

РАМАЯ
PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS



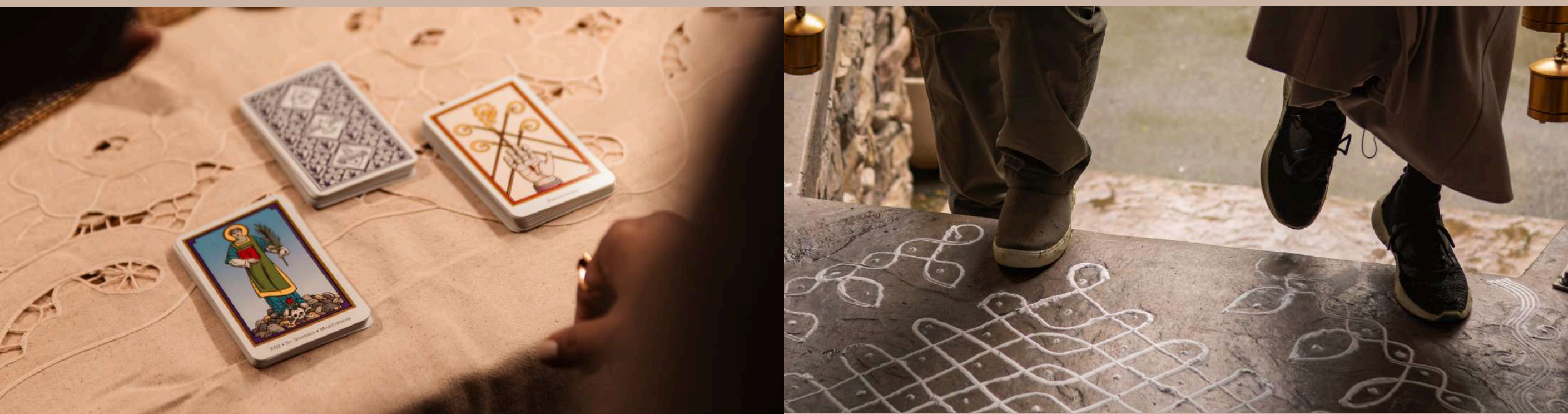
SANDAI

Electronic Press Kit

SANDAI - A Drama Psychological Short Film



A couple step into an ancient ritual therapy in search of closure. Only to confront the fight of their lives, inside their own egos.



Running Time	7 mins
Country of Production	Canada
Date Of Completion	Dec 2025
Shooting Format	Sony Fx 30, 16:9
Production Company	RAMAR Productions
Shooting Formats	DCP and ProRes Available
Sound	Dolby Digital 5.1 Theatrical
Language	English



SYNOPSIS

When Kenji and Sakura, a fractured couple burdened by ten years of unresolved conflict, arrive at an unconventional healing session led by a mystical Tamil therapist named Patti, they expect tea and talk—but instead, are pulled into a surreal ritual called Kaala Payanam. Through ancient tarot, bitter brews, and a dreamlike duel of egos, they confront their emotional wounds in a symbolic battleground. Set between reality and inner transformation, SANDAI is a culturally rich, visually charged short film that blends Japanese tension with South Indian spiritual depth, exploring what it truly means to let go.



DIRECTORS' VISION STATEMENT

Sandai was born from our shared desire to visualize the invisible war within a marriage. As co-directors – one of Tamil descent and the other Japanese – this film is a conscious cultural fusion, a creative collision between Japanese precision and the emotional depth of Tamil culture.

We explore this conflict through a dream duel, blending the disciplined, symbolic sword choreography of Japanese Tate with the intricate, transient beauty of the Tamil Kolam. For us, these forms are not decorative references but structural foundations. Tate embodies control, intention, and restraint; the Kolam embodies rhythm, impermanence, and the daily act of renewal.

Traditionally drawn at the threshold of a home, the Kolam represents the fragile line between order and chaos – much like the relationship at the center of the story. It is created, erased, and redrawn, mirroring how couples must continually renegotiate balance.

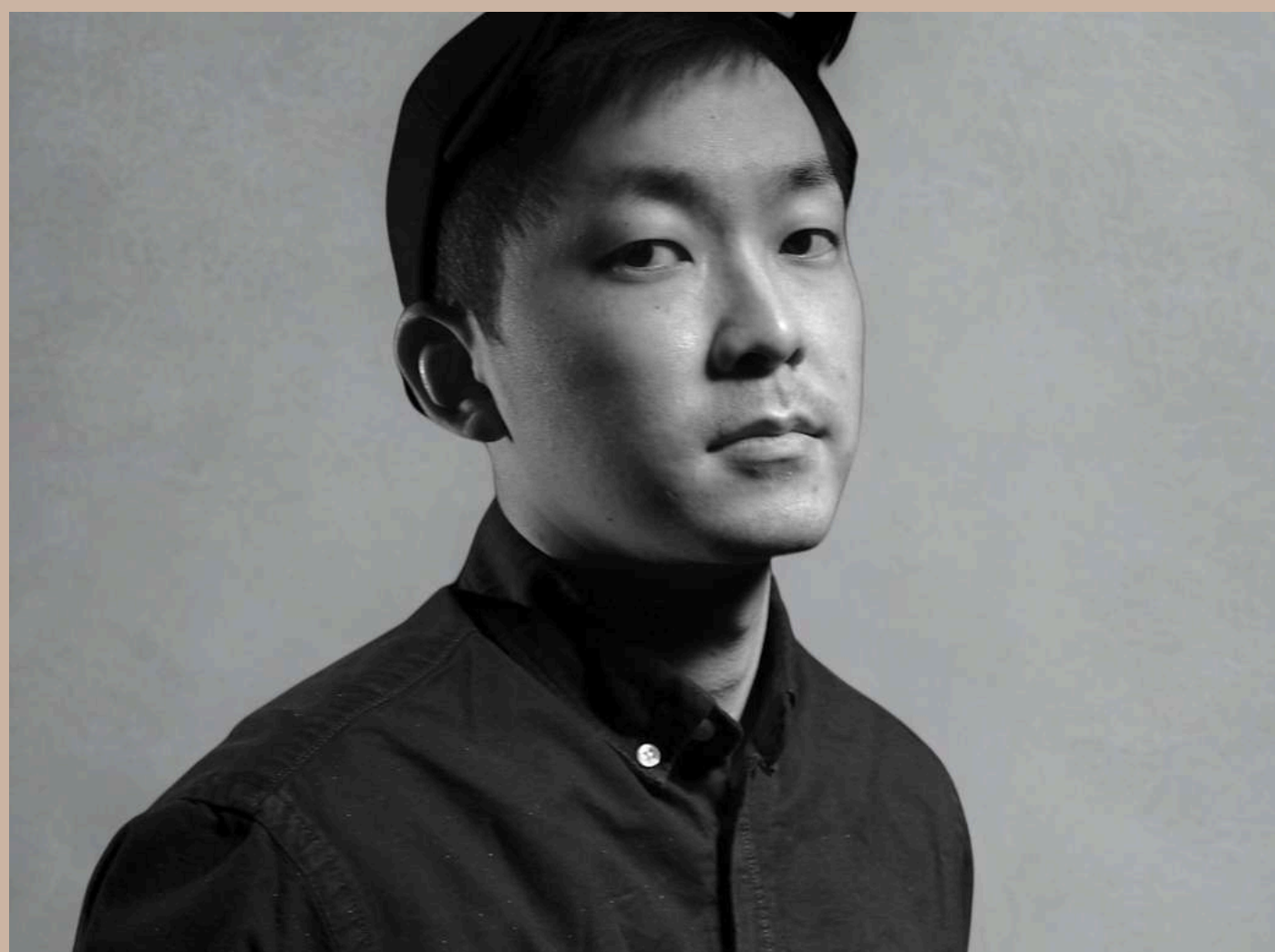
By combining these distinct art forms, we create a visual language for the subconscious – a space where a wife can literally and symbolically cut down her husband's ego. This act is not about defeat, but about confrontation and reset. Upon waking, the couple is given the chance to redraw the lines of their relationship.

In Sandai, conflict becomes form – precise, deliberate, and deeply personal.



THEME

SANDAI explores the clash between ego and healing through a symbolic ritual. Blending Tamil spirituality and Japanese intensity, it reflects on memory, emotional conflict, and the power of letting



WRITERS/CO-DIRECTORS

Hironu Yamawaki is a Vancouver-based writer and director originally from Tottori, Japan. His work explores intercultural identity, quiet emotional depth, and bilingual storytelling. A graduate of CFC Toronto, Carleton University (Film Studies) and Vancouver Film School (Film Production), Hironu is committed to advancing Asian representation both on screen and behind the camera. His short films—including *Okuribi*, *Counting Days*, and *Stand In*—have screened at over 20 international festivals.

Ramgopal Rajagopalan is a Vancouver-based filmmaker and co-founder of RAMAR Productions Ltd. A graduate of Vancouver Film School, he has directed and produced several short films, including *Mannequin*, *Squat N Stool*, and *Alia* which have screened at Oscar Qualifying and Canadian Screen Award Qualifying Festivals. His work often explores themes of cultural identity and social commentary, blending surrealism with grounded storytelling.



STARS



Chandni Appadurai is an actress with a deep love for both theatre and film and tv. Her journey in the performing arts has been fueled by equal parts passion and hard work, and she feels incredibly grateful to be doing what she loves every day. Her credits include roles in *The Good Doctor*, *Allegiance*, *Mysterious Benedict Society* among others for TV, and lead roles in *Dinner With Friends*, *Steel Magnolias* among others for Theatre. She recently received the Grand Winner annual award 2024 for Best Actress from the prestigious Bridge Fest for her role in *Velvet Secrets* Film.



Ryo Mishima kicked off his acting journey in 2013, from an acting school based in New York. He continued training after he had gone back to Tokyo where he was able to fully escape his comfort zone and dive deep into the craft of acting. After working on TV shows, Theatre plays, and Commercials in Japan he decided to step out of his home country and continue his dream in Vancouver. So far Ryo has worked on numerous films, commercials, and has also won the "Peoples Choice Best Performance Award" for the film "Stand In" directed by Hiromu Yamawaki in MAMM19.



Haruno Niiyama is a Japanese actor and co-founder of the performance group Hitotose. She is trained in acting, dance, martial arts, stage combat, and traditional katana performance. Her work spans acting, voice-over, motion capture, commercials, choreography, and live performance. Her recent credits include *Shōgun* (FX) as Natsu no Kata, *Pachinko* Season 2 (Apple TV+) as Yuki, and voice work in *Assassin's Creed Shadows*.





STUNT CHOREOGRAPHERS

Naoki Tasaki is a professional stunt performer with over six years of experience in Japan, working across films, TV dramas, and motion capture for anime productions. After building a strong foundation in the Japanese entertainment industry, he moved to Canada and now works internationally as a stunt performer based in Canada. He brings a diverse skill set, on-set discipline, and a cross-cultural perspective to every project he joins.

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Yuki Kedoin is a Japanese actor, samurai sword performer, and choreographer, most recently seen as Takemaru in all ten episodes of FX/Hulu's *Shogun* (2024), filmed in Vancouver. Trained in traditional samurai sword fighting for over 13 years, Yuki has taught and performed across Japan and Canada. His screen credits include *The Smashing Machine* (A24), *Pachinko S2* (AppleTV), and *The Naked Director* (Netflix). A theatre-trained artist, Yuki received a two-year mentorship from Bill Millerd at the Arts Club Theatre Company through Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs. He recently wrote, directed, and starred in his short film *IPPO*, shot in Vancouver.





DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER

Aditi Anand is a singer, violinist, and dancer. She has been a student of Carnatic (South Indian classical) music and Bharatanatyam (classical dance) for over thirteen years. She is currently studying environmental engineering at UC Davis.





PRODUCERS

Ram Rajagopalan is a Vancouver-based independent producer and the founder of RAMAR Productions Ltd. He has produced eight short films to date, with budgets ranging from CAD \$4,000 to \$40,000, working across Canada, the United States, and India.

His films have screened at more than 30 international film festivals worldwide, including Academy Award®-qualifying and Canadian Screen Award-qualifying festivals, and have received multiple jury and audience awards. His work reflects a commitment to independent production models that balance creative ambition with financial discipline.

With a prior career in the technology sector, Ram brings entrepreneurial structure and cross-border execution expertise to his filmmaking practice. He is drawn to culturally rooted, character-driven stories and actively develops projects that bridge artistic traditions while maintaining strong production value within modest budgets.

Shiva Gohari, the line producer on *Sandai* with a rich background in Iranian cinema. Before relocating to Canada, she worked on several independent film projects in Iran, where she honed her skills in navigating complex production landscapes. Known for her meticulous coordination and adaptability, Shiva excels at managing lean-budget productions with creative precision. On *Sandai*, she was the unseen force behind the scenes, handling everything from logistics and paperwork to last-minute problem-solving, ensuring the production ran smoothly despite tight schedules and challenging conditions.





THE TEAM

CAST

Patti: Chandni Appadurai

Kenji: Ryo Mishima

Sakura: Haruno Niiyama

PRODUCTION

Produced By: Ram Rajagopalan

Co-Producer: Amir Arab

Co-Producer: Hooman Nematolahi

Line Producer: Shiva Gohari

Writers & Co-Directors: Ram Rajagopalan,
Hiromu Yamawaki

1st AD / Script Supervisor: Amir Arab

CAMERA

Director of Photography / Camera Operator:

Madhav Nandivdekar

1st AC: Karthik Sharma

2nd AC: Dhruv Soni

SOUND

Director of Photography / Camera

Operator: Madhav Nandivdekar

1st AC: Karthik Sharma

2nd AC: Dhruv Soni

MARKETING

Producer (s):

Email:

Trailer:

Instagram:

Filmfreeway:

IMDb

Ram Rajagopalan (+1 778 319 8240)

ramgopal.rajagopalan@gmail.com

<https://youtu.be/o2G7PQEmvGc>

<https://www.instagram.com/sandaishortfilm>

<https://filmfreeway.com/sandai>

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31157752/>

ART DEPARTMENT

Production Designer / Costume Stylist:

Hendrika Hermkens

Art Director: Zoie Wickens

Kolum Artist: Khalpana Nindrai

MAKEUP & HAIR

Key Hair & Makeup: Jackie Junjing Ma

POST-PRODUCTION

Editor: Carlos Sanchez

Sound Design & Mixing: Maidé García

Estrada, Alejandro Roa Flores

DMT / Assistant Editor: Leo Moncada

VFX

Colorist: Hasnain Czar

Stunt Choreographers:

Stunt Choreographers: Naoki Tasaki

Samurai Fight Choreography: Naoki Tasaki

Dance Choreography: Yuki Keodin, Haruno Niiyama

RAMAЯ
PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

STARRING

CHANDNI APPADURAI

RYO MISHIMA

HARUNO NIYAMA

SANDAI

PRODUCER & CO-DIRECTOR RAM RAJAGOPALAN CO-DIRECTOR HIROMU YAMAWAKI

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MADHAV NANDIVDEKAR PRODUCTION DESIGNER HENDRIKA HERMKENS EDITOR CARLOS SÁNCHEZ CARILLO

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