



PRESS KIT

RIYA

A film by Devki Patel

Canada, 2025
English, 14 minutes
Digital, Colour, 5:3
Stereo

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STORY

Amid her parents' marital disputes,
Riya seeks solace in the everyday moments of childhood.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Creating Riya was a combination of childhood exploration, personal reflection, and collaboration. The idea for this story first came to me as a device to communicate feelings many children experience in families with marital tension, separation, and divorce. As the process of creating the film progressed, it became a means of healing personal childhood memories and exploring the dynamics of perspectives and relationships in a family home.

I chose to build Riya's world through a South Asian lens, creating a universal story with cultural influences and family dynamics. My decision in doing so was to both contribute to the on-screen representation of South Asian stories, and to also stay true to myself when writing from a vulnerable place. In the end, we created a film that is simple in nature, but able to speak to anyone despite their background or upbringing. After all, we have all been children and can relate to the unknown of growing up.

A child's perspective holds so much gold - it is innocent, curious, and pure. We wanted to create a film that was human and full of reflexivity as a way to connect with our audiences, hence why the film is told through Riya's perspective. It was an honour to create this film and I hope those who watch it are able to take something from it, even if it is as simple as tapping into their inner child for just a moment.

- Writer/Director, Devki Patel



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Devki Patel is a filmmaker from Fort McMurray, Alberta, now based in Toronto and NYC. She holds a BFA Honours in Film Production and Psychology from York University. Devki's films focus on intimate relationships that reflect universal themes; she believes that at the heart of storytelling is the ability to create positive change, aiming to achieve this in her creative work.

Devki is also the Industry Series Producer at the Future of Film Showcase, delivering distinctive industry programming that fosters opportunities and networking for emerging filmmakers, with an emphasis on uplifting underrepresented communities.



KEY CREATIVES

Writer, Director, Producer
Devki Patel

Associate Producer
Melissa Affrunti

Director of Photography
Rarara

Production Designer
Stephanie Pugh

Editor
Eva Phillips

Sound Designers
Amrik Singh & Brianna Chary

Composer
Hector Jenkins



KEY CAST

Riya
Jyothi Janath

Akash
Kiaan Bansal

Shilpa
Neha Sood

Rohit
Ashutosh Walia



CONTACT INFO

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