

A SILVER LINING PICTURES PRODUCTION



s c a r c e

A CLIMATE STORY. A CRIME THRILLER.

LOCHAN BARSAGADE

&

PADMA DAMODARAN

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MRITTIKA 'MOU' SARIN

PRODUCER MANISH SHARMA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NIRALI NAIK EDITOR SRUTHY SUKUMARAN

LINE PRODUCER JAGDISH SHARMA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MEDHA KHANNA

POST PRODUCTION FUTUREWORKS MEDIA POSTER DESIGNER RAJSHREE SARAF

MUSIC ANTAREEP HAZARIKA PRODUCTION DESIGNER VINOD KADAM & SIDHU SURENDRA



Supported in part by an
Alfred P. Sloan Athena List
Development Grant



SYNOPSIS

Saras, an apathetic water board clerk who has given up on the system is urged by her idealistic son to investigate the missing water supply in a Mumbai slum area. When she laughs off his insistence that the water mafia are responsible, he takes matters into his own hands and she is forced to grapple with the idea of individual responsibility.

LABS AND GRANTS

This short film is a **proof of concept** for a feature version of the script that has won the following awards/labs:

- **Alfred P. Sloan Screenwriting Award** (2019)
- **Tribeca Film Institute Student Sloan Awards** - Honorable Mention (2020)
- **Athena Film Festival Screenwriting Lab** (2021)
- **Athena List** (2023) ([link](#))

TECHNICAL DETAILS

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India, USA

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: India

LANGUAGE: English, Hindi, Marathi

RUNNING TIME: 14 minutes 19 seconds

SHOOTING FORMAT: Sony FX6, Digital

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

International Film Festival of South Asia,
2025

New Jersey Indian and International Film
Festival, 2025

South Asian Film Festival of Montreal,
2025

Sundarban International Film Festival,
2025

EcoReels Film Festival, 2026

World Water Film Festival, 2026





WRITER/DIRECTOR

Mrittika ‘Mou’ Sarin is a queer screenwriter and filmmaker, born in India, raised in the States and lived everywhere in between. She uses this cross-cultural fluency and outside-in perspective to explore complex people, identities and relationships. She has a story by credit on NBC’s CHICAGO MED and has written on CRIMINAL JUSTICE, a BBC adaptation of THE NIGHT OF for India. Her family dramedy and queer rom-com HOW TO HAVE SEX ON ANTIDEPRESSANTS is the winner of the 2025 BlueCat Screenplay Competition. She has been granted development funds from the Athena Film Festival, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and Tribeca Film Institute for her climate thriller SCARCE. Before getting her MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA, she was a development executive in Mumbai. This is what she loves most about filmmaking: transcending borders.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

SCARCE began with an essay and a challenge. The essay in question is called “The Great Derangement” by Amitav Ghosh and speaks to how difficult it is for storytellers to write about climate change due to its immensely slow-moving and gradual nature. This was the challenge.

As an answer to Ghosh’s dilemma, I wanted to write a grounded story about a real world problem from the eyes of the most powerless. I grew up in India which, despite having 18% of world’s population, only has 4% of its water resources. And, every year, 45% of this available water is lost due to mis-management, bureaucracy and theft.

In SCARCE, I use my filmmaking to answer the question: what can I do against something so complex and large as water scarcity? Through me, so do my characters.

Coming from nothing, my protagonist Saras, has already struggled all her life. So much so that she doesn’t see herself to be an integral part of bigger problems. Her son, Rounak, however, clashes with her world-view forcefully. His own journey leads him to a point where there is no other option left but violence. SCARCE argues that by bringing humanity and focusing on the most vulnerable harmed by these issues, we may be more compelled to get moving.

While shooting the film in the Kurla slums of Mumbai, we were moving the crew from one location to another, when a serendipitous moment occurred. A resident, a stout Marathi woman with a no-nonsense attitude stopped the crew in its tracks, “Are you water department people?” She had noticed the prop municipal ID around the neck of the main actress.

She used her saree to wipe her sweat and asked, “When is the water coming back?” I replied, “I don’t know but I’m making a movie about it.” She broke into a large grin and replied, “Well, okay, if your movie helps find someone. You send them to me.”

I promised to do just that.

CREDITS

CAST:

Padma Damodaran
Lochan Barsagade
Vishwajeet Pawar
Amit Bhardwaj
Mayur Shinde
Salahuddin Khan

WRITER/DIRECTOR:
Mrittika 'Mou' Sarin

CINEMATOGRAPHER:
Nirali Naik

EDITOR:

Sruthy Sukumaran

PRODUCER:

Manish Sharma

EXECUTIVE

PRODUCER:

Medha Khanna

LINE PRODUCER:

Jagdish Sharma

COMPOSER:

Antareep Hazarika

HEAD STYLIST:

Simran Wadhvani

PRODUCTION DESIGN:

Vinod Kadam

Sidhu Surendra

SOUND RECORDIST:

Feroz Shaikh



CONTACT

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IMDB: https://m.imdb.com/name/nm5633728/?ref=fn_al_nm_1

IMDB (MOVIE): https://m.imdb.com/title/tt31410090/?ref=ext_shr_lnk

ONLINE SCREENER: <https://vimeo.com/1057424548/0083a85aac?share=copy>
Password: "waterwar"

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

MOVIE: <https://www.instagram.com/scarcethemovie/>

WRITER/DIRECTOR: <https://www.instagram.com/mousephina/>

PADMA DAMODARAN: https://www.instagram.com/padma_damodaran/

LOCHAN BARSAGADE: https://www.instagram.com/lochan_barsagade/

VISHWAJEET PAWAR: https://www.instagram.com/_vishwajeetpawar24/

CINEMATOGRAPHER: <https://www.instagram.com/nirali.n/>

EDITOR: <https://www.instagram.com/sruthy.sukumaran13/>

PRODUCER: https://www.instagram.com/manish_.sharma/

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: <https://www.instagram.com/khanndids/>

COMPOSER: <https://www.instagram.com/antareeph/>