

# A FILM ABOUT A FILM (CHALCHITRA) NEPAL

## MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	100 min
Language	Nepali
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Nepal
Shooting dates	Sept - Oct 2023
Expected date of completion	April 2024
Stage of production	In development

## PRODUCTION

Budget	538.450 €
Financing in place	290.000 €
Production company	Mana Production, Resonating Pictures
Workshop & platform attended	PAS 2022 Workshop

## SYNOPSIS

A film buff naively gets convinced to invest in a “superhit” film in the so called Kollywood (Nepali Film) industry where he stumbles into the dark and absurd world of filmmaking.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We, Safal and Pratik started our career almost at the same time and they met during the making of a high budget “gangster” film. This film was the directorial debut of an established actor. It is here that most of our inspiration and frustration come from to make Chalchitra. We were working under a director who had unclear vision for what film he wanted to make. An investor who had no idea what he was investing in. There were many elements during this shoot that has become the backbone to our film Chalchitra; financial pressure, family, ego, insecurities, lack of knowledge and the naivetés on our part to think that making a “great” film would be easy.

We have worked as an assistant director, writer, production assistant and finally on our film as co-directors. We have worked with the best and worst of people. There are parts of us that have changed and we ourselves have been susceptible to the things that we are satirizing but the love for the art has always and will always be there. We want to encapsulate all this frustration, hope and love and put it on display through our film.



## PRODUCER NIKUN SHRESTHA



Studying acting from Kishore Namit Kapoor Acting Lab, Mumbai, Nikun Shrestha started his career in films as an actor. His credit includes Hamro Team, Jhingrana, Chhadke, with latest praised Chiso Ashtray. He had been popular profession DJ in Nepal as well. Since 2019, he has formed a film

production company, Mana Production with the Manaram Group and is leading it as Managing Director. Nikun has produced a feature film 'The Secret of Radha' by Subarna Thapa. The film won Script Development fund in ACF Busan in 2016. Nikun and company is developing 2 features films few shorts and TV series.

## CONTACT

**Producer** - Nikun Shrestha - [nikun@manaram.com](mailto:nikun@manaram.com)

**Director** - Pratik Gurung - [pratikg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pratikg@hotmail.co.uk)

**Director** - Safal K.C. - [safalkc767@gmail.com](mailto:safalkc767@gmail.com)

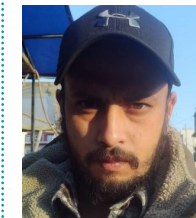
## DIRECTOR PRATIK GURUNG



Pratik had always been interested in telling stories. After finishing his Film Studies in the UK, he returned back to Nepal and has been in the Nepali Film Industry for the last 8 years.

In around 2014, they both met in a project, they had good chemistry and similar taste in the films. Since then, they have partnered and have been writing and directing together. They have already co-directed their first very indie feature film HARI (2018).

## DIRECTOR SAFAL K.C.



Safal K.C. is one of the promising talent in the Nepali Film Industry. He shares his work and credit with his co-director Pratik Gurung. Safal started his journey from the national blockbuster cinema 'Loot (2012)'.

# A HOUSE FULL OF WOMEN AND THE MISSING MALE

(MAHILA HARULE BHARIYE KO GHAR RA HARAYEKO PURUSH) **INDIA**



## MAIN DATA

Category	Social Drama
Length	120 mins
Language	Nepali
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	India
Shooting dates	Mid Sept - End Oct, 2023
Expected date of completion	February 2024
Stage of production	In development

## PRODUCTION

Budget	111.900 €
Financing in place	90.000 €
Production company	NaMa Productions, Dalley Khorsani Productions
Workshop & platform attended	PAS 2022 Workshop

## SYNOPSIS

A tiny hamlet in the Himalayan state of Sikkim is transitioning from shamanism to modern practices. Aunsi 28-year-old, writer by profession, returns to her ancestral village from the city, back to her ailing paternal grandmother, widowed mother and younger pregnant sister. At home and in the village Aunsi enjoys a respectable status because of her job and career but with the arrival of her former lover in her life the status quo changes and discloses the obscure nature of gender hierarchy.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up in a house full of women, I have partly lived this story and partly written it. The film is a dipolar marriage of modern and traditional. While Aunsi is the modern, driving force, her ancestral village and her family assumes the role of the traditional authority. I am from a small Himalayan state of India, Sikkim, which was originally a Buddhist kingdom that later resolved to be constituent unit of India in 1975. Sikkim's economy was largely based on agriculture but today tourism is the central source of revenue. The impact of modernization and shift in religious climate has altered, marginalized and driven the practice of shamanism which was widely practised in Nepali hill communities. My principal need to make this film roots from my identity, because today I stand at the threshold of this same transition. The protagonist is the by-product of my personal experience and sum total of reflections of several others. In this film, I want to explore the obscure nature of gender hierarchy that implicitly exists everywhere and break the stereotypical portrayal of people from the hills or villages as a part of exotic ensemble, simpletons.

## CONTACT

**Producer** - Kislay - [kislay.ftii@gmail.com](mailto:kislay.ftii@gmail.com)

**Director** - Tribeny Rai - [saitribeny@gmail.com](mailto:saitribeny@gmail.com)

## PRODUCER KISLAY



Kislay is an alumnus of FTII, Pune. He has produced three short films and his first feature as co-producer JUST LIKE THAT won 5 awards and was shown in various international film festivals. The name of the production house is NaMa Productions.

## DIRECTOR TRIBENY RAI



Tribeny Rai is a filmmaker from Sikkim, she is an alumna of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Docskool Clinic Kathmandu. She has attended VGIK International Summer School (Russia), Producer's Lab of International Film Festival of Rotterdam and Talent Campus of Fajr International Film Festival (Iran).

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

DAUGHTER, 10' (2018)  
MEMORY OF A HEART, 5' (2016)  
AS IT IS, 24' (2015)  
LAST RITES, 5' (2014)  
FOR CHILDREN ONLY, 10' (2014)  
PATIENT NO. 666 & OTHERS, 10' (2013)

## MOMO INDIA

### MAIN DATA

Category	Horror - Drama
Length	100-110 mins
Language	Hindi, Urdu
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	India (Mumbai)
Shooting dates	September - October 2023
Expected date of completion	April 2024
Stage of production	In development

### PRODUCTION

Budget	1.033.000 €
Financing in place	199.500 €
Production company	Uncombed Buddha Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS 2022 Workshop

### SYNOPSIS

Set in the gruesome world of 1993 Bombay riots, where communal rioters are turning into hate-infested, dark-blooded Zombies, a light-hearted, playful, theatre actor, Farukh uses his seven-year-old, daughter, Momo's obsession with weddings as an excuse to flee, when their house gets marked by rioters as a pre-attack strategy. But the family lands in deeper trouble at the refugee guesthouse, when they realize both - the rioters and the refugees - are turning into Zombies. However, Farukh has a more daunting task at hand, to use his humour, wild imagination and acting capabilities to convince Momo that it's all a part of the wedding celebration.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

'Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final.'

Rainer Maria Rilke's chilling words made an important observation: Life is about the beautiful moments and the terrifying ones, and as humans we are damned to live through both; it's part of everyday heartbreak of being a human.

MOMO is about a father's desperate attempt to protect his child's innocence in the middle of terrifying violence.

It is a semi-autobiographical story of my family's survival during the Bombay riots, that changed the secular fabric of India. At the refugee guesthouse, I saw a rioting mob, but kept waiting for the wedding, before realising my parents lied. I felt such a rage, but I was only a child; while growing up, I lived with that repressed trauma.

What does hate against 'the other' do to humans?

It makes zombies out of people – metaphorically! And children are affected the most! Why is the world so apathetic to children and their innocence? But not Farukh! and we need more Farukhs to sustain, to live beautifully, to find our moments of survival, in the midst of horror.

### CONTACT

**Producer** - Harsh Agarwal - harshagarwal20@gmail.com  
**Director** - Shazia Iqbal - shazarch@gmail.com



### PRODUCER HARSH AGARWAL



Harsh Agarwal is the co-founder of Uncombed Buddha Films, an International Independent Film Production, based in India; it was founded with the sole intent of bringing powerful, independent, socially-relevant global voices. His first film as a producer, Nirvana Inn (2019) was selected for

APM 2018, ACF 2019 and premiered at Busan International Film Festival.

Agarwal's next stint was as a co-producer for Nasir (2020), an international co-production, directed by Arun Karthik, which was granted Hubert Bals fund and won the NETPAC award at the IFFR; it had theatrical release in Europe and has now been acquired by Sony. One of his production, Rapture got the Hubert Bals fund and Doha Film Institute Post-production grant. His next, Soul Whisperers, to be directed by Leo Thaddeus was first selected at Film Bazaar Script Lab and then by NFDC-India to represent at Marche Du Film, Cannes Film Festival (2022).

### DIRECTOR SHAZIA IQBAL



Shazia Iqbal is an Indian writer, director based in Mumbai. She won the best debut Director at the 30th Sao Paulo International Shorts Film Festival for her critically acclaimed debut short film BEBAAK, which won sixteen international, and seven Indian State and Critics awards.

Her untitled first feature film, based on caste politics, is produced by a major production house. She is also directing an episode of a participatory documentary for Amazon. Her feature script, BLOOD CIRCLE was selected for Film Independent's Global Media Maker's Screenwriting Lab in Los Angeles.

She is one of the lead characters in CBC's Women Beyond Bollywood - a Canadian documentary that talks about Indian women, who are reshaping the film industry and changing its stereotypes. She is also the lead Production designer for International Emmy nominated, India's first original Netflix series, SACRED GAMES.



# SAFA

## BANGLADESH

### MAIN DATA

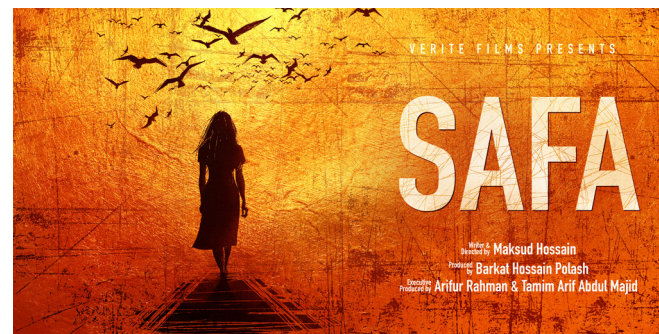
Category	Drama
Length	95 min
Language	Bangla
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Bangladesh
Shooting dates	Jan 10 - Feb 20, 2023
Expected date of completion	Aug 31, 2023
Stage of production	In development

### PRODUCTION

Budget	401.540 €
Financing in place	201.000 €
Production company	Verite Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS 2022 Workshop

### SYNOPSIS

In Bangladesh — a 25 year-old woman, Safa, suffers from guilt for her paraplegic mother, Shirin's condition. To deal with her guilt, she wants to preserve Shirin's life at any cost. Safa does not care about the quality of her mother's life as long as she is breathing. However, Shirin wants to enjoy the finer things of life like food and long drives. But Safa won't allow it because Shirin has just suffered from a heart failure and she needs a surgery within the next three months to survive. For the money, Safa takes a job in a shisha lounge where she meets Ankur, a 38 year-old man. The story is about how Ankur and Shirin help Safa realize that just breathing is not truly living.



### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The best way to tell you about the story is if I tell you how we came up with it. My wife Trilora and her mother were in a near fatal car accident almost 24 years ago. Since then the mother has been a wheelchair-ridden paraplegic and depended on Trilora and her father to take care of her. After the death of her father Trilora was struggling to take care of her mother even though she had a lot of help. Out of frustration, Trilora and I started thinking what if we tell the story of a twenty-five year old woman, Safa living in lower middle-class Bangladesh taking care of her paraplegic mother, Shirin by herself without any help. How will Safa keep her mother alive at any cost in such a situation? From this germ of an idea SAFA was born.

### CONTACT

**Producer** - Barkat Hossain Polash - bhpolash@gmail.com  
**Director** - Maksud Hossain - maksud.hossain@gmail.com

### PRODUCER BARKAT HOSSAIN POLASH



Barkat Hossain Polash has worked as a cinematographer for more than 10 years before turning into a producer. He has completed fellowships from Berlinale Talents Germany (2019), Asian Film Academy South Korea (2015) and Kyoto Filmmakers Lab Japan (2016). Polash has produced the following feature films — NOT ONLY A FISHING STORY, KAFFARA, DANCING IN THE DEATH and SALTED LIFE. SAFA will be produced under the banner of Verite Films in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### DIRECTOR MAKSUD HOSSAIN



Maksud Hossain has written, directed and produced more than 15 short films. One of his shorts, THREE BEAUTIES received the Student Academy Award in 2006. He was the writer and director of a television movie BAHATTOR GHONTA (72 HOURS). Additionally, Hossain has directed more than 200 commercials over the past ten years. His most recent work includes writing, directing and producing the narrative short film REMAKRI, which has screened at various international film festivals around the world. The screenplay of his debut feature film titled SAFA has been officially selected to participate in the Asian Project Market 2022, Cannes Film Festival's Co-production Day 2022 and NFDC Film Bazaar India's Co-production Market 2021.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

REMAKRI (2019)  
THE CHASE (2015)  
72 HOURS (2012)  
STATUS (2008)  
THREE BEAUTIES (2006)

# THE SACRIFICE

## (ASHWAMEDH) INDIA

### MAIN DATA

Category	Period drama, Action, Historical
Length	135 mins
Language	Hindi, Munda, Vedic Sanskrit
Shooting format	RAW
Shooting location	India
Shooting dates	October 2023 onwards
Expected date of completion	October 2024
Stage of production	In development

### PRODUCTION

Budget	998.750 €
Financing in place	147.500 €
Production company	The Film Café
Workshop & platform attended	PAS 2022 Workshop

### SYNOPSIS

10th Century BCE. Expecting a raise in his status, a slave turned stable boy, Shirimbita, participates in a grand conquest ritual conducted by a powerful Indo-Aryan king. A sacrificial horse is released to wander in any direction, with a claim to all territories it traverses in one year. Guided by a troupe of soldiers and priests, the horse crosses many territories unchallenged. However, the killing of two native boys for unknowingly impeding the horse causes a backlash and the troupe gets ambushed by a fierce native chief. While everyone perishes in this attack, Shirimbita manages to flee with the horse. Chased by revengeful natives, he rides on a survival spree, developing a paradoxical relationship with the sacrificial horse he is set out to protect.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Set in the backdrop of a grand Vedic conquest ritual involving a horse sacrifice, this film delves into subjects like inevitability of human conquest, migration, marking of borders and territories, origin of the caste based hierarchy in the Indian society, and relationship between man and animal that transcends into man's relationship with nature itself.

I imagine this film as a (Vedic) Western where the characters go through arduous internal and external journeys, succumbed to their own personal ambitions, while they are exposed to dangers known and unknown, treading through changing natural landscapes. Through this film, I'm also interested in exploring the history of the 'others', the secondary and tertiary characters, who often get antagonized, demonized or simply overlooked in the mainstream history and mythology.

### CONTACT

**Producer** - Kartikeya Narayan Singh - kartikeyanarayansingh@gmail.com

**Director** - Ridham Janve - ridham.janve@gmail.com



### PRODUCER KARTIKEYA NARAYAN SINGH



Kartikeya Narayan Singh is an independent producer with a deep interest in producing works from the emerging and alternative voices of Indian cinema. His first film as a producer, 'Alms for a Blind Horse', dir. Gurvinder Singh, premiered at Venice, 2012. His next production, 'The Seventh Walk', dir. Amit Dutta, premiered at Rome, 2013. His second collaboration with Gurvinder Singh, 'The Fourth Direction', premiered at Un Certain Regard, Cannes, 2015 and went on to win numerous awards and accolades at leading festivals including Grand Prix at the Belgrade, Best Asian film at Singapore and the Golden Gateway at Mumbai Film Festival. 'Soni', dir. Ivan Ayr premiered in Orizzonti, Venice, 2018 and went on to win many awards in festivals around the world. His latest film as a producer, 'Uljhan', dir. Ashish Pant, premiered at Shanghai International Film Festival, 2021.

### DIRECTOR RIDHAM JANVE



Ridham graduated from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India, where he started his experimentation with the film medium. His early shorts include hybrid and narrative shorts, Major Ka Farewell (2010) and Kanche aur Postcard (2013). Ridham's debut feature film, The Gold-Laden Sheep and The Sacred Mountain (2018), premiered at Mumbai Film Festival where it won the Silver Gateway award. The film was selected for prestigious film festivals including Rotterdam, Sao Paulo, BFI London, and Hong Kong where it won the FIPRESCI Prize. Ridham won the Young Cinema Award for his debut film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2019. In addition to making films, Ridham also paints and makes papier-mâché sculptures.