

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered around a table. They appear to be in a celebratory mood, with some looking at cakes on the table. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text is positioned over the left and right sides of the image.

# PIANO FINGERS

*A film by Megha Bhaduri*

To walk beside her father

A daughter's attempt

# LOGLINE

When Megha loses her father to Huntington's Disease and tests positive herself, she arms herself with a camera and turns inwards, seeking to unravel the emotional aftermath of loss, the burden of her genetic inheritance and what it means to carry an incurable disease into future generations.



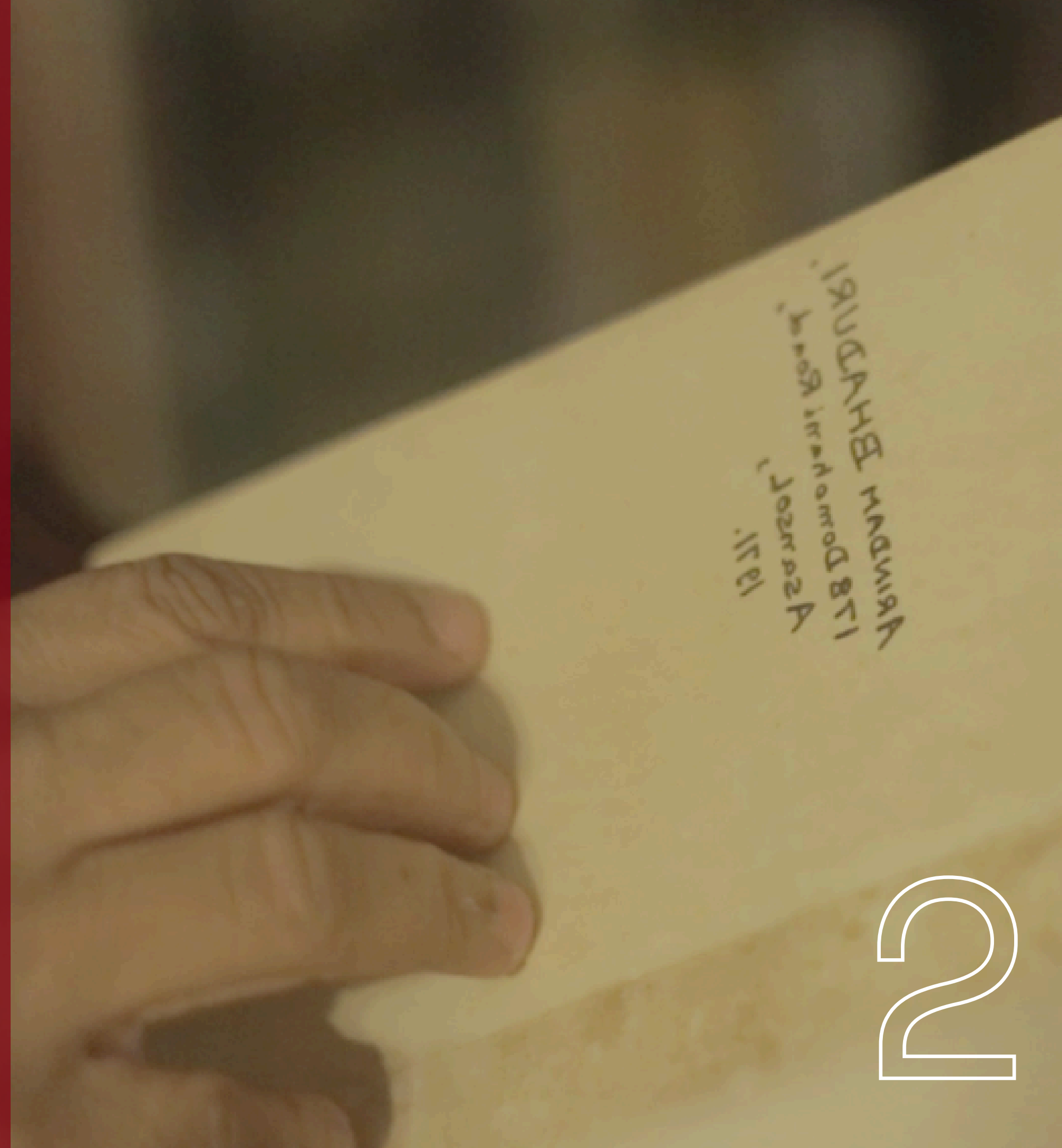
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# VISION STATEMENT

Piano Fingers is a documentary that examines how individuals and families navigate the emotional reality of living with a rare genetic condition.

Through personal storytelling and observational footage, it aims to:

- Build understanding of the mental health impact of rare diseases
- Raise awareness around the complexities of predictive testing and diagnosis
- Reduce stigma through honest and culturally grounded representation
- Offer tools for clinicians, educators, and support networks working with HD and related conditions
- Our vision is to complete the film with support from partners who believe in the long-term impact of thoughtful, evidence-informed storytelling. We are creating a resource that can live beyond festivals – in clinics, classrooms, and communities.



# STORY + CONCEPT

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With striking intimacy and honesty, Piano Fingers asks a simple but urgent question:

If you knew what was coming, would you live differently?

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When Megha lost her father to Huntington's Disease at 22, she had more questions than answers. For years, his illness had been hidden from her. His confusion, temper and physical decline were all part of a story no one dared to fully tell. **So she picked up a camera.**

What began as an attempt to understand her father, the version of him before the disease, slowly grew into something more profound: **a film about inherited memory, silence, and what it means to live with knowledge of your own end.**

Eleven months later, Megha tested positive for the Huntington's gene. She now stood in a rare, terrifying space, one few people in the world will ever occupy, where she knew how she would likely die, and that it wouldn't be immediate. It would take time. Time to watch for symptoms. Time to notice the uncanny similarities between herself and her father. Time to feel her mother speak to her in the same anxious tone she once used with him. And time to begin an unexpected, **posthumous closeness with the man she lost – understanding him, maybe even loving him anew, from this altered vantage point.**



# STORY + CONCEPT

Piano Fingers is a deeply personal, multigenerational documentary that traces Megha's journey as she turns the camera toward herself, her family, and the long shadow of a rare, incurable genetic disorder. Her mother reflects on the years of caregiving and the impossible decisions that come with protecting children from harsh realities. Megha and her brother take diverging paths: one choosing to get tested, the other opting not to know. Their relationship evolves as they face the weight of an inheritance no one asked for.

But something shifts when a new generation enters the picture: Megha's nephew. In his birth, a new direction emerges. The family begins to look forward, carrying their father's memory quietly – not with the heaviness of grief, but with a kind of hopeful reverence. The film becomes a meditation on how we move forward while carrying what came before.



# STORY + CONCEPT

Against the backdrop of a disease that affects just **2.71 people per 100,000 worldwide**, Piano Fingers goes beyond medical diagnosis, it's about what it means to live fully, even while knowing the end is coming. It explores the emotional complexity of inherited trauma, caregiving, intergenerational silence, and the fragile but fierce ways families hold each other through grief.

Through her work in the global Huntington's community, Megha finds others like her, people who often stay silent, who fight for better healthcare and research, and who somehow still manage to seek joy, connection, and hope in the time they have.



# TOPIC SUMMARY

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When I tested positive at 23, it was like being handed a countdown clock, one that only I could hear ticking. I wasn't sick yet, but I was no longer safe.

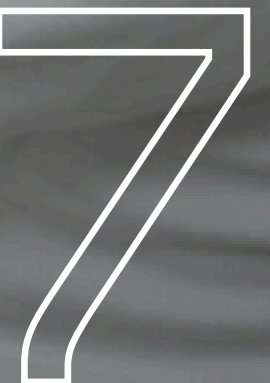
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Piano Fingers is a deeply personal documentary told from the rare perspective of someone living with a terminal genetic diagnosis before symptoms begin. It reflects on the emotional impact of Huntington's Disease, a condition often hidden due to stigma, and explores what it means to live in limbo, carry inherited grief, and confront the burden of knowing your future. At its heart, it's a daughter's attempt to understand her father's life through the lens of her own diagnosis.



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Piano Fingers offers a first-person account of Huntington's Disease from both a genetic carrier and a caregiver's perspective.
- The film explores the emotional and psychological impact of predictive testing, inherited illness, and long-term caregiving.
- It highlights real-life family dynamics around disclosure, denial, grief, and intergenerational communication.
- Filmed across the UK and India, the story reflects cultural stigma and limited awareness around rare diseases in South Asian communities.
- The project has been developed in close connection with the HD community and includes global voices from lived experience, clinical care, and research.
- The final film will include versions or segments that can be used in educational, clinical, or training contexts to support rare disease outreach and caregiver awareness.



# ARTISTIC APPROACH + TREATMENT

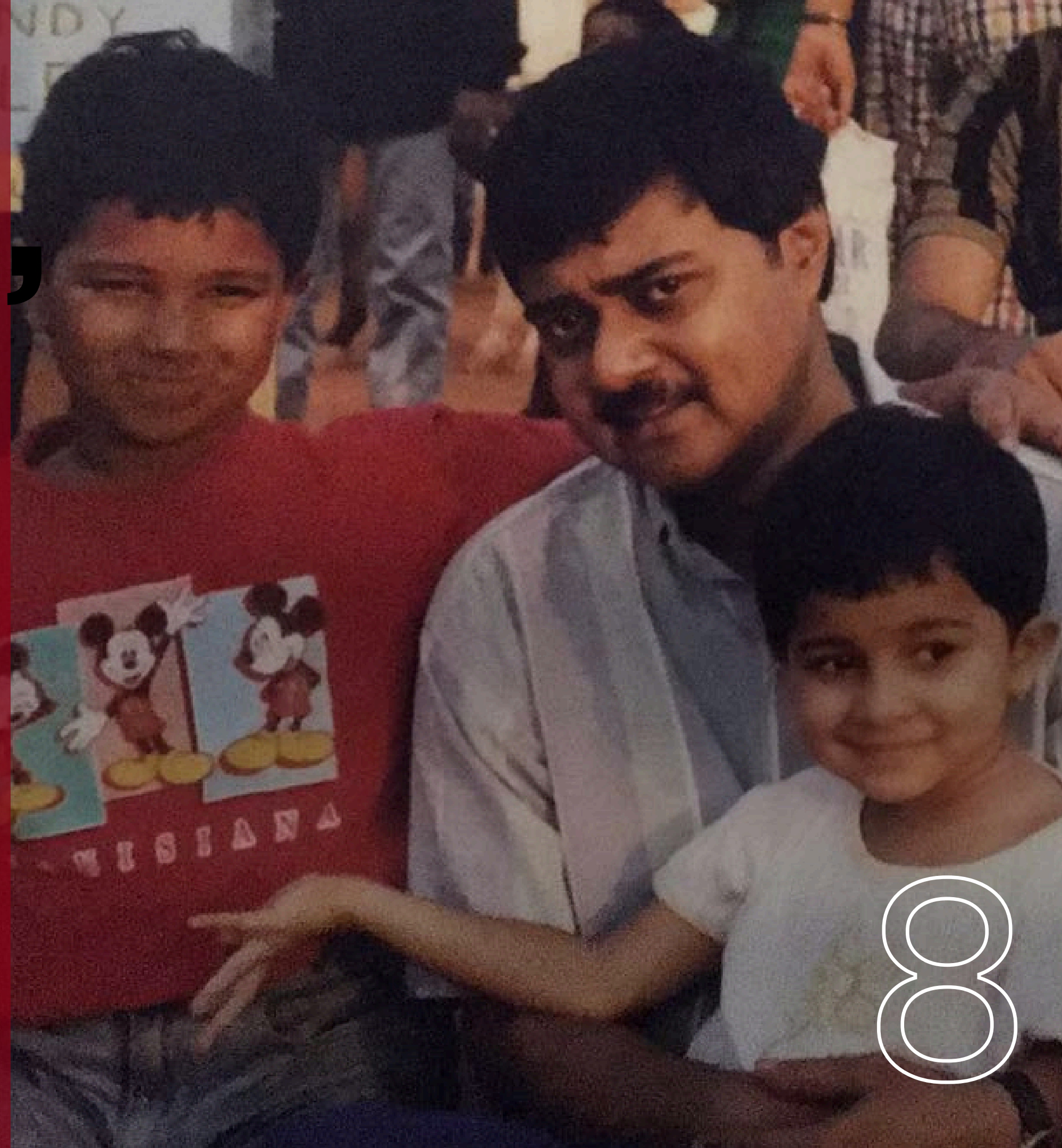
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There's a rawness to the imagery: shaky frames, imperfect light, quiet glances.

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Piano Fingers is built like a memory – intimate, fractured, and deeply personal. It doesn't follow a clean arc, but unfolds like a diary layered with textures, fragments, and pauses. A scrapbook of reckoning – part memoir, part meditation, part unfinished letter to my father.

The film blends observational footage with personal archives – home videos, weekly diaries, and handheld moments I've recorded myself. There's a rawness to the imagery: shaky frames, imperfect light, quiet glances. Memory doesn't come in high definition – it comes charged with feeling. Some scenes are still and reflective; others are deliberately first-person, letting viewers step inside my head. Sound becomes its own landscape, sparse music, ambient noise, weighted silence, mirroring the internal world.



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# ARTISTIC APPROACH + TREATMENT

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While the film deals with mortality and uncertainty, it resists heaviness. There's space for humour, awkwardness, and contradiction

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Animation and mixed media appear sparingly but meaningfully, to give form to undocumented memories, express emotions beyond language, and reimagine moments with my father that exist only in thought. These are drawn from my own artwork and serve as emotional anchors when words or images fall short. **These sequences can also help healthcare professionals and caregivers better understand the lived experience of pre-symptomatic and symptomatic HD.**

The edit embraces a deliberately unpolished style – transitions that follow emotional tides over linear logic. While the film deals with mortality and uncertainty, it resists heaviness. There's space for humour, awkwardness, contradiction and the strange alchemy of living with a diagnosis that hasn't yet arrived. **Piano Fingers isn't here to educate. It's here to hold fear and love in the same breath, and to reach across silence in search of connection.**

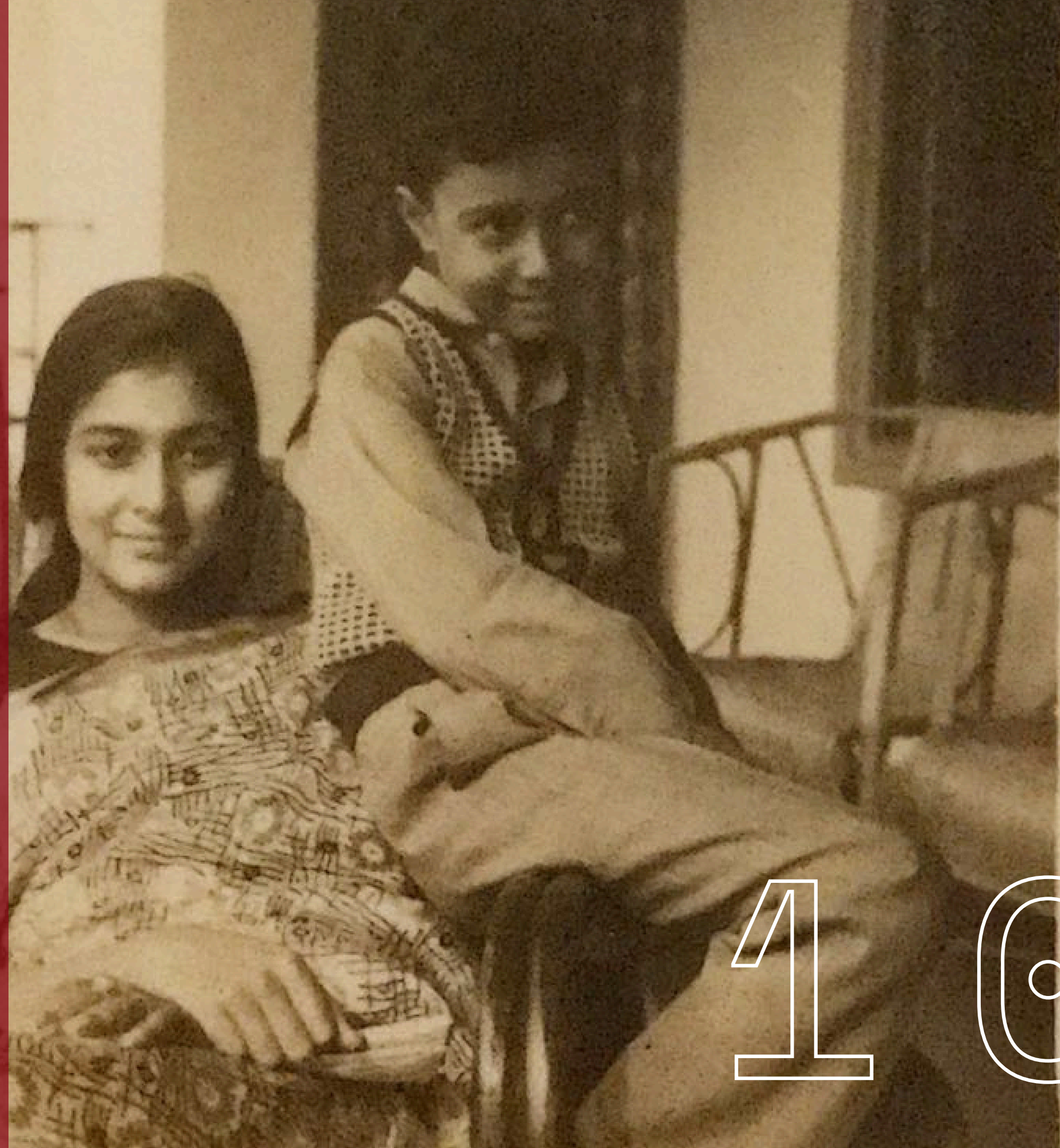




# PERSPECTIVE + COMMUNITY CARE

As one of the very few people globally and the only person in my family who has taken the predictive test for Huntington's, I carry a rare, lived perspective. I understand the silences, the shame, and the quiet grief families often endure. **I've lived the confusion of misdiagnosis, the stigma in South Asian communities, and the heartbreak of too-late understanding.** That experience makes me not only fit to tell this story, but responsible for telling it with care.

With Piano Fingers, **I want to create a space of recognition for others who feel alone in this journey.** I've already begun connecting with the global HD community through workshops, writing, and speaking engagements and I plan to extend the film's impact through outreach, screenings, and creative collaborations that centre the voices of HD-affected individuals. This film is part of a larger, ongoing conversation: about how we speak of illness, how we hold space for uncertainty, and how we make art from what breaks us.



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# PROJECT TIMELINE

## Initial Development (2017–2020):

The journey began in 2017 with small-scale filming and exploratory research. By 2018, I had completed a 30-minute cut that included interviews with four families in India affected by Huntington's Disease. However, concerns around anonymity and consent prompted a reimagining of the film's direction. I made the conscious choice to center the narrative on my own family while weaving in perspectives from the broader HD community to support and contextualize my story.

## Late Development & Current Stage (2021–2025):

After reviewing earlier material, I've decided to retain select footage featuring my mother, brother, and myself. The project is currently in its late development and early production stages. As of April 2025, I'm actively conducting additional research, streamlining the narrative, and exploring a mixed-media animation style to visualize internal emotional states and memory.



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# PROJECT TIMELINE

Following the recent securing of funding from [Ferrer](#), the project has entered its final phase of production. Filming will continue through April 2026 in London, focusing on completing the final narrative and emotional arcs of the film.

This phase brings together a range of contributors from across the [global Huntington's Disease landscape](#), including researchers based in the UK and North America, as well as advocates and experts from Huntington's societies worldwide. Their perspectives will expand the film's engagement with the scientific, medical, and community dimensions of the condition.

Alongside this, filming will continue with Megha's family, capturing intimate and evolving moments that sit at the core of the film. These interactions will explore themes of anticipatory grief, loss of self, healthcare access, and the role of community participation, as well as the longer-term impact of intergenerational trauma.

As the film moves toward completion, this period is crucial in bringing together the personal and the systemic. It allows the story to fully inhabit the space between lived experience and broader questions of care, legacy, and belonging, grounding the film in both emotional depth and global context.

## Post-Production (2026):

Editing will begin in mid 2026, following these key moments, with a paper edit by May and an assembly cut by July. From August to November 2026, the focus will shift to completing animation and motion graphics, ADR, and sound design. The film will be packaged for release by late 2026, alongside the beginning of an outreach and impact campaign aimed at global HD communities.

## AMYGDALA

Fear Center of the Brain

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# WHY JOIN PIANO FINGERS AS A STAKEHOLDER

We're seeking partners and stakeholders through producers, funders, and organisations who believe in the power of storytelling to drive understanding, reduce stigma, and spark change.

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# WE ARE NOT STARTING FROM SCRATCH

In 2018, we raised \$10,800 through crowdfunding, with additional backing from Memesys Culture Lab, who provided mentorship, space, and crew support during the film's early development. We've also raised 60,000 EUR and are a Spanish and British co-production in collaboration with Filmshake, Stoyga and UTL.

We've built momentum – from being selected at Good Pitch India 2020 to features in Homegrown, Mid-day, Xpress Cinema, and Wishberry – and we've already captured a significant amount of evocative footage.

The film is now in late production/early post-production, with shoots scheduled in London and the UK in mid 2026. We'll begin editing in early 2026, with mixed-media animation and motion graphics to follow.

We are applying to key funding bodies including Catapult Fund, BFI RAD, India Docs, and global HD organisations like HDSA, HDA, HDYO, and EHDN. We're also pursuing partnerships with production companies that share our vision, as well as in-kind support in the UK and India.



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# COME JOIN US!

Piano Fingers isn't just a film about Huntington's Disease, it's about what it means to live with uncertainty, hold memory and mortality together, and find connection in the face of silence. While deeply personal, the film speaks to global audiences from caregivers and families to clinicians, researchers, and communities impacted by rare and invisible illnesses.

We've built strong early momentum: raised seed funding, shot key material, and engaged with HD communities across the UK, India, and the US. We were selected for Good Pitch India 2020 and featured in publications including Homegrown and Mid-day. Upcoming shoots in London and Kolkata are scheduled through late 2025, with post-production to begin in early 2026.

We're now seeking partners who can support the film through:

- Funding or in-kind contributions
- Access to archival lab/clinic material
- Introductions to angel or philanthropic investors
- Filming permissions in trials, labs, or clinics

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# MEGHA BHADURI

*Director/Writer*

Megha Bhaduri is a screenwriter, producer, and documentary filmmaker based between London and India, working at the intersection of impact and storytelling. She was shortlisted for the 2025 Video Consortium SSP Asia Fellowship and has written, directed, and produced multiple shorts that have screened at BAFTA and BIFA-qualifying festivals globally.

Her work blends fiction and non-fiction, often exploring themes like WASH, climate action, mental health, and education. She has collaborated with global organisations including GAP Inc., WaterAid, BBC Media Action, Save the Children, and SAP. Known for capturing raw emotion and intimate storytelling, her debut feature documentary Piano Fingers follows her personal journey after testing positive for Huntington's Disease—spotlighting illness, memory, and the dignity of living.

[www.meghamagha.com](http://www.meghamagha.com)

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# MANAHAR KUMAR

## *Producer*

Manahar Kumar is a BAFTA Newcomer and a multiple Student EMMY® Award-winning director, writer, and actor. With stage credits in *The Mousetrap* and *12 Angry Men*, he recently appeared in Shah Rukh Khan's *Jawan* and Amazon Prime's *Made in Heaven*. He was also part of the writers' room for Jio's upcoming series *GOATS* (2025).

A co-founder of Untied Laces and an MFA graduate from SCAD, Manahar has trained under renowned coaches including Kim Gillingham and Margie Haber Studio. His thesis film *Stardust* won the Audience Award at Georgia Film Festival and was screened at IFFSA Toronto. As a director-producer, he's collaborated with nonprofits like MARD and brands like Deloitte, with his films earning recognition at prestigious festivals including Palm Springs and Atlanta.

<https://linktr.ee/iammanahar>

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# GAURAV RATURI

## *Co-Producer*

Gaurav is currently working in the UK film ecosystem, after an impressive career in India, and is the Founder of Filmshake Global. He was part of Indian short films ecosystem in 2008 when he founded Filmbooth to provide a space for short films in India. Also, one of his notable short film series on women entrepreneurship in 2021 has garnered over 3 million views online, exemplifying his commitment to meaningful content and impact films.

In 2020, Gaurav founded Cinemapreneur, India's pioneering OTT platform dedicated to independent filmmakers seeking global recognition. A TEDx speaker, Gaurav's work has been showcased at international festivals and has received nomination at top critics' choice awards in India.

In 2022, he joined BritAsia to establish a new creative arm, aiming to bring South Asian stories to the forefront.

Currently, Gaurav is focused on securing financing for compelling stories through co-productions, grants, and alternative funding sources, ensuring that exceptional creative projects come to life.

<https://www.filmshake.co.uk/aboutfilmshake>

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# ANIRUDH GANAPATHY

*Director of Photography/Producer*

Anirudh is a versatile cinematographer with a passion for exploring various mediums and formats. Whether through documentary or fiction, his work is driven by a deep commitment to storytelling. Starting his journey as a documentary filmmaker, he has expanded his craft to fiction, relishing the creative challenges of both genres.

At the core of Anirudh's process is empathy and connection, aiming to capture and communicate the intricacies of human emotion and experience. He constantly experiments with new approaches, pushing boundaries through research, innovation, and technology to elevate his storytelling and bring fresh perspectives to his audience.

<https://www.anirud.com>

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# NAOMI SHAH

## *Impact Producer/Story Editor*

Naomi is an interdisciplinary designer with a deep passion for experience design, ludology, and storytelling as tools for social impact. Their work spans documentary filmmaking, graphic design, game design, and interactivity – always seeking a meaningful synthesis between disciplines.

Driven by a belief in the power of storytelling to educate and inspire, Naomi creates experiences that are not only engaging and entertaining, but also thought-provoking and transformative. They are drawn to projects that spark dialogue and motivate positive action in the world.

<https://www.naomishah.org>

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# RELEVANT LINKS

[TRAILER](#)

[GOOD PITCH 2020](#)

[4LS - MEGHA'S STORY](#)

[BUDGET \(refer to PDF\)](#)

[HOMEGROWN](#)

[FILM FREEMAY PAGE](#)

[SAMPLE SCENES - EXTENDED](#)

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