baldev's wife. She is generally a kind person, making sure that her family is well looked after and that everyone is happy. She generally puts her family's needs over hers.
- Manjit sympathises with Jasbir for the most part, going as far as giving him money that she saved up in order for him to fund his studies in Canada. In front of everyone else however, she will most often take Sukhbir's due to him being older than Jasbir but also he is a lot more intimidating.
- Manjit was abused by Baldev but hasn't been in the last few years due to his declining health. Manjit however just accepted that this is just how it is and didn't think of any of it as abuse, claiming that she needed it in order to become tougher.
- Manjit tries to defend Harjit from Baldev and Sukhbir but she often will then turn on her in order to save her own skin. She tends to be very two faced.



# Supporting Character: Baldev (Age 55)

- Baldev is Jasbir and Sukhbir's father as well as Manjit's wife. Baldev is a bitter man who never has anything good to say. When he speaks it is always about something negative, usually to comment on someone. He is also the self proclaimed man of the house and expects to know about everything that is happening in the house. His health is also declining and he suffered a stroke a couple months before this dinner.
- Baldev is very traditional, he doesn't like it when women speak up to him and definitely believes that men have a higher status in society compared to women. He also believes that punjabi women should always wear Indian clothes.
- As much as he claims to love Jasbir, he definitely sees Sukhbir as his favourite son and is very cold to Jasbir. This is due to their different ideologies as well as Jasbir not listening to him and pursuing a career that he didn't approve of.
- Baldev believes women should hit if they are out of line as this is what he grew up seeing and he wants to keep the traditions in his family as long as he is alive.



# Trigger Warnings

- Due to the topic of the film, we will have clear trigger warnings in place. During the film, certain characters will also be saying discriminatory remarks towards certain religions and casts. This has been added in the film to show some of the negative conversations that is normalised in Sikh families.
- We intend on keeping filming upbeat and positive. Whilst the film is discussing a heavy topic, the filming process should be kept light and positive therefore we still want the crew to have fun making this film and enjoy the filmmaking process.

# Location

- 43 Chetton Avenue, Coventry, CV6 3LA
- Nearest Station: Coventry Rail
- 38 min walk from the location or 27 min bus journey
- Free parking (If no parking on the day, surrounding roads have free parking)
- I will be in Coventry from either 4th August or 5th so if you need a lift on the 6th from Coventry station, do let me know

# Cast

Sandip Besely as Jasbir Sandhu (Top Medium, Bottoms 30-32, Shoe Size 9.5-10UK)

Lucky Azad as Sukhbir Sandhu (Top Medium, Shirt 15.5", Bottoms 32", Shoe Size 7) (Need to get a loose fit version of the jeans)

Parvinder Shergill as Gurleen Kaur (UK Size 8, Shoe Size 6)

Rupinder Kaur Waraich as Harjit Sandhu (UK Size 10, Shoe Size 7)

Narinder Uppal as Manjit Sandhu (**Will provide own clothes**)

Ben Sura as Baldev Sandhu (**Chest 40, Collar 16, Waist 34, Shoe Size 8**)

# Cast List and Role for Hair and Make Up



Sandip Besely as Jasbir



Lucky Azad as Sukhbir



Parvinder Shergill as Gurleen



Rupinder Kaur as Harjit



Narinder Uppal as Manjit



Ben Sura as Baldev

Costumes Needed: (Colour in Green when Acquired)

### **Jasbir**

Outfit 1: T Shirt, Hoodie, Joggers, Trainers, Kara (Steel Bangle), Black Turban

Outfit 2: Long Sleeve T Shirt, Black Jeans, Kara, Black Turban

### **Gurleen**

Plain T shirt (not cropped), Blue Jeans, Kara, Trainers

### **Sukhbir**

Flannel Shirt, T Shirt, Worn in Blue Jeans, Boots (Actor said he can provide), Kara, Black Turban

### **Harjit**

Outfit 1: Lounge Wear, Towel for Drying hair, Kara

Outfit 2: Simple Maroon Salwar Kameez, Sandals, Kara

### **Manjit**

Salwar Kameez (ideally purple), (Actress said she can provide), Kara, Sandals

### **Baldev**

Navy blue shirt, smart black trousers, hospital tag, Kara, Black Turban

## Props Needed:

-X2 Large Suitcases (already have but can get more if needed)

-X6 Plates (already have)

-X6 Bowls (already have)

-X6 Glasses (already have)

-X4 Mugs (already have)

-X1 Photography Camera (And one as a breakaway)

<https://www.mpb.com/en-uk/product/canon-eos-5d-mark-ii/sku-2632390>

-X2 Smart Phones

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C3H3HDP6/ref=twister\\_B0C3H67WY2?\\_encoding=UTF8&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C3H3HDP6/ref=twister_B0C3H67WY2?_encoding=UTF8&th=1)

-Family portraits of actors that we can use on the set

-Plate with raw onions and white radish (Buy the day before, prep in the morning)

[-Bottle with fake pills](#)

[-Hospital tag](#)

[-Pictures of Gurus](#)

[-Khanda symbols](#)

-Concealer

-X2 pots of curry

-Bag full of chicken

-Roti (chapati) dough

-Indian Blankets X2

-A few Indian veg dishes in serving bowls

-Bag of ice

-Juice

-Tea

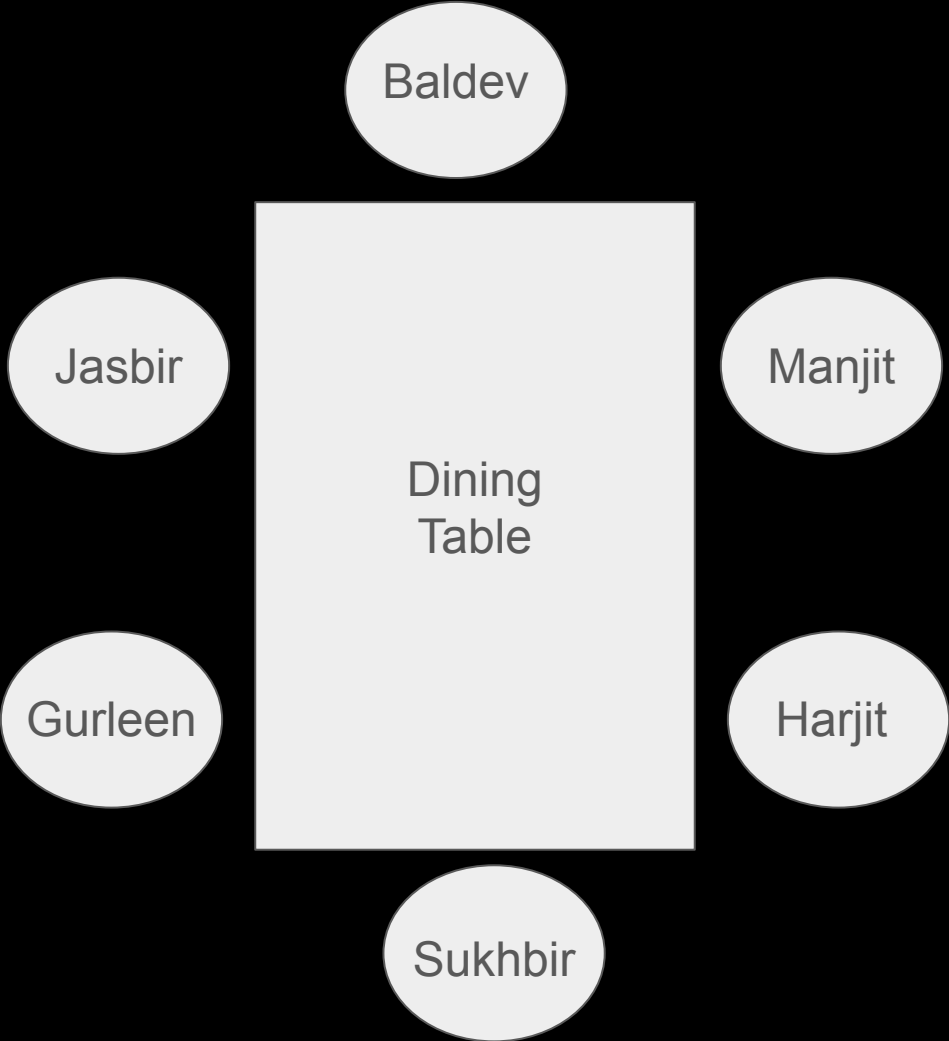
-Whiskey (We'll use iced tea)

-Clothes in Jasbir's and Gurleen's suitcase that they'll unpack

-Mortar

-Books for Jasbir and Gurleen's backpack and maybe a small toiletries bag

Dining Room Layout



Baldev

Dining  
Table

Jasbir

Manjit

Gurleen

Harjit

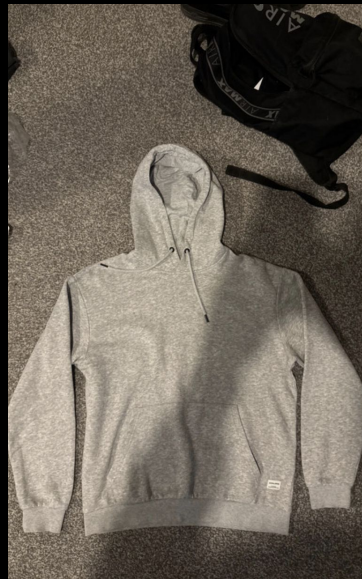
Sukhbir

# Lighting Mood Board



# Characters Clothing

Jasbir



# Characters Clothing

Gurleen



# Characters Clothing

Sukhbir



# Characters Clothing

Harjit



# Jasbir's room set design references



SEPTEMBER - 2012							Schedule
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	GYM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	LIT
				RUSH			ELECTIVE
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	GEOLOGY
	E	X	A	M	S		MA. STUDIES
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	CREW
				TRY	OUTS		PRACTICE
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
			B-DAY				
30							



# Jasbir's room description

I believe it's important that Jasbir's room reflects his personality, interests, and lifestyle. Based on the description you shared during last week's meeting, I've been thinking about what elements could be added to his room to better represent him.

1. A neatly arranged bed, including a comforter commonly used in Indian households
2. A world map (it would be great if it shows places he has traveled to and places he hopes to visit)
3. Photos from his travels and everyday life
4. Comic books and textbooks related to his major
5. A calendar (reflecting his diligence and strong passion for studying)
6. Movie posters