

[hope.exe] A Short Film by Chichi Sharma

Format: Short Film **Runtime:** 00:08:26 **Aspect Ratio:** 16:9 **Genre:** Drama

Logline: Mohan is a graduating computer science student at a lively university who processes the external world in his own abstract, experimental and mixed-media way. When the pressures of reality build up, he questions the system and his optimistic friend Mia helps him find the way.

Director Biography

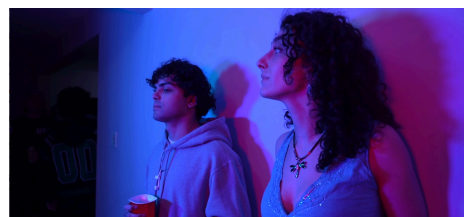
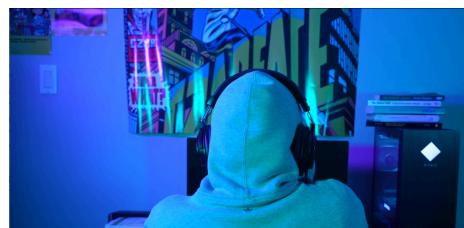
Chichi Sharma is an Indian-Canadian director and editor whose work focuses on environmental activism, youth culture, and technology. Her short *Orange Skies: Canada's Wildfire Crisis* (2024) was nominated for Best Short Documentary at PlanetLENS International, screened in the UK and Washington, D.C. Chichi is the winner of the 2025 Award of Recognition from ImpactDOCS California and theatre premiered her latest short in Hungary, which also aired across national European television. Her work utilizes mixed-media and animated components alongside digital graphics utilizing both 2D and 3D assets.



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Synopsis

Mohan, an anxious computer science student, is pushed out of his comfort zone by his optimistic roommate Mia and attends a party where he's confronted with the harsh realities of intern culture and morally questionable tech careers. Feeling defeated, he spirals through small but telling moments of disillusionment, from a failed quiz to everyday choices that reflect a larger environmental and existential anxiety. The tension builds up and he explodes, yelling at the class about how his peers don't care about the planet at all - just getting a degree and a job. Students film his outburst. Mia runs into Mohan storming out of a hallway angrily, and catches up to him and reassures him that whatever embarrassing moment was just captured won't be remembered anyways. They reconcile and both sit facing different directions on a bus, with Mia staring at graffiti on the back of a seat demanding peace and love. While Mohan focuses on an advertisement from EvilCorp now hiring

Key Cast

- Mahd Qureshi as Mohan
- Naomi LaFleur as Mia
- Mitchell Partington as Garrison
- Jade Liu as Mia's Friend
- Daniel Romero as Barista

Festival Submissions

- Tiff Next Wave
- Forest City Film Festival
- Future of Film Showcase
- Mosaic International South Asian Festival
- Montreal Festival De Nouveau Cinema