



GUBBARA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Delicate Darling

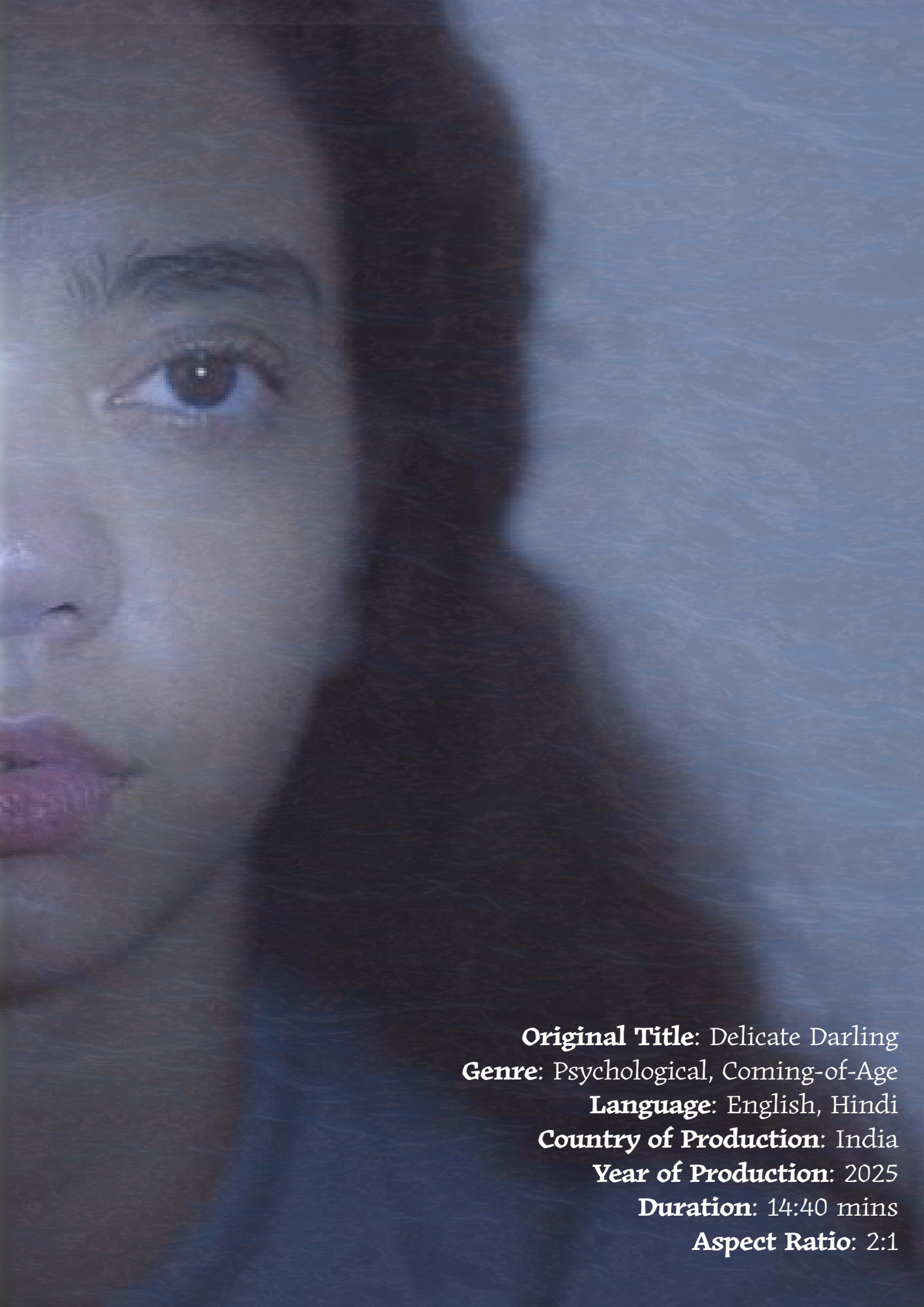
A FILM BY PEARL MALIK
WRITER AALISHA SHETHI AND PEARL MALIK
PRODUCER DIMPY AGRAWAL AND MEENA AGRAWAL
CO-PRODUCER AMY RAI AND ANAL SOBHAMBARA | PRODUCTION DESIGNER APURVA BHAGAT AND NIKHIL KOVILE
COSTUME DESIGNER PANCHAMI CHATUR | MUSIC KANIK BHANUMEDINI AND DIOGIAN GOWDER
EDITORS BABUJI PATEL | COLOR GRADER SURABHI PANDIT | SOUND DESIGNER VEDANT KISHOR AND RAHMAN QURSI
FOOTAGE PROVIDED BY BRIDGE POSTWORKS | HAIR BY SAKSHI TRIBE BLUE DESIGN CO.



CAST
SHEEBA CHADDHA
(SPECIAL APPEARANCE)
RASHI MISTRY
JAANVI AGARWAL
ARYA PATIL
AAYAT MENON

Logline and Key Information

When a schoolgirl returns from a camping night she cannot fully remember, her search for truth collides with an institution determined to keep its silence louder than her truth.



Original Title: Delicate Darling

Genre: Psychological, Coming-of-Age

Language: English, Hindi

Country of Production: India

Year of Production: 2025

Duration: 14:40 mins

Aspect Ratio: 2:1

Cast and Crew List

CAST

Mrs. Keswani	Sheeba Chaddha
Piya	Rashi Mistry
Seher	Jaanvi Agarwal
Tara	Arya Patil
Devika	Aayat Menon
Ms. Singh (Female Teacher)	Tanvika Parlikar
Mr. Gupta (Male Teacher)	Sunil Sharma
Camp Instructor Shekhawat	Arun Malik
Sameer (Piya's Father)	Abhay Katil
Reva (Piya's Mother)	Nimisha Sirohi
Chaddha Uncle	Girish Thapar

Cast and Crew List

CREW

Producer:	Dimpy Agrawal
Co-producer:	Amit Rai
Screenplay:	Aalisha Sheth Pearl Malik
Director of Photography:	Amal Sudhakaran
Production Designer:	Apurva Bhagat
Editor:	Vedant Joshi Raghav Gupta
Sound Designer:	Sarit Sekhar Chatterjee
Music Producer:	Kabir Hiranandani Dishaan Gidwani
Costume Designer:	Rahul Vijay
Casting Director:	Panchami Ghavri
Colorist:	Himanshu Kamble
Post-production Studio:	Bridge PostWorks



Synopsis

Piya, the head girl of a school, wakes from a night on a camping trip that she cannot fully remember. She knows something happened because she feels the effects of it: fear, confusion and emotional distress, but she is unable to piece the night together clearly.

An investigation is opened, but it feels staged. Teachers avoid difficult questions and offer strange explanations for the evidence. Her friends who were with her that night each tell a different version of events. Instead of support, Piya finds herself blamed for being out late and accused of things she did not do.

The impact of that night follows her home. Her parents see only Piya's rudeness, refusing to recognise her discomfort. Even in a private conversation with the school principal who admits she once went through something similar, Piya is told that moving on is a sign of strength, and that suppression is a victory. The implication is clear: speaking up only brings shame.

As graduation approaches, Piya realises that the truth of what happened will not be recognised by the school, her friends or her family. What remains is her own knowledge of what happened, and the weight of carrying it alone.

Delicate Darling is the story of a young girl who learns how easily her voice can be taken from her and how silence is used to protect institutions instead of survivors. It is a portrait of how systemic gaslighting can be carried out under the guise of naivety.



Director's Statement



Some stories don't arrive politely. They crash into your life, sit heavy in your chest and dare you to carry them. *Delicate Darling* is one of those stories. A shadow I've carried since adolescence, one that refused to fade no matter how hard I tried to ignore it.

I grew up in the manicured world of elite schools in Delhi. Institutions that prided themselves on order, on polish and on being aspirational. They were beautiful on the surface but underneath they were powered by silence and complicity. Care could switch to control in a single breath. Words that sounded protective one moment turned punitive the next. At seventeen you are forced to absorb contradictions your mind cannot yet hold. And you are urged to grow up not because you are ready but because the word leaves you no choice.

This film is not about the spectacle of one incident. It is about what follows. The way memory splinters and betrayal ripples outward. The way institutions edit a young woman's truth until even she doubts its existence. Survivors rarely inherit one wound. We inherit a chorus of voices drowning out our own. The friend who distances herself, the teacher who looks away and authority that writes away what is inconvenient. What remains is confusion that lingers far longer than the moment itself.

Revisiting this story was not an act of closure but one of confrontation. It was like unlocking a room I had sealed years ago, only to find everything intact, untouched, waiting for my return. On set, there were days I struggled to breathe. But I was held by collaborators who carried this story with tenderness and slowly it began to feel less like re-living and more like reclaiming.

I never wanted Piya, my protagonist, to be seen as a victim. Victimhood is a word the world flattens women into. Piya is a survivor. I want the audience to sit with her confusion, her self-blame, her silence and feel uncomfortable inside it. To see how the ground collapses beneath her, not only because of what happened, but because of everyone who insisted it didn't. For those who have lived something similar and stayed quiet: silence does not erase your story. It lingers and sometimes the only way to confront it is to give it form. Making this film has not healed me. Healing is too simple a word. But it has freed me from carrying it alone.

Delicate Darling is not a reconstruction. It is a haunting trauma. It lives in the space between what happened and what was denied. Between comfort and betrayal. Between the scream and the silence that followed. It is my love letter. And it is my act of defiance.





Director's Bio



Pearl Malik
Director & Writer



Pearl Malik is a filmmaker based in Mumbai and a graduate of USC's BFA program in Film and Television Production. Before stepping behind the camera for her debut short *Delicate Darling*, she worked in large-scale productions, most recently as Associate Director on Prime Video's *Call Me Bae*. Her work interrogates silence, complicity and fractured memory, resisting the tidy resolutions often imposed on women's stories. With *Delicate Darling*, she emerges as a filmmaker unafraid of discomfort committed to telling the stories institutions would rather erase.



Producer's Bio



Dimpy Agrawal *Producer*

Dimpy Agrawal is a film producer and the founder of *Gubbara Entertainment*, a Mumbai-based production house dedicated to emotionally resonant, socially rooted, and bold storytelling. After nearly a decade at companies like *Netflix India*, *Dharma Productions*, and *Phantom Films*, she launched Gubbara in 2023.

In 2024, she raised a one-million-dollar *Script Development Fund* to support original South Asian voices, partnered with institutions like Unilever for branded content and the Azim Premji Foundation for socially relevant films, and premiered her debut short film as producer, *Chashma (Blind Spot)* at international festivals. She has also backed independent films such as *Shadowbox (Baksho Bondi)*, which premiered at the 75th Berlin International Film Festival. In 2025, she was awarded the Women in Film Fellowship: Cannes Producers Edition.

Selected Filmography as Producer

Shadowbox (Baksho Bondi)
dir. Tanushree Das & Saumyananda Sahi
Selected in Perspectives at the 75th Berlin International Film Festival (2025)

Chashma (Blind Spot)
dir. Nitin Baid
Premiered under the Focus South Asia section at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024

The Archies
dir. Zoya Akhtar
Premiered at the 54th International Film Festival of India (2023); at the 2024 Filmfare OTT Awards, received 5 nominations & won 2 awards (including Best Male Debut in a Web Original Film)

Khufiya
dir. Vishal Bharadwaj
At the 2024 Filmfare OTT Awards; won Best Supporting Actress in a Web Original Film

Sacred Games
dir. Anurag Kashyap & Vikramaditya Motwane; later also directed by Neeraj Ghaywan. India's first Netflix original series; widely acclaimed and praised for its gritty storytelling & performances



Aalisha Sheth

Writer

Aalisha Sheth is an Indian screenwriter based in Mumbai. She earned her MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage from Northwestern University, where she was awarded the advanced sitcom grant for co-creating the original comedy pilot ***United States of Aliens*** which is currently streaming on OTV (Open Television). More recently, she worked as a staff writer on the drama series, ***Showtime*** which is streaming on JioHotstar. Her upcoming projects include an original series, a comedy-drama feature film and two independent shorts. Aalisha hopes to create and champion inclusive, urgent and rooted South-Asian stories for a global audience.



Amal Sudhakaran

Cinematographer

Amal Sudhakaran is a director of photography whose work spans docuseries and short films. He served as DOP for ***Rainbow Rishta*** (2023), and has contributed to titles including ***Dangals of Crime*** (2022), ***Virtual Bharat*** (2019-23), ***Vir Das: For India*** (2020) and shorts like ***Bhandara*** (2023) and ***Ma*** (2024). Known for his versatile handling of both episodic and short-form content, he brings visual nuance and consistency to diverse storytelling formats.

Crew Bio



Vedant Joshi
Editor

Vedant Joshi is an award-winning film editor who has worked on various internationally acclaimed films like *All That Breathes* (Academy Award nominee) and *The Disciple* (FIPRESCI International Critics Prize). He has worked on projects produced by HBO, Apple, Netflix and Vice.



Himanshu Kamble
Colorist

Himanshu Kamble is a colorist with a unique perspective shaped by his background in fashion and music. At *Bridge PostWorks*, Himanshu started by grading dailies for the BBC series *A Suitable Boy* and soon advanced to final color grading for projects on Netflix, Amazon, MUBI, Zee5, and others. His notable credits include films such as *Sabar Bonda* (2024, Sundance Grand Jury Prize), *Sad Letters of an Imaginary Woman* (2024, Asian Cinema Fund), *The Fable* (2024), *Gyaarag Gyaarah* (2024), *The Scavenger of Dreams* (2024), *Tarla* (2023) and *Kathal* (2023).



Sarit Sekhar Chatterjee

Sound Designer

Sarit Sekhar Chatterjee is a Sound Designer, Sound Editor, Mix Engineer and Musician from India. He completed his Diploma of Audio Production from SAE Institute, Sydney (Australia) in 2009 and is best known for his work as the Sound Designer of feature films like *Mrs* (2023) and web-series such as *Maamla Legal Hai* (2024) , *Dupahiya* (2025) , *Gram Chikitsalay* (2025) , *Home Shanti* (2022) and *Potluck* (2021)



First Take Productions

Music

Kabir Hiranandani and Dishaan Gidwani are a Mumbai-based music production and composition duo who met at Berklee College of Music. Since then, they have worked on acclaimed projects, including Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi* and Prashant Nair's *Trial By Fire* on Netflix, and have most recently completed their first feature film score. Their repertoire extends beyond film and television into advertising, audio branding and producing songs for artists across India. Offering end-to-end services from composition and arranging to mixing and mastering, they bring versatility and depth to every project. With a foundation in both storytelling and sound design, Kabir and Dishaan continue to craft music that resonates widely.



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